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**The Scottish Parliament will be in recess from 24 December 2022 to 8 January 2023, and the UK Parliament is now in recess until 9 January 2023. The next issue of MEMO will be published on 16 January 2023.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Ukrainian Refugees

**Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6W-13229]** To ask the Scottish Government how many people since arriving in Scotland from Ukraine through the (a) Super Sponsor Scheme and (b) Homes for Ukraine scheme have been (i) assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness, (ii) living in temporary accommodation and (iii) on a housing waiting list in each month since the start of the scheme, broken down by local authority.

**Reply from Neil Gray:** The Scottish Government does not currently have the

information you have requested as we do not link the visa routes and homelessness status of displaced individuals from Ukraine.

However, the Scottish Government has agreed with Local Authorities to amend the homelessness data collection to record Ukrainian Displaced People applying for support after presenting as homeless, though this will take some time before these changes are fully implemented.

The Scottish Government regularly publish data summarising the latest Scotland-level information on people displaced by the war in Ukraine coming to Scotland through the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme visa schemes on our website: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - December 2022](#)

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13229>

### **Ukrainian Refugees: Infectious Diseases**

**Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6W-12860]** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of reports of a scarlet fever outbreak on MS Ambition, how it will ensure that young people and their families are given adequate mental health support to deal with the challenges of becoming infectious whilst living in temporary accommodation as refugees.

**Reply from Neil Gray:** The health and wellbeing of displaced people from Ukraine is our priority.

There has been no outbreak of Strep A on the M/S Ambition, with infections having been restricted to isolated cases.

On the M/S Ambition, should quarantine measures be required, there is a section of the ship that is set aside for quarantine procedures, with specific cabins set aside. Where this has been required, those quarantined were visited daily by ship medical staff, and meals and snacks were delivered to the cabin.

The Scottish Government is working with partners to deliver relevant public health messaging in relation to Strep A, to ensure everyone in Scotland has the most up-to-date advice.

The Scottish Government Mental Health directorate worked closely with our partners such as Heads of Psychology Scotland, NHS Scotland, COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council, amongst others, to develop and then publish wellbeing packs for displaced people from Ukraine arriving in Scotland. There was a specific pack full of helpful resources and guidance for displaced people from Ukraine on physiological wellbeing – [Ukraine psychological wellbeing advice pack: guidance for Ukrainian arrivals](#). This pack is available online and therefore accessible when using the internet on passenger ships. The pack also highlights specific resources for children and families.

We have amended legislation so there will be no charge for NHS Scotland services for people who have fled Ukraine, including mental health services.

Anyone in Scotland, regardless of their nationality, residence status or length of time they will be in the country, is already entitled to receive emergency treatment at an A&E or casualty department, and can register with a GP Practice to receive general medical services, at no charge.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-12860>

## UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

### **Tackling illegal migration, removing those with no right to be here, and protecting the vulnerable**

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** This year has been challenging for our efforts to tackle illegal migration due to pressures on the system, particularly due to consistently high numbers of arrivals by small boats and pressures on available accommodation, which have been exacerbated by responding to the war in Ukraine and continued instability in Afghanistan. I will continue to protect the public and keep our borders secure and the British people safe from harm.

The Prime Minister recently set out a range of significant new steps the Government are taking to tackle the challenge of illegal migration, including:

A new deal with Albania and changes to our approach to speed up the removal of Albanians with no right to be here. This includes assurances from Albania that it can offer the required protection, in line with our international obligations, to genuine victims of modern slavery; embedding Border Force officers in Tirana airport; increasing the threshold for people referred to the modern slavery system; establishing a unit to expedite Albanian claims, with 400 specialist staff and new country guidance for our caseworkers, making it clear that Albania is a safe country.

Establishing a new, permanent unified small boats operational command, with 700 additional dedicated staff to deliver a more co-ordinated response to tackling crossings; bringing together military, civilian and NCA expertise to co-ordinate our intelligence, interception, processing and enforcement.

Clearing the initial asylum decision backlog of legacy cases by the end of next year. We will make an initial decision in all cases that have been outstanding since before 28 June 2022.

Plans to bring forward legislation next year to prevent abuse of our legal framework, which will make it unambiguously clear that people entering illegally should have no right to stay here, and will be returned to their home country or a safe country for their asylum claim to be considered.

Due to the unprecedented number of small boat arrivals and the pressure from covid-19 on the asylum system, it has been necessary to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers. This is only ever a short-term solution and we are working with our accommodation providers to find appropriate dispersed accommodation across the UK.

The new UK-French agreement that I agreed with my counterpart lays the foundations for deeper co-operation to tackle illegal migration and marks the next step for the close operational partnership between the two countries, which has prevented over 31,500 crossings—nearly 50% more than to this point in 2021.

The arrangement means that, for the first time, specialist UK officers will also be embedded with their French counterparts, which will increase information sharing, improve understanding of the threat, and ensure that UK expertise is at the heart of efforts to disrupt crossings and clamp down on people smugglers. This more integrated approach will also include strengthened operational co-operation, including joint UK-France analysis teams, supporting the co-ordination and exchange of information by French command headquarters. We have signed the biggest small boats joint bilateral deal with France; we have put the Calais group on a permanent footing, showing the importance of this issue to our European partners; and we have agreed new levels of intelligence co-operation with our European neighbours.

These measures build on the progress we have made through the year. We have introduced part 5 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, which provides legislative clarity to victims and decision makers on victims' rights, including the entitlement to a recovery period and the circumstances in which it may be withheld.

We continue to return foreign national offenders by scheduled and charter flights. From

January 2019 to March 2022, we have removed 11,532 FNOs. Since April 2020, we have chartered 156 flights to Europe and around the world. In the year ending June 2022, there were 3,250 enforced returns, of which 1,600 were to EU countries.

### *Safe and Legal Routes*

We have continued to support those fleeing conflicts abroad, granting indefinite leave to remain to over 11,300 individuals from Afghanistan under ARAP or ACRS pathway 1.

As of 24 November, 202,710 visas have been granted and 146,222 have arrived in the UK from Ukraine; 59,480 have been granted and 41,093 people have arrived under the Ukraine Family Scheme; and 143,230 visas have been granted and 105,129 arrived under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Through the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route, there have been a total of 150,600 applications since its introduction on 31 January 2021 up to the end of September 2022, of which there were 144,576 grants—96%.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/2212196000257/TacklingIllegalMigrationRemovingThoseWithNoRightToBeHereAndProtectingTheVulnerable>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Migration and Economic Development

**The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** ... One hundred million people are displaced globally. Others want to move to a different country, often for economic reasons. This presents an enormous challenge for sought-after destinations such as the United Kingdom. Since 2015, this kind and generous country has welcomed nearly 450,000 people through safe and legal routes. The British people are eager to help those in need and they support controlled migration. They have opened their homes to refugees. But they do not want open borders.

For decades the British people were told that this was immoral and that their concerns and opinions did not matter. Even today we see from certain quarters an unhealthy contempt for anyone who wants controlled migration. Such an attitude is unhelpful. Moreover, it is fanciful. We do not have infinite capacity. Already we are struggling to accommodate new arrivals, meaning that we spend millions every day in hotel bills alone.

We cannot tolerate people coming here illegally. It is not legitimate to leave a safe country such as France to seek asylum in the United Kingdom. We have to break the business model of the people-smuggling gangs. Their trade in human cargo is evil and lethal, as we were tragically reminded very recently.

There is a global migration crisis and it requires international solutions. In April, my right hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel), backed by my right hon. Friend the Member for Uxbridge and South Ruislip (Boris Johnson), signed a ground-breaking migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda. They deserve enormous credit for their work on this. We agreed that people who come to the UK via dangerous, illegal and unnecessary means can be relocated to Rwanda to have their asylum claims considered there. Those in need of protection will be given up to five years of support, including education and employment training, along with help with integration, accommodation and healthcare.

Being relocated to Rwanda is not a punishment but an innovative way of addressing a major problem to redress the imbalance between illegal and legal migration routes. It will also ensure that those in genuine need of international protection are provided with it in Rwanda. It is a humane and practical alternative for those who come here through dangerous, illegal and unnecessary routes. By making it clear that they cannot expect to stay in the UK, we will deter more people from coming here and make such routes unviable.

There has been a great deal of misinformation about Rwanda. ... It is a safe and dynamic

country with a thriving economy. It has an excellent record of supporting refugees and vulnerable migrants. The UN has used Rwanda for the relocation of vulnerable migrants from Libya—and this was first funded by the European Union. Many migrants, including refugees, have already built excellent lives in Rwanda. ...

A myth still persists that the Home Office's permanent secretary opposed this agreement. For the record, he did not. Nor did he assert that it is definitely poor value for money. ...

