



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 returned from recess on 17 April 2023.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ukrainian Refugees: Cruise Ships

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-16281] To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to research from the British Red Cross, which has stated that cruise ship accommodation for Ukrainian refugees in Scotland is “inappropriate.”

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: Both passenger ships, MS Ambition, Glasgow and MS Victoria, Edinburgh were contracted as a temporary measure to ensure Scotland could respond to the humanitarian crisis facing people in Ukraine and provide an immediate place of safety for displaced people.

All guests successfully disembarked MS Ambition before the contract ended on 31 March and were supported into alternative accommodation and we are now working closely with the City of Edinburgh Council to support guests on board MS Victoria to disembark before the contract ends on 11 July.

The Scottish Government continues to work intensively with local authorities to match people into longer-term accommodation and our priority is to ensure safe and sustainable accommodation can be provided. We are keen to continue to work together with the British Red Cross to utilise their experiences and expertise as we continue to settle displaced people from Ukraine into our community.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16281>

The research referred to above can be read at

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/press-releases/thousands-of-ukrainians-in-scotland-living-in-inappropriate-housing>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Anum Qaisar (SNP) [177929] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate her Department has made of the cost to the public purse of the UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has provided Rwanda with an initial investment of £120m as part of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership. The UK will also be funding the processing costs for each person relocated, such as caseworkers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food, healthcare, and for those granted protection, a comprehensive integration package to help them put down roots and start a new life.

Costs and payments will depend on the number of individuals relocated, the timing of when this happens, and the outcomes of individual cases. Actual spend will be reported as part of the annual Home Office Reports and Accounts in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177929>

Refugees: Rwanda

Alan Brown (SNP) [180360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what she plans the maximum number of refugees to be from Rwanda who may be resettled in the UK under the Memorandum of Understanding between the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the government of the Republic of Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As set out in the Memorandum of Understanding, a small number of the most vulnerable refugees in Rwanda will be resettled in the UK as part of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

The number will be small- likely in the tens, rather than the hundreds.

More details on the resettlement of vulnerable refugees will be set out in due

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180360>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [177729] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people who (a) applied for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme category 4 and (b) whose application for the scheme under this category was subsequently rejected hold information the disclosure of which would give rise to or aggravate a specific threat to the UK Government or its interests.

Reply from James Heapey: The data requested is not available.

Applicants to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy scheme do not apply for specific categories. As such, all applications are considered against each category before a decision is made. The role the applicant played in support of HMG objectives in Afghanistan is fully assessed as part of the decision-making process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177729>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [177730] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will list the professions eligible for consideration under category 4 of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme.

Reply from James Heapey: There is not a finite list of professions eligible for consideration under Category 4 of the ARAP scheme. As set out in published policy, decisions for eligibility under Category 4 are taken on a case-by-case basis against a set of criteria, which allows for broader consideration of applications than would be the case if considering against specific job roles.

The published criteria are available at:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177730>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [177731] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme Category 4 have been (a) received, (b) accepted and (c) rejected.

Reply from James Heapey: Applicants to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme do not apply for specific categories. As such, all applications are considered against each category before a decision is made. For this reason, we do not hold data on applications and rejections specifically under Category 4. To date the Ministry of Defence has processed 22,345 applications. A total of 3,399 have been granted eligibility, of which around 1,600 grants have been recorded as being under Category 4. Since the scheme began, we have relocated over 12,200 people to the United Kingdom. Category 4 data is taken from a live database and is subject to change.

We are now processing and issuing decisions on more applications per month than we are receiving, and in March 2023 we issued more eligibility decisions than in any month previously.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177731>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Jessica Morden (Labour) [177732] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, whether the Government publishes information on the appeals process for Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy Category 4 candidates who have had their application rejected.

Reply from James Heapey: Our Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme reviews process is published on gov.uk and is available at the following link:

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

All unsuccessful ARAP applicants have the right to request a review within 90 days of receipt of their outcome letter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177732>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [176544] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many principal applicants with confirmed eligibility for relocation to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy his Department has lost contact with since April 2021.

Reply from James Heapey: Since the launch of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy in April 2021. The Ministry of Defence has granted eligibility to 3,417 principal applicants. Of these, we are currently not in touch with 54 applicants (1.6%) that have failed to respond to several attempts to contact them. Applicants may fail to respond for a variety of reasons, for instance, they may have changed their contact details and not informed us or have decided to relocate elsewhere.

Once an applicant has been granted eligibility, we allocate a caseworker to progress their relocation to the UK. The caseworker will contact the applicant and stay in touch to progress their case. We are endeavouring to re-establish contact with the 54 applicants so that they can continue their relocation if they still wish to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176544>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [1775506] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many people (a) expressed interest in Pathway 3 and (b) were approved for relocation to the UK via that pathway under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Leo Docherty: The UK Government received over 11,400 expressions of interest (EOI) under ACRS Pathway 3. To date, the FCDO has informed over 200 individuals that they are eligible in principle for resettlement to the UK under Pathway 3, subject to passing security checks. Including their dependents, this accounts for over 1000 of the 1500 available places in the first year of Pathway 3.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175506>

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)

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [175505] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been referred by the UNHCR to Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending](#)

[December 2022](#), show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the Afghan schemes – the ACRS and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,387 people.

There are currently no published statistics on UNHCR referrals. We do not hold public data on the volume of referrals from UNHCR. The next publication of statistics is due on 25 May 2023 and may include this data. However, we anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of pathway 2, although this number will be kept under review.

Those referred under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be assessed for resettlement by UNHCR using their established process, and in line with their resettlement submission categories, which are based on people's needs and vulnerabilities.

Referrals are then assessed by the Home Office through a case working process and commissioning of relevant screening and security checks. Other aspects of the case, including medical, housing, and safeguarding needs, will be considered at this stage.

We are pleased to have now welcomed the first 22 arrivals to the UK under ACRS Pathway 2, and we will continue to welcome many more people as we receive further UNHCR referrals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175505>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [175504] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) principals and (b) dependants have been relocated from Afghanistan to the UK via the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme under (i) Pathway 2 and (ii) Pathway 3 since June 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#), show that since their first arrivals in 2021, the Afghan schemes – the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) - have resettled a total of 21,387 people.

The ACRS will see up to 20,000 people from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years.

Under the second pathway, which opened in 2022, we have now begun to receive the first referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK. We are pleased to have welcomed the first 22 people to the UK under Pathway 2.

Under Pathway 3 we have welcomed the first arrivals to the UK and look forward welcoming all remaining individuals under this Pathway as soon as is practically possible. There are currently no published statistics on Pathway 3 as arrivals under this pathway began after the start of the new reporting period. The next publication of statistics is due on 25 May 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175504>

Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Crispin Blunt (Conservative) [175470] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, with reference to the oral statement by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs to the House on 28 March on Afghan Resettlement Update, what data her Department holds on the accommodation of those Afghan nationals who are part of the 24,500 who have relocated in the UK but who are not part of the around (a) 8,000 in bridging hotels and (b) 9,000 in settled homes.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Bridging accommodation is available to those who need it. A number of people have not needed to use it for a variety of reasons. For example, they may be the immediate family of a British national who owns a property in the UK, they have been able to stay with other family or friends or they have taken steps to secure their own private rented accommodation.

The published operational data on Afghanistan including information on temporary accommodation and settled accommodation is viewable at: [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#).

Further data on accommodation may be included in future operational data releases. The next of which is on the 25 May 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175470>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-28/debates/E45C9029-4DF0-4B5A-996D-59DDF0728050/AfghanResettlementUpdate>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Catherine West (Labour) [176764] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Afghan asylum seekers housed in UK hotels will be offered permanent accommodation (a) in the same area as those hotels and (b) which is suitably sized for the size of their party.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government is working with 350 local authorities across the UK to meet the demand for housing and will continue to do so. Over 9,000 people have been supported into settled accommodation (This breaks down as c.8,500 moved into homes with an additional c.500 matched but not yet moved). Further statistics on individuals resettled or relocated under the Afghan schemes have now also become available in the [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#) release.

Consideration of family size is an important factor when assisting guests with their housing needs. All guests are encouraged to work with our Home Office Liaison Officers (HOLOs) and council support staff at their hotel when searching for a property, who will support them to identify suitable, affordable homes.

We have always been clear with guests that there is no guarantee that any hotel moves or settled accommodation allocation will be in the same area as where they are now.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176764>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Illegal Migration Bill

Asylum

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [177739] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what would happen to a person whose protection or human rights claim is deemed inadmissible under clause 4(2) of the Illegal Migration Bill but who cannot be removed from the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Those who come to the UK illegally who cannot be returned home, will be relocated to a safe third country such as Rwanda, where

they will be provided with the support to rebuild their lives.

If a person is considered unfit to travel, they will be exempt from removal until they are safely able to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177739>

Illegal Migration Bill

Rupa Huq (Labour) [167194] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to include protections within the Illegal Migration Bill for children and families claiming asylum.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The central premise of the Illegal Migration Bill is clear: those in need of protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach rather than risking their lives or paying people smugglers to make the illegal dangerous and unnecessary journey across the Channel. It's important that we do not incentivise people smuggling gangs to target certain vulnerable groups and the need to ensure their safeguarding, so children and families are in scope.

We will ensure that the country of return or relocation is safe for all members of the family including children and they will have access to legal advice. Legal challenges which raise a real risk of serious and irreversible harm will be considered before a person is relocated to a safe third country. If the claim is upheld, they will not be relocated to that country until it is safe to do so.

Unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK illegally will be provided with the necessary accommodation and support but they will not be able to stay and settle in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-16/167194>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Overseas Students

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [175617] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether international students with Tier 4 visas who wish to switch to a dependant's visa based on their spouse's Tier 2 skilled worker visa are permitted to (a) continue their studies, (b) maintain their student status and (c) retain their studentship, including that under Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [175619] To To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department provides to international students with Tier 4 visas who wish to switch from a student visa to a dependant visa based on their spouse's Tier 2 skilled worker visa.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Skilled Worker dependants can study, subject to the ATAS requirement, and guidance on applying as a Skilled Worker dependant is here: www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa/your-partner-and-children

A migrant cannot hold permission as a student and as a dependant at the same time. They will need to decide which type of permission is more suitable for them.

