



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 return from recess on 20 February 2023.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

Collette Stevenson (SNP) [S6M-07911] Congratulates South Lanarkshire College for its Work in Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees Coming to Scotland – That the Parliament congratulates South Lanarkshire College for its work in supporting asylum seekers and refugees coming to Scotland; understands that the College has recently expanded its English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision to enrol 134 students from countries from across the world including Ukraine, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Poland, Hong Kong, Iran and beyond; believes that this has helped ensure that refugees and asylum seekers coming to South Lanarkshire have opportunities to learn English and improve their prospects for the future, and applauds Vladyslava Poshkova, a

refugee from the Ukraine, who, following attendance on an ESOL course, has been successful in gaining a place to study a degree in dancing at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07911>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Scott Benton (Conservative) [139266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of people crossing the English Channel in small boats were found to be children in each of the last three years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes statistics on small boat arrivals to the UK in the '[Irregular Migration to the UK statistics](#)' report. Data on small boat arrivals by age are published in table Irr_02c of the '[Irregular migration to the UK data tables](#)' with the latest data up to the end of September 2022.

Data up to the end of December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023. Future irregular migration publication release dates can be found on the [research and statistics calendar](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139266>

Undocumented Migrants: Albania

Scott Benton (Conservative) [140409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make a comparative estimate of the number of Albanian nationals who (a) crossed the Channel in a small boat and (b) were involved in serious organised crime in each month in each of the last three years.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes statistics on small boat arrivals to the UK in the 'Irregular Migration to the UK statistics' report. Data on small boat arrivals by year for the top 20 nationalities in the latest year (January to September 2022) are published in table Irr_02b of the 'Irregular migration to the UK data tables' with the latest data up to the end of September 2022.

Data up to the end of December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023. Future irregular migration publication release dates can be found on the research and statistics calendar.

There are no published statistics on nationalities involved in serious organised crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-06/140409>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-statistics>

Pupils: Undocumented Migrants

Scott Benton (Conservative) [139268] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an estimate of the cost of providing education to people who crossed the English Channel in small boats and were found to be children in each of the last three years.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: All children in the UK are entitled to access a school-based education in England, and this includes all refugee and asylum-seeker children. The department does not collect data on whether children attending schools in England crossed the English Channel in a small boat.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139268>

Health Services: Undocumented Migrants

Scott Benton (Conservative) [139267] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make an estimate of the cost of providing healthcare to people who have crossed the English Channel in small boats in each of the last three years.

Reply from Neil O'Brien: We do not have estimates of the costs of providing healthcare to people who have crossed the English Channel by small boats. A breakdown of healthcare costs for people who have entered the country this way is not available.

Healthcare for those seeking asylum is delivered by a number of bodies, reflecting different parts of an individual's journey through the immigration system.

Information about healthcare for migrants is in the Department's Migrant Health Guide and available at the following link:

www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139267>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Feryal Clark (Labour) [126869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has taken recent steps to help support the reunification of families through the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: 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. 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.

In line with our existing policy, those resettled under the ACRS may be able to be accompanied by their immediate family members - that is their spouse or partner, and dependent children under 18.

Those referred by UNHCR under the ACRS will have refugee status and will therefore be able to access the refugee family reunion route.

Those without refugee status wishing to bring family members would need to apply through the regular family visa route under Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules.

Whilst the UK has made a generous resettlement commitment, we must bear in mind the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and therefore difficult decisions about who will be prioritised for resettlement have to be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-18/126869>

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

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

Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-fm-family-members>

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

Refugees: Syria

Jim Shannon (DUP) [140138] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what estimate she has made of the number of Syrian refugees in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on grants of refugee status and resettlement for Syrian nationals can be found 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 workbooks. The latest data relate to the year ending September 2022. Data for the year ending December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

The Home Office does not hold information on the number of people resettled or granted refugee status who are still living in the UK, or their location within the UK. This is because the Home Office does not track the addresses of those resettled or granted refugee status, and refugees are free to move around the UK or leave.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-06/140138>

Asylum

Philip Davies (Conservative) [139158] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the number of people who have had an asylum application refused and are still in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Information regarding the number of failed asylum seekers still living in the UK can be found on tables ASY03 and RCM02 of the most recently published immigration and protection transparency data:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-protection-data-q3-2022>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139158>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [139157] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) unaccompanied and (b) accompanied asylum seeking children were detained in 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office do not hold the requested figures; figures on the overall numbers of children detained are published regularly.