In June, the first plane was ready to relocate people to Rwanda. Our domestic courts—the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court—upheld our right to send the flight. However, following an order by an out-of-hours judge in the European Court of Human Rights, the flight was cancelled. The European Court of Human Rights did not rule that the policy or relocations were unlawful, but it prohibited the removal of specific people. This was a “without notice” order and the UK was not invited to make representations to oppose it. As a result, we have been unable to operate relocation flights pending ongoing legal proceedings, but we have continued to prepare by issuing notices of intent for those eligible for relocation ...

A judicial review was brought against the Rwanda partnership by a number of organisations and individual asylum seekers. The first part of proceedings considered a case that the partnership is unlawful; the second part argued that UK domestic processes under the partnership are unfair; and the third part argued that the policy is contrary to data protection laws. Today in the High Court ... [the judges] held that it is indeed lawful for the Government to make arrangements for relocating asylum seekers to Rwanda and for their asylum claims to be determined in Rwanda rather than in the United Kingdom. The court further held that the relocation of asylum seekers to Rwanda is consistent with the refugee convention and with the statutory and other legal obligations on the Government, including the obligations imposed by the Human Rights Act 1998. ...

The sooner it is up and running, the sooner we will break the business model of the evil gangs and bring an end to the illegal, unnecessary and unsafe channel crossings. ...

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** ... The Home Secretary describes today's court judgment as a vindication, but I wonder whether she has read it, because it sets out evidence of serious problems in Home Office decision making. It also identifies the significant financial costs of the scheme and the very limited number of people who will be covered, and certainly identifies no evidence that it will act as a deterrent or address the serious problems that we face.

The court concluded that the Home Office's decision making in each of the eight cases considered was so flawed and chaotic that those individual decisions have had to be quashed. There were cases of literally mixing up evidence and the names of individuals, so the Home Office was making decisions on the wrong people; there was confusion between teams in Glasgow and Croydon about who was deciding what and which information should be shared; and evidence of torture and trafficking was not considered. We also know that the Home Office attempted to send heavily pregnant women to Rwanda.

That is a damning indictment of the decision-making process in the Home Office, which we know is not working because no decision has been made on 98% of the small boat arrivals in the last 12 months. Ministers seem to have decided that they are so incapable of getting a grip on the asylum system and of taking asylum decisions effectively here in the UK that they want to pay a country halfway across the world to take those decisions for us.

On the lawfulness of the decision, the Court accepted that Rwanda does not have the processing capacity, including interpreters and legal support, needed to take asylum decisions, but it concluded that the agreement was still lawful because of two key points: the number of people Rwanda takes will be very limited; and lots more money will be provided by the UK Government. ... Will she now tell us, first, how many people she expects to send to Rwanda next year? Rwanda has said that it can accommodate 200

people. That is the people from 0.5% of this year's channel crossings. The Home Office itself has said that there is no evidence that the scheme will act as a deterrent, and that the scheme is unenforceable and has a high risk of fraud.

Secondly, can the Home Secretary tell us the full cost? ...

Thirdly, the Court judgment says that there is no evidence that the UK Government sought to investigate either the terms of the Rwanda-Israel agreement or the way it had worked in practice. Why on earth not? That agreement was abandoned, and there is evidence that it increased trafficking and the activity of criminal gangs. ...

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** ... I am concerned that she is seeking to go against a legitimate, rigorous decision set out exhaustively by our independent judiciary, and is still suggesting that this is an illegitimate scheme. We see in the judgment that the scheme is lawful on several grounds. The judgment looked at the legislative authority for the scheme. It looked very closely at the claims that it breached articles 3 and 14 of the European convention on human rights, and article 31 of the refugee convention. It looked closely at whether it was fair, and at whether the right of access to justice was respected. It looked very closely at other public law grounds. On all those claims, the Home Office won. The Court concluded that it was and is lawful for the Government to make arrangements to relocate asylum seekers to Rwanda, and for asylum claims to be determined in Rwanda, rather than in the UK. ...

**William Cash (Conservative):** Although the High Court ruled that the Rwanda policy is lawful, as has been said there were only eight asylum claimants. Those cases have all been set aside by the Court, which said in its ruling that the circumstances of each claimant had not been considered properly. Latest Home Office website figures currently show that more than 160,000 individual cases are outstanding. Furthermore, as the Home Secretary—in whom I have the greatest confidence—stated, the European Court judge who issued the injunction clearly did so without proper consideration of the Rwanda policy, and such rulings do not command our respect.

Does my right hon. and learned Friend accept that for all those reasons it becomes more essential than ever to apply the “notwithstanding” formula to the new legislation that the Prime Minister has announced for mid-January? That must also distinguish in our own law between genuine refugees and illegal economic migrants, not only in the interests of saving life, but also to prevent organised criminality, and to assert UK parliamentary sovereignty, overriding the European convention on human rights, and at the same time dealing comprehensively with the current backlog of those 160,000 outstanding asylum cases.

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** My hon. Friend makes an important point. The European Court of Human Rights did not rule on the lawfulness of our policy. It did not rule that the policy or relocations were unlawful, but it did none the less prohibit the removal of individuals on the 15 June flight, via interim and injunctive relief. We have a proud tradition of defending fundamental rights in this country, and we will always retain a robust approach to protecting and preserving human rights. However, that does not mean that we will have a migration system that can be abused and exploited by those who do not have legitimate claims to be here. As the Prime Minister announced last week, we will be bringing forward legislation to ensure that we have a robust migration system and secure borders. ...

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** This is a dark day indeed with this judgment, particularly when the Home Secretary comes to the House to imply that having morals is fanciful. Enver Solomon of the Refugee Council has called the policy “wrong in principle and unworkable in practice”, and I am certain that this will go to appeal as charities and those involved in the issue have stated. SNP Members will never get behind this policy—not in our name—and I remind Members that slavery, apartheid and marital rape were all lawful at one time, but none of them were right.

The Court found that the Home Office had failed to consider properly the circumstances of the eight who challenged the policy. How exactly does the Home Secretary intend to approach such cases now, and what will happen to those eight individuals? What happens to those who have already been issued with notices of intent, and what confidence can they have in a system that previously did not properly consider the cases of eight people? The Home Secretary claims that this will be a deterrent. The Tories also claimed that the hostile environment would be a deterrent and that the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 would be a deterrent. Now they claim the Rwanda policy will be a deterrent. None of them is working because they fail to recognise the desperate circumstances that drive people to come here in the first place. Safe and legal routes will work and prevent people from losing their lives in the channel.

The Home Secretary talked about the trade in human cargo. We all want to tackle the people smugglers who exploit people in the most vulnerable of circumstances. However, what else is the Rwanda policy but state-sponsored people trafficking? How many people are actually going to be removed to Rwanda? It is going to be a tiny proportion, so any deterrent effect that the Government claim is not going to be proper. What is the total cost of this unworkable scheme? ...

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** ... I am proud of the fact that we have welcomed 450,000 people through safe and legal routes to this country since 2015. I do not think that anyone can claim that we are not forward-leaning on all of this. She and her party need to be honest about their position with the British people: they stand for open borders and uncontrolled migration. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/B5009C67-E69A-4248-8F16-77439DE48472/MigrationAndEconomicDevelopment>

*The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/AAA-v-SSHD-Rwanda-judgment.pdf>

### **Immigration Policies: Impact on Scotland**

**Anum Qaisar (SNP)** [902855] What assessment she has made with Cabinet colleagues of the potential impact of the Government's immigration policies on the (a) population of and (b) availability of labour in Scotland.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Our points-based system, with a wide range of eligible occupations spanning many economic sectors, works for the whole of the United Kingdom by welcoming people to fill skills gaps, support our public services and boost our economy. As noted by the Migration Advisory Committee's annual report, immigration policy cannot be a complete solution to population movements within the UK, or labour shortages. It is for the Scottish Government to use their policy levers to address those issues more effectively.

**Anum Qaisar:** One of my constituents is a renewable energy researcher from Syria, and he is struggling with the Government's restrictive policies on the employment of asylum seekers. He is unable to work or pursue further study in his field. Given that the shortage of labour impacts all sectors of the economy, does the Minister agree that the UK Government should make the rules on asylum seekers seeking employment less restrictive to support the Scottish labour market?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** No, I do not, because we want to ensure that deterrence is diffused throughout our asylum system. That means making the UK a significantly less attractive destination for asylum seekers, and particularly for those asylum shopping, than our EU neighbours. For that reason, we do not want to see asylum seekers working in the British economy. We want to see their cases decided as quickly as possible. If they are approved, of course they should be

welcomed into the UK and make a positive contribution to British society. If they are declined, they should be removed.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/D8ECE2E8-80EB-408B-AB6B-983C4B53CDD6/ImmigrationPoliciesImpactOnScotland>

### **Asylum System**

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [902847] What steps [is the Minister] taking to improve the asylum system.

