



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

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

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The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 20 February 2023.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ukrainian Refugees: Housing

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-14342] To ask the Scottish Government what guidelines it has given to local authorities regarding the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees into their housing services.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government has published online guidance which explains to local authorities' their responsibilities to displaced people from Ukraine under the Homes for Ukraine (and Scottish Super Sponsor) scheme. This guidance can be found online here: [Person checks - Super Sponsor Scheme and Homes for Ukraine: guidance for local authorities](#).

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-14342>

Ukrainian Refugees: Education

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-14345] To ask the Scottish Government what guidelines it has given to local authorities regarding the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees into their education services.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: All children and young people living in Scotland are entitled to an education whatever their immigration status. We are proud of the welcome that Scottish local authorities have given to displaced people from Ukraine, welcoming more than 3,000 children and young people into Scottish schools over the last year.

The Scottish Government set out in a joint letter with COSLA in August 2022 the sources of advice and support available to local authorities to help displaced children and young people from Ukraine.

We also established the Ukraine Education Partners Group, jointly chaired by the Scottish Government and COSLA, with representation from ADES, Education Scotland, the Scottish Refugee Council and individual local authorities, to help co-ordinate work on this issue.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-14345>

Ukrainian Refugees: Dentists

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-14340] To ask the Scottish Government what guidelines it has given to dentists regarding the welcoming of Ukrainian refugees into their services.

Reply from Maree Todd: All Ukrainian displaced persons have the right to access free NHS dental care in Scotland. They are also entitled to register as a NHS patient with a General Dental Practitioner, depending on whether the practice is taking on new NHS patients.

For children and adults under the age of 26, exemption from NHS dental charges is automatically applied. For Ukrainian displaced persons aged 26 or over, dentists have been advised to select 'Universal Credit' and then 'evidence not produced' when submitting GP17 claim forms for payment. Guidance on this was issued to Health Boards on 6 April 2022:

<https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/publications/nhs-scotland-services-ukraine.pdf>.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-14340>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6M-07847] **Welcoming Languages: Including a Refugee Language in Scottish Education** – That the Parliament welcomes publication of the final report, Welcoming Languages: Including a refugee language in Scottish education, which is from a pilot project that saw collaboration between the University of Glasgow School of Education and the Islamic University of Gaza, in Palestine, to design, develop and teach a beginner Arabic language course to teachers in four Glasgow primary schools; understands that Arabic is a language spoken by large numbers of children and families seeking asylum in Scotland and who go on to make their home here, and that by learning some simple language that is useful in a school setting, education staff can make Arabic-speaking children, and parents and carers, feel welcome and included in the school community, and calls on the Scottish Government to consider making more widely

available what it sees as the social and educational success of Welcoming Languages for these "new Scots", their fellow classmates, and the school community as a whole.
<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07847>

The report referred to above can be read at

<http://welcominglanguages.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WLs-Project-Report.pdf>

Information about the project referred to above can be read at

<https://welcominglanguages.co.uk/>

UK Parliament Debates

Rwanda: Memorandum of Understanding

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-02-06/debates/7709263F-7C3E-4766-9CED-08A8B8318B69/RwandaMemorandumOfUnderstanding>

Asylum Seekers: Bournemouth West

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-07/debates/68603EFC-6FF0-429A-87DB-75446B8EDFDA/AsylumSeekersBournemouthWest>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Refugees: Accommodation

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [903480] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help ensure that refugees are placed in adequate housing.

Greg Smith (Conservative) [903484] What progress [has the Minister] made in ending the use of hotels as contingency asylum accommodation.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): Our first duty is to break the business model of the people-smuggling gangs, stop the boats and reduce the number of those coming to this country illegally. Alongside that, we are working to ensure that decent but not luxurious accommodation is available while asylum claims are being processed. We are working with local councils and providers to develop regional dispersal plans and are pursuing a range of options to increase supply.

Barry Sheerman: ... When the dreadful invasion of Ukraine took place, many people welcomed with open arms refugees from Ukraine. Does he agree that it is still not safe for many of them to go home? Many have overstayed their time with their host, so can we have a coherent plan going forward to ensure that refugees from Ukraine are decently protected and housed?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The hon. Gentleman is right to celebrate the good work that we have done in this country to support people who came here from Ukraine. That has been the largest humanitarian visa effort in this country's history. I have benefited from that personally, having had a family stay with me, as I know many Members across the House have. Over 500 individuals continue to come to the UK every week under the Ukrainian visa schemes, but he is right to say that the challenge now is as much about ensuring re-matches are available for people who, for whatever reason, are coming to the end of their stay with their original families. We are working very closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure that those changes are as seamless as possible so that nobody ends up homeless.

Greg Smith: ... The loss of [a local] hotel ... is noticeable in the town, as is the diversion of precious primary care resources, with an on-site clinic required at least once a week ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Secretary and I are as frustrated as my hon. Friend that too many people are staying in hotels, costing too much money to the taxpayers of this country. We want to ensure that hotels such as the one in his constituency are exited as swiftly as possible. That is why we are pursuing a full dispersal model with local authorities and considering a range of other options, including larger sites. The enduring solution to this problem is to break the business model of the people smugglers and to stop the boats. It is for that reason that the Home Secretary and I will shortly bring forward further legislation ...

The mandatory dispersal model we are pursuing is one of agreement with local authorities, where every local authority works with the Home Office and our providers to agree a number of bed spaces in their local area and then to choose appropriate ones that meet the needs of the local community. ...

... the task for all of us is to stop the boats, or else we will continue to have troubles like this in the years ahead, with thousands of individuals crossing the channel illegally and placing unbearable strain on our asylum accommodation. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): Home Office accommodation provider Mears has made significant profits providing substandard facilities for asylum seekers. ... Mears' practices are retraumatising and causing unnecessary stress and suffering. ... Why are the UK Government encouraging rapacious companies to profit from misery, rather than investing in community-based alternatives and more effective decision making?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... The answer to this issue, in Scotland as across the country, is for local authorities to step up and make more accommodation available. ... the Scottish Government are taking fewer asylum seekers and refugees than any other comparable part of the United Kingdom. The SNP's record on this issue is frankly shameful. It was, after all, the Scottish Government whose failed Ukrainian scheme meant that they had to house Ukrainian refugees in cruise ships.

To read this question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-06/debates/3E8B497A-D617-4BA0-BEC2-C0D73714EB82/RefugeesAccommodation>

Asylum Applications: Backlog

Rachel Hopkins (Labour) [903487] What recent progress [has the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [903495] What recent progress [has the Minister's] Department has made on reducing the backlog of asylum applications.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): We have committed to clearing the backlog of asylum applications over this year and to introducing a faster, more productive system. Since making that commitment at the end of 2022, we have made excellent progress: recruiting more caseworkers, working towards a doubling in their number, establishing dedicated caseworkers per nationality and designing a more streamlined process, which is already raising productivity substantially.

Rachel Hopkins: ... how is the Minister working with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ensure that councils receive clear funding settlements to cover the costs of the increased impact on local services?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We provide funding for every asylum seeker who is in a local authority's care of about £3,500, and we work closely with local authorities through the mandatory dispersal system to make sure that each one plays a fair and equitable part. However, the answer to this problem is not more accommodation; it is stopping the boats and ensuring that we have some of the most robust laws in the world, so that those who come here illegally do not find a way to a life in the UK. ...