Figures can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1118246/detention-summary-sep-2022-tables.ods

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139157>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [137779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children have been transferred under the mandatory provisions of the National Transfer Scheme since 23 November 2021, broken down by local authority.

Caroline Lucas (Green) [137780] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will undertake an assessment of the risk of unaccompanied children going missing from hotels in which they have been housed by the Home Office under the National Transfer Scheme at particular times in the transfer process based on the experience and testimony of children who have gone missing and been found; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) transferred 3,148 children transferred to local authorities between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2022. This compares to 739 children transferred in the same time frame in the previous year, a 326% increase.

With the increase in the numbers of unaccompanied asylum seeking children

(UASC), we are working closely with local authorities to find more appropriate long-term care placements under the NTS. We are also 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.

National Transfer Scheme data is published at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rasi-resettlement-asylum-support-and-integration-data-q3-2022>

This data is broken down by local authority however as the data is published quarterly it is not possible to split out the number of transfers from a specific date mid quarter.

The Home Office has robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority. The young people in hotels are not detained and are free to leave the accommodation, in line with standard local authority accommodation for looked after children. To minimise the risk of a child going missing, records of children leaving and returning to the hotel are kept and monitored. Support workers accompany children off site on activities and social excursions, or where specific vulnerabilities are identified. 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.

When any young person goes missing the 'missing persons protocol' is followed and led by our directly engaged social workers. The MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol supports safeguarding planning and prevention. The local authority chairs a multi-agency forum for any young person missing from a hotel, in conjunction with the police and Home Office. When used correctly, similar protocols within police forces have reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

Intelligence gathered in relation to young people who went missing from hotels and are subsequently located is fed into the appropriate agencies for consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137779>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137780>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139241] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of local authorities' capacity to place unaccompanied asylum-seeking children with foster carers.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: The department takes the welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) seriously and is clear that they should be in the care of a local authority, including foster care where appropriate.

With the aim of identifying and overcoming barriers to moving UASC swiftly out of hotels to local authority care placements through the National Transfer Scheme, a UASC Taskforce was established in November - jointly chaired by the Department for Education and Home Office Permanent Secretaries and involving the Association of Directors Of Children's Services (ADCS), Local Government Authorities (LGA), Ofsted and representatives from the devolved nations.

The department monitors closely data and research in trends relating to the recruitment of foster carers. Recognising the urgency of action in placement sufficiency, we will prioritise working with local authorities to recruit more foster carers. Depending on local need, this may include for example sibling groups, teenagers, mother and baby placements, UASC and children who have suffered complex trauma. This will involve pathfinder local recruitment campaigns that build

towards a national programme, to help ensure children have access to the right placements at the right time. As the Care Review recommends, we will focus on providing more support throughout the application process to improve the conversion rate from expressions of interest to approved foster carers. More information on foster care placements can be found here:

<https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/final-report/>

The department works collaboratively with local government - including the LGA and ADCS - to understand questions of capacity around placing UASC in local authority care. This involves working closely with those local authorities where there may be barriers or challenges to taking UASC and with local government to understand and disseminate good practice when it comes to placing and caring for UASC.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139241>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139242] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to require Ofsted to regularly inspect hotels housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Children's Commissioner has duties in connection with the running of hotels housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern.