**Reply from the Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman):** We are taking immediate action to accelerate decision making and improve our asylum system by streamlining and modernising it, including by shortening interviews, removing unnecessary interviews, making the guidance more accessible, and dealing with cases more swiftly when they can be certified as manifestly unfounded.

**Caroline Lucas:** The Home Office is placing vulnerable, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in hotels in local authority areas. It is directly commissioning those hotels and other services, because it knows that local authorities do not have the funding or capacity required. Will the Home Secretary finally admit that these vulnerable children are legally the Home Office's responsibility, so that they are not left in legal limbo? Will she ensure that her Department takes a strategic approach that addresses the placement shortage, rather than its current ad hoc approach, and will she ensure that the police do all that they can to keep searching for those children who have gone missing and have yet to be relocated?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** We take very seriously the position of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children—and indeed of children, full stop. Safeguarding them is of the utmost importance to all authorities, and to the Home Office, when it comes to decision making. We will shortly look at the funding arrangement for local authorities' support of these children, so that their needs are properly met.

**Damian Green (Conservative):** Potentially one of the best parts of our asylum system is the safe route created for Afghans who helped British forces during the war in Afghanistan. They are often full of professional skills, speak good English, and could make a huge contribution to this country, if they were allowed to move on with their life. Will my right hon. and learned Friend give me a report on progress on getting more of these Afghan citizens out of hotels, and allowing them to get on with their life and to contribute to our society?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** My right hon. Friend is absolutely right. We support those who have come to the United Kingdom through designated schemes such as the Afghan relocations and assistance policy, and those people who supported allied forces in Afghanistan. Far too many of those Afghan nationals are being accommodated in hotels; on that, he is right. That is why we are moving very quickly. We are working with the Ministry of Defence, and are looking at all options, including, for example, service family accommodation, to properly accommodate a cohort of Afghans, so that they can move on with their life and settle peacefully here. ...

**Yvette Cooper (Labour):** In 2020, the Home Office secured just 12 convictions a month for people smuggling into the UK. In 2021, that fell to eight a month and, in the first half of 2022, it fell to just three a month. The smuggler gangs have proliferated, and the dangerous boat crossings that put lives at risk are up twentyfold, yet the number of criminals paying the price for their crime has collapsed. Why has the Home Secretary totally failed to take action against the criminal gangs?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** ... The reality is that Labour has no plan whatever

on illegal migration; it is against our plan, and all it wants is open borders.

**Yvette Cooper:** ... Since the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 came into force, the number of people arriving by dangerous boat has reached a record high, so their legislation has not worked. The Prime Minister promised extra money for the National Crime Agency, but two days after he made that announcement, the Home Office does not know how much that money is, and the Treasury has not agreed anything. Can the Home Secretary tell us how much additional funding there will be for the National Crime Agency, and where it is coming from? ...

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I am proud of the announcement that the Prime Minister made last week, setting out a comprehensive, methodical and compassionate approach to dealing with illegal migration and stopping the boats crossing the channel, dealing with the asylum backlog, responding to the cohort of people who have come here illegally from Albania, operationalising our Rwanda agreement and ensuring that ultimately we crack down on the people smugglers through better operational command on the channel. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/1A351B22-18F2-47CA-9B9B-5F2890E666DF/AsylumSystem>

### Asylum Backlog

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [902855] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [902854] What recent progress [the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Last week we set out plans to clear the initial decision backlog of asylum legacy cases by the end of next year. Over the summer and autumn, the Home Office reduced the number of older asylum cases by 11,000, and the number of asylum caseworkers has doubled.

**Kate Osamor:** Last week the International Development Committee heard from organisations working closely with refugees in the UK. I was disappointed but not surprised to hear Enver Solomon, the chief executive of the Refugee Council, say that it was not consulted about the proposals, announced last week, to tackle the backlog. Why have the Government neglected to widely consult experts, and would the Minister be willing to consider their recommendations if I was to write to him?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I would be interested in the views of any of our stakeholders, but the Prime Minister set out a very compelling case last week to radically re-engineer the end-to-end process, with fewer interviews, shorter guidance, less paperwork, specialist caseworkers by nationality, including tackling Albanian cases, and reforming modern slavery by reducing the cooling-off period from 45 to 30 days—all steps to clear the backlog as quickly as possible.

**Vicky Foxcroft:** One of my constituents arrived in the UK from Afghanistan and claimed asylum in September 2021. Despite my caseworkers making regular inquiries since August 2022, we have received no updates regarding the status of his application. He tells us that the situation has made him seriously depressed. Does the Minister agree that excessive wait times can have a hugely detrimental impact on mental health, and will he agree to look at this case in further detail?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I would be happy to look at that case and any others that are brought to my attention. The backlog, however, is a symptom of the problem, which is that far too many people are crossing the channel illegally, and that is what this Government are determined to tackle. ...

**John Redwood (Conservative):** Will the Government introduce urgent legislation to strengthen control of our borders, and could that include a notwithstanding clause to guide

the courts against using other laws that undermine the fundamental principle of the Prime Minister's policy?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out last week our intention to bring forward legislation early next year, and at the heart of that legislation will be a simple point of principle that we on this side of the House believe: no one should gain a right to live in this country if they entered illegally. From that, all things will need to flow. Nothing is off the table. We will take our obligations to deliver on that policy very seriously. ...

**James Gray (Conservative):** We in Wiltshire are proud of the fact that some 900 Ukrainians will be enjoying Christmas dinners with us, and that we have entertained a large number of Afghan people who looked after us so well during the war. However, we were very surprised when last Friday 82 young Albanian men were moved into the very rural, very distantly located Wiltshire golf club without any notice at all being given to the neighbouring retirement village. Does the Minister agree that this is an inappropriate location for people of this kind, who are very probably economic migrants, and will he seek to advance them elsewhere as soon as he possibly can?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... We do not want to use hotels in any part of the country; we want to tackle the issue at its source. I understand his constituents' concerns with respect to the hotel in Wiltshire. As I understand it, a smaller number of individuals have been accommodated there than he has perhaps been advised and the local authority was informed in advance, but that does not diminish his constituents' concerns. I am happy to talk to him to see what we can do to end that at the earliest opportunity. ...

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour):** The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 is profoundly counterproductive legislation, as illustrated by the fact that, since it was passed, the number of dangerous crossings has reached a record high. The Act includes the so-called inadmissibility clause, but the fact that the Government have failed to negotiate a returns agreement with a single European country means that just 21 out of 18,000 inadmissible people have been returned. Sending 300 asylum seekers to Rwanda will not even touch the sides of that 18,000. Does the Minister recognise the inadequacy of the legislation? Will he explain why the Government's utterly self-defeating approach has led directly to the British taxpayer footing an extra bill of £500 million?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... We will make sure that we secure the borders and control migration. ...

**Alison Thewliss (SNP):** My casework in Glasgow Central speaks to the fundamentally broken asylum system, and a failing immigration system more widely, as other types of applications are regularly delayed and people are left waiting for years. The barrister Colin Yeo suggests that, to get the asylum backlog down to 20,000, the Home Office would need to make 8,000 decisions a month. In the year to September, only 16,400 decisions were made in total, so precisely how will the Minister meet his target?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Last week, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out our plan to re-engineer the process and hire more decision makers. It is about not just people and resource, but ensuring that the process is faster and less bureaucratic, and that the guidance is cut and simplified. If the hon. Lady wants to help us with the issue, perhaps she will get on to her colleagues in the Scottish Government, because today in Scotland, in contrast with the rest of the United Kingdom, only one city—Glasgow—is doing its fair share and taking asylum seekers. In the whole of Scotland, only a dozen hotels outside of Glasgow are taking asylum seekers, which is not fair and equitable. ...

**Alison Thewliss:** Local authorities in Scotland are reticent to take more because they know that the UK Government are not funding asylum seeker provision properly, and that pressed budgets due to another round of austerity are coming down the road, as the Minister knows just fine. Can he confirm that the Home Office is recruiting asylum decision

makers from people in customer service and sales positions at McDonald's and Aldi who have no prior experience of the asylum system, who are consulting Lonely Planet guides for knowledge of applicant countries, and who have described being "left to fend for themselves" after two days to conduct complex interviews and make life or death decisions? Is that really an adequate way to conduct sensitive decision making?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I do not recognise anything that the hon. Lady just said. The problem with the current system is that it is too complicated and too bureaucratic. We want to simplify that, speed up those decisions and make sure that the teams are more productive. To come back to her first point, the Scottish Government are refusing to take any of the asylum seekers who are arriving in the UK on small boats, which is not right. There is a widening gulf between the actions of the Scottish Government and their rhetoric, which I ask her to consider.