Vicky Foxcroft: My constituent arrived here from Syria and claimed asylum in July 2021.

He is a doctor and applied to volunteer with the covid vaccination programme, but was turned down because he had no documentation. After more than a year and many interventions by my office, he finally had his asylum interview and was given a job as a healthcare assistant, but that was delayed because he had to wait for his national insurance number. The NHS is crying out for staff. When will the Government sort this out?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are working to bring down the backlog of cases. ... We will get the backlog down, and create a streamlined and efficient asylum system.

Amanda Milling (Conservative): Tensions in the community are rising in my constituency owing to the use of hotels to house asylum seekers ... Will my right hon. Friend join me in thanking the local police, who are doing everything they can to respond to issues as they arise ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... we are straining every sinew to tackle this issue. For example, following the communiqué that was signed with Albania at the end of last year and is now being implemented, we are seeing weekly return flights of illegal migrants to Albania and a faster process, involving 400 caseworkers dedicated to those Albanian cases.

Julian Lewis (Conservative): One group with a strong claim to be here are the former interpreters in Afghanistan and other locally employed civilians who helped our armed forces. Will the Minister explain to the House whether such applications are caught up in the general collection of applications made by people who have come here illegally, or whether any form of priority and extra attention is given to those very deserving Afghan refugees?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: My right hon. Friend has raised an important issue. We take our moral commitment to those who supported our troops and our efforts in Afghanistan extremely seriously. We have helped more than 20,000 individuals to come to the UK, some before Operation Pitting, some during that operation and some since, under the Afghan relocations and assistance policy and subsequently the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme. The Foreign Office is drawing up a further list of individuals for the ACRS. The people to whom my right hon. Friend has referred should be applying to that scheme, and we hope we will be able to bring them to the United Kingdom as soon as possible, if they are not here already. ...

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): In 2019, the then Conservative Home Secretary said that she would end small boat crossings in a matter of months. Since then, the number of crossings has increased from 1,000 to 45,000, with the criminal gangs laughing all the way to the bank. Last year, Ministers promised that the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 would deal with the crisis, but in fact it has caused the asylum backlog to spiral out of control, forcing the British taxpayer to foot the bill for an extra £480 million in six-monthly accommodation costs. Now, Ministers are making all the same empty promises again. The Refugee Council says that the latest Government proposals will cost the taxpayer an extra £1 billion every six months, without anyone being returned anywhere. ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... In an age of mass migration in which millions of people are on the move and want to come to our country, either as economic migrants or asylum shoppers, we have to take the most robust action we can. The system we are building is a simple one in which those who want to come here illegally in small boats will find no way to a life in this country. They will be returned home, or to a safe third country such as Rwanda.

We will fulfil our commitment to those fleeing genuine persecution, war and human rights abuses, such as through the schemes that we have created for Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine, but we on the Government Benches are capable of seeing the difference between genuine asylum seekers and economic migrants. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): Delays even when decisions have been made are all too common. To give an example, a constituent had his appeal allowed but is still waiting for

the tribunal's decision to be implemented nine months later. He cannot get on with his life. ... Can [the Minister] tell me what is the longest time that people like my constituent will have to wait ...?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The hon. Lady does not want us to tackle this issue because she believes in open borders. We want to take action to ensure that this country is not somewhere where economic migrants and asylum shoppers seek to come. That means suffusing deterrents throughout the system. She should support plans such as Rwanda and our efforts to bear down on illegal migrants. We will bear down on the backlog of cases. As I said in answer to an earlier question, we will clear it over the course of this year. ...

To read this question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-06/debates/4146D390-8D1D-4EDB-AC8A-4330E45BC7E2/AsylumApplicationsBacklog>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Clive Lewis (Labour) [140214] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has sought legal advice on the compatibility of making it illegal for people who claim asylum in Britain after arrival by a small boat, with the UK being party to the 1951 Convention on Refugees.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As my Rt Hon friend the Prime Minister set out in his oral statement on 13 December 2023 (Official Report, column 885-888), the Government will bring forward legislation to make it unambiguously clear that, if you enter the UK illegally, you should not be able to remain here. Instead, you will be detained and promptly returned either to your home country or to a safe country where your asylum claim will be considered.

In the normal way, in preparing the legislation we are seeking legal advice on a variety of issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-06/140214>

The statement referred to above can be read at

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

Human Trafficking: Organised Crime

David Evennett (Conservative) [903499] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made on tackling people-smuggling gangs.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Stopping small boat crossings is a priority for this government, unlike the benches opposite who have opposed every measure we've come forward with to tackle the gangs.

We share information about criminality relating to small boat crossings between international agencies in particular with the French known as the Joint Intelligence Cell.

Since the establishment in July 2020 of the Joint Intelligence Cell, 59 organised criminal groups involved in small boats crossings in France have been dismantled and nearly 400 arrests made in 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/903499>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Stephen Metcalfe (Conservative) [903492] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent migrants from illegally crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Suella Braverman: Small boats crossings perpetuated by evil people-smuggling gangs are illegal, life-threatening, and unnecessary.

New legislation will make it crystal clear that if you enter this country illegally you will not be allowed to stay and will instead be detained and promptly removed.

I am clear that the British public want us to stop the boats, and I call on Honourable Members opposite to back our proposals, instead of siding with criminal people smuggling gangs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/903492>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [133998] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information is contained within the (a) Small Boats Enhanced Raw Data report and (b) Vantage Single Competent Authority Hybrid; and whether she plans to take steps to publish these documents.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Small Boats Enhanced Raw Data report and the Vantage Single Competent Authority Hybrid are the source datasets where information about small boat arrivals and National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals are brought together, any processing applied and totals calculated. They are then used as the source data for reporting, including publication of demographic and asylum outcome data for small boat arrivals as published in the '[Irregular Migration to the UK release](#)'.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-27/133998>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138299] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to grant UK entry clearance to people who have passed initial security and identity checks as part of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme pathway 3 and to allow them to complete biometrics from within the UK; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There are no plans to allow those referred under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) to submit biometrics in the UK after they have cleared their initial security checks.

The government has put in place a robust process, including security checks and capturing of biometrics, to ensure the safe relocation of Afghans to the UK while maintaining an effective border.

We are pleased that, for many, initial security checks have now been completed, which allows us to notify them of the outcome and provide advice on next steps, including on travel to a Visa Application Centre (VAC). The first of those eligible have now arrived in third countries, where they are offered accommodation and support – paid for by the UK Government through our development budget – whilst they continue to be processed for resettlement and undergo biometric visa checks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/138299>

Information about Pathway 3, 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)

Afghanistan: Refugees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138300] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if he will set out each stage of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3 process after initial security and identity checks have been completed, providing anticipated timeframes for checks in third-party countries; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Leo Docherty: It is not possible to provide a timeframe for the relocation of those eligible under ACRS Pathway 3 due to a number of factors, including the complexity of the cases, the speed with which those expressing interest respond to our requests for information and how quickly they clear the required security checks, the time for which varies on a case-by-case basis. We continue to work, including with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan, on resettlement issues and to support safe passage for eligible Afghans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138300>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138301] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether people offered places on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme via Pathway 3 will receive assistance to reach third party countries; whether discussions are happening with third party countries to facilitate safe passage and support; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Leo Docherty: The UK government continues to work, including with likeminded partners and countries neighbouring Afghanistan, on resettlement issues and to support safe passage for eligible Afghans. We do not comment on the details of specific routes for individuals who are eligible for resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138301>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138302] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that people deemed eligible for a place on the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3 are not disadvantaged or delayed if they are undocumented.