A migrant's visa status will not affect their status as a student with regard to financial sponsorship and bursaries. The continued eligibility for those depends on the terms and conditions of the specific schemes and is a matter for the student and scholarship/bursary provider to discuss between them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175617>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175619>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum Seekers) Regulations 2005

Stephen Timms (Labour) [177690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she intends to amend the Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum Seekers) Regulations 2005 to ensure people whose asylum claims are declared inadmissible are eligible for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Asylum: Interviews

Stephen Timms (Labour) [177692] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people who make a protection or human rights claim for asylum and who meet the four conditions set out in clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill would undergo an asylum screening interview.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In respect of screening interviews for those in scope of clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill, the processes for implementing the measures will be set out in due course.

Section 17 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 provided that where an asylum claim is declared inadmissible under sections 80A or 80B of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002, that individual may be supported under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Clause 9 of the Illegal Migration Bill provides that where an asylum claim is declared inadmissible under clause 4 of the Bill, that individual may be supported under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

Support under section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is available where an individual appears to be destitute and satisfies one or more conditions in regulation 3(2) Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum-Seekers) Regulations 2005.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177690>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177692>

The Immigration and Asylum (Provision of Accommodation to Failed Asylum Seekers) Regulations 2005, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/930/contents/made>

The Illegal Migration Bill, referred to above, can be read at

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0284/220284.pdf>

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/36/contents/enacted>

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/contents>

Asylum: Applications

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [177738] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum applications were submitted by people who arrived in the UK (a) irregularly by (i) small boat and (ii) other means and (b) through a safe and legal route in 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes statistics on asylum claims from small boat arrivals in '[4. Asylum claims from small boat arrivals](#)' of the '[Irregular Migration to the UK statistics](#)' report.

Data on detected irregular arrivals by method of entry are published in table Irr_D01 of the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed dataset](#)' of the '[Irregular Migration to the UK statistics](#)'.

The Home Office does not publish how many irregular arrivals who do not arrive by

small boats have claimed asylum. 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.

The latest data relate to the year ending December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

Please note, asylum applications are not a recognised 'safe and legal entry route' to the UK. The safe and legal entry routes are country-specific and global:

- Resettlement, including UNHCR schemes (UK Resettlement scheme, mandate scheme, and community sponsorship), as well as the Afghan Resettlement Programme
- Family reunion visas
- BN(O) Hong Kong visas
- Ukraine Family, Sponsorship and Extension Scheme visas

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177738>

Asylum

Rupa Huq (Labour) [167195] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to offer safe and legal routes for asylum seekers coming from countries without an active resettlement scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Between 2015 and December 2022, just under half a million people were offered safe and legal routes into the UK— including those from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine as well as family members of refugees. This includes the granting of approximate 45,000 family reunion visas to the family members of refugees.

This also includes over 28,200 refugees resettled through the government's refugee resettlement schemes. The UK is one of the largest recipients of UNHCR referred refugees globally, second only to Sweden in Europe since 2015.

The UK continues to welcome refugees and people in need through existing resettlement schemes which include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Further information on existing safe and legal routes is available below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-safe-and-legal-routes-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-factsheet-safe-and-legal-routes>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-16/167195>

Asylum: Interviews

Harriet Harman (Labour) [181099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her department has taken to reduce the waiting time for people awaiting (a) a substantive interview and (b) an initial decision on their asylum claim.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: To further accelerate decision making we are driving productivity improvements by streamlining interviews, simplifying processes, and dealing with cases more swiftly where they are certified as clearly unfounded.

We have already doubled our decision makers over the last 2 years, and we are continuing to recruit more. This will take our expected number of decision makers to 1,800 by summer and 2,500 by September 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/181099>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Legal Opinion

Richard Burgon (Labour) [180522] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether the

Government is taking steps to increase the availability of legal advice to people making an asylum claim.

Richard Burgon (Labour) [180523] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of legal advice available to people making an asylum claim.

Reply from Mike Freer: The Government is committed to ensuring that those seeking asylum in this country have access to publicly funded legal advice and representation.

Access to legal aid is a key part of a fair immigration system, which is why we are spending around £8m expanding access to legal aid, helping victims of modern slavery, individuals prioritised for removal and individuals appealing an age assessment decision.

The Legal Aid Agency keeps market capacity and the provision of services under constant review and takes immediate action when gaps appear, working with providers to ensure provision nationally.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180522>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180523>

Asylum: Questionnaires

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [175536] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many questionnaires have been (a) sent by and (b) returned to her Department in relation to asylum claims within the scope of the new guidance on streamlined asylum processing since the publication of that guidance on 23 February 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We need to make sure asylum seekers do not spend months or years, living in the UK at vast expense to the taxpayer, waiting for a decision. As part of these efforts to speed up the asylum process for high-grant nationalities, 12,000 asylum seekers who made legacy asylum claims, those made before 28 June 2022, are being asked to provide all necessary information in a new Home Office questionnaire to help determine their case.

The exact number of asylum questionnaires which have been sent and returned under this streamlined process is not information currently held in a reportable format.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175536>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/streamlined-asylum-processing/streamlined-asylum-processing-accessible>

Asylum: Military Bases

John Healey (Labour) [176554] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Oral Statement to the House on 29 March 2023 by the Minister for Immigration, whether asylum seekers being housed at military bases in the UK will be placed in current or former service accommodation rated (a) grade 1, (b) grade 2, (c) grade 3, (d) grade 4 and (e) below grade 4.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: I provided an update to Parliament on 29 March about the ongoing work across Government to secure alternative, more appropriate, cost-effective accommodation options around the country.

The two discussed military sites in Lincolnshire and Essex will provide basic and functional accommodation for migrants who illegally enter the UK by crossing the Channel, instead of using expensive hotels.

The sites will house asylum seekers in former barracks and modular accommodation in an orderly manner with healthcare provision, catering facilities

and 24/7 security all on site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176554>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-29/debates/5C905292-65BA-4B59-9AB9-D41F52605895/IllegalMigrationUpdate>

Asylum: Housing

Angela Eagle (Labour) [181155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the projected cost of plans to house asylum seekers on a boat on the River Mersey at Wirral Waters.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The United Kingdom has a legal obligation to provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with accommodation and other support whilst their claim for asylum is being considered.

Ongoing work across government is being undertaken to identify and secure more appropriate, cost-effective accommodation options. In exploring potential alternative large sites, we continue to consider all available options to source appropriate and cost-effective temporary accommodation, including the option of the usage of vessels. Considerations regarding design, usage and cost are ongoing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/181155>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Passenger Ships

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [176612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether cruise ships accommodating asylum seekers will be docked in port rather than moored at sea.

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [176613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the potential cost to her Department of staffing and supplying cruise ships for the purpose of accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The government has a legal obligation under Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with accommodation and other support whilst their claim for asylum is being considered.

Ongoing work across government is being undertaken to identify and secure alternative, more appropriate, cost-effective accommodation options around the country.

In exploring potential alternative large sites, we continue to consider all available options to source more appropriate and cost-effective temporary accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176612>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176613>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [177833] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help asylum seekers housed in hotels who have built a relationship with the local community to (a) remain within that community and (b) keep children at the local school.

Asylum: Housing

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [177835] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of housing asylum seekers on local communities.

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [177837] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to ensure that people in temporary asylum accommodation have access to (a) communal leisure and (b) children's play space.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Accommodation is offered on a no-choice basis across the United Kingdom and there are established mechanisms in place via Migrant Help and Support Casework, if individuals have a specific, acute need to be accommodated in a particular area. Accommodation providers may need to move individuals for various reasons. However, we limit the amount of moves that can take place through our contract.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177833>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177835>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/177837>

Asylum: Housing

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [176697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her Department's definition is of essential living needs in the context of accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Support provided under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is usually provided in the form of accommodation (with no utility bills or Council Tax to pay) and a weekly cash allowance to cover the asylum seeker's other essential living needs. Free access to healthcare and schooling is also provided.

The weekly cash allowance for those in dispersed accommodation is intended to meet the seven essential living needs which are: food and non-alcoholic drinks, clothing, communications, travel, non-prescription medicine, toiletries and laundry. Our reports on this can be found here: [Report on review of cash allowance paid to asylum seekers](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176697>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [175551] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2023 to Question 159040 on Asylum: Housing; how many incidents accommodation providers reported to the asylum accommodation and support contracts high profile notification team in customer services in each year since 2022.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [175552] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2023 to Question 159040 on Asylum: Housing; what type of incidents accommodation providers are required to report to the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts High Profile Notification team.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [175553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2023 to Question 159040 on Asylum: Housing; whether the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts High Profile Notification team holds information on of the number of incidents reported by each accommodation provider.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The High Profile Notification (HPN) team records and holds details of any act or incident reported by providers involving asylum support service users, asylum support accommodation premises or asylum support service providers that as a consequence of the act or incident, one or more of the following could apply:

- has the potential for serious criminal charges to be brought against the service user as the perpetrator
- has the potential for serious criminal charges to be brought on behalf of the service user as the victim
- poses a risk of serious harm to a service user or others
- has the potential for third-party statutory investigation or significant intervention

The HPN team records details of incidents reported by providers that cover the following categories:

- Violence/Inappropriate Behaviour/Criminal activity – Non-Sexual
- Violence/Inappropriate Behaviour/Criminal activity – Sexual in Nature
- Threat of self-harm
- Attempted suicide
- Newsworthy but Non-Violent
- Self-Harm
- Death of a Service User (cause to be confirmed)

These figures are not available in a reportable format and providing information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175551>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175552>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175553>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-06/159040>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [173049] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who went missing were subsequently found and returned to safety in the last 12 months.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [173050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to help (a) find and return to safety and (b) prevent the further disappearance of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and wellbeing of those in our care is our primary concern. We have safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported 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. All contingency sites have security staff on site and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

Since July 2021, when unaccompanied asylum seeking children were first accommodated in hotels, there have been 447 missing episodes (the term episode used as some children have gone missing been located and subsequently gone missing again). 186 of these young people are still missing.