There are no plans to require Ofsted to regularly inspect hotels. The best solution is for young people to be housed in local authority care and we are working closely to increase the supply of placements. The National Transfer scheme (NTS) has seen 3,148 children transferred to local authorities with children's services between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2022. This compares to 739 children transferred in the same time period in the previous year. We are going further by 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 Children's Commissioner (CC) does not have any specific duties with UASC accommodation. However, in order to carry out her primary function of promoting and protecting the rights of children in England, she does have statutory power to enter premises to conduct interviews or observe standards. The CC has visited accommodation on a number of occasions and provided recommendations following her visits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139242>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139243>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [141409] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 February to Question 132334 on Asylum: Children, if he will make an assessment of the feasibility of collecting data on the number of (a) missing children and (b) days each child has been missing in a reportable format for any future incidents of unaccompanied asylum seeking children going missing.

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

We are clear that we must end the use of hotels as soon as possible. The National

Transfer scheme (NTS) has seen 3,148 children transferred to local authorities with children's services between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2022. This compares to 739 children transferred in the same time period in the previous year.

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.

We have robust safeguarding, welfare and security procedures in place to ensure UASC in hotels are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-07/141409>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132334>

Asylum: Children

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139244] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will take steps to publish regular data on (a) the length of time unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been missing, (b) whether they are still missing and (c) when they went missing.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has no plans to publish this data at this time. 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/2023-02-03/139244>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139245] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to reduce the use of hotels to house unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139246] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of moving unaccompanied children from hotels and placing them in alternative safe accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in dangerous small boats crossings means there are significant challenges 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 and welfare procedures are in place at all temporary hotels to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

We are clear that we must end the use of hotels as soon as possible. The National Transfer scheme (NTS) has seen 3,148 children transferred to local authorities with children's services between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2022. This compares to 739 children transferred in the same time period in the previous year.

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/2023-02-03/139245>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139246>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [139187] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of resources for the National Crime Agency to investigate the pattern of children going missing from Home Office-run bridging hotels for unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a single co-ordinated unit involving (a) the National Crime Agency, (b) Border Force, (c) the South East regional organised crime unit and (d) local police forces to help tackle gang networks operating around hotels housing unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to improve the National Crime Agency's ability to tackle criminal gangs operating around hotels housing unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [139249] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing an inquiry team to investigate the potential links between (a) organised crime, (b) trafficking and (c) unaccompanied asylum-seeking children housed in hotels.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The NCA does not investigate missing people.

The wellbeing of children in the care of the Home Office is an absolute priority. Robust safeguarding and welfare procedures are in place to ensure that all children are safe and supported.

The NCA undertakes investigations into complex and serious Organised Immigration Crime offences, arresting offenders in the UK and overseas and bringing them to justice. The NCA also has intelligence and investigative teams that are deployed across the full range of Serious and Organised Crime threats, where tackling Organised Immigration Crime is a priority.

The NPCC and Home Office are focused on the missing child asylum seekers. The Home Office is working closely with policing and local authorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139187>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139247>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139248>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139249>

Asylum: Children

Caroline Lucas (Green) [139185] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has taken steps to set up a dedicated team to investigate potential links between (a) organised crime, (b) trafficking and (c) children going missing from Home Office-run bridging hotels for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The wellbeing, welfare and security 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 as we seek urgent placements with local authorities.

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. Whenever any child fails to return to a hotel, local police forces are engaged in ongoing activity and this data is shared across the police national computer base.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139185>

Asylum: Hove

Caroline Lucas (Green) [137785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 31 January to Question 132555 on Asylum: Hove, how many hours notice were given to the local authority prior to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children moving into the site.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The rise in the number of small boat crossings has placed significant pressures on local authority care placements for young people. The safety and welfare of those in our care, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, is our primary concern and the Home Office has robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure those in our accommodation are as safe and supported as possible as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) transferred 3,148 children to local authorities with children's services between 1 July 2021 and 30 September 2022. This compares to 739 children transferred in the same time frame in the previous year. From 16 December 2022 we are also providing local authorities with children's services £15,000 for every eligible young person they take into their care by the end of February 2023. This is in addition to the funding local authorities already receive for supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/137785>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/132555>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Berkeley (Labour) [HL5390] To ask His Majesty's Government what is their policy for disposal of small boats used by asylum seekers crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: All vessels that have been subject to seizure are held by Border Force until completion of any criminal investigation activities. The majority of boats are not fit for re-sale or to ever go to sea again, as they arrive in very poor condition and may be damaged during the recovery process. The boats are disposed of by Border Force's approved contractors and, where appropriate, any suitable materials are recycled.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/hl5390>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following four questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5408] To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they had with Afghan refugees prior to their decision to move them from London to Yorkshire.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5409] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the (1) educational, (2) medical, and (3) transport, facilities in the area which Afghan refugees are being moved to in Yorkshire.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5410] To ask His Majesty's Government what type of accommodation is being arranged in Yorkshire for Afghan refugees being moved from London.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL5411] To ask His Majesty's Government what are the ages of all the Afghan refugees being moved from London to Yorkshire.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office are not able to provide the data on ages requested, the recent update to the published '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)', shows that, at 4th November 2022: 9,242 people, around half of whom were children, were living in temporary accommodation such as hotels.

Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) on case working systems. Once this work concludes, further statistics on both schemes will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

We acknowledge that hotels do not provide a long-term solution, however, they do offer safe, secure and clean accommodation. We will continue to bring down the number of people in bridging hotels and support people into more sustainable accommodation as quickly as possible. In order to deliver value for money to the taxpayer, we are consolidating the number of bridging hotels being used, by maximising capacity in hotels which have available rooms and rooms being returned back to hotels that are not being used or do not match family requirements. This sometimes means families can be moved from a hotel scheduled for closure to another hotel. In this case, families were notified in September 2022 that the Home Office contract was ending in February 2023, and have been supported by their Home Office Liaison Officer and Local Authority every step of the way since then. This includes the receiving Local Authorities, who are responsible for allocating school places and ensuring that suitable health care support is in place. There is an acknowledged shortage of longer-term housing for all, nevertheless, we continue to work tirelessly with over 350 local authorities to house and support Afghan families.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/hl5408>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/hl5409>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/hl5410>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/hl5411>

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

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

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

British Nationality: Fees and Charges

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL5106] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 4 January (HL4305), what assessment they have made of the differing fees for differing citizenship applications despite the same unit cost; where the additional income is allocated; and what the additional income is used for.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Explanatory Memorandum to the

Immigration and Nationality Fees Regulations 2014 sets out the rationale for the differential between fees for naturalisation and adult and child registration. Different fees are applied to registration and naturalisation fee because a concession is applied to registration provisions as they cater for people closely connected with the UK with sufficiently strong or established links to be able to register as a British Citizen. The fee for a child registering as a British Citizen is lower than the fee charged to an adult, as the entitlements conferred on a successful applicant are fewer.

Fees for immigration and nationality applications are set in line with the charging principles set out in the Immigration Act 2014, which include the cost of processing the application, the wider costs of running the Migration and Borders system and the benefits enjoyed by a successful application.

All income generated above the estimated unit cost is used to fund the wider Migration and Borders system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-25/hl5106>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4305>

The Explanatory Memorandum referred to above can be read at

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/922/pdfs/uksem_20140922_en.pdf

Immigration Bail

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5508] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to secure more appropriate bail accommodation for those released from immigration detention.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office work with our providers on a daily basis to ensure that there is sufficient accommodation available to meet our needs.

Asylum seekers released from immigration detention on bail are housed in Home Office asylum accommodation. Our providers manage the security of accommodation sites and have security staff on site 24 hours a day.

When on bail in asylum accommodation, Foreign National Offenders (FNOs) will be subject to bail conditions such as regular reporting to the Home Office and GPS electronic monitoring.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-07/hl5508>

Asylum: Iraq

The Lord Bishop of Southwark [HL5338] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan that have (1) applied for, and (2) been granted, asylum in the UK since 2014.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum applications and initial decisions by nationality are published in table Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 respectively 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.

Please note, to apply for asylum in the UK, individuals must be physically in the UK. Published statistics therefore relate to Iraqi nationals who have applied for asylum while in the UK. The Home Office does not collect information on the location of refugees after they have received their decision.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-01/hl5338>

Asylum: Children

Baroness Eaton (Conservative) [HL5516] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been identified in adult asylum hotels run by the Home Office in the last year, following an initial incorrect assessment.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). These statistics can be found at Asylum and resettlement datasets:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

UASC application data is located within table ASY_D0.