Reply from Leo Docherty: The Taliban control the issuing of Afghan passports. We know that obtaining new Afghan passports can be difficult, although we also know that some Afghan citizens have succeeded in doing so. The Taliban, as well as the countries surrounding Afghanistan, require valid documents for travel and those who attempt to travel without them may be putting themselves at risk. We strongly discourage anyone from crossing illegally into another country and doing so will make it more difficult for us to take forward relocation to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138302>

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Ukraine

Liz Twist (Labour) [136856] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make a comparative assessment of the risk of homelessness in Ukrainian refugees who are hosted as part of (a) larger than average and (b) smaller than average family groups within the same household.

Liz Twist (Labour) [137838] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will publish a breakdown of the number of Ukrainian refugees hosted by each household under (a) the Homes for Ukraine scheme and (b) the Ukraine Family Scheme in the last (i) three months, (ii) six months and (iii) since those schemes began.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Data on the number of visa applications, issued and arrivals in to the UK by sponsor location for Ukrainian refugees and at a local authority level can be accessed [here](#).

Data on the number of Ukrainian households, including single households and those with children, who have been owed a statutory homelessness duty is published [here](#).

The Ukraine Family Scheme data is owned by Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/136856>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137838>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Students: Ukraine

Matt Western (Labour) [138379] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the feasibility of Ukrainian refugees who came to the UK through the Homes for Ukraine scheme completing their studies (a) in the UK and (b) remotely without access to Student Finance.

Overseas Students: Refugees

Matt Western (Labour) [138380] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on ensuring Ukrainian refugees who arrived through the Homes for Ukraine scheme and who are studying remotely meet the eligibility requirements for Universal Credit.

Reply from Robert Halfon: Universities in Ukraine 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. The department encourages students to speak with their education provider in Ukraine to understand what support is available for them to continue their studies at their Ukrainian provider. This includes those studying through the UK twinning programme which the government announced funding to support in June 2022:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-package-offers-a-lifeline-to-ukrainian-researchers-and-entrepreneurs>

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

Student finance is available only for eligible students studying a course provided predominantly in the UK by a UK higher education provider, including Ukrainian

students who have enrolled at UK universities. In England, those 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.

Further information on support for Ukrainian students continuing courses online from the UK, including eligibility for Universal Credit can be found here:

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/support-for-students-from-ukraine-in-uk-higher-education/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138379>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138380>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Cost of Living

Rupa Huq (Independent) [139270] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support people with no recourse to public funds, in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.

Rupa Huq (Independent) [139273] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of including those with no recourse to public funds in cost-of-living support schemes.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Successive governments have taken the view that access to benefits and other publicly funded services should reflect the strength of a migrant's connections to the UK and, in the main, only become available to migrants when they have become settled here with indefinite leave to remain (ILR). The Government is committed to protecting vulnerable people and has ensured support has been available to those with NRPF when it has been appropriate to do so, including as part of cost-of-living support schemes.

In recognition of the growing cost of living pressures, the £11.7 billion Energy Bills Support Scheme forms part of the £37 billion cost of living assistance package for consumers over the winter of 2022 to 2023 to support families with rising global energy prices. Those with NRPF will be eligible for some support within this scheme.

To assist more families, those with NRPF can now access free school meals and free early years education for two-year-olds, subject to the relevant income thresholds.

Those who have made the necessary national insurance contributions can also claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based Jobseekers Allowance, statutory sick pay, and state pension.

Migrants with permission under the Family or Private Life routes, or outside the rules on the basis of their Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, or the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) route can also apply for free to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application. An individual can apply to have their NRPF condition lifted if they are destitute or at risk of imminent destitution, if there are reasons relating to the welfare of a relevant child, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139270>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139273>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [138082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Recommendation 7 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review by Wendy Williams, published on 19 July 2018, when her Department plans to publish findings from its (a) Right to Rent and (b) Compliant Environment policies reviews.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: On the 26 January a Written Ministerial Statement, providing an update on Home Office delivery of the recommendations set out in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, was laid in Parliament. The Written Ministerial Statement can be found here:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-01-26/hcws523>

As part of the Department's response to Recommendation 7, the following four documents will shortly be published on gov.uk:

- An Equality Impact Assessment of the Compliant Environment;
- An evaluation of the Right to Rent scheme;
- A review of internal data and a long-term plan for research on the impact of the Compliant Environment measures; and,
- A review of External Evidence of the Compliant Environment ...

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/138082>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

Counselling: Foreign Nationals

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [137915] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department plans to take steps to provide special counselling services to young Hong Kongers who have recently moved to the UK and are struggling to adapt to their new environment.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Those entering the United Kingdom via the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) [BN(O)] visa route have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge and can access NHS services, such as mental health support, free at the point of use, on broadly the same basis as a person who is ordinarily resident in the UK.

DLUHC launched the Welcome Programme for BN(O)s in April 2021. It provides a UK-wide support package that comprises an easily accessible universal offer and targeted support for those most in need, including support for those with mental health issues.

The Programme also funds VCSE organisations at a national and regional level to provide support for BN(O) visa holders, including those with mental health issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137915>

Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1013244/HK_BN_O_Welcome_Pack_August_2021.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Correspondence

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [140250] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many notice of intent letters have been sent to applicants for humanitarian protection in the last six months.

Asylum: Applications

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [140251] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications for humanitarian protection have been declared inadmissible in the last six months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of individuals being managed under inadmissibility rules and can be found online at [How many people do we grant protection to?](#)

As set out in the Immigration Rules, claims for humanitarian protection are treated firstly as applications for asylum and published figures do not therefore distinguish applications made specifically for humanitarian protection. Such information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-06/140250>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-06/140251>

Asylum

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [139288] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on its July 2019 objective of ensuring that the proportion of supported asylum seekers housed in each government region reflects each region's share of the UK population by 2029.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The former Minister for safe and Legal Routes announced a move to full dispersal on 13 April 2022. The new system of full dispersal accommodation allows the Home Office to move from using hotels to less expensive and more suitable dispersed accommodation.

To support full dispersal, delivery plans have been developed in partnership with local government across all UK regions. Plans were designed to ensure a more equitable spread of dispersed accommodation across the UK. Regional Governance Boards will monitor performance against plans.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139288>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

Asylum

Derek Twigg (Labour) [138311] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications have been refused in each year since 2017; and how many asylum seekers who have had their applications refused have been removed from the UK in each year since 2017.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and returns in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on initial decisions on asylum applications are published in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Data on numbers of asylum-related returns are published in table Ret_05 of the '[Returns summary datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data for initial decisions on asylum applications relates to the year ending September 2022. The latest data for returns statistics relates to the end of June 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138311>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138304] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 865 what his findings were following his commitment to look into the Scottish guardianship model ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We do not currently have any findings to share relating to the Scottish Guardianship Model.