This is based on local management information and therefore liable to change.

If a young person goes missing from a care setting, including a UASC hotel, the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. A multi-agency, missing persons meeting is chaired by the local authority to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe. When used correctly, similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing

episodes from placements by 36%.

The Home Office work with the police and local authorities to ensure the children in our care are safe and the Police are responsible for locating any missing children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-24/173049>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-24/173050>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration Removal Centres

John McDonnell (Labour) [176530] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department takes to ensure prompt, thorough and transparent investigations when people die at immigration removal centres.

Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre: Bereavement Counselling

John McDonnell (Labour) [176531] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to provide counselling and bereavement support to people at Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre.

Immigration: Detainees

John McDonnell (Labour) [176532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department publishes information on the number of deaths in immigration detention.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Published Home Office Detention Services Order 08/2014 [Deaths in detention](#) provides guidance as to the actions that Home Office and contracted supplier staff must take in the event of a death in detention.

The Home Office publish annual data on deaths in detention as part of the [Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#). The annual data for 2017 to 2021 are included in [table Det_05b in the Detention summary tables](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176530>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176531>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176532>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL6915] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the publication by the US Department of State 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Rwanda which deemed conditions at detention centres in Rwanda as "harsh and life-threatening", what steps they are taking to ensure that any migrant sent to Rwanda is (1) housed in adequate accommodation, and (2) has their human rights protected.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP), relocated individuals will not be detained. They will be housed in appropriate accommodation and provided with support in accordance with the standards and assurances set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and *Notes Verbale*.

An independent Monitoring Committee will monitor the entire relocation process and compliance with assurances in the MoU, including the processing of asylum claims and provision of accommodation and support in Rwanda.

Our own comprehensive assessment as set out in the relevant country policy and information notes (CPINs) assesses that Rwanda is a safe and secure country. Our CPINs are kept under constant review and are published on the Gov.UK website.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/hl6915>

The US Country Report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/rwanda/>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

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

The Notes Verbale referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1120066/Note_Verbale_for_asylum_processing_23_11_22.pdf

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-and-economic-development-partnership-reception-and-accommodation/note-verbale-on-assurances-in-paragraphs-8-and-10-of-the-mou-between-the-united-kingdom-and-rwanda-for-the-provision-of-an-asylum-partnership-arrangem>

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord Bishop of Durham [HL6746] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to assess the ability of Rwanda to accommodate asylum seekers under the age of 18; and whether a safeguarding review will be undertaken.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children will not be considered for relocation to Rwanda. We will thoroughly consider the circumstances of cases involving families with children according to our policy, statutory and international obligations. A full equality impact assessment has been published on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6746>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL6662] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that eligible Afghans in Afghanistan are able to access the Afghan Citizens Relocation Scheme.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: In January 2022, we launched the scheme, with some of those evacuated under Op PITTING being granted a place on the ACRS and, in June 2022, we launched two further referral pathways onto the scheme.

The two further referral pathways onto the ACRS will continue to see individuals resettled to the UK. Beyond the first year of the third pathway, the Government will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk. Further detail will be set out in due course.

This is one of the most ambitious resettlement schemes in our country's history and we are proud to offer a safe and legal route to those affected by events in Afghanistan. We look forward to welcoming new arrivals to the UK and supporting them to rebuild their lives.

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/2023-03-21/hl6662>

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

Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury (Liberal Democrat) [HL6981] To ask His Majesty's Government how many endangered Afghan journalists have been resettled in UK to date under (1) the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme, or (2) the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy, since the withdrawal of British military forces from that country.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Statistics on individuals resettled or relocated under the Afghan schemes have now also become available in the Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022 release.

They show that 21,387 people have now been resettled or relocated through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). This includes people identified as particularly at risk including journalists.

Whilst I am not able to provide a breakdown of this data by occupation, work continues to assure information relating to all the people resettled and relocated to the UK, under the ACRS and the ARAP, on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl6981>

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 Answer: Illegal Migration Bill

Illegal Migration Bill

Baroness Adams of Craigielea (Labour) [HL6964] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the expected impact of their Illegal Migration Bill on victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The UK government remains committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery and supporting victims. The Illegal Migration Bill will prevent people who come to the UK through illegal and dangerous journeys from accessing the provisions of the National Referral Mechanism.

It is right that the government takes steps to address the threat to public order posed by individuals making dangerous journeys that cause loss of life and are inherently unsafe, both for themselves and First Responders.

We support thousands of victims each year and will continue to do so following the implementation of the Illegal Migration Bill.

We are working on developing guidance regarding the operation of these measures, including any potential impacts and how they relate to victims of Modern Slavery, to be introduced when it is appropriate to do so once the Illegal Migration Bill has progressed through Parliament.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl6964>

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

Migration

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL6625] To ask His Majesty's Government what is their objective for net migration in (1) three years' time, and (2) five years' time.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As the Prime Minister has said, the Government remains committed to reducing net migration over time, while ensuring we have the skills our economy needs to grow. The Government continues to keep the immigration system under review.

Our immediate priority is getting a grip on illegal migration, to stop the abuse of our system and stop the boats making illegal, dangerous and unnecessary journeys across the Channel for the profits of criminal people smuggling gangs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-20/hl6625>

Pupils: Foreign Nationals

Lord Mann (Non-affiliated) [HL6692] To ask His Majesty's Government how many newly settled children from overseas have not been able to immediately take up allocated school places due to pressures on school numbers in the past year.

Reply from Baroness Barran: Individual local authorities are under a duty to ensure that children in their areas are receiving a suitable education. We do not routinely collect data on the nationality of children whose parents are seeking school places. However, because of the high levels of migration from the beginning of 2022, the department did conduct a monthly survey of school placements for children from outside the UK between May and September 2022 to obtain better data on school place pressures. The data is available at:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-placements-for-children-from-outside-of-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-21/hl6692>

Refugees: Resettlement

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL6996] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 22 March (HL6242), how many of those 30,055 people resettled in the UK through UNHCR routes were resettled since 2015.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Between 2015 and 2022, 28,302 people have been resettled to the UK through UNHCR resettlement routes. The UK ranks 2nd highest of European countries over this period.

Between 2015 and 2022, people were offered safe and legal routes into the UK via BN(O) Hong Kong Visas (153,708 visas granted), Ukraine Visa and Extension Schemes (233,770 visas granted), family reunion visas (44,659 visas granted) and established resettlement or relocation schemes (49,667 people).

Of the 49,667 people resettled or relocated over this period, 28,302 were through UNHCR resettlement routes and 21,365 were through non-UNHCR routes (i.e. Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 1 and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl6996>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/hl6242>

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

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

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: Resettlement

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL7004] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 22 March (HL6242), what were the figures for each year from 2013 to 2022.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Between 2013 and 2022, 30,055 people have been resettled to the UK through UNHCR resettlement routes. The UK ranks 3rd highest of European countries over this period.

The Home Office publishes data on resettlement in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on refugees resettled in the UK by scheme 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 December 2022.

UNHCR resettlement routes include the Gateway Protection Programme, Mandate Scheme, Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS), Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme (VCRS), UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship Scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 2.

[table Asy_D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl7004>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-08/hl6242>

Information about the Gateway Protection Programme (now closed), referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gateway-protection-programme-information-for-organisations/gateway-protection-programme>

Information about the Mandate Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/257392/manadaterefugees.pdf

Information about the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Vulnerable Children Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-resettlement-schemes-factsheet-march-2021/vulnerable-persons-and-vulnerable-childrens-resettlement-schemes-factsheet-march-2021>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1011824/Resettlement_Policy_Guidance_2021.pdf

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

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

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at

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

Asylum

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL6874] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 24 March (HL6373), why, over the past 13 years, they have allowed the UK to have a "broken asylum system".

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The significant increase in dangerous journeys across the Channel is placing unprecedented strain on our asylum system.

Those in need of protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach rather than risking their lives or paying people smugglers to make the dangerous journey across the Channel.

The UK has a proud history of supporting refugees and since 2015, we have offered a place to just under half a million men, women and children seeking safety – including those from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine, as well as family members of refugees

Our focus will remain on helping people directly from regions of conflict and instability, as the best way to help the most vulnerable who are at risk of war and persecution is through safe and legal routes.

This bypasses the evil criminal gangs and protects vulnerable people, including children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-27/hl6874>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-10/hl6373>

Asylum

Lord Strasburger (Liberal Democrat) [HL6324] To ask His Majesty's Government what are the legal methods for refugees who are citizens of Somalia, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar or the Democratic Republic of the Congo to apply for asylum in the UK when they are (1) living in the country of their citizenship, (2) living in a safe third country, or (3) living in an unsafe third country.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Whilst we sympathise with people in many difficult situations around the world, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Asylum is for people in danger in their home country. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Between 2015 and December 2022, just under half a million people were offered safe and legal routes into the UK– including those from Hong Kong, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine as well as family members of refugees.

This includes over 28,200 refugees resettled through the government's refugee resettlement schemes. Our family reunion policy has also reunited many refugees with their family members; we have issued over 44,659 visas under our refugee family reunion Rules since 2015. The UK is one of the largest recipients of UNHCR referred refugees globally, second only to Sweden in Europe since 2015.

The UK continues to welcome refugees and people in need through existing resettlement schemes which include the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Further information on existing safe and legal routes is available below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-safe-and-legal-routes-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-factsheet-safe-and-legal-routes>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-09/hl6324>

Asylum

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL6744] To ask His Majesty's Government how many individuals have been granted temporary protection since the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 came into force; and what proportion of such individuals were under the age of 18.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)' on GOV.uk. Data on initial decisions on asylum applications, by age, can be found in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)' on GOV.uk. 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 December 2022. Data for the year ending March 2023 will be published on 25 May 2023.