The Home Office does not hold data for the number of UASC identified in adult hotel accommodation in a reportable format and it would require a manual search of records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

[Asylum applications, decisions and resettlement](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-07/hl5516>

Asylum: Children

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL5400] To ask His Majesty's Government who is legally responsible for the welfare of child asylum seekers in the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) crossing the Channel in small boats has place significant challenges for local authorities in identifying care placements for young people. 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 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.

We recognise hotel accommodation is a temporary means to accommodate the increased number of UASC arriving and are not a long-term option.

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/2023-02-03/hl5400>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL5156] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they carried out a risk assessment when deciding to place unaccompanied children seeking asylum in hotels; and if so, (1) whether any risks were identified as a matter of safeguarding, and (2) whether any safeguarding mitigations were put in place to deal with each of those risks.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The rise in the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) crossing the Channel in small boats has led to significant challenges for local authorities in identifying care placements for young people.

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. When considering whether to accommodate Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children 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, the Home Office Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion and local authorities.

This information was used to develop the processes and procedures to ensure the safety of the young people accommodated in the hotels.

Safeguarding is a key consideration when identifying potential hotels for temporary use. The Home Office undertake hotel specific risk assessments before contracting any site.

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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-26/hl5156>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration Removal Centres: Females

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5505] To ask His Majesty's Government what guidance they provide concerning the supervision of women by male officers at immigration removal centres; and whether they will review the use of male officers for supervision of women at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre.

Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5506] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the governance and practice of the use of force at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, identified as an issue of concern in the Chief Inspector of Prisons' first inspection report of the centre.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL5507] To ask His Majesty's Government how any lessons from the Home Office Detention engagement team at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre will be shared across the detention estate.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We remain focused on the specific needs for women in our care and Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) is operated in line with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, published operating standards for IRCs and Detention Services Orders.

It is routine for best practice to be shared across the Detention Engagement Teams and we have robust mechanisms in place for staff to raise issues or concerns with senior leaders. Derwentside, as the sole female only IRC, presents both unique challenges and opportunities.

Published guidance, and the training received by detainee custody officers makes it clear that physical force, and the use of waist restraint belts or handcuffs, should only be used after a thorough assessment of risk, and in consideration of each individual's personal circumstances. Restraints should be removed at the earliest opportunity.

The Home Office reviews all reports resulting from a use of force to ensure that techniques are used proportionately, that they are justified, and are used for the minimum period required. Since the inspection took place Control and Restraint instructors have attended the centre to provide additional coaching and incident management support to staff. A bespoke package of training commenced in November 2022 and monthly use of force review meetings commenced in September 2022. In addition, the supplier centre manager reviews all incidents involving use of force, following a review undertaken by the supplier duty director. All use of force incidents are additionally peer reviewed by the supplier's use of force committees from two other IRCs (Heathrow and Dungavel) to provide an additional layer of governance and independent scrutiny.

All staff working with women receive appropriate gender specific training (such as the protocol for entry to bedrooms), in addition to any generic training they receive when they undergo initial training, and undertake appropriate refresher training, this includes equality and diversity, human trafficking and modern slavery. Detention Service Order 06/2016 Women in the Detention Estate sets out the minimum provision of services for women and can be found on gov.uk here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/women-in-detention>

[Women in the Detention Estate](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-07/hl5505>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-07/hl5506>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-07/hl5507>

Migrant Workers: Exploitation

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL5212] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking (1) to address, and (2) to prevent, cases in the UK of (a) forced labour, (b) people trafficking, and (c) exploitation of domestic workers from overseas countries.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Government is committed to tackling all forms of modern slavery and through the Modern Slavery Act 2015, we have given law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, including maximum life sentences for perpetrators and enhanced protection for victims. Modern slavery is a complex crime that requires an end-to-end response both nationally and internationally – and that is why we are investing in a multi-agency approach across a range of activities, which include:

- Setting up a Modern Slavery Fund in 2016 to reduce modern slavery in the UK and overseas. Between 2016 and March 2022, £32.6m of Official Development Assistance has been invested, including in projects to strengthen law enforcement responses; protect victims from re-trafficking; and prevent people from being trafficked from countries where high numbers of people are trafficked to the UK;
- Introducing, in 2016, tools to tackle businesses who repeatedly or recklessly commit labour market offences and expanding the role and remit of the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority in 2017, giving specially trained officers new police powers to prevent, detect and investigate serious labour exploitation across the entire economy. The Government spends £33 million a year on state enforcement of employment rights;
- Supporting the police to improve the national response to modern slavery and organised immigration crime through £16.5m of funding since 2016, to the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit to provide a bespoke intelligence hub, improved training and regional operational coordinators to support individual police forces;
- Cracking down on county lines gangs who are exploiting children. This includes up to £5m to fund specialist support provided by Catch22 for under 25s who are criminally exploited and trafficked through county lines in specific areas;
- Investing in research into what works to prevent slavery, as well as assessing risks of modern slavery in policy development, to ensure that opportunities for exploitation are minimised; and
- Designing the Immigration Rules governing our Overseas Domestic Worker route to prevent the importation of exploitative practices to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-30/hl5212>

New Publications

Asylum Inquiry Scotland - final report: Scottish Government response

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/asylum-inquiry-scotland-final-report-response/>

Is planning permission required to house asylum seekers in hotels?

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/is-planning-permission-required-to-house-asylum-seekers-in-hotels/>

Letter from Lord Murray of Blidworth to Lord Hannay regarding an oral question concerning asylum seekers and the Government's interpretation of the Refugee Convention: refusal to consider certain asylum claims while remaining compliant with international obligations

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0101/Lord Murray to Lord Hannay Refugee Convention.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0101/Lord_Murray_to_Lord_Hannay_Refugee_Convention.pdf)

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

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

Updated: 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>

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

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

News: Channel Migrants

Channel migrants could be barred from using Human Rights Act to fight deportation

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/11/channel-migrants-could-barred-using-human-rights-act-fight-deportation/>

'Humanitarian visa' could cut number of asylum seekers reaching UK by boat

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/18/humanitarian-visa-could-cut-number-of-asylum-seekers-reaching-uk-by-boat>

Calais refugee charities 'just as bad as people smugglers', says Lee Anderson

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/18/lee-anderson-calais-refugee-charities-bad-people-smugglers/>

News: Ukraine

Robert Jenrick: 'Taking in a Ukrainian family was one of the most rewarding things I've done'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/19/immigration-minister-robert-jenrick-hosting-ukrainian-refugees/>

'We live in the here and now': Ukrainian refugees starting businesses in the UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/14/we-live-in-the-here-and-now-ukrainian-refugees-starting-businesses-in-the-uk>

War in Ukraine: Scottish host told by council to send Ukraine guests back to airport hub 'with all of their belongings'
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/war-in-ukraine-scottish-host-told-by-council-to-send-ukraine-guests-back-to-airport-hub-with-all-of-their-belongings-4030774>

From hosted to homeless: the Ukrainian refugees struggling to find a rental
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/one-year-on-how-ukrainians-refugees-are-faring-in-the-uk-0r8t9srj0>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Home Office accepts court defeat on EU citizens scheme
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64663795>

Home Office accepts Brexit EU citizens registration scheme is unlawful
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-eu-citizens-settlement-scheme-pre-settled-unlawful-b2283597.html>

Home Office taken to court over thousands of people 'being wrongly denied work and benefits'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-court-windrush-further-leave-to-remain-b2282669.html>

New asylum plan will replicate Ukrainian refugee scheme, says immigration minister
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/19/new-asylum-plan-will-replicate-ukrainian-refugee-scheme-says/>

Home Office will act as legal parent for child refugees
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-will-act-as-corporate-parents-for-child-refugees-xtpdjgqh>