However, this Government takes its responsibility for the welfare of migrant children very seriously. We have comprehensive statutory and policy safeguards in place for caring for and safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). Social workers and the courts are best placed to make decisions for vulnerable children, in consideration of all the factors involved in often complex cases. Children should be cared for in a way that recognises and respects their identity and carers should be given the training and support they need to meet the child's needs.

Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area, including their mental health and emotional wellbeing needs, regardless of their immigration status. Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) are provided in addition to this statutory support and are an additional source of advice and support for potentially trafficked children, irrespective of nationality, and somebody who can advocate on their behalf.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children can access legal advice from qualified legal representatives and, in England, independent advice and assistance on the asylum process and in their interactions with government agencies is available from the Refugee Council's Independent Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Support Service (IUSS).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138304>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren#contribution-BC72C078-D5BE-46D0-B7F7-6FBBD4FA2EF2>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [133564] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Immigration to the urgent question on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children on 24 January 2023, Official Report, column 877, when her Department began its consideration of who has corporate legal responsibility for children living in bridging hotels; and when she plans to make a decision on this point.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has always taken the view that these children should be in local authority care.

The Home Office does not have, and therefore cannot discharge, duties under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989. It is for the local authority where an unaccompanied child is located to consider its duties under the Children's Act 1989.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-26/133564>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren#contribution-4DB81757-6D69-40F5-AC7B-4218BDE7CC60>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [132337] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 861, what assessment she has made of the capacity of local authorities to offer foster care placements to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The following lines have been provided by the Department for Education as they have lead responsibility for this policy area:

The Department for Education is committed to ensuring that all Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children accommodated in hotels by the Home Office are transferred through the National Transfer Scheme to the care of a local authority as quickly as possible. DfE is also committed to ensuring that capacity challenges in local authorities are addressed, including through our forthcoming response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care.

DfE knows that the right type of foster care may not always be available at the time or in the areas it is needed, and that there is significant variability across regions of England. We also know that it is particularly difficult to find suitable foster homes for some groups of children, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The department recognises the urgency of action in placement sufficiency and will work with local authorities on recruiting more foster carers and on improving the conversion rate from expressions of interest to approval. This will include local recruitment campaigns that build towards a national programme, to help ensure children have access to the right placements at the right time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132337>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren#contribution-E8916573-F7D6-4539-BB5A-664FF47B77D8>

Asylum: Children

Rupa Huq (Independent) [136703] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the use of hotel accommodation for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; and if she will take steps to review that assessment in the context of reports of missing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in the number of UASC crossing the Channel in small boats means there are significant challenges on providing local authority care places for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). Out of necessity, and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give some unaccompanied children a roof over their heads whilst Local Authority accommodation is found. The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are as safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a Local Authority.

When considering whether to accommodate UASC in Home Office operated hotels, advice and guidance was sought from organisations with expertise and experience with young people. These included the Department for Education, Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion and Local Authorities.

Safeguarding is a key consideration when identifying potential hotels for temporary use by the Home Office to accommodate UASC. Hotel specific risks assessments are completed and mitigation against risks put in place. If the facility is not considered appropriate, we do not continue to pursue the hotel as an option.

We are clear that we must end the use of hotels as soon as possible. We are providing Local Authorities with children's services with £15,000 for every eligible young person they take into their care from a dedicated UASC hotel, or the Reception and Safe Care Service in Kent, by the end of February 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/136703>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [132333] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on

Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 859, of the 4,600 unaccompanied children that have been accommodated in hotels since July 2021, what is the (a) shortest, (b) average and (c) longest number of days that they have remained in that form of accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All young people in interim emergency unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) hotels are referred immediately to a local authority under the mandated National Transfer Scheme (NTS) within the shortest time frame possible after arrival. We are clear that we must end the use of hotels as soon as possible. To that end, we are providing local authorities with children's services with £15,000 for every eligible young person they take into their care from a dedicated UASC hotel, or the Reception and Safe Care Service in Kent, by the end of February 2023.

The unprecedented number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in small boats has placed significant local authority care places for UASC under immense strain. There were 5,152 asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the year ending September 2022, a 36% increase compared with 2019 (3,775).

Out of necessity, and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give some unaccompanied children a roof over their heads whilst local authority accommodation is found.

The time it takes for a local authority to identify a placement varies and has meant some young people experiencing delays in transferring. Where there are significant delays we will look to reallocate the young person to a different local authority.

There are many reasons for delays in NTS. For instance, delays also occur where a child refuses to transfer to the placement. In this instance, social workers from the emergency hotels and local authorities work close with the children to encourage them to take the offered placement.

The length of stay for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in Home Office UASC hotels are:

Shortest stay – 0 days

Longest stay – 122 days

Average length of stay: 19.04 days

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132333>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren>

Refugees: Children

Catherine West (Labour) [135490] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has had recent discussions with local authorities on the risk of child refugees (a) disappearing and (b) being kidnapped from hotels run by her Department.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The wellbeing, welfare and security of children and minors in our care is an absolute priority. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with local authorities.

Officials hold regular meetings with local authorities to arrange the placement of young people via the National Transfer Scheme, to consider strategic improvements to the processes and procedures and in response to the concern around young people going missing from hotels.

We continue to consult multi-agency partners and subject matter experts to ensure our processes and procedures are robust and evolve as new trends or risks emerge. Local police forces are engaged in ongoing activity where a child fails to

return to a hotel and this data is shared across the police national computer as it would be in any case where a child goes missing

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-30/135490>

Asylum: Children

Rupa Huq (Independent) [136694] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of an inquiry into safeguarding measures in relation to asylum accommodation in the context of reports of 200 missing asylum-seeking children

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in emergency interim hotels are safe and supported whilst we seek urgent placements with a local authority. Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of specialist social workers and nurses.

We have no power to detain UASC in hotels and we know some do go missing. Many of those who have gone missing are subsequently traced and located. Children's movements in and out of hotels are monitored and recorded and they are accompanied by support workers when attending organised activities and social excursions off-site, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

When a young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. A multi-agency, missing persons protocol is mobilised alongside the police and local authorities, to establish their whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe.

Regarding an inquiry; the Home Secretary is taking advice from officials and considering the appropriate next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/136694>

Asylum: Children

Paul Girvan (DUP) [131264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to tackle trends in the level of migrant children who go missing after their arrival in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The wellbeing of children and minors in our care is an absolute priority.

Robust safeguarding and welfare procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported.

All asylum seekers, including children, have an interview on arrival in the UK which includes a series of questions designed to understand whether there are any potential indicators of trafficking and, if so, tailored plans are put in place to address any vulnerabilities.

Records are kept and monitored of children leaving and returning to interim hotels. Support workers will accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

However, the Home Office has no power to hold children in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave. All sites have security staff to ensure the safety and welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

When a young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. A multi-agency missing persons protocol is mobilised alongside the police, who have the statutory responsibility for finding missing children, and local authorities to establish their whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-24/131264>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Missing Persons

Dan Carden (Labour) [130063] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) adult and (b) children asylum seekers that were accommodated via the Home Office are missing.