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

Between 28 June 2022 and 31 December 2022, 56 people received grants of temporary refugee permission, of which 5 people (9%) were under the age of 18.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6744>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL7066] To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with local councils regarding their plans to house refugees and asylum seekers at former military bases announced on 29 March

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL7067] To ask His Majesty's Government how the quality of accommodation for housing refugees and asylum seekers will be monitored, following the announcement on 29 March of plans to use former military bases to house refugees and asylum seekers.

Asylum: Health Services

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL7068] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they will take to support vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers, including those who are children and those with mental health needs, following the announcement on 29 March of plans to use former military bases to house refugees and asylum seekers.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office are engaged with a number of Local Authorities and key stakeholders on sourcing appropriate accommodation for asylum seekers including those announced on 29th March 2023. We are committed to engaging with local authorities and local partners to support successful delivery.

For any large sites the Home Office are exploring use, Multi-Agency Forums are being held with the Local Authority and other key stakeholders before implementation. Any concerns relating to the Local Authority's ability to meet statutory requirements can be raised and discussed in that forum. We are committed to continuous engagement with local authorities and local partners to understand and mitigate identified risks, including impact on local services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/hl7066>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/hl7067>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-30/hl7068>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/asylum-seekers-to-be-accommodated-on-surplus-military-sites>

Housing: Migrants

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6985] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the suitability of the RAF base at Wethersfield in Essex as a site for housing migrants.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The United Kingdom has a legal obligation to provide asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute with accommodation and other support whilst their claim for asylum is being considered.

Work across government was undertaken to identify and secure more appropriate, cost-effective accommodation options around the country. The site will provide basic, and functional accommodation whilst asylum seekers await a decision on

their claim.

The Home Office, supported by the MoD, is working on proposals which will see the current MoD Wethersfield site providing suitable accommodation for single adult male asylum seekers.

The site at MoD Wethersfield is designed to be as self-sufficient as possible, helping to minimise the impact on local communities and services. This includes 24/7 security to reduce the need for police patrols, on-site catering, healthcare and transport provision for those housed on site.

The safety and security of the local communities, those resident on the sites and the sites themselves are of the utmost importance. We are working closely with local police forces and other stakeholders to ensure appropriate security arrangements are in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl6985>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL6875] To ask His Majesty's Government who has statutory responsibility for unaccompanied children seeking asylum who are in interim accommodation provided by the Home Office before they are placed under the care of a local authority.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Whilst an unaccompanied child is in interim accommodation provided by the department, the Home Office will do whatever is reasonable to safeguard and promote the child's welfare. However, this does not impact the statutory duties owed to unaccompanied children by local authorities at this or any other time. It is for the relevant local authority to consider its duties under the Children Act 1989. The Home Office does not have, and therefore cannot discharge, duties under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-27/hl6875>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7025] To ask His Majesty's Government what provisions are in place to ensure each hotel that is accommodating unaccompanied children seeking asylum has a safeguarding lead; and what percentage of hotels have in place a safeguarding lead.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office takes the wellbeing, welfare and security of children and minors in our care extremely seriously. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with local authorities.

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, with additional support provided by two professional safeguarding advisors from Safeguarding Advice and Children's Champion Unit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl7025>

Asylum: Children

Lord Touhig (Labour) [HL6550] To ask His Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children placed in hotels have gone missing in each of the last five years.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office takes the wellbeing, welfare and security of children and minors in our care extremely seriously. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with local authorities.

As of 28.02.23 there were 410 missing episodes and on 224 of these occasions the young person was subsequently located.

Asylum: Children

Baroness Adams of Craigielea (Labour) [HL6961] To ask His Majesty's Government what evidence they have regarding unaccompanied children seeking asylum that have gone missing while in temporary hotel accommodation; and what assessment they have made of any evidence of organised crime involvement in those disappearances.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: 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.

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/2023-03-29/hl6961>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7024] To ask His Majesty's Government, of the unaccompanied children seeking asylum who were housed in hotels and went missing but were subsequently found, how many were reported to, or were found to, have been involved in (1) organised crime, and (2) county lines drug activity, during the period they were missing.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office takes the wellbeing, welfare and security of children and minors in our care extremely seriously. Robust safeguarding procedures are in place to ensure all children and minors are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with local authorities.

This information is not held centrally but is held by the encountering police forces. When a young person who has previously gone missing from a hotel housing unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) is encountered or located we engage with statutory partners, including the police who will identify whether there are any concerns regarding possible trafficking; exploitation or other potential criminal activities that may require investigation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/hl7024>

Asylum: Deportation

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL6745] To ask His Majesty's Government which safe countries individuals have been returned to when they have been removed due to an inadmissibility decision on their asylum application.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We are clear that those who fear persecution should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach and not put their lives at risk by making unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK. Controlled resettlement via safe and legal routes is the best way to protect such people and disrupt the organised crime groups that exploit migrants and refugees. Inadmissibility is a longstanding process, intended to support the first safe country principle and is an established part of international asylum procedures. Those who

choose to travel from a safe third country and then claim asylum in the UK may find their asylum claim treated as inadmissible to the asylum process. That means that the UK will not consider the substance of the person's claim and will seek their return to a safe third country.

Since 1 January 2021 returns have been made to Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

Information on the return of those who claims are deemed inadmissible is routinely published and can be found online at: [How many people do we grant protection to?](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6745>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Human Trafficking: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/13010/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [1075] Indefinite leave to remain for bereaved partners – That this House supports the Refugee and Migrants Forum of Essex and London's call for a fee waiver to be introduced for bereaved partners applying for indefinite leave to remain; notes that the death of a loved one brings multiple emotional, practical and financial costs; believes that people whose leave to remain in the UK is tied to a partner who dies are in a particularly vulnerable situation; regrets that the spouses of deceased partners are required to pay £2,404 to access that concession despite the application costing just £491 to process; recognises that people whose leave was tied to a deceased partner may not qualify for any other form of leave such as limited leave to remain; further regrets that people who cannot afford this fee may be forced to leave the UK or face detention and removal after the death of their partner; further notes that victims of domestic violence who are able to apply for indefinite leave to remain under a different concession are rightly able to apply for a fee waiver for indefinite leave to remain applications; further recognises that the lack of a fee waiver discriminates against women who constitute almost 70 per cent of those on family visas; believes it is irrational for the Government to introduce a concession in recognition of the applicants' vulnerability if it is combined with a fee that people cannot afford; and calls for a fee waiver to be introduced.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60802>

Press Releases

New measures to stop the boats in Illegal Immigration Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-stop-the-boats-in-illegal-immigration-bill>

Crown Office statement on the Park Inn Hotel shooting incident

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/crown-office-statement-on-the-park-inn-hotel-shooting-incident/>

Vessel to accommodate migrants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vessel-to-accommodate-migrants>

New crackdown to prevent illegal migrants accessing bank accounts

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-crackdown-to-prevent-illegal-migrants-accessing-bank-accounts>

UK: Protect unaccompanied children seeking asylum say UN experts

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/04/uk-protect-unaccompanied-children-seeking-asylum-say-un-experts>

European Court of Human Rights Notification of case concerning asylum seeker's removal from the UK to Rwanda

<https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/app/conversion/pdf/?library=ECHR&id=003-7620973-10489477&filename=Court%20gives%20notification%20of%20case%20concerning%20asylum%20seeker%27s%20removal%20from%20the%20UK%20to%20Rwanda.pdf>

New Publications

Seasonal migrant workers in Scottish agriculture: research report

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/seasonal-migrant-workers-scottish-agriculture/>

Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-for-ukrainians/>

Regularising a child's immigration status if they are born in the UK: Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regularising-a-childs-immigration-status-if-they-are-born-in-the-uk-homes-for-ukraine>

Letter from Robert Jenrick MP to Diana Johnson MP regarding extending to the adult children of BN(O) status holders two concessions currently operating outside the rules on the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0318/Robert Jenrick to HASC Chair-Hong Kong BNO route concessions.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0318/Robert%20Jenrick%20to%20HASC%20Chair-Hong%20Kong%20BNO%20route%20concessions.pdf)

Equality Act 2010 Schedule 3, Part 4, Paragraph 17 (4) (A) Ministerial Authorisation: Equality (Applications made by a dependant of the adult child of a BN(O), when the lead applicant is deceased, in connection with the Hong Kong BN(O) route)

Authorisation 2023

https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0318/Deceased_lead_apps-young_adults_applying_independently.pdf

Equality Act 2010 Schedule 3, Part 4, Paragraph 17 (4) (A) Ministerial Authorisation: Equality (Leave Outside the Rules in connection with the Hong Kong BN(O) route)

Authorisation 2023

https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2023-0318/LOTR_young_adults_applying_independently.pdf

Consultation outcome: Possible changes to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules and the Upper Tribunal Rules arising from Nationality and Borders Act 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1149887/tribunal-procedure-committee-consultation-response.pdf

Court of Justice of the European Union: Honour crime, forced marriage and domestic violence: Advocate General Richard de la Tour clarifies under which conditions third-country nationals may be eligible for international protection
<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2023-04/cp230063en.pdf>

“Hostile” Compensation Scheme Fails ‘Windrush’ Victims
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/17/uk-hostile-compensation-scheme-fails-windrush-victims>

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: February 2023
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1149043/WCS_Data_-_February_2023.ods

Factsheet: Asylum accommodation on a vessel in Portland Port
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1149157/Portland_Factsheet_050423.pdf

Napier Barracks: the inhumane reality
https://www.jrsuk.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/JRS-UK-Report_Napier-Barracks-the-inhumane-reality_March-2023_WEB.pdf

Turning 18 with Confidence: A Practical Guide to the Council of Europe Recommendation on Supporting Young Refugees in Transition to Adulthood
<https://rm.coe.int/turning18-en-web/1680aaf3f8>

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>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - April 2023
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics-april-2023/>

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>

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: 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>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Government gives up trying to send some asylum seekers to Rwanda
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-asylum-seekers-small-boats-b2319923.html>

Suella Braverman won't say Rwanda deportation flights will start by summer

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/02/suella-braverman-wont-say-rwanda-deportation-flights-will-start-by-summer>