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/BBFAB6D4-F534-416F-A51E-91928A1C909B/AsylumBacklog>

### **Asylum Seekers: Support**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [902849]** What steps [is the Minister] taking to support asylum seekers while their applications are being processed.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Appropriate support is provided to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while applications are outstanding. Asylum seekers have access to the NHS, and children in family units to full-time education. They can obtain further assistance via the Migrant Help support line.

**Rachael Maskell:** The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and British Red Cross have highlighted how 13,000 individuals have been trafficked into modern slavery, and the fact that they are not in regular employment being a risk. As a result, will the Minister ensure that local authorities have the funds to put on a full programme for asylum seekers while they are waiting, but also that there are pilot schemes so that those people can have access to the labour market?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... We do not agree that those awaiting asylum decisions should have access to the labour market. We think that that could be a further pull factor to the UK. However, there are other ways in which asylum seekers can make a positive contribution to society, for example, through volunteering, and we want to work with local authorities and other stakeholders to see whether we can pursue those.

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative):** No one would deny that France is a safe country, so should not those genuinely fleeing persecution be claiming asylum in France, rather than paying people traffickers to bring them across the channel in small boats in dangerous circumstances?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** As ever, my right hon. Friend is absolutely right. Those claiming asylum should do so in the first safe country they pass through, and France is demonstrably a safe country. The system that my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary and I want to build is one whereby those who come here illegally have no route to a life in the UK and are taken for their claims to be heard in third countries such as Rwanda, and we focus our resources as a country on targeted resettlement schemes and safe routes, like those that we have done so well in recent years in respect of Ukraine, Afghanistan and Syria.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/78B461D0-958A-4682-BABB-F1C57007C695/AsylumSeekersSupport>

## Ukrainian Nationals: Visas and Support

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP)** [902853] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help improve (a) access to visas and (b) support for Ukrainian nationals.

**Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick):** Applications for the UK's three bespoke Ukraine schemes are online, have no fee and no salary or language requirements. Nearly 150,000 visas have been issued to Ukrainians since the start of Vladimir Putin's illegal invasion. The UK Visas and Immigration service aims to decide those applications within five days, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Generally, we are now meeting that standard.

**Stuart C McDonald:** Ukrainian MPs who have met colleagues here have repeatedly asked for improvements to UK visit visa processes. Visitors from Ukraine must either go to Poland twice—first for biometrics and then to collect the visa—or wait there for several weeks. Will the Minister look at what can be done to make it simpler for those brave politicians and other Ukrainian citizens visiting their families here to access the necessary visa?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** I am in contact with a number of Ukrainian politicians who have raised exactly that point with me and, indeed, the issue of those serving in the Ukrainian armed forces who might wish to visit relatives here while on a short period of leave. I am giving that further consideration.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/E16E2D7B-1F38-436D-B082-395A5FC2A8D2/UkrainianNationalsVisasAndSupport>

## Topical questions: Home Department

**Chris Clarkson (Conservative)** [902876] Last week the Prime Minister set out the measures that the Government will take to gain control over illegal migration, and I was pleased to note that as a result of today's ruling the Rwanda plan will be part of that. Those proposals included options to house potential asylum seekers in more suitable accommodation. Does my right hon. Friend agree that that will take pressure off communities ... and allow the hotels that are being used for this purpose to return to their proper function?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** My hon. Friend is absolutely right. It is disgraceful that millions of pounds are being spent on housing asylum seekers in hotels. We want to end that as quickly as possible and ensure that those individuals are housed more appropriately—for example, in large sites that offer decent but never luxurious accommodation. However, the root cause is the numbers crossing the channel, and that is why policies such as the Rwanda policy, which create a clear deterrent, are so essential.

**Gavin Newlands (SNP)** [902871] Notwithstanding the earlier contrary claim by the Immigration Minister, will the Home Secretary confirm that she fully respects the landmark 1999 ruling by the UK High Court ... in which it was confirmed that "some element of choice is indeed open to refugees as to where they may properly claim asylum", and that a short-term stopover en route to another country should not cause them to forfeit the right to claim asylum on arrival at a destination?

**Reply from Suella Braverman:** I welcome the High Court judgment, which states that the overall policy relating to Rwanda is lawful. It is in line with our international law agreements, and it is a rational policy choice that the UK Government have taken. We look forward to working more closely with Rwanda to deliver it.

**Rachel Maclean (Conservative):** I warmly welcome the legal ruling on the Rwanda plan, and also the reforms to the modern slavery system as part of the overall work to deter those involved in small boat crossings. Does the Home Secretary agree that another way of tackling the backlog would be to speed up the local authority pilot programme for processing claims relating to child victims of modern slavery ...

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** ... We will take forward more pilots with local

authorities next year. I will take her advice under consideration as we design them.  
**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op)** [902872] The success rate of asylum applications from Afghanistan, Syria and Eritrea stands at 98%, and at over 80% for those from Sudan and Iran. Can the Minister commit to an accelerated decision process, especially for people from those countries?

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set out last week that we will redesign and speed up the asylum decision-making process. There will be a particular focus on those individuals with the highest grant rate, and those with the lowest grant rates, such as Albanians, who should be removed from the country. What we will not do is institute a policy of blanket approval...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk//commons/2022-12-19/debates/851524D2-0022-496A-9554-1E2F683DD939/TopicalQuestions#contribution-60D8C6EC-304A-43C3-948A-4368BA33763F>

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

### Asylum: English Channel

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [111581] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has commissioned research into the reasons for which some asylum seekers cross the channel rather than claim asylum in France.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The research undertaken by Home Office on the drivers for irregular migration is summarised in [an evidence pack which was recently released](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111581>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour)** [108233] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many migrants have been intercepted by the crew transfer vessels (a) Hurricane and (b) Typhoon while crossing the English Channel in small boats; and how many of those migrants were subsequently (i) brought to the UK and (ii) returned to France.

**Reply from James Heappey:** The Ministry of Defence does not hold a record of which of the crew transfer vessels are involved in the recovery of individual small boat migrants. All migrants intercepted by crew transfer vessels are brought to the UK. The total number of migrants who have crossed the English channel this year is 44,763.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-12/108233>

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

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [109774] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme have been made outside the UK.

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [109775] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful applications under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme were made outside the UK.

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [109776] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many successful applications under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme were

made in the UK.

**Sam Tarry (Labour)** [109777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme have been made in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will provide up to 20,000 women, children, and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK. The scheme does not have an application process. Instead, eligible people will be referred for resettlement to the UK through one of three referral pathways.

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

At November 4 2022, we had granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 6,314 people under ACRS pathway 1.

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

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

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109774>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109775>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109776>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109777>

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

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

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

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

### **Afghanistan: Refugees**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [109702] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 12 December 2022 on British Council Contractors: Afghanistan, Official Report, column 741, how many names his Department has sent to the Home Office for security checks for Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3 as of 13 December 2022.

**Reply from Leo Docherty:** Under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 3, the FCDO received over 11,400 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) before the window to submit EOIs closed on 15 August 2022. We have been processing each EOI to assess if the eligibility criteria has been met, have started to notify individuals of the outcome and are referring cases to the Home Office. Given the sensitivity of this part of the process, we are not able to provide specific numbers on security checks. Once these security checks have been completed, we will provide further information on next steps to eligible individuals. We will update

Parliament on numbers to be resettled under Pathway 3 once we have completed the allocation process, have notified all those who submitted EOIs of the outcome and have assured data to share.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109702>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-12/debates/510F22B3-E9BC-442E-A74F-6D20B4D43932/BritishCouncilContractorsAfghanistan#contribution-02C2BE00-1152-483A-A7EA-3A65CBE6C826>

*Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at*

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru)** [110777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people (a) arrived in the UK, (b) were granted indefinite leave to remain, (c) were housed in temporary accommodation and (d) were moved into settled accommodation from each referral pathway of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in each month since the opening of those referral pathways.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** At 4 November 2022, 22,833 people have arrived in the UK from Afghanistan, and we have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 12,296 individuals across the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Information can be accessed by following this link: [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#).

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110777>

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

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

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

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

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

### **Immigration: Ukraine**

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [109480] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to waive fees for immigration applications for Ukrainian nationals with leave to remain.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** There is no fee payable for the applications made under the Ukraine Extension Scheme in the immigration rules. The application fee is exempted under that scheme both for entry clearance/leave to enter and for leave to remain in the UK.

Information about fees on Ukraine Schemes can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-under-the-ukraine-extension-scheme#fees>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109480>

## Refugees: Ukraine

**Harriett Baldwin (Conservative)** [108206] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to tax Ukrainian nationals on their Ukrainian-source income such as pension payments while they reside in the UK as refugees.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The UK and the Ukraine have been signatories to a comprehensive Double Taxation treaty since 1993, which is available on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-tax-treaties>

This treaty specifies how the two countries should tax income paid between the two countries with a view to avoiding double taxation.