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Dan Carden (Labour) [130064] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to improve safeguarding at Home Office-run accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers in our care is of paramount importance to the Home Office. We expect high standards from all of our providers, and we have a robust governance framework in place to manage service delivery of the Asylum Accommodation Support Contracts (AASC). Details of the AASC can be found at:

[New asylum accommodation contracts awarded.](#)

Robust compliance and governance protocols exist to ensure daily engagement is undertaken with our service providers by Home Office officials to ensure and assure that the providers' operational delivery and overall performance consistently meet the required standards. If any issues are identified providers are required to take immediate action to address and recover accordingly.

We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in hotels are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to protect all children, regardless of where they go missing from. In the concerning occasion when any child goes missing, regardless of their status, they work closely with other local agencies, including the police, to urgently establish their whereabouts and ensure they are safe.

The Home Office does not hold data for the number of adult and children asylum seekers that were accommodated via the Home Office that are missing in a reportable format and it would require a manual search of records which would incur a disproportionate cost. As of 26 January 2023, there are 199 young people missing from Home Office UASC hotels. Please be advised that some of these people are now over 18, but they are included in the figures as they were a child when they went missing. Of the 199 young people that are currently missing, 185 of them were 16 or older at the time they went missing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130063>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/130064>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Grahame Morris (Labour) [129761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many migrant children have been reported missing from Home Office hotels in each of the last twelve months.

Grahame Morris (Labour) [129762] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the age range of migrant children reported missing from Home Office hotels in the last twelve months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has no power to hold under-18s in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave.

We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied

asylum-seeking children in hotels are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day.

Records are kept and monitored of children leaving and returning to the hotel. Support workers will accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified. All sites have security staff to ensure the safety and welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to protect all children, regardless of where they go missing from. In the concerning occasion when any child goes missing, regardless of their status, they work closely with other local agencies, including the police, to urgently establish their whereabouts and ensure they are safe.

Since July 2021, when UASC were first accommodated in hotels, there have been 440 missing episodes (the term episode used as some children have gone missing been located and subsequently gone missing again). As of 26 January 2023, 199 remain missing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129761>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/129762>

Asylum: Hove

Ian Byrne (Labour) [132557] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recent reports of the abduction of unaccompanied children from a Home Office residence in Hove, what estimate her Department has made of the number of unaccompanied children who are (a) missing and (b) unaccounted for.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) crossing the channel in small boats means there are significant challenges on providing Local Authority care places for UASC. Out of necessity and with the best interests of the child in mind, we have had no alternative but to temporarily use hotels to give some unaccompanied children a roof over their heads whilst local authority accommodation is found.

Robust safeguarding, welfare and security procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported in interim hotels as we seek urgent placements with a Local Authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day.

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

As of 26 January 2023, there were 199 missing UASC from Home Office operated hotels, of which 76 were missing from Home Office operated hotels in Brighton and Hove.

When any young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. A multi-agency, missing persons protocol is mobilised alongside the police and local authorities, to establish their whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132557>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [132335] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the response to the Urgent Question on 24 January 2023 on Unaccompanied Asylum-seeking Children, Official Report column 859, of 240 missing

children that have subsequently been located, whether attempts were made to obtain information from the children on (a) why they went missing, (b) how they went missing and (c) what their experience was whilst missing; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are considering all options available to ensure unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) receive the critical care they need and to end the use of hotels. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in hotels are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses.

Records are kept and monitored of children leaving and returning to the hotel. Support workers will accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or in this instance where specific vulnerabilities are identified. The Home Office has no power to hold children in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave. If a child who has gone missing is returned to the hotel, a follow up Multi Agency Stakeholder Forum (MASF) will be chaired by the LA (of the area the hotel is in) and a Social Worker at the hotel will complete a returns interview. They will then work with the child to understand the reasons for the absence.

In any instance where a child goes missing, the Home Office work around the clock with the police and local authorities to ensure the children in our care are safe. The Police are responsible for locating any missing children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132335>

The response referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-24/debates/290AF292-5D7E-411C-8FB8-A6E0F288365C/UnaccompaniedAsylum-SeekingChildren>

Asylum: Detainees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138296] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) victims of (i) trafficking and (ii) torture and (b) people with other special reception needs were detained by each special reception need in 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes information on the number of individuals who claim to be victims of torture, or who have other medical concerns, quarterly as part of transparency data. The latest figures can be found on gov.uk at [Immigration Enforcement data: Q3 2022](#)

The Home Office does not publish statistics on the number of detained individuals that have been found to be victims of torture or modern slavery; and this could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138296>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Detainees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138295] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applicants were detained by the UK (a) in 2022 and (b) as of 31 December 2022, (i) in total and (ii) broken down by grounds for detention.

Asylum and Migrants: Detainees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [138297] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average duration of detention was for detained (a) migrants and (b) asylum applicants in 2022.

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

Data on asylum-related detentions are published in table Det_01 of the '[Detention summary tables](#)' and are broken down by the year of people entering and leaving and by the number of people in detention at the end of the period.

The publishes statistics do not include information on grounds for detention.

Data on how long people were detained for when leaving detention are published in table Det_D03 of the '[Detention detailed tables](#)' and are broken down by year and length of detention group. The published data are not broken down by asylum/non-asylum.

Figures on detention at the end of December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138295>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138297>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre: Legal Profession

Kate Osborne (Labour) [138399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many legal visits took place under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme at Derwentside immigration removal centre between (a) 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022, (b) 1 October 2022 and 31 December 2022 and (c) 1 January 2023 and 31 January 2023; and how many of those visits took place (i) in person, (ii) by Skype and (iii) by telephone for each of those periods.

Kate Osborne (Labour) [138400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many non-Detained Duty Advice Scheme legal visits took place at Derwentside immigration removal centre between (a) 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022, (b) 1 October 2022 and 31 December 2022 and (c) 1 January 2023 and 31 January 2023; and how many of those visits took place (i) in person, (ii) by Skype and (iii) by telephone for each of these periods.

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre: Females

Kate Osborne (Labour) [138401] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women were detained at Derwentside immigration removal centre between (a) 1 July 2022 and 30 September 2022, (b) 1 October 2022 and 31 December 2022 and (c) 1 January 2023 and 31 January 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in immigration removal centres (IRCs) in England under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS). Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met.

Individuals detained in IRCs can also access privately commissioned legal advice, including legally aided advice provided through means other than the DDAS.

Access to legal advice across the immigration removal estate is facilitated through remote means (by telephone and video conferencing) as well as in-person visits on request. All people in IRCs are provided with a mobile phone and have access to landline telephones on request, fax machines, email and video calling facilities which can be used to contact legal representatives, family, or friends.

The total number of DDAS and non-DDAS legal visits held at Derwentside IRC, including the means by which they were facilitated, from 1 July 2022 to 31 January 2023 is set out in the table below.

		Date		
		1 July 2022 – 30 September 2022	1 October 2022 – 31 December 2022	1 January 2023 – 31 January 2023
DDAS Appointments	Total	93	65	31
	In-person	71	57	31
	Skype	20	7	0
	Telephone	2	1	0
Non-DDAS Appointments	Total	36	56	0
	In-person	18	28	0
	Skype	18	28	0
	Telephone	0	0	0

The Home Office publishes data on people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)', as well as data on people entering detention during each quarter. The latest data relate to the end of September 2022.