Suella Braverman's insistence is Rwanda is 'safe' for asylum seekers flies in face of evidence

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/suella-bravermans-insistence-is-rwanda-is-safe-for-asylum-seekers-flies-in-face-of-evidence-martyn-mclaughlin-4089448>

Archbishop of York says Rwanda comments 'not about playing party politics'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/09/archbishop-york-rwanda-comments-not-party-politics/>

Rwanda deal unrealistic and unfair to all sides, says opposition leader

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-deal-unrealistic-and-unfair-to-all-sides-says-opposition-leader-bn3hkzmt2>

Stay out of politics, charities warned as they overstep the mark on Rwanda migrants plan

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/03/orlando-fraser-warning-charities-politics-rwanda-migrants/>

Almost half of Britons back Rwanda policy but most doubt it will work

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/half-of-britons-support-rwanda-crisis-latest-poll-migration-km8zqnm6b>

The Rwanda policy is one year old – but the public still aren't sold

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-policy-one-year-old-public-still-not-sold-comment-v080z6v5k>

European court considers asylum seeker's plea over Rwanda deportation order

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/11/asylum-seeker-rwanda-deportation-order-european-court/>

Refugees sent to Rwanda at risk of a deadly malaria variant

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/21/refugees-sent-to-rwanda-at-risk-of-a-deadly-malaria-variant>

News: Channel Migrants

Nearly 45,000 Channel migrants arrived in UK in 12 months since Rwanda deal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-suella-braverman-priti-patel-matthew-rycroft-rishi-sunak-b2319820.html>

More than 1,000 migrants cross Channel in seven days

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-than-1-000-migrants-cross-channel-in-seven-days-65hgqhcjh>

Small boats crisis: Just 13% of migrant asylum claims dealt with in five years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/small-boats-crisis-just-13-of-migrant-asylum-claims-dealt-with-in-five-years-3xnlsxxqt>

Sunak: I can't be sure small boats will be stopped before election

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/13/rishi-sunak-small-boats-channel-crossings-pledge-conservativehome-interview>

Stopping the boats is 'complicated' and 'will not happen overnight', Sunak says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rishi-sunak-prime-minister-conservatives-conservativehome-english-channel-b2319207.html>

The Channel crossings are now a matter of national security

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/12/channel-crossings-national-security/>

Home Office admits no evidence to support key claim on small boat crossings

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/08/home-office-admits-no-evidence-to-support-key-claim-on-small-boat-crossings>

Rishi Sunak faces defeat by Tory rebels over small boats plan to 'lock up children'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-small-boats-tories-b2315535.html>

Sunak's migrant bill means more children in boats, not fewer

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/time-running-out-protect-child-immigrants-uk-red-box-3wvrncm50>

Tory election candidate suspended over Facebook posts about 'invasion of Islam' and 'stoning' refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/conservative-election-candidate-facebook-peach-b2321701.html>

'Woke' Dover welcome signs for Channel migrants to be replaced

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/18/woke-dover-welcome-signs-channel-migrants-to-be-replaced/>

Small boat crossings 'linked to sharp increase in diphtheria cases in UK'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/europe-england-afghan-paris-b2318809.html>

Small boats: An asylum seeker's eight-nation trek to sanctuary

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65174532>

News: Ukraine

The Ukrainian refugees making a living somewhere new

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-64663105>

Ukrainian family in Fife offered temporary home in Dumfries

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-65257176>

Grandmother flees Ukraine to be reunited with family

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65125747>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Be part of Refugee Festival Scotland

Deadline for event submissions: 1 May 2023

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/be-part-of-refugee-festival-scotland/>

New legal routes for refugees proposed by ministers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/19/new-government-legal-safe-refugee-bill/>

'We must give him asylum': Peer who fled Nazis accuses ministers of 'cruelty' over Afghan war hero

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/afghanistan-pilot-deportation-rwanda-asylum-b2313396.html>

Call asylum-seekers 'customers' not 'cases', Home Office staff told

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/16/call-asylum-seekers-customers-not-cases-home-office-staff/>

Home Office course tells immigration staff to show more empathy

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/16/home-office-course-tells-immigration-staff-to-show-more-empathy>

Migration bill: Home secretary set to win powers to ignore European court

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65331272>

UK to ignore judges on small boat deportations as Rishi Sunak caves to right-wing Tory rebels

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/small-boats-rishi-sunak-braverman-tories-b2323270.html>

Suella Braverman set to be given powers to ignore European judges

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/19/suella-braverman-powers-ignore-european-judges-migrants/>

Judges lose power to block migrant flights

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/judges-lose-power-to-block-migrant-flights-vjghbtwdj>

Civil rights group launches legal action over 'shattered' Windrush promises

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/06/civil-rights-group-beo-seeks-judicial-review-over-windrush-promises>

Windrush victims being failed by compensation scheme - report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65264683>

Rishi Sunak asked to correct asylum figures error

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/65179974>

Statistics watchdog rebukes Sunak over inaccurate asylum backlog figures

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/05/statistics-watchdog-rebukes-rishi-sunak-inaccurate-asylum-backlog-figures>

Watchdog rebukes Rishi Sunak for misleading asylum backlog claim

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/watchdog-rebukes-rishi-sunak-for-misleading-asylum-backlog-claim-lwmnc9f5j>

Denying children asylum plays into hands of abusers, watchdog warns

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/immigration-bill-playing-into-hands-child-abusers-exploitation-rachel-de-souza-7xm6sjr6p>

Rishi Sunak to make child migrant 'age checks' compulsory

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-to-make-child-migrant-age-checks-compulsory-5lxq97c7k>

Asylum seeker barge plan would face legal challenge

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65172368>

Home Office faces legal action over £20,000-a-day migrant barge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-faces-legal-action-over-20-000-a-day-migrant-charge-kzs920vq3>

Government reveals full details of plan to house 500 asylum seekers on a barge in Dorset

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-migrant-charge-dorset-b2314617.html>

Dorset asylum seeker barge will not be like a prison, says minister

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/06/dorset-asylum-seeker-charge-will-not-be-like-prison>

Ministers in talks to hire ferry to house up to 2,000 migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/05/ferry-migrants-charge-asylum-seekers-dorset/>

Council loses court bid to block asylum seekers plan for Essex base

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-65348719>

Council loses attempt to block asylum centre on Essex airfield

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/21/council-loses-attempt-to-block-asylum-centre-on-essex-airfield>

Suella Braverman wins legal battle over 'emergency' asylum camp at Essex military base

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/suella-braverman-asylum-camp-essex-wethersfield-b2324362.html>

Wethersfield: Court told housing migrants at airfield not justified

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-65323742>

Help the migrants . . . but not here, villagers in Wethersfield plead

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/help-the-migrants-but-not-here-villagers-in-wethersfield-plead-lkfr98wt8>

Ministers to give locals no say over migrant camps

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-ministers-migrant-camps-planning-permission-laws-hfzghcv27>

Photos show squalid conditions at East Sussex site chosen to house asylum seekers
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/04/photos-of-former-prison-chosen-to-house-asylum-seekers-show-squalid-conditions>

Army barracks and floating barges are not the solution to a problem of the government's own making
<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/army-barracks-and-floating-barges-are-not-the-solution-to-a-problem-of-the-governments-own-making/>

Plans for new sites in UK for asylum seekers 'risk humanitarian catastrophe'
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/06/plans-for-new-sites-in-uk-for-asylum-seekers-risk-humanitarian-catastrophe>

'It's inhumane': anger at plan to house asylum seekers on barge off Dorset
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/05/anger-at-plan-to-house-asylum-seekers-on-berge-off-dorset-portland>

Scottish Refugee Council condemns 'racist' Government language
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23431737.scottish-refugee-council-condemns-racist-government-language/>

UN experts warn UK government over trafficking risk faced by asylum seeker children
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/11/un-experts-warn-uk-government-over-trafficking-risk-faced-by-asylum-seeker-children>

Practical tools to help young migrants and refugees in transition to adulthood launched in Strasbourg
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/practical-tools-to-help-young-migrants-and-refugees-in-transition-to-adulthood-launched-in-strasbourg>

***Journeys of Faith and Welcome*: Inspiring video series launched**
<https://www.sfar.org.uk/inspiring-video-series-launched/>

Conference shows how churches can welcome New Scots
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/conference-shows-how-churches-can-welcome-new-scots>

Being in Scotland is my miracle after fleeing Rwandan genocide
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65016460>

Driver jailed for nine years for smuggling migrants into UK in spinach lorry
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/nca-chichester-france-spain-west-sussex-b2319344.html>

"Safe routes", "safe country"...
<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/projects/wordsmatter/safe-routes-safe-country/>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Adoption: Ethnic Groups

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [180496] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that a child may be placed for adoption in a family with a different racial and cultural background to his or her own if that is conducive to the child's overall welfare.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: Many adopters provide brilliant love and care for children, including those with whom they do not share the same ethnicity. The department's National Adoption Strategy, published in July 2021, sets out a specific commitment to ensuring adopters get the support they need if they adopt children of a different ethnicity to their own. Further details are available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006232/Adoption_strategy.pdf

Regional Adoption Agency leaders are looking to develop specific transracial resources for social workers and adopters, as part of their work in supporting children with their identity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/180496>

News

'It feels worse': Britons on race issues since Stephen Lawrence murder

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/21/britons-race-issues-since-stephen-lawrence-murder>

Ramadan: Cathedrals, museums and stadiums host iftar meals

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-65266627>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

NHS: Interpretation Services

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-16280] To ask the Scottish Government what measures are in place to enable NHS boards to monitor the accuracy of interpretation services for those from minority ethnic communities who require such services.

Reply from Jenni Minto: Public bodies, including NHS health boards, are responsible for monitoring the accuracy of interpretation services. The Scottish Government expects all healthcare services to be accessible to all people in Scotland, regardless of the circumstances of individual service users, including where an interpreter is required.

The Scottish Government works across public and third sector partners to improve the availability of translations and accessible formats. We collaborate to share best practice and signpost to translation, interpretation and transcription services that are accessible to all public bodies. Scottish Government resources to support this include the [Interpreting, Translation and Transcription Services Framework](#).