Birmingham City Council first to sign refugee rights pledge as campaigner says laws 'damage lives'
<https://www.itv.com/news/central/2023-02-10/first-council-sign-pledge-on-refugee-rights-as-activist-says-laws-damage-lives>

Leaders urged to 'take a stand' after violence outside Knowsley asylum hotel
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/feb/14/leaders-urged-to-take-a-stand-after-violence-outside-knowsley-asylum-hotel>

Patriotic Alternative 'trying to inflame local tensions' in Britain to spread far-right stance
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/feb/15/patriotic-alternative-trying-to-inflame-local-tensions-in-britain-to-spread-far-right-stance>

Patriotic Alternative posted anti-migrant leaflets before Merseyside riot
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/patriotic-alternative-posted-anti-migrant-leaflets-before-merseyside-riot-ngpvgrzh8>

'Migrant hunts' double in one year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-hunts-double-in-one-year-9rjf8p82c>

Mobilising the mob: How far-right fuelled asylum hotel riot with malicious rumour and misinformation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/knowsley-asylum-seeker-hotel-riot-b2281367.html>

Asylum seekers 'living in fear' as more UK anti-migrant protests planned

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/17/asylum-seekers-living-in-fear-far-right-uk-anti-migrant-protests-planned>

Asylum seekers 'scared to go out' after violence outside Merseyside hotel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-scared-to-go-out-after-violence-outside-merseyside-hotel-j060hbw3g>

Anti-immigration protesters clash with police outside hotel housing asylum seekers

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rotherham-protest-asylum-seekers-police-b2285011.html>

Asylum hotel disorder: Demonstrations held in Liverpool

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-64689140>

Hotels housing asylum seekers are tearing towns apart

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hotels-housing-asylum-seekers-are-tearing-towns-apart-lx5kx5clx>

Brighton study reveals risks facing LGBTQI+ people in immigration detention

<https://www.brighton.ac.uk/news/2023/brighton-study-reveals-risks-facing-lgbtqi-people-in-immigration-detention>

Call for party leaders to take stand against violence

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/call-for-party-leaders-to-take-stand-against-violence/>

TOP

Equality

News

New racism targets introduced for hospitals just as NHS scraps top race roles

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/racism-nhs-hospital-targets-diversity-roles-b2282761.html>

Engaging Black audiences in rural areas

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/engaging-black-audiences-in-rural-areas>

Black teacher in diversity row says she won't return to classroom

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-teacher-in-diversity-row-says-she-wont-return-to-classroom-bt6pfw0wv>

Don't refer to Christian names, they're not inclusive, says university

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/dont-refer-to-christian-names-theyre-not-inclusive-says-university-wg5l6czgx>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Church of England: Antisemitism

Mark Pritchard (Conservative) [140073] To ask the Member for South West Bedfordshire, representing the Church Commissioners, whether he has had recent discussions with the Church of England on tackling anti-Semitism in (a) theological training colleges, (b) ordained clergy and (c) Church of England parishes.

Reply from Andrew Selous: The key resource that the National Church Institutions commend to all clergy, dioceses and parishes is God's Unfailing Word: Theological and Practical Perspectives on Christian-Jewish Relations, produced by the Faith and Order Commission of the Church of England in 2019. This addresses the need to combat antisemitism in the Church and affirms the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism. Teaching and training of ordinands and clergy in Theological Colleges and Dioceses includes much of this material, and there are regular resources and seminars for Diocesan Inter Faith Advisers equipping them in this area.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-06/140073>

The resource referred to above can be read at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/godsunfailingwordweb.pdf>

Press Releases

Equality watchdog concludes monitoring of Labour Party action plan

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-watchdog-concludes-monitoring-labour-party-action-plan>

Keir Starmer responds to EHRC announcement

<https://labour.org.uk/press/keir-starmer-responds-to-ehrc-announcement/>

New Publication

Do Black Lives Still Matter in Scotland?