Data on people in detention are published in table Det_D02 of the '[Detention detailed tables](#)' and data on people entering detention are published in table Det_D01. The data can be broken down by current place/first place of detention (including Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre), and sex.

Figures relating to people in detention at the end of December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138399>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138400>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138401>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Albania

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [138279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum claims by Albanian nationals have been decided since 13 December 2022.

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [138280] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many returns there have been since 13 December 2022 arising from unsuccessful asylum claims made by Albanian nationals.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and returns from the UK in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the outcomes of asylum applications at initial decision by nationality are published in table Asy_D02 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to Q3 2022.

Outcomes of asylum applications at initial decision data up to the end of December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023.

The latest data on the top 10 nationalities for asylum-related returns (including Albanians) are available in table Ret_04 of the '[Returns summary tables](#)'. The latest data relate to the year ending June 2022.

Returns data up to the end of December 2022 will be published on 25 May 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138279>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-02/138280>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL5085] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many people evacuated from Afghanistan under Operation Pitting in August 2021 were separated from (1) their partner, and (2) children under the age of 18.

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

- 22,833 individuals from Afghanistan have been brought to safety in the UK (since the end of June 2021).

Whilst Home Office are currently not able to provide a breakdown of this data for family members, 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, further 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/2023-01-25/hl5085>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL5086] To ask His Majesty's Government what processes they have put in place to allow people on Pathway 1 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to be joined by family members who were not evacuated to the UK under Operation Pitting; and why those resettled under this Pathway do not have access to the right to refugee family reunion so as to sponsor relatives to join them in the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: In line with our existing policy, those resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) may be able to be accompanied by their immediate family members including their spouse or partner, and dependent children under 18.

This government's family reunion policy allows those recognised as refugees or granted humanitarian protection in the UK to sponsor pre-flight, immediate family members to join them here. Only those referred by UNHCR, under Pathway 2 of the ACRS, will have refugee status. They will, therefore, be able to access the refugee family reunion route.

For those evacuated from Afghanistan under the ACRS without their immediate family members, further information will be made available in due course about options for reuniting with them.

Those already in the UK under ACRS Pathway 1, wishing to bring family members other than immediate family members would need to apply through the regular family visa route under Appendix FM of the Immigration rules.

The government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable and at-risk people fleeing Afghanistan. The situation is very complex and presents significant challenges, including how those who are eligible for resettlement in the UK can leave the country. This includes the eligible family members of those being resettled under the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/hl5086>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL5103] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 19 December 2022 (HL4037), why the Full Dispersal Model only applies in England, Wales and Scotland.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL5104] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 19 December 2022 (HL4037), whether there is a cap on the number of asylum seekers per 100,000 resident population in the Full Dispersal Model.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Currently there is no cap on the number of asylum seekers per 100,000 of the resident population. However, to support full dispersal plans have been developed in partnership with local government across the 9 England regions and Scotland and Wales, to agree a more equitable spread of dispersed accommodation across the UK. These plans ensure that no individual area is asked to support more than 0.5 per cent of its resident population.

Northern Ireland is not excluded from dispersal; they accommodate asylum seekers who arrive and claim asylum in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is not listed under the Full Dispersal Model as we don't routinely transport people across the Irish Sea. However, they do have an active role in helping us meet our statutory obligations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/hl5103>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/hl5104>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/hl4037>

Asylum: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL5076] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to provide independent guardians or advocates for all migrant children separated from their parents; if so, when they expect this to be offered throughout England and Wales; and whether specialist foster parents will be available.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: This Government takes its responsibility for the welfare of migrant children very seriously. We have comprehensive statutory and policy safeguards in place for caring for and safeguarding unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC).

Social workers and the courts are best placed to make decisions for vulnerable children, in consideration of all the factors involved in often complex cases. Children should be cared for in a way that recognises and respects their identity and carers should be given the training and support they need to meet the child's needs.

Local authorities are responsible for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children in their area, including their mental health and emotional wellbeing needs, regardless of their immigration status. Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) are provided in addition to this statutory support and are an additional source of advice and support for potentially trafficked children, irrespective of nationality, and somebody who can advocate on their behalf.

Due to the specialist nature of the ICTG service there is currently no intention to expand the scope to include all young asylum-seeking children in England and

Wales whether or not they are separated from their parents.

There are other provisions already in place to provide support for migrant children. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children can access legal advice from qualified legal representatives and, in England, independent advice and assistance on the asylum process and in their interactions with government agencies is available from the Refugee Council's Independent Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Support Service (IUSS).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/hl5076>

Asylum: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL4958] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that unaccompanied migrants under the age of 18 have gone missing from hotel accommodation; what safeguards they have in place to protect such children; and what links they have identified between these disappearances and human traffickers.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We take the welfare of those in our care extremely seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) in emergency interim hotels are as safe and supported as possible whilst we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. Staff, including contractors, receive a number of briefings and guidance on how to safeguard children. All UASC receive a welfare interview on arrival in the UK. This includes a series of questions specifically designed to understand whether there are any potential indicators of trafficking. A referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism if indicators are noted. A safety plan is put in place by social services.. The Home Office and its accommodation providers have robust processes in place to ensure that where someone is at risk, they are referred to the appropriate statutory agencies of the police, NHS and social services, to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions

The Home Office has no power to hold asylum seekers, including minors, in hotels or any temporary accommodation if they wish to leave. Once in a hotel where UASC are accommodated, there are various measures in place to ensure that the risk of a child going missing is minimised. Records are kept and monitored of children leaving and returning to the hotel. Support workers will accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-23/hl4958>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL5157] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have any evidence of organised criminal gangs targeting unaccompanied child refugees staying in hotels, including those children that have reportedly gone missing from hotels housing asylum seekers.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern.

We have no power to detain unaccompanied asylum seeking children in hotels and we know some do go missing.

Many of those who have gone missing are subsequently traced and located. Children's movements in and out of hotels are monitored and recorded and they are accompanied by support workers when attending organised activities and social excursions off-site, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified. All sites have security staff to ensure the safety and welfare of UASC.

There are many reasons why children go missing from care. This is also true of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. It would be wrong to make generalisations regarding the reasons for this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-26/hl5157>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL4949] To ask His Majesty's Government what contractual obligations hotels must meet to provide contingency accommodation for asylum seekers; and whether those obligations include a requirement to ensure unaccompanied asylum-seeking children do not go missing.

Asylum: Children

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL4950] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to provide powers, or (2) to take other measures, to prevent unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in hotels or any temporary accommodation from going missing.