Additionally, Public Health Scotland published the [Interpreting, Communication Support and Translation National Policy](#) in October 2020. Its aim is to ensure that NHS Scotland and its partners have a clear, consistent and fair approach to the provision of information and communication support for all. The policy outlines guidance for NHS Scotland to ensure that appropriate governance of interpreting and translation services is in place, as well as the need for systematic monitoring and review of local/contracted services and procedures.

As part of our review into the operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland, we are proposing to create a new duty that would seek to ensure inclusive communication is embedded proportionately across the work of listed authorities when they are communicating with the public. This would include translation and interpretation into other languages.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16280>

Menopause Care: Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic Women

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-16039] To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether ethnic minority women are far less likely to get menopause treatment in Scotland than white women, in light of reports that this is the case in England, according to recently published data.

Reply from Jenni Minto: NHS Scotland does not currently hold information on prescriptions based on patients' ethnicity.

Through the Women's Health Plan, we are determined to ensure that all women are able to access the care and support they need for menopause, be that through primary or specialist care. A range of treatments to manage menopause symptoms, including Hormonal Replacement Therapy (HRT), are available on the NHS in Scotland free of charge.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16039>

The Women's Health Plan, referred to above, can be read at
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/womens-health-plan/>

Menopause Care: Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic Women

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-16040] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to ensure that Black, Asian and other minority ethnic women receive appropriate menopause care.

Reply from Jenni Minto: The right to health is a fundamental human right and means the right of everyone to have the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Menopause care and support is a top priority in the Women's Health Plan, through which, we are working to improve access to menopause care and treatment for all women in Scotland. The Women's Health Plan is underpinned by an intersectional approach which recognises that minority ethnic women and girls can face multiple and often overlapping disadvantages and barriers to accessing good healthcare, including menopause care.

As set out in the Women's Health Plan, it is important that all health and social care professionals approach people from all cultures with openness and without judgement and are responsive to the individual needs of their patients and community.

Menopause is an important transition in women's lives, but one that many know little about. It is important that all women are able to make informed choices about their health. The menopause resource on the NHS Inform Women's Health Platform has

been translated into five languages, BSL and easy read.

In addition to the work of the Women's Health Plan, there is a Scottish Government Racialised Health Inequalities in Health & Social Care in Scotland Steering Group developing an action plan to address racism and racialised health inequalities in health and social care.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16040>

The Women's Health Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/womens-health-plan/>

The menopause resource, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/womens-health/late-years-around-50-years-and-over>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Inclusive Britain Progress Report

The Minister for Women and Equalities (Kemi Badenoch) [HCWS709] On 17 March 2022 we published "Inclusive Britain", our response to the report by the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. It sets out a groundbreaking two-year plan to tackle entrenched disparities, level up communities and promote unity. It contains 74 tailored actions to tackle long-standing disparities in education, health, criminal justice and the workplace. I committed to reporting back to Parliament on progress after 12 months.

I am today publishing an update on the substantial progress we have made in delivering the Inclusive Britain action plan. This report is based around the three ambitious aims of Inclusive Britain: building a stronger sense of trust and fairness in our institutions; promoting equality of opportunity, encouraging aspiration and empowering individuals; and fostering and instilling a sense of belonging in the UK.

I am pleased to report that we have, to date, completed 32 of the actions and continue to make good progress in delivering the remainder. Particular highlights include:

Publishing today new guidance for employers on how to measure, report on and address any ethnicity pay gaps within their workforce;

Funding a national recruitment campaign to find more adoptive parents, including those from an ethnic minority background, to improve adoption rates for ethnic minority children;

Supporting a number of police forces to trial the effect of an automatic opt-in for young people to receive independent legal advice in police custody, which we hope will lead to better outcomes for young people;

Publishing our ambitious schools White Paper and providing targeted support for those pupils who need it, especially the most vulnerable and disadvantaged; and

Publishing today updated guidance on positive action so that employers who use this measure to widen opportunities can do so in a way that is consistent with equalities legislation.

The recent Casey review and the Children's Commissioner's report on the strip-search of children have shown that there is more to be done to tackle disparities and to build trust in our institutions. We will continue our work to deliver the remaining actions in Inclusive Britain over the next 12 months. We will also tie this into some major landmarks this year, including the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the Empire Windrush, in order to further promote and celebrate our diversity as a nation.

... I will report back to Parliament in 12 months' time on the further progress we have made in implementing this ambitious action plan and our work to build a stronger, fairer and more united society.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-04-17/debates/23041729000025/InclusiveBritainProgressReport>

The Inclusive Britain update report, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report, referred to above, can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

The ethnicity pay reporting guidance referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnicity-pay-reporting-guidance-for-employers>

The Schools White Paper referred to above can be read at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063602/Opportunity for all strong schools with great teachers for your child print version .pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063602/Opportunity_for_all_strong_schools_with_great_teachers_for_your_child_print_version_.pdf)

The positive action guidance referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-action-in-the-workplace-guidance-for-employers/positive-action-in-the-workplace>

The Casey Review, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/met/about-us/baroness-casey-review/update-march-2023/baroness-casey-review-march-2023.pdf>

The Children's Commissioner report referred to above can be read at <https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2023/03/cc-strip-search-of-children-in-england-and-wales.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Police: Travellers

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [173048] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 9 November 2022 to Question 83745 on Police: Travellers, for what reason the Home Office does not hold information on the number of police forces which have adopted Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community (a) engagement strategies, (b) liaison officers and (c) points of contact for engagement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are clear that all police force across England and Wales should engage and work with all of their local communities, including Gypsy and Roma Traveller Groups. However, issues relating to how engagement is undertaken with those communities is a matter for operationally independent Chief Constables of each police force to consider. They are best placed to make decisions on how best to engage with and meet the needs of those communities, based on their local knowledge and expertise.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-24/173048>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-09/83745>

Prisons: Ethnic Groups

Janet Daby (Labour) [176819] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to address the findings of the report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons entitled The Experiences of Black Male Prisoners and Black Prison Staff, published in December 2022.

Reply from Damian Hinds: HMPPS take the findings of reports from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons seriously. We recognise that improving outcomes for Black prisoners and staff will require a long-term commitment from the entire organisation. A full response, which sets out the detailed actions we will take to address the findings of the HMI Prisons Inspectorate thematic inspection on the Experience of Adult Male Prisoners and Black Staff was published on 22 March and can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/thematic-review-of-the-experience-of-adult-male-prisoners-and-black-staff>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176819>

The report referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

People of African Descent in the United Kingdom

Baroness Thornton (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the statement by the United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, published on 27 January, in which they said they were "deeply concerned about the human rights situation of people of African descent" in the United Kingdom and which recommended further efforts to address structural, institutional and systemic racism against people of African descent.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of Stat, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Baroness Scott of bybrook): This Government are proud that the United Kingdom is an open, tolerant and welcoming country. I commend to the House our Inclusive Britain strategy, which is a rigorous and comprehensive action plan to tackle negative disparities between people from different ethnic backgrounds. We have published today a report on the excellent progress we have made on delivering Inclusive Britain and how it is improving people's lives.

Baroness Thornton: My Lords, the Minister then needs to explain to the House how the United Nations working group came to the conclusions that it did in the statement it published on 27 January and how it found exactly the same situation as it did on its visit in 2012. It identified "stark and unsustainable inequalities underpinned by systemic racism, judicial bias, and disproportionate and discriminatory policing of people of African descent" in the UK today. Does the Minister accept the findings of the working group, and what do the Government intend to do about them?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: We strongly reject most of the findings, as they wrongly view the people of African descent as a single, homogenous group and present a superficial analysis of complex issues that fails to look at all possible causes of disparities, not just race. We did not feel that the United Kingdom's strong reputation as one of the fairest and most open-minded countries in the world was properly reflected in the working group's initial findings, which failed to look fully at all possible causes of disparities, not just race or racism. As our Inclusive Britain strategy and the wider work of this Government demonstrate, instead of sowing division, we must focus on giving every community and individual the opportunity to thrive and to succeed in a country where a person's racial, social or ethnic background is not a barrier to achieving their ambitions.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon (Crossbench): My Lords, does the Minister agree that, in discussing serious issues, we should avoid using terms that blur meaning and fog issues, including words such as "racist", "race" and "racism", which suggest that there is a number

of finite races in the world? The reality is that there are as many races as there are human beings on earth. Does the Minister further agree that what we are talking about is irrational prejudice, which has to be tackled in schools and the workplace?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: I agree with the noble Lord's last point that, where there are issues in workplaces, in education or in health, we need to tackle them. I also agree with him that there are many races in the world and that everybody is equal.

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the report highlights how the treatment of the Windrush generation has caused significant and unbelievable harm. The feeling of mistrust and the daunting requirements have left emotional trauma that cannot be quantified. Many have died without their cases being resolved. Recently scrapping the three recommendations from Wendy Williams was careless and heartless, so will the Government make the application process more accessible and simpler for the many elderly people still struggling with the daunting system, or, better still, hand over the compensation scheme to an independent body?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Since the injustices of Windrush came to light, there has been a concerted effort across government to right the wrongs suffered by those affected, including apologising, helping people to apply for documentation through our Windrush help teams, and the 200 engagement and outreach events across the country. Over 60% of the claims have received final decisions and, incrementally, more decisions are being made month by month. The Home Office firmly believes that moving the operation of the scheme away from the department would risk significantly delaying vital payments and that there would be considerable disruption to the processing of outstanding claims while a new body was established and made operational.

Lord Popat (Conservative): Does my noble friend the Minister agree that we have an amazing record when it comes to challenging racism and celebrating diversity? Four of our five most senior Cabinet Ministers have African origins, including our Prime Minister and Suella Braverman, from Kenya; James Cleverly, from Sierra Leone; and Kemi Badenoch, from Nigeria. We have an amazing record that we should always celebrate, so I really do not agree with the United Nations report.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: Of course I agree with my noble friend. We are a country that is welcoming and open, and I do not believe it is racist at all.