A key concept for interpreting the treaty is the residence of the person receiving the income. A Ukrainian national living in the UK may be resident in either the UK or Ukraine under each country's domestic legislation, or they may be resident in both. If the recipient is resident in both countries, the treaty sets out several tests to establish one single 'treaty residence'. These tests consider all the individual's facts and circumstances.

For pension income sourced in Ukraine, this will only be taxed in the country where the recipient is resident under the treaty, which could either be the UK or Ukraine depending on the circumstances.

The treatment of other types of income will vary, as set out in the treaty. HMRC has provided bespoke guidance (translated into Ukrainian) for situations where Ukrainians maintain their employment in Ukraine while present in the UK. This is also available on Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/paying-taxes-in-the-uk-if-you-work-for-an-employer-based-in-ukraine>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-12/108206>

## Overseas Students: Ukraine

**Dan Jarvis (Labour)** [109569] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing financial support to Ukrainian nationals who are in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, are continuing to study remotely for qualifications at Ukrainian education institutions and who are unable to access either universal credit or UK student loans because they are students at institutions outside the UK.

**Reply from Robert Halfon:** It is important to maintain parity of treatment for all students in higher education (HE), whether they are a domestic student or an international student studying remotely with an overseas education provider.

Student finance is available only for eligible students studying a course provided predominantly in the UK by a UK HE provider. In England, domestic students studying via distance learning are, in general, not eligible to receive student loans to cover maintenance costs. This is also the case for Ukrainian students in England, who are studying via distance learning.

To support those who are granted leave under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and have enrolled at UK universities, we have extended access to HE student support, home fee status, tuition fee caps, advanced learner loans and 19+ funding allocations. This ensures Ukrainians who have been affected by the war in Ukraine can access support on the same basis as those within other protection-based categories, such as refugees.

The government remains committed to supporting universities in Ukraine who are striving to maintain the education of their students under extremely challenging conditions. This includes through the provision of online distance learning for students enrolled at Ukrainian universities who now live in another country, including in the UK. This also includes those studying through the UK twinning programme of which the government announced funding to support in June 2022.

The programme provides financial support to Ukrainian universities by establishing partnerships with those in the UK.

If a Ukrainian student decides to undertake a Ukrainian university course from the UK, the department encourages students to speak with their education provider in Ukraine to understand what support is available for them to continue their studies. They should also speak to their university about the intensity of study they are offering, as this may impact their ability to access government support, through Universal Credit, whilst in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109569>

### **Dental Services: Refugees**

**Julian Sturdy (Conservative)** [104174] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to help Ukrainian refugees in the UK access dental care.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** Arrivals from Ukraine are guaranteed free access to National Health Service healthcare, including screening, vaccinations, mental health support, dental and hospital services. A welcome pack has been provided to all arrivals, which was translated into Ukrainian and Russian.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104174>

*The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Agriculture: Seasonal Workers**

**Harriett Baldwin (Conservative)** [109549] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will (a) uncap and (b) extend the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme.

**Harriett Baldwin (Conservative)** [109550] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of extending the Seasonal Agricultural Workers scheme visa from a maximum duration of six months to a maximum duration of nine months.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The UK government is committed to supporting the agricultural industry and ensuring that it continues to develop and thrive. The Seasonal Worker route will be expanded in 2023, with 45,000 visas available, to support our farmers growing fruit, vegetables, and flowers as they adapt to changes in the UK labour market. The separate poultry quota will remain at 2,000 places. This number will be kept under review with the potential to increase by a further 10,000 if necessary, and contingent on sponsors and growers improving and abiding by to worker welfare standards, including ensuring workers are guaranteed a minimum number of paid hours each week.

The seasonal worker route is specifically designed to support the UK horticulture sector – a sector in which growers typically require higher volumes of labour, for relatively short-term periods of time, in line with seasonal production peaks. The route is not designed to support non-seasonal roles which operate on a year-round basis. Employers should look to recruit from the domestic labour market in the first instance which includes those who have EU settled status, or from the range of agricultural roles eligible under the wider Points-Based-System.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109549>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109550>

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

**Imran Hussain (Labour)** [111608] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many and what proportion of children in households with no recourse to public funds have been provided with free school meals in the period since 1 September 2022.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Free school meals (FSM) eligibility was extended permanently to children from all No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) households subject to income thresholds, from the start of the 2022 summer term. These pupils are recorded in school census returns in the same way as the wider FSM cohort and are not identified separately.

From June to July 2022, the Department ran a claims process allowing schools to attract pupil premium funding for pupils who became newly eligible for FSM as a result of the extension to NRPF households. The most recent data on the number of NRPF pupils who were claimed for through this process can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2022-to-2023>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111608>

### **Pupils: Asylum**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [111693] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether any additional financial or other support is provided to schools that are educating minors who are claiming asylum and where (a) English is not their first language or (b) they do not understand a basic level of English.

**Reply from Nick Gibb:** Schools are responsible for ensuring that all their pupils, including those who are classed as having a first language other than English, or do not understand a basic level of English, can access the full curriculum and have an opportunity to achieve their potential.

Through the English as an additional language (EAL) factor in the national funding formula (NFF), schools are allocated funding for pupils who are classed as having EAL and who have started in the state funded education system in England within the last three years. This equates to an additional £565 per primary school pupil and £1,530 per secondary school pupil in 2022/23 (rising to £580 per eligible primary pupil and £1,565 per eligible secondary pupil in 2023/24). The NFF will distribute a total of £410 million through the EAL factor in the current financial year. Schools have flexibility over how they use their overall funding budget to support pupils with EAL, as they are best placed to understand and respond to the particular needs of their pupils.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111693>

### **Asylum**

**Rachel Maclean (Conservative)** [902858] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she is taking steps to prevent people claiming asylum in the UK if they could have claimed asylum elsewhere.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Individuals should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Our policies reflect this, including the process whereby an asylum claim may be declared inadmissible to the UK asylum system if the claimant was previously present in, or has a connection to, a safe third country where it would have been reasonable to expect them to claim asylum.

The differentiation policy, which differentiates the entitlements afforded to refugees, is intended to dissuade migrants from making dangerous journeys to the UK and

instead claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/902858>

### **Asylum**

**Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour)** [110806] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement by the Prime Minister of 13 December 2022 on Illegal Immigration, Official Report, column 885, whether safe and legal routes to claim asylum (a) are available and (b) will be available after 1 March 2023 to people who are not from Ukraine, Afghanistan or Syria.

**Robert Jenrick:** The UK, like most other countries, does not accept asylum claims from abroad. Individuals should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

The UK will continue to welcome refugees from across the world through existing safe and legal resettlement routes. These include the existing global UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110806>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration>

*Information about the UK Resettlement Scheme, and Mandate Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1011824/Resettlement\\_Policy\\_Guidance\\_2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf)

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-full-community-sponsorship/community-sponsorship-guidance-for-prospective-sponsors>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [110753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to create safe and legal routes for asylum seekers to come to the UK.

### **Refugees: Families**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [110760] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to increase the speed and safety of routes (a) parents of children living in the UK and (b) other family reunion.

### **Asylum: Afghanistan**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [110760] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure that people in or around Afghanistan who have had to flee because of threats or torture from the Taliban are provided access other than under the ACRS scheme to claim asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** These dangerous concealments are facilitated by vile people smugglers, who place profits above the lives of vulnerable people. The Government is determined to prevent further loss of life by breaking the business model.

The Home Office has invested significant amounts since 2014 to secure feeder ports, including increasing the use of body detection dogs and strengthening the vehicle screening regimes with the latest technology. The department is currently in the process of significantly strengthening the clandestine entrant civil penalty regime in order further drive improvements in vehicle security.

Unfortunately, there have been fatalities, including the Purfleet incident in 2019

when 39 Vietnamese nationals sadly lost their lives, and all such incidents are a reminder that attempts to clandestinely cross the border are inherently dangerous.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110753>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110759>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110760>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Calais**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [110754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to enable people to (a) claim asylum in the UK in Calais and (b) travel safely to the UK once their application has been made.

#### **Asylum**

**Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op)** [110764] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to help ensure people who are fleeing countries where they are facing persecution are able to claim asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Whilst we sympathise with people in many difficult situations around the world, we could not possibly consider protection claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come to the UK. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Our focus is on helping people directly from regions of conflict and instability, and we believe that our resettlement programmes are the best way to provide much needed support.

Although we do not allow claims from abroad, I can confirm, all asylum claims that are admitted to the UK asylum system, are given full and careful consideration so that we do not remove anyone who faces persecution or serious harm to their country of origin.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110754>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110764>

*The following sixteen questions all received the same answer*

#### **Migrants: Detainees**

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109735] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 35 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 36 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109737] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 37 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109739] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 38 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109740] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 39 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109742] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 40 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109744] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 41 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 42 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 43 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109750] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 44 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 45 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 46 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 47 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 48 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 49 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw.

**Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat)** [109758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 50 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 wrote to the MP for Oxford West and Abingdon with more detail. A copy of this letter has been placed in the House library for all.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109735>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109736>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109737>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109739>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109740>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109742>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109744>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109746>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109747>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109750>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109752>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109754>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109755>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109756>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109757>  
and  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/109758>

*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](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](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.*

### **Asylum: Deportation**

**Derek Twigg (Labour)** [110589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Prime Minister's Answer to the hon. Member for Halton during his oral statement of 13 December 2022 on Illegal Immigration, Official Report, column 902, for what reason she has not set a target for the removal from the UK of asylum seekers whose application have been rejected.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** The Government wants to maximise the number of people returned from the United Kingdom through both voluntary and enforced routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110589>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration#contribution-A52CC58A-6C0D-4B89-93FB-A19371CAD4E5>

### **Prisoners: Foreign Nationals**

**Matthew Offord (Conservative)** [108166] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many foreign national offenders, who having served their sentence, were subsequently deported in the last 12 months.

**Reply from Robert Jenrick:** Foreign offenders should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them. Any foreign national who is convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity. We make every effort to ensure that a Foreign National Offender's (FNO) removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with their release from prison on completion of sentence. More than 12,200 FNOs have been removed since January 2019 protecting victims and making our streets safer.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of Foreign National Offenders

(FNOs) returned from the UK in each quarter in the [Immigration statistics quarterly release](#). The latest data, published on 24 November 2022, can be found in [Returns-summary-sep-2022-tables.ods](#) (Tables Ret\_02a/Ret\_02b) and [Detailed Returns tables](#) (Table Ret\_D03/D04). Figures relate to year ending June 2022.

We deal with significant and complex challenges when seeking to return those who have no right to be in the UK to their country of origin or lawful place of return. These challenges can include travel documentation, late applications, late appeals and broader non-compliance with a lawful returns process. The Nationality and Borders Act will make it easier and quicker to remove FNOs and those with no right to be in the UK. The new legislation extends the period an FNO can be removed from prison under the early removal scheme (ERS) from a maximum of 9 months to 12 months, providing the minimum requisite period has been served. The Act will also streamline the appeals process by introducing an expanded One Stop Process aimed at reducing the extent to which people can frustrate removals through sequential or unmeritorious claims, appeals or legal action.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-12/108166>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda

***The answer given by the Minister in the House of Commons was read in the House of Lords.***

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** My Lords, a legal ruling has said that the Government's asylum processing deal with Rwanda is legal, although with a number of qualifications.

... His Majesty's Opposition ... believe that the Government have failed to stop the criminal gangs putting lives at risk; have failed to prosecute or convict the gang members, with convictions for people smuggling down by 75% in the last two years; have failed to take basic asylum decisions, which are down by 40% in the last six years; and have failed on the issue of small boat crossings, which are now at record numbers, with no decisions made in 98% of those cases. The Government's solution, among other policies, is to put forward a scheme which is unworkable, unethical and extortionately expensive—the so-called Rwanda plan—rather than sorting out the problems I outlined. Indeed, the decision-making processes are so flawed that, despite the decision on legality, each of the eight cases were considered so flawed and chaotic that those individual decisions were quashed by the court.

It is in all our interests that there is a functioning, competent and humane asylum process. The Rwanda plan, however, is not the way for the issues to be resolved. I will ask some detailed and specific questions to show some of the continuing problems, notwithstanding the legal judgment. Given the importance the Government attach to the scheme, when does the Minister expect the first flight to Rwanda to take off? When can the Home Secretary's dream of such a flight be realised, or is it just a flight of fancy that should never happen anyway?

The Rwandan Government have said publicly that they have the capacity to take 200 people. Bearing in mind that more than 40,000 people have crossed the channel this year alone, what number does the Minister believe will be enough to act as a deterrent? Is 200 still the number, or are there plans for more?

We have already paid Rwanda £140 million, without a single person being sent there. What has that money paid for? Are we committed to additional sums, and, if so, how much and what will it be for? The Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, according to the Home Secretary's own Statement yesterday, has said again that "there is not currently sufficient evidence to demonstrate value for money."—[[Official Report, Commons, 19/12/22; col. 33.](#)]

Why have Ministers yet again ignored that advice?

The court found chaos and confusion in the Home Office's decision-making on the Rwanda cases, including a failure to consider properly torture and trafficking evidence. Why did that happen? Can the Minister assure us that offences such as torture and trafficking will be taken as evidence? On trafficking, the conviction of people smugglers has dropped from 12 a month to three a month in the last two years, even though the number of smuggler gangs has grown. Would it not be better to stop wasting money on the Rwanda scheme and put it towards tackling the people-smuggling gangs instead?

Can the Minister confirm that families and children will not be subject to the Rwanda policy? If they will not, can the Minister explain how the proposed new legislation to detain and deport anyone arriving here irregularly, which is to be brought forward next year, will work and what its relationship with the Rwanda plan is? ...

The Rwanda scheme is a damaging distraction from the urgent action the Government should be taking to go after criminal gangs and sort out the asylum system. As I have said, the scheme is unworkable, expensive and unethical. ...

**Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat):** ... The Government chose to bring this arrangement through a memorandum of understanding, not a treaty, to avoid scrutiny and a proper ratification process by Parliament. ... So can the Minister be clear today about what the legal, binding basis is on the commitments that have been provided by both parties to this MoU? What is the legal basis for the data-sharing arrangements that are in place?

In June, I visited the Hope Hostel in Kigali, the reception centre. A large banner at the entrance says, "Come as a Guest, Leave as a Friend". That banner is adjacent to armoured gates with machine-gunned guards. The contract is awarded to a private company on an annual basis. That will run out in March, so will the Minister confirm that that private arrangement will continue from next March ...

Some £20 million has been given to provide this centre. I saw nothing like £20 million-worth of facilities when I visited it in June. It had no suitable areas for those vulnerable to suicide risk or those who had come through routes of great danger. This is on top of the £120 million provided to the Government of Rwanda. That £140 million is totally inappropriate, given the desperate plight of those here at home, including those dying of diphtheria ... As the Minister was unable to confirm it to me, I have an inaccurate understanding of how many unaccounted-for children there are. If he could update me on that, I would be very grateful. There is no guarantee on the timeframe, so when will the centre that we have paid £20 million for be operational?

When I asked the officials in Rwanda about the processing time for those seeking asylum, those in Rwanda for camps because of other conflicts said that the average time was up to 10 years. What commitment has been provided for the process time of those who will be received at the Hope Hostel? ...

Finally, we cannot put a price on immorality, but £140 million is a dear price to pay for our reputation being so tarnished. ...

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth):** ... I was asked about the first flight ... there is a hearing to determine remedies in relation to the challenges against the Secretary of State for the Home Department on 16 January. At that hearing, the claimants' counsel and the Home Office will make representations regarding, among other matters, any applications to appeal, and the court will decide the next steps, if any, in the UK litigation. We know that more legal challenges are likely and we will continue vigorously to defend this action in the courts. ...

The volumes envisaged under the MEDP memorandum of understanding are uncapped. The numbers of persons to be relocated to Rwanda under the terms of the memorandum of understanding will take account of Rwanda's capacity to receive them, and will comply with its obligations and our obligations under the MoU

in respect of that group. Resources are being provided under the MoU to develop the capacity of the Rwandan asylum system. We have already provided £20 million up front to support set-up costs, for example, and we anticipate the numbers being relocated ramping up quickly once the partnership starts to operate, and in line with Rwanda's growing capacity. ...

The Government of Rwanda have ... made clear that, while the first accommodation site, Hope Hostel, has a capacity of 200, the partnership itself is uncapped. In any case, individuals being relocated will be accommodated in these facilities only as a temporary measure, before being moved into regular housing for the long term. ...

As part of the partnership—and it is, after all, a migration and economic development partnership agreement—the United Kingdom has invested an initial £120 million into the economic development and growth of Rwanda. This must be set in the context of the fact that the Home Department is currently spending in the region of £7 million a day on hotel accommodation for asylum seekers. Funding will also be provided to Rwanda to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation and people's integration. Every individual's needs are different, and funding will be provided only while an individual remains in Rwanda. ...

Decisions on whether to relocate individuals to Rwanda are made on a case-by-case basis, depending on individuals' circumstances at the time and in accordance with the inadmissibility guidance. ...

Families with children are potentially eligible for relocation but, as my right honourable friend made clear, the initial process will focus on adults. A further assessment of Rwanda's capacity to accommodate children will be undertaken before this occurs. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-12-20/debates/F7CBAA55-F538-4574-82C8-572B9EDBC0D4/MigrationAndEconomicDevelopmentPartnershipWithRwanda>

*The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/AAA-v-SSHD-Rwanda-judgment.pdf>

*The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

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

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL4308] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment of value for money was undertaken in relation to the UK–France Joint Statement of 14 November; and when that assessment will be published.