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

All asylum seekers, including under 18s, have an interview on arrival in the UK which includes a series of questions specifically designed to understand whether there are any potential indicators of trafficking. A referral is made to the National Referral Mechanism if indicators are noted. In the case of children, a safety plan is put in place by social services, whilst adults identified as potential victims of modern slavery are entitled to care and support provided by the Salvation Army. The Home Office and its accommodation providers have robust processes in place to ensure that where someone is at risk, they are referred to the appropriate statutory agencies of the police, NHS and social services, to promote appropriate safeguarding interventions. All contingency sites have security staff and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

The safety and wellbeing of asylum seekers in our care is of paramount importance to the Home Office. We expect high standards from all of our providers, and we have a robust governance framework in place to manage service delivery of the Asylum Accommodation Support Contracts (AASC). Details of the AASC can be found at: [New asylum accommodation contracts awarded](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-20/hl4949>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-20/hl4950>

Offenders: Deportation

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL4937] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the efficacy of the practice of deporting foreign national offenders at the conclusion of their custodial sentences, where appropriate.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Our priority will always be to keep the British public safe. That is why foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them and more than 12,200 have been removed since January 2019.

We make every effort to ensure that a foreign national offender's removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with their release from prison on completion of sentence, however we can face significant and complex challenges

when seeking to deport them to their country of origin.

That is why the Nationality and Borders Act makes provisions to 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. The Act makes it easier and quicker to remove FNOs and those with no right to be in the UK, it 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

We remain resolute in our commitment to deport those who would abuse our hospitality.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-20/hl4937>

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL4946] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 3 January (HL4341), whether data will be (1) collected, and (2) published, on the number of unsuccessful asylum seekers who are removed from the UK under the UK–France Joint Statement of 14 November 2022.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The deal agreed by the Home Secretary and Minister Darmanin on 14 November set out joint strategic objectives and a joint operational plan to drive forward co-operation to tackle illegal migration. The agreement encompasses a range of operational activity including the deployment of surveillance technology, French patrols and intelligence sharing. Details can be found in the November 2022 Joint Statement.

Broader data on collection and publication of asylum related returns can be found in the Migration Statistics releases on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-20/hl4946>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/hl4341>

Press Releases

New inquiry examines human trafficking in the UK

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/185985/new-inquiry-examines-human-trafficking-in-the-uk/>

People smuggling gang jailed for 26 years

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smuggling-gang-jailed-for-26-years>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Refusing to process asylum claims: the safe country and inadmissibility rules

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9724/CBP-9724.pdf>

Sea Change on Border Control: A Strategy for Reducing Small Boat Crossings in the English Channel

<https://tinyurl.com/4744vdr5>

Updated: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats – last 7 days

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-last-7-days>

Updated: Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

News

Refugee integration strategy given fresh £1.6m investment

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23300145.refugee-integration-strategy-given-fresh-1-6m-investment/>

Sunak ‘plans to ban Channel migrants from appealing deportation’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sunak-braverman-asylum-appeal-deportation-b2275954.html>

Brexit caused small boats crisis in English Channel, report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-english-channel-migrants-small-boats-b2277505.html>

Migrant rights ‘need curbing to stop small boats’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-rights-need-curbing-to-stop-small-boats-lwjqltqds>

Strip illegal immigrants of the rights to asylum, says Grant Shapps

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/strip-illegal-immigrants-of-the-rights-to-asylum-says-grant-shapps-smhvfq9xq>

Home Office admits hostile environment policies ‘disproportionately’ affect Black and Asian people

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/home-office-hostile-environment-racist-b2279836.html>

UK’s hostile environment policies ‘disproportionately impact’ people of colour

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/09/uks-hostile-environment-policies-disproportionately-impact-people-of-colour>

Albanian children come to Britain for safety. Instead, they get Home Office cruelty

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/08/albanian-children-britain-home-office-asylum-seekers>

Number of asylum seekers placed in UK hotels has soared since 2020

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/10/number-of-asylum-seekers-placed-in-uk-hotels-soared-since-2020>

Community Concern at Hotel Accommodation

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/community-concern-at-hotel-accommodation/>

Refugees protest against plan to move them from London to Bedfordshire
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/08/refugees-protest-against-plan-to-move-them-from-london-to-bedfordshire>

Knowsley: Fifteen arrests over clash outside asylum seeker hotel
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-64611823>

Police arrest 15 people after violence outside hotel housing asylum seekers
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/11/merseyside-violence-outside-hotel-housing-asylum-seekers-arrests>

Police van torched in protest at asylum seeker hotel on Merseyside
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-rights-need-curbing-to-stop-small-boats-mtdxtj9wg>

Asylum protests: Teen charged over Knowsley disorder
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-64617278>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Travellers: Police

Jim Shannon (DUP) [136670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of policing for the Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government wants to ensure the police have the powers they need to support and serve all communities. We also want to ensure fair and equal treatment for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, in a way that facilitates their traditional and nomadic way of life.

We expect police to continue to undertake any enforcement action in compliance with their equality and human rights obligations. Anyone who is dissatisfied with the service they have received from the police is entitled to make a police complaint. Further details are set out in the IOPC's guide to the complaints system available here:

https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/Complaint_forms/20220707_A_guide_to_complaint_system_2022.pdf

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-31/136670>

Press Release

Crown Prosecution Service action to understand disproportionality in charging decisions
<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/cps-action-understand-disproportionality-charging-decisions>

New Publication

Crown Prosecution Service charging decisions - examining demographic disparities in the outcomes of our decision making
<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-charging-decisions-examining-demographic-disparities-outcomes-our-decision-making>

Defendants of colour more likely to be charged than white people, finds CPS study
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/07/defendants-of-colour-more-likely-to-be-charged-than-white-people-finds-cps-study>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Racial Discrimination: Ethnic Groups

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [137982] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the statement by the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent published on 27 January 2023.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: The Government will formally respond to the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent once their full report has been published later this year.

We are pleased that the Working Group recognised as good practice our ground-breaking Inclusive Britain strategy, which is focussed on closing outcome gaps between people from different ethnic backgrounds, and our world-leading use of data.

We reject, however, the majority of the Working Group's preliminary findings and the suggestion that racism in the UK is structural, institutional and systemic.

We are proud that the UK is an open, tolerant and welcoming country but we are not complacent and do recognise some people experience racism in Britain. We are very clear this has no place in our society and must be rooted out.

The data shows that in recent years we have made great strides in closing the gaps in racial and ethnic disparities in a number of critical areas. Our work continues apace to deliver the 74 actions in our Inclusive Britain strategy - which span the areas of education, health, crime and policing, technology and the workplace.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137982>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/racism/wgeapd/statements/2023-01-27/eom-statement-UK-WGEPAD-2023-01-27.pdf>

The Inclusive Britain Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

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

Administration of Justice: Racial Discrimination

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [135423] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to Racial Bias and the Bench, published by the University of Manchester in November 2022, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of (a) including a section on anti-Black racism in the Equal Treatment Bench Book and (b) increasing the number of editors of that Book from Black communities.

Reply from Mike Freer: To preserve the independence of the judiciary, the Lord Chief Justice, the Senior President of the Tribunals, and the Chief Coroner have statutory responsibility for judicial training, under the Constitutional Reform Act

2005, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007, and Coroners and Justice Act 2009 respectively, exercised through the Judicial College, which produces the Equal Treatment Bench Book.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-30/135423>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

The Equal Treatment Bench Book, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Equal-Treatment-Bench-Book-July-2022-revision-2.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Universities: Antisemitism

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL5145 To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have made any assessment of the Community Security Trust's (CST) report Campus Antisemitism in Britain 2020–2022, published on 19 January, which shows a 22 per cent increase in university-related antisemitic incidents over the two academic years 2020/21 and 2021/22, compared to the two previous academic years; and whether they have raised its findings with universities in England.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The recent Community Security Trust (CST) report showing an increase in antisemitic incidents on campus over the last two years is deeply concerning. Universities should be safe and welcoming places for Jewish students, and they should do all they can to root out antisemitism.