Lord Sikka (Labour): My Lords, numerous studies have shown that black African workers in the UK receive lower pay than their white counterparts for exactly the same work. Ethnicity pay gap reporting is a necessary tool for highlighting institutionalised inequities and empowering Governments and people to take action. Therefore, can the Minister explain why this Government oppose ethnicity pay gap reporting?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: No one should have to worry that they are not being given the same opportunities as their colleagues at work. That is why the Government have today published guidance to employers on ethnicity pay reporting as part of the Inclusive Britain strategy.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, back in 2017, the Prime Minister announced a review of our mental health laws, which we all know have disproportionately affected those from ethnic-minority backgrounds. The Joint Committee reported to the Government in January this year and advised—boldly—that the Government abolish community treatment orders, which are 11 times more likely to be applied to those of black British backgrounds. When will we see the new mental health Bill so that we can pass it swiftly through Parliament?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: I am afraid that I cannot say to my noble friend when the Bill will come through; I understand that it depends on parliamentary time. However, I can say that the Government and NHS England are already taking forward non-legislative work to address racial disparities in mental health, including

piloting services which explore approaches to identifying, supporting and advocating for the specific cultural needs of people from ethnic-minority backgrounds.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour): My Lords, the noble Baroness disputes the United Nations report. How, then, does she assess our own British report, recently published, from the University of St Andrews and backed by the Economic and Social Research Council which sets out searing disparities between many ethnicities, not least those white minority-ethnic groups—Gypsies, Travellers and Roma—who suffer the worst discrimination of all? This has gone on for years; what are the Government going to do about it?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: As I have already said, the Government believe that this country is open and welcoming, but obviously we are not complacent. We will continue to look at all those reports being written by eminent people; we will look at the recommendations and, if necessary, we will act.

Baroness Burt of Solihull (Liberal Democrat): The statement of the UN working group foretells what the report is going to say in September, so we have had fair warning. If the Government disagree, why do they not start formulating a plan now for tackling our structural, institutional and systematic racism instead of meekly waiting for the report to land?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: I think I have already said that we are not waiting. We have a strategy called the Inclusive Britain strategy, which has been going for a year. Today, we published the first results of that strategy. We will wait until the September final report and look at whether there is anything further that we have to do, but, actually, we are doing it before we get that report. ...

Lord Lilley (Conservative): Did my noble friend give the visiting body a copy of the excellent Sewell report? It showed that, though discrimination and prejudice exist, are wrong and should be combated, they could not account for most of the disparities. For example, there is a huge disparity between performance of black people from the Caribbean and black people from Africa. Nor could they account for the fact that one of the worst performing groups is white working class people. Did this body comment on those facts?

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: No, I do not think it did comment on those facts, yet my noble friend is absolutely right: we had a Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report written by the esteemed commissioners, and that Sewell report was the basis for our strategy as it stands today. My noble friend brings up a very interesting issue, which is that in all races and faiths there will be some people who need more help than others, and that is exactly what we will be doing in this country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-17/debates/35053499-66DB-4377-96F1-1F5220D565A9/PeopleOfAfricanDescentInTheUnitedKingdom>

The UN statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/01/uk-discrimination-against-people-african-descent-structural-institutional>

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>

The ethnicity pay reporting guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnicity-pay-reporting-guidance-for-employers>

The Joint Committee report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33599/documents/182904/default/>

The University of St Andrews report referred to above can be read at

<https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/display/book/9781447368861/9781447368861.xml>

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities report (also known as the Sewell report), referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331 - CRED Report - FINAL - Web Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/974507/20210331_-_CRED_Report_-_FINAL_-_Web_Accessible.pdf)

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following four questions all received the same answer

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6777] To ask His Majesty's Government how many authorised Traveller sites in England are within 50 metres of (1) A-roads, (2) motorways, (3) sewage stations, (4) waste recycling centres, (5) industrial estates, and (6) railway lines.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6778] To ask His Majesty's Government how many authorised Traveller sites have given rise to complaints to local authorities about (1) environmental pollution and degradation, and (2) vermin infestation.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6779] To ask His Majesty's Government how many local authorities conduct regular pollution monitoring of (1) air, (2) noise, and (3) land, contamination on authorised Traveller sites.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL6780] To ask His Majesty's Government how many authorised Traveller sites are on contaminated land.

Reply from Baroness Scott of Bybrook: The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) does not hold data centrally on the location of authorised traveller sites. The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites states that Local Planning Authorities, when developing their Local Plan, should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

Under the Local Air Quality Management Framework, as part of the Environment Act, all Local Authorities in England are required to assess air quality in their area. The Government does not hold centrally information on complaints for statutory nuisances. Section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires Local Authorities and the Environment Agency to keep a public register about contaminated land in their respective areas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6777>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6778>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6779>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-22/hl6780>

The Planning Policy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>

Information about the Framework referred to above can be read at

<https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/>

Section 78R of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/section/78R>

Press Releases

Inclusive Britain actions delivered to tackle racial disparities and level up communities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inclusive-britain-actions-delivered-to-tackle-racial-disparities-and-level-up-communities>

MPs call for Government target to eliminate maternal health disparities

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/328/women-and-equalities-committee/news/194759/mps-call-for-government-target-to-eliminate-maternal-health-disparities/>

New Publications

Racism and Ethnic Inequality in a Time of Crisis: Findings from the Evidence for Equality National Survey

<https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/display/book/9781447368861/9781447368861.xml>

Inclusive Britain update report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-update-report/inclusive-britain-update-report>

Guidance: Positive action in the workplace

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-action-in-the-workplace-guidance-for-employers/positive-action-in-the-workplace>

Ethnicity pay reporting: guidance for employers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ethnicity-pay-reporting-guidance-for-employers>

Government response to the consultation on standards for ethnicity data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-for-ethnicity-data/outcome/government-response-to-the-consultation-on-standards-for-ethnicity-data>

Results and actions from the Ethnicity facts and figures website reform consultation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ethnicity-facts-and-figures-website-reform/outcome/results-and-actions-from-the-ethnicity-facts-and-figures-website-reform-consultation>

Outcomes in labour market for ethnic minorities by immigrant generation status

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/outcomes-in-labour-market-for-ethnic-minorities-by-immigrant-generation-status/outcomes-in-labour-market-for-ethnic-minorities-by-immigrant-generation-status>

Unemployment by ethnic background

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

Black maternal health

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/38989/documents/191706/default/>

Diversity in the teaching profession: annual data report

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/diversity-teaching-profession-annual-data-report/>

Understanding ethnic disparity in reoffending rates in the youth justice system

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1151110/YJB_EDRR_QualReport.pdf

Sharia-compliant alternative student finance

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9774/>

Welsh Government Initial teacher education Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic recruitment plan

<https://www.gov.wales/initial-teacher-education-black-asian-and-minority-ethnic-recruitment-plan-html>

News

The Public Sector Equality Duty: Why was it introduced?

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/public-sector-equality-duty-why-was-it-introduced>

Social barriers faced by Roma, Gypsies and Travellers laid bare in equality survey

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/09/social-barriers-faced-by-roma-gypsies-and-travellers-laid-bare-in-equality-survey>

Research finds UK is far from a ‘racially just society’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/research-st-andrews-the-guardian-manchester-roma-b2317019.html>

Manchester urged to act on ‘scandalous’ lack of Black people in prominent roles

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/ng-interactive/2023/apr/03/manchester-urged-act-scandalous-lack-black-people-prominent-roles>

End racial disparities in maternal deaths - MPs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-65300168>

MPs condemn ‘appalling’ stats showing Black women almost four times more likely to die in childbirth

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/black-women-childbirth-death-risk-b2321265.html>

MPs condemn failure to tackle ‘glaring’ racial inequalities in UK maternal health

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/18/mps-condemn-failure-to-tackle-glaring-racial-inequalities-in-uk-maternal-health>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

Jackson Carlaw (Conservative) [S6M-08555] Yom HaShoah 2023 – That the Parliament acknowledges that Yom HaShoah is the annual Jewish Holocaust Remembrance Day and is centred upon remembering the six million Jewish men, women

and children who lost their lives during this dark episode in human history; believes that Yom HaShoah offers a vital period of reflection on the horrors of the Holocaust and serves as a reminder of the continual need to tackle and stamp out antisemitism wherever it arises; understands that, each year, Yom HaShoah commences at sunset on the 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan and concludes on the following evening, in accordance with the traditional Jewish custom of marking a day; notes that, in Israel, Yom HaShoah is a national day of commemoration; understands that, to mark the start of the event, individuals, including survivors, their children and wider families, join with the general public to participate in a memorial ceremony at Yad Vashem, the world's Holocaust Remembrance Centre, where six torches, to represent the six million Jewish people whose lives were taken in the Holocaust, are lit; notes that, on the following morning, the ceremony at Yad Vashem commences with the sound of a siren for a two-minute period, during which silence is observed in memory of everyone who perished in the Holocaust and afterwards, and that wreaths are laid at the foot of the six torches; acknowledges that the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council's annual Yom HaShoah commemoration is to be held in Giffnock on 18 April 2023, and recognises what it sees as the pivotal importance of this key event for the Jewish community in Eastwood.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08555>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Schools: Ethnic Groups

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [176785] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of introducing safeguarding and training programmes in schools to (a) protect Black and minority ethnic students and (b) assist them to deal with racism.

Schools and Young People: Racial Discrimination

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [176786] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to tackle racism in (a) schools and (b) amongst young people.

Reply from Claire Cutinho: The government condemns and strives to tackle all forms of racial discrimination, prejudice and harassment. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including between people of different ethnic backgrounds. The department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools?msclkid=9ce22ddcc5d11ec9a0a2d6e2fd0a666>

Challenging intolerant, racist or discriminatory views, where these are shared at school, should be seen as part of schools' wider anti-bullying and safeguarding duties. All schools are required by law to have a behaviour policy which outlines measures to encourage good behaviour and prevent all forms of bullying amongst pupils. The policy should set out the behaviour expected of pupils, the sanctions that will be imposed for misbehaviour, and recognition for good behaviour. This should be communicated to all pupils, school staff and parents.