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c1bee105b4f55a98326d0/t/63d9338bb77988532ca21334/1675178900593/CRER+-+Do+Black+Lives+Still+Matter+in+Scotland.pdf>

News

PM's ethics adviser investigates Tory MP Nus Ghani's Islamophobia claim

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64625388>

Equalities watchdog satisfied with Labour antisemitism reforms

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64640069>

Starmer has ended Labour's antisemitism shame, says watchdog

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-keir-starmer-corbyn-antisemitism-b2282236.html>

Labour remains in special measures over anti-Semitism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/04/labour-remains-special-measures-anti-semitism/>

Anti-Semitism still prevalent in parts of Labour, says Board of Deputies chief

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/02/13/anti-semitism-still-prevalent-parts-labour-board-deputies/>

More than 7,000 pupils suspended over racist attacks, including N-word taunts

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/more-7000-pupils-suspended-over-29194306>

Bristol University put my life at risk, says professor accused of Islamophobia

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bristol-university-put-my-life-at-risk-says-professor-accused-of-islamophobia-fp8dxphft>

How to solve the campus free speech crisis

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-to-solve-the-campus-free-speech-crisis-7d9jr35zq>

Is Scottish Independence the Answer to Racism?

<https://www.crer.org.uk/blog/is-scottish-independence-the-answer-to-racism>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

First Minister to resign

<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-minister-to-resign/>

New Publication

How will the Scottish Parliament nominate and select a new First Minister?

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2023/02/15/explainer-how-will-the-scottish-parliament-nominate-and-select-a-new-first-minister/>

News

Nicola Sturgeon: Search begins to find successor

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64656166>

SNP to announce new leader within six weeks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64671290>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Religious Freedom: Curriculum

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [139258] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department has provided guidance to schools on the teaching of freedom of religion and belief.

Reply from Nick Gibb: As part of religious education, schools without a religious character are expected to adopt a pluralistic approach when it comes to the teaching of different faiths. Non-faith maintained schools must follow the locally agreed syllabus which, whilst being broadly Christian in nature, must take account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. Non-faith academies are free to design their own syllabus, but it must meet the requirements of the locally agreed syllabus.

Since 2014, all schools have been required to actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs. The Department has published guidance on promoting fundamental British values as part of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, to which maintained schools have obligations.

Schools are free to cover a full range of issues, ideas and materials, including where they are challenging or contentious. This must be balanced against their obligations to ensure political balance and promote respect and tolerance between people of different faiths and beliefs. The Department has published guidance for schools on political impartiality, to help them to understand their responsibilities in this area, including the importance of introducing pupils to a diverse range of views during their time at school:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-02-03/139258>

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/>

Publication

Parent Club Financial Support and Employability Campaign

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/money-rights>

News

Cost of living crisis: Scots are cutting back on food and working longer hours, but are still worse off than the rest of the UK

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/cost-of-living-crisis-scots-are-cutting-back-on-food-and-working-longer-hours-but-are-still-worse-off-than-the-rest-of-the-uk-mubin-haq-financial-fairness-trust-4024660>

Record number of households in UK depending on food banks

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/feb/19/record-number-of-uk-households-depending-on-food-banks>

Reflections on stigma and poverty in the UK

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/reflections-stigma-and-poverty-uk>

Price rises still taking “a huge chunk of the weekly budget for families with nothing to spare”

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/price-rises-still-taking-“-huge-chunk-weekly-budget-families-nothing-spare”-jrf>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

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

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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/2964>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

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.

TOP

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>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** 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/3cwpzwwh>

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>

**** Human Rights and Recruitment Training**

10 March 2023 (online, 10.11.30)

CEMVO training session to develop knowledge and understanding of human rights and how to put them into practice within the recruitment process. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/44ukwx9v>

**** Refugee Week UK Conference**

15 March 2023 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Refugee Week UK conference to find out all you need to know about putting your own activity on the theme of “Compassion”, and to learn about the history of Refugee Week. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4wj7eute>

**** Journeying with New Scots – Building community with refugees & asylum seekers**

25 March 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–3.30)

Faith Impact Forum event to share joint experiences, expand our learning and strengthen our ties in a shared concern for the deep longing to be seen, heard, and accepted. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p89wzr3>

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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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*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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