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL4309] To ask His Majesty's Government how much will be paid each month by the UK, and to whom, as part of the UK–France Joint Statement of 14 November.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The funding arrangement agreed on 14 November was considered in terms of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity when considering its value.

We work closely with France to tackle illegal migration and jointly monitor the impact of funding arrangements, including the financial package agreed on 14 November,

through daily operational contact and regular strategic reviews with agreed metrics. Our joint work has seen the prevention of over 31,000 crossings so far this year. It would be inappropriate to publish the detail of these reviews as they contain sensitive operational details and relate to ongoing operational bilateral discussions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4308>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4309>

*The statement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/next-phase-in-partnership-to-tackle-illegal-migration-and-small-boat-arrivals/uk-france-joint-statement-enhancing-co-operation-against-illegal-migration>

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

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL4032] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of individuals who have died crossing the English Channel to get to the UK in the back of lorries and other vehicles in each month since January 2010.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** These dangerous concealments are facilitated by vile people smugglers, who place profits above the lives of vulnerable people. The Government is determined to prevent further loss of life by breaking the business model.

The Home Office has invested significant amounts since 2014 to secure feeder ports, including increasing the use of body detection dogs and strengthening the vehicle screening regimes with the latest technology. The department is currently in the process of significantly strengthening the clandestine entrant civil penalty regime in order further drive improvements in vehicle security.

Unfortunately, there have been fatalities, including the Purfleet incident in 2019 when 39 Vietnamese nationals sadly lost their lives, and all such incidents are a reminder that attempts to clandestinely cross the border are inherently dangerous.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/hl4032>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan**

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**The Earl of Sandwich (Crossbench)** [HL4176] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Afghan refugees have been admitted to the UK under the UNHCR Resettlement Schemes since August 2021; and how many further applications they expect to approve in the first quarter of 2023.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Earlier this summer, we began receiving referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 2.

UNHCR has the global mandate to provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees, and with whom we already work in resettling refugees under our flagship UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Mandate and Community Sponsorship Schemes. UNHCR will refer individuals in accordance with their standard resettlement submission criteria, which are based on an assessment of protection needs and vulnerabilities. Under both our current and previous resettlement schemes we have accepted and resettled a number of Afghan refugees in third countries. Historic and current operational data in relation to the UK's resettlement schemes, including broken down by nationality, can be found at: Gov.UK

We are also pleased to have now welcomed the first families (four individuals) under

ACRS Pathway 2. On 24th November the latest Immigration Statistics publication included data on Pathway 2 arrivals for the first time and this can be found using the same link. We anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway, although this number will be kept under review. We will continue to receive UNHCR referrals to the scheme in coming years.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-08/hl4176>

*Information about Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

[13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HI4034] To ask His Majesty's Government how many refugees have been admitted under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and what assessment they have made of the year long delay in admitting refugees to the UK under Pathway 2 of that scheme.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The recent update to the published '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)', shows that, at 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022:

- 22,833 individuals from Afghanistan have been brought to safety in the UK (since the end of June 2021).
- We have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) to 6,314 people under ACRS Pathway 1.

We are pleased to have welcomed the first families under ACRS Pathway 2. On 24<sup>th</sup> November the latest Immigration Statistics publication included data on Pathway 2 arrivals and this can be found at: [Immigration statistics data tables, year ending September 2022](#)

We are working at pace with Local Authorities and other partners to make sure those we resettle are fully supported in accessing the accommodation, health, education, and employment needed to fully integrate into life in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/hl4034>

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

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

*Information about Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at*

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

[13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3](https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3)

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4030] To ask His Majesty's Government how many people have been accepted and evacuated from Afghanistan under their Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, which opened on 6 January.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will see up to 20,000 people from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years.

As of 4 November 2022, 22,833 people have arrived in the UK from Afghanistan, and we have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 12,296 individuals across both the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and ACRS, since they opened in April 2021 and January 2022, respectively

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

More information on the number of grants of Indefinite Leave to Remain issued to

Afghans resettling under the ARAP or ACRS can be viewed at gov.uk  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/hl4030>

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

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

The statistics referred to above can be read at  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

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

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Homelessness**

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4097] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to support Ukrainian refugees and host families over the Christmas period to ensure that any breakdowns in host relationships under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme do not lead to homelessness.

**Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4098] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to support Ukrainian refugees over the Christmas period to ensure that issues with re-matching under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme do not lead to homelessness.

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** We are greatly appreciative of the overwhelming generosity shown by sponsors in accommodating guests under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The Government has been working closely with local councils, voluntary and community organisations to ensure sponsors and their guests can access the support they need from public services.

We have developed advice on hosting and provide training courses to help sponsors welcome and host their guests which can be accessed (attached) here:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/sources-of-support-for-sponsors-hosting-people-from-ukraine](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/sources-of-support-for-sponsors-hosting-people-from-ukraine)

[Sponsors hosting people from Ukraine](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-07/hl4097>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-07/hl4098>

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

### **Pre-school Education: Migrants**

**The Lord Bishop of Durham** [HL4147] To ask His Majesty's Government how many children subject to No Recourse to Public Funds conditions are in receipt of 15 hours a week of free early education available to disadvantaged three and four year-olds, but would be eligible for the 30 hour entitlement if not subject to NRPF.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** All parents are eligible to claim up to 570 hours of free early education per year, which is usually taken as 15 hours per week over 38 weeks of the year. This is available to all three and four-year olds, regardless of family circumstances, including those whose families have no recourse to public

funds (NRPF).

Working parents of three and four-year-olds may also be eligible for an additional 15 hours of free childcare, also known as 30 hours free childcare, subject to both minimum and maximum earnings thresholds. Parents must earn the equivalent of 16 hours a week at the national minimum/living wage, currently just over £7,900 per year, and their adjusted net income must be under £100,000.

In a two-parent family both parents must meet these thresholds, unless one partner receives certain benefits (Incapacity Benefit, Severe Disablement Allowance, Carer's Allowance or contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance). In a single-parent household the single parent must meet the threshold. Parents with NRPF are not eligible for this entitlement.

The department does not hold data on the number of children whose parents have NRPF who are currently taking up the universal 15 hour early education entitlement. This means it is not possible to ascertain how many would be eligible for the extended 30 hour entitlement were they not subject to NRPF.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-08/hl4147>

### **Resettlement: Hong Kong**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL4068] To ask His Majesty's Government how many British National (Overseas) nationals from Hong Kong have accessed Welcome Programme support since April 2021; and what has been the cost of this support from then to date.

**Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook:** The UK-wide Welcome Programme was launched in April 2021, providing a comprehensive support package with an easily accessible universal offer as its foundation, progressing to targeted support for those most in need. The universal offer is open to all BN(O) visa holders in the UK and includes a network of 12 virtual Welcome Hubs across the UK, funding for VCSE organisations to deliver national and regional projects and a comprehensive Welcome Pack on GOV.UK, at a combined cost of £12.1 million to date. The Programme also funds targeted support provided by local authorities on a demand-led basis for individuals requiring additional assistance. Through this, over 2000 BN(O)s have been supported with English language provision at up to £850 per person, at a cost of approximately £1.5 million to date. There have been no claims for destitution support to date.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/hl4068>

### **Refugees: Albania**

**Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat)** [HL4029] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to reports that 39 unaccompanied Albanian refugee children have been reported as missing by Kent County Council, what steps they are taking to locate those children.

**Reply from Baroness Barran:** The government takes the matter of any child going missing very seriously. Statutory guidance is in place, which details the responsibilities of local authorities and their partners, to prevent children going missing and to gather and share information and intelligence to reduce this risk. The guidance applies to all children going missing, whether this is from the family home or from care and includes unaccompanied refugee children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/hl4029>

### **Migrants: Detainees**

**Lord Hylton (Crossbench)** [HL4057] To ask His Majesty's Government how many persons were held in immigration detention for (1) removal from the UK, and (2) assessment purposes, for the most recent date that data are available; and whether the Manston immigration centre is still overcrowded and therefore potentially a risk to health.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** The Home Office publishes data on people held in detention in the quarterly Immigration Statistics release.

Data on those in detention relate to those in detention on the last day of the quarter.

Reasons for detention are not published in the data.

Quarter	Number of detainees
2021 Q4	1,179
2022 Q1	1,440
2022 Q2	2,038
2022 Q3	2,077

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/hl4057>

### **Deportation: Albania**

**Lord Rosser (Labour)** [HL4067] To ask His Majesty's Government how much the arrangement with Albania to fast-track the removal of Albanian nationals who have travelled to the UK via small boats, announced on 25 August, will cost; and how many Albanians seeking asylum in the UK they expect to be removed under this arrangement.

**Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth:** Following the new approach agreed with the Albanian government last week, we are in close discussions with them on the operational details. Further information including final actual spend will be provided within Home Office financial statements in the usual way.

We continue to work extremely closely with our Albanian partners on a range of issues and are committed to building on our cooperation to date, including on tackling illegal migration. That includes the excellent operational collaboration with Albanian law enforcement, and our readmissions agreement signed last year, which has already seen over 1,000 Albanian foreign national offenders and immigration offenders removed from the UK, including some who crossed the channel illegally to come to the UK.

The UK and Albania pledged to fast track the removal of Albanians with no right to be in the UK wherever possible, and to send senior Albanian law enforcement to the UK to speed up processing and share information with our authorities. In co-operation with the Government of Albania, we are taking every opportunity to intercept the activities of organised criminal gangs and people smugglers, and speed up the removal of Albanians and other nationals with no right to be in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/hl4067>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-pledge-rapid-removal-of-those-entering-the-uk-illegally>

*Information about the new approach referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-illegal-migration-13-december-2022>

## **UK Parliament Early Day Motion**

**Alison Thewliss (SNP)** [720] **Scottish Detainee Visitors 20th anniversary** – That this House congratulates Scottish Detainee Visitors on their 20th anniversary; understands that the project offers non-judgmental social, emotional and practical support to people in Dungavel detention centre, the only one of its kind in Scotland; notes that it provides a vital service for detainees in supplying information, signposting and mobile top-ups to help people keep in touch with friends and family; further notes that above all the most important aspect of their service is the friendship and solidarity they offer, invaluable to those who

have been detained; and wishes them all the best for the future.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60439>

## Press Release

**Men involved in smuggling people into UK in back of lorries convicted**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/men-involved-smuggling-people-uk-back-lorries-convicted-0>

## New Publications

**High Court Judgement concerning the legality of the Rwanda Refugee Policy**

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/AAA-v-SSHD-Rwanda-judgment.pdf>

**House of Commons Library Briefing: UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9568/CBP-9568.pdf>

**Government response to Immigration Legal Aid: A consultation on new fees for new services**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-legal-aid-a-consultation-on-new-fees-for-new-services/outcome/government-response-to-immigration-legal-aid-a-consultation-on-new-fees-for-new-services>

**Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats - 12 December to 18 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-12-december-to-18-december-2022>

**Updated: 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>

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

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

## News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

**Rwanda migrant plan is lawful, High Court rules**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64024461>

**UK's Rwanda deportation policy deemed lawful by High Court**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23199980.uks-rwanda-deportation-policy-deemed-lawful-high-court/>

**High Court ruling Rwanda deportations are lawful changes nothing for opponents**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/high-court-ruling-rwanda-deportations-are-lawful-changes-nothing-for-opponents-3958988>

**Rwanda: High Court rules that cruel scheme is lawful**

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/rwanda-high-court-rules-that-cruel-scheme-is-lawful/>

**Rwanda asylum seekers: 'Fighting to survive'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-62834946>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Channel migrant deaths: Man, 19, charged after four die at sea**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-64017542>

**Flawed EU settlement scheme could create illegal migrants says High Court**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64053696>

**Suella Braverman refuses to rule out using disused cruise ships to house asylum seekers**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/suella-braverman-refuses-to-rule-out-using-disused-cruise-ships-to-house-asylum-seekers-3962069>

**Migrants detained illegally, official email claims**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64037136>

**Asylum claim rejections show the UK Government has little understanding of what people are fleeing**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/asylum-claim-rejections-show-the-uk-government-has-little-understanding-of-what-people-are-fleeing-3961592>

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## Equality

### UK Parliament Debate

**Entrepreneurs from Ethnic Minority Backgrounds**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-20/debates/2B810F6A-E263-4321-9565-EA70E2A0605E/EntrepreneursFromEthnicMinorityBackgrounds>

### News

**'Why don't more teachers look like me?'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-63946894>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

**Prisons: Racial Discrimination**

**Afzal Khan (Labour) [110868]** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment

he has made of trends in the level of racial disproportionality in prisons.

**Reply from Damian Hinds:** Racial and ethnic disparities are closely monitored across the justice system, and we continue to develop a wider, and deeper, range of factors that we monitor. The data, including analysis of relative differences between groups, helps give a detailed picture of where over-representation and disproportionality may be occurring. A comprehensive statistical assessment of these issues from across the system, including in prisons, can be found in [Ethnicity and the Criminal Justice system](#).

We are committed to understanding and tackling disparities that emerge in the outcomes for, and treatment of, ethnic minorities in prison. This is why in December 2020 we launched the Race Action Programme, which is focused on creating long-term change through increasing the diversity of our workforce, addressing the risk of bias in our policies, and their implementation to tackle disparity in outcomes for ethnic minorities throughout the prison and probation service.

However, last week's thematic report from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons is a sobering read and His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service will announce details early next year on the wide-ranging action we will deliver to bring about necessary changes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110868>

*The Race Action Programme referred to above can be read at*

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/RAP-Report-Online.pdf>

*The thematic report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/12/The-experiences-of-adult-black-male-prisoners-and-black-prison-staff-web-2022-1.pdf>

## New Publications

**Anti-Jewish Hatred Tackling Antisemitism in the UK 2023 – Renewing the Commitment**

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PDF-Antisemitism-Report-2023.pdf>

**The experiences of adult black male prisoners and black prison staff**

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/12/The-experiences-of-adult-black-male-prisoners-and-black-prison-staff-web-2022-1.pdf>

## News

**Police investigate Conservative MP Bob Stewart's Bahrain comment**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64041140>

**UK schools must teach about antisemitism, says government adviser**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64012628>

**Racial divisions in prisons: old problems need new solutions**

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/2022/12/racial-divisions-in-prisons-old-problems-need-new-solutions/>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### News

#### **Cost of Supreme Court Indyref2 case revealed**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-64057492>

#### **Changing gender to be made easier in Scotland**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-64066938>

#### **People aged 16 and 17 to be allowed to change gender**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-64043949>

#### **The two sides of Scotland's gender law debate**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-64033750>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### New Publication

#### **Female Genital Mutilation, July 2022 - September 2022**

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/july-2022---september-2022>

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## Cost of Living

### Scottish Government Website

#### **Help during the cost of living crisis**

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

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

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

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

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

## Publications

**House of Commons Library Briefing: Rising cost of living in the UK**

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

**Office for National Statistics: Rising cost of pasta, bread and other everyday foods leaves most vulnerable the worst off**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/risingcostofpastabreadandothereverydayfoodsleavesmostvulnerabletheworstoff/2022-12-22>

## News

**Energy saving tips: Five ways to cut costs this winter**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-62738249>

**Somerset woman halves energy bill by using thrifty solutions**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-63982530>

**Cost of living: 'We sold nearly everything just to pay bills'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-shropshire-63975351>

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## Other News

**Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Resources to help you use OSCR Online to submit your annual return**

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/resources-to-help-you-use-oscr-online-to-submit-your-annual-return/>

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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>

Stage 3 (Full Parliament)

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14066&i=127397#ScotParIOR>

and

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14069&i=127404#ScotParIOR>

and

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14069&i=127406#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 Debate

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14071&i=127436#ScotParlOR>

Bill passed

For 86, Against 39, Abstentions 0.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14071&i=127436&c=2455060#ScotParlOR>

## 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>

Evidence session, Joint Committee on Human Rights

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12467/html/>

### **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>

Bill as amended on re-committal to Public Bill Committee

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0220/220220.pdf>

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

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

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**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>

**\*\* Local development plans – defining Gypsies and Travellers** (closing date 20 January 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-plans-defining-gypsies-travellers-consultation/>

**Local development plans – defining Gypsies and Travellers: interim impact assessments**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-plans-defining-gypsies-travellers-interim-impact-assessments/>

**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/>

**Electoral reform** (closing date 15 March 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/electoral-reform/>

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## Job Opportunities

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

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## Events, Conferences, and Training

\*\* new or updated this week

**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/mpnfcddp>

### **Introduction to Racial Literacy**

16 January 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

6 February 2023 (Edinburgh (10.00–1.00)

23 February 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

9 March 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Amina Muslim Women’s Resource Centre, and Action on Prejudice training session to help youth workers explore and understand the impact of dominant identities, how people react to things they don’t know, barriers to participation for young people, and what actions they can take to become more inclusive. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxecjvy>

### **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>

### **Closed doors: How to safety plan with South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse**

28 February 2023 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Safe Lives, and Amina Muslim Women’s Resource Centre course to provide an overview of South Asian women’s experiences of domestic abuse in Scotland. the impact of citizenship and immigration control on experiences of domestic abuse, including the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds, and safety planning, signposting, and referral pathways for South Asian Women. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3cwpzwwh>

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## Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services**

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

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

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**SCoJeC**  
Scottish Council of  
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

**BEMIS**  
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and  
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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