The department has encouraged higher education (HE) providers to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, to have absolute clarity of what constitutes antisemitic behaviour. So far, 245 providers in England have adopted the IHRA definition, including the vast majority of universities. We would urge those providers that have not yet adopted the definition to do so, and those that have, to ensure that they are fully complying with the definition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-26/hl5145>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/a/Campus%20Antisemitism%202020-2022.pdf>

New Publication

Antisemitic Incidents 2022

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/e/6/CST%20Incidents%20Report%202022.pdf>

News

Reopen inquiry into claims of Islamophobia in Tory party, new chair urged

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/conservative-party-chairman-islamophobia-b2279097.html>

UK Prevent fails to tackle antisemitism, says William Shawcross

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-prevent-fails-to-tackle-antisemitism-says-william-shawcross-pszscmh8>

Black people four times as likely as white people to be murdered, ONS data shows
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/09/black-people-in-england-and-wales-four-times-more-likely-to-be-murdered>

Antisemitic Incidents Report 2022

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/02/09/antisemitic-incidents-report-2022>

Scotland prisons: Probe launched into Holocaust denier's blog posts

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23309045.scotland-prisons-probe-launched-holocaust-deniers-blog-posts/>

Scottish neo-Nazi guilty of terror offence in group linked to fascist Keighley cell

<https://tellmamauk.org/scottish-neo-nazi-guilty-of-terror-offence-in-group-linked-to-fascist-keighley-cell/>

Humza Yousaf's family drops discrimination case against nursery

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-64558078>

How the toxic Yorkshire racism row ruined lives on all sides

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/yorkshire-cricket-racism-scandal-azeem-rafiq-inside-story-689zj9c3z>

Historic anti-slavery rally remembered in Hawick

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-64572368>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

£500,000 emergency funding for Türkiye and Syria

<https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-500-000-emergency-funding-for-turkiye-and-syria/>

New Publications

Video – First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross, Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar, Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Willie Rennie, and Scottish Green co-leader Lorna Slater speak in support of the DEC urgent appeal for the millions of people whose lives have been shattered by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

<https://twitter.com/DECScotland/status/1623751082244554755>

Keeping children safer online

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/online-safety>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Prevent: Independent Review

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-02-08/debates/8470D67C-39A3-4AD5-A3B9-8671889E0607/PreventIndependentReview>

Press Release

Government acts to overhaul Prevent in the fight against radicalisation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-acts-to-overhaul-prevent-in-the-fight-against-radicalisation>

New Publications

Independent Review of Prevent

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1134986/Independent_Review_of_Prevent.pdf

Government Response to the Independent Review of Prevent

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1134828/The_response_to_the_Independent_Review_of_Prevent.pdf

TOP

Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

Press Release

Scottish Human Rights Commission: Cost of living crisis is a human rights crisis

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/news/cost-of-living-crisis-is-a-human-rights-crisis/>

Publications

Volunteer Scotland: The Cost of Living Crisis: Guidance and Information

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/cost-of-living>

UK Parliament House of Lords Library Briefing: Cost of living: Food price inflation

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/cost-of-living-food-price-inflation/>

News

Cost of living crisis: Fifth of parents in Scotland feeding family members before themselves

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/cost-of-living-crisis-fifth-of-parents-in-scotland-feeding-family-members-before-themselves-4017540>

Low income households miss out on £50m to help pay energy bills

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/feb/07/low-income-households-miss-out-on-50m-to-help-pay-energy-bills>

Cost-of-living crisis: One in four UK households unable to pay energy and food bills in 2023/24, but UK will dodge recession this year, think tank predicts

<https://www.scotsman.com/business/cost-of-living-crisis-one-in-four-uk-households-unable-to-pay-energy-and-food-bills-in-202324-but-uk-will-dodge-recession-this-year-think-tank-predicts-4019661>

Cost-of-living crisis: Forced eviction from a family home

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-64602237>

Households told energy bills will fall this summer

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/households-told-energy-bills-will-fall-this-summer-5xvzlnkn7>

Cost-of-living crisis: Food banks for NHS staff in Lothians receiving 'steady use' amid costs crisis

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/cost-of-living-crisis-food-banks-for-nhs-staff-in-lothians-receiving-steady-use-amid-costs-crisis-4014964>

Wage erosion is the forgotten factor in cost of living crisis

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/wage-erosion-is-the-forgotten-factor-in-cost-of-living-crisis-s8l3hIk79>

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Other News

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator:

Turkey-Syria earthquake: Safe methods of giving support

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/turkey-syria-earthquake-safe-methods-of-giving-support/>

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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>

Stage 1 Report, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2023/2/10/47a1d32f-a3a4-4b54-aa80-fe2ff9f8be39/DPLRS062023R15.pdf>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Bill of Rights Bill

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

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49700/documents/2936>

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

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

Bill as brought to the House of Commons from the House of Lords

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0243/220243.pdf>

Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3413>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Disabled peoples' experience of the labour market (closing date 16 February 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/efw/disabled-employment-inquiry/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission Statutory Review (closing date 1 March 2023)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-statutory-review>

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/>

Adult Disability Payment: Review of the mobility component (closing date 25 April 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/adult-disability-payment-review/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Refugee Festival funding available for communities**

Closing date for applications: 5 March 2023

Scottish Refugee Council grants of up to £500 are available to help organisations cover the cost of running events and activities as part of the Refugee Festival Scotland. The Festival brings people from different backgrounds together to share the art, culture and

traditions that make our communities so colourful and diverse. For information see <https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/festival-funding-opens/>

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Application deadline not stated

National Lottery funding from £10,001 to £75,000 for projects to help support individuals, families and communities currently experiencing hardship as a result of the cost-of-living increases. The programme aims to fund activity that reduces the impact of, or prevents financial insecurity so that people have more resilience and are more able to identify ways to deal with the impact of increased cost of living in their lives, are able to shape activity in their community to address the increased cost-of-living, and have more access to support and services that will help them to deal with the increased cost of living. For information and to apply see

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/cost-of-living-support-fund>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

Introduction to Racial Literacy

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>

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/3cwpzvwv>

**** Martyn's Law Webinar for Education**

8 March 2023 (online, 10.30–12.00)

Home Office webinar to provide an opportunity for people working in education settings to learn about Martyn's Law, which will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5n97f5wa>

**** Martyn's Law Webinar for Charities**

8 March 2023 (online, 2.30–4.00)

Home Office webinar to provide an opportunity for charities to learn about Martyn's Law, which will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckzyene>

**** Martyn's Law Webinar for Places of Worship**

9 March 2023 (online, 11.00–12.30)

Home Office webinar to provide an opportunity for people working with faith communities and places of worship to learn about Martyn's Law, which will place a requirement on those responsible for certain locations to consider the threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdfch8rn>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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