The department's statutory safeguarding guidance, 'Keeping children safe in education', which applies to all schools, makes it clear that all staff should receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection training which is regularly updated. It also makes clear that all staff should receive safeguarding and child protection updates as required, and at least annually, to continue to provide them with relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard children effectively. The department does not

mandate specific programmes as we believe that schools and colleges are best placed to decide on the training needs of their staff, taking into account local issues. The guidance can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101454/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_2022.pdf

The department publishes information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on the Educate Against Hate website. One of these resources is the Respectful School Communities toolkit, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools in developing a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can help to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying, and is available here:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/respectful-school-communities-self-review-signposting-tool-2/>

The department is also providing over £2 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2024, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools in tackling bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176785>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-29/176786>

Press Release

International Roma Day

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/international-roma-day>

New Publications

Dear Stephen: Race and Belonging 30 Years On

https://assets.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/64415d79ee634162e3f4b6d1_Stephen%20Lawrence%20ChillCreate%20Presentation%20Look%20%26%20Feel%20Vis3-min.pdf

Anti-Hindu Hate in Schools

<https://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/HJS-Anti-Hindu-Hate-in-Schools-Briefing-final.pdf>

Antisemitism Worldwide Report for 2022

<https://cst.tau.ac.il/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Antisemitism-Worldwide-Report-for-2022.pdf>

News

Nus Ghani: No action after Tory Islamophobia sacking probe

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65202889>

No action against Tory minister over Islamophobia claims, Rishi Sunak says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sunak-mark-spencer-islamophobia-accusations-b2315463.html>

Whip didn't fully brief Boris Johnson on 'Muslim sacking' row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mark-spencer-gave-incomplete-information-to-boris-johnson-in-islamophobia-case-l7vnwcd80>

Nus Ghani welcomes report criticising ex-chief whip but says alleged comments were 'devastating' – as it happened

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/live/2023/apr/06/metropolitan-police-mark-rowley-conservatives-labour-snp-uk-politics-latest>

Fears of Tory Islamophobia 'cover-up' as Spencer cleared over Ghani sacking

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/apr/06/rishi-sunak-says-no-further-action-against-mark-spencer-over-nusrat-ghani-sacking>

Suella Braverman rhetoric fuels racism, claims Tory peer

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65249872>

Senior Conservatives hit out at Suella Braverman's 'racist rhetoric'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/apr/13/senior-conservatives-hit-out-at-suella-bravermans-racist-rhetoric>

Suella Braverman's rhetoric on grooming gangs is 'racist', says top Tory peer

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-racism-grooming-gangs-b2318344.html>

Diane Abbott suspended as Labour MP after racism letter

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65365978>

Diane Abbott suspended by Labour after suggesting Jewish people do not face racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/diane-abbott-racism-jewish-labour-b2325160.html>

Diane Abbott loses whip after suggesting Jewish people do not face racism

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/23/diane-abbott-loses-whip-labour-party-jewish-racism-claims/>

Diane Abbott has Labour whip suspended after 'hateful antisemitic' remarks suggesting Jews do not face racism

<https://news.sky.com/story/diane-abbott-accused-of-hateful-antisemitism-after-suggesting-jews-do-not-face-racism-12864141>

Tory councillor who said 'all white men should have a Black slave' suspended

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/tory-councillor-white-men-black-slave-andrew-edwards-b2319335.html>

Tory councillor investigated by party chiefs over racist comment

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/12/tory-racism-allegation-andrew-edwards-pembrokeshire/>

Inquiry into Tory councillor over 'black slaves for white men' audio

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/inquiry-into-tory-councillor-over-black-slaves-for-white-men-video-mfr0cgb9d>

Police Federation chair accepts Met is institutionally racist, sexist and homophobic
https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/19/police-federation-chair-accepts-met-is-institutionally-racist-sexist-and-homophobic?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

Government pushing police to record fewer 'non-crime hate incidents'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/police-hate-incidents-racism-braverman-b2319012.html>

Nobody holds 'brutal' police to account - Doreen Lawrence
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65277940>

Met Police 'did not dig deep enough' to confront racism after Lawrence murder
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/mark-rowley-stephen-lawrence-met-police-londoners-sarah-everard-b2324394.html>

Stephen Lawrence case as relevant as ever, says mum
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-65347636>

Stephen Lawrence's legacy honoured at memorial 30 years after his racist murder
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/stephen-lawrence-murder-memorial-anniversary-b2324880.html>

Racism in Britain is not a black and white issue. It's far more complicated
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/15/racism-in-britain-is-not-a-black-and-white-issue-it-is-far-more-complicated>

Systemic racism and poverty increases gambling risk among ethnic minorities, warns landmark report
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-poverty-gambling-ethnic-minorities-b2319463.html>

Muslim pupils tell Hindu classmates to convert to Islam to avoid bullying
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/18/muslim-pupils-hindu-convert-islam-bullying/>

BMA suspends junior doctor who joked about gassing Jews on Twitter
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bma-junior-doctor-anti-semitism-b2324934.html>

Twitter and hate speech: What's the evidence?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-65246394>

Scotland prison: Holocaust denier's pamphlet available on UK website
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23427603.scotland-prison-holocaust-deniers-pamphlet-available-uk-website/>

Camra award ban for Essex pub displaying golly dolls
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-65260945>

Essex police deny Braverman rebuked them over pub seizure of golliwog dolls
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/10/essex-police-deny-braverman-rebuked-them-over-pub-seizure-of-golliwog-dolls>

Tories twice as likely as Labour voters to think golliwogs are acceptable, poll shows
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/golliwogs-pub-braverman-tory-polling-b2318661.html>

Essex White Hart pub displaying golly dolls vandalised
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-65297070>

Is a British pub racist for displaying golliwogs? Think how that question makes people of colour like me feel
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/17/british-pub-right-golliwogs-rightwing-politicians-press-racism-people-colour>

What kind of world is it when the police can seize your golliwogs?
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-kind-of-world-is-it-when-the-police-can-seize-your-golliwogs-sd2f7kbnk>

KSI apologises for racist slur in Sidemen YouTube video
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-65162143>

KSI: YouTuber visits mosque after racial slur in Sidemen video
<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-65187225>

Luther Burrell: Ex-England centre has 'closure' after RFU investigation finds racism claims were true
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/rugby-union/65173408>

'It's time to talk about black rugby players' hair'
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/rugby-union/65240196>

Extraordinarily stressed and vigilant? How racism makes people physically ill
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/apr/04/extraordinarily-stressed-and-vigilant-how-racism-makes-people-physically-ill>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Forced Marriage

Jamie Greene (Conservative) [S6W-16089] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-15590 by Keith Brown on 14 March 2023, whether it will provide the data that it holds on forced marriage-related offences in Scotland in each year since 2016.

Reply from Angela Constance: Please see the data requested on Police recorded forced marriage related offences in Scotland since 2016 in the following table.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Forced marriage under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Breaching a forced marriage protection order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-16089>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-15590>

Scottish Parliament Motions

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-08551] Celebration of Eid ul-Fitr 2023 – That the Parliament wishes all those celebrating the festival of Eid in Scotland, the UK and around the world a joyous Eid ul-Fitr; understands that the festival follows after 30 days of Ramadan where fasting takes place from dawn till dusk; further understands that this is an opportunity to share the values of Islam, including values of family and charity; believes that, with so many people around the world facing the effects of war, natural disasters and hardships, these values are more important than ever, and acknowledges what it sees as the enormous contributions that Muslims make across Scotland through civic society, the NHS, education, business and politics to enrich communities and the social fabric of the nation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08551>

Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-08517] Eid Mubarak – That the Parliament notes the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, beginning on the evening of 21 April 2023 depending on the moon sighting; understands that this marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and the breaking of the Ramadan fast; further understands that in this period Muslims give thanks to God for helping them complete their fasting, prayers, charity and zakat - giving alms to the poor - during Ramadan; notes that the holiday is celebrated with friends and relatives and involves the giving of gifts and the preparation of special food; expresses its hope that Muslims worldwide are able to celebrate this occasion in peace and security, and wishes the Muslim community in Scotland, and around the world, Eid Mubarak.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-08517>

Press Releases

A fresh start for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/a-fresh-start-for-scotland/>

A fair economy supporting Scotland's people

<https://www.gov.scot/news/a-fair-economy-supporting-scotlands-people/>

Connecting Scotland's worldwide diaspora

<https://www.gov.scot/news/connecting-scotlands-worldwide-diaspora/>

Coronation events in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/coronation-events-in-scotland/>

First Minister's Easter Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1644943249293864961>

First Minister's Orthodox Easter Message

<https://twitter.com/HumzaYousaf/status/1647572492926451712>

First Minister's Pesach Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1643652233597276160>

First Minister's Vaisakhi Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1646845978694098946>

First Minister's Eid Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1649349705434906624>

New Publications

“New Leadership, A Fresh Start for Scotland”: First Minister's speech

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-leadership-fresh-start-scotland-first-ministers-speech-18-april-2023/>

Equality, opportunity, community: New leadership - A fresh start

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/equality-opportunity-community-new-leadership-fresh-start/>

Ethnicity in the Justice System

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ethnicity-justice-system/>

Analysis of the ethnicity of individuals subject to hearings in Scottish courts

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/analysis-ethnicity-individuals-subject-hearings-scottish-courts/>

Scottish Connections Framework

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-connections-framework/>

The coronation of King Charles III

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2023/04/18/the-coronation-of-king-charles-iii/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Vaccination: Ethnic Groups

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [180916] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking (a) to tackle vaccine hesitancy in minority communities and (b) with local healthcare partners to help increase uptake of vaccines in minority communities.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: To assess confidence of the public in vaccinations programmes, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) undertakes research to understand how knowledge, beliefs and attitudes towards immunisation, vaccine safety and disease severity influence vaccine uptake decision-making. This includes working with partners in the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit for Vaccines exploring issues within specific minority communities.

Vaccine hesitancy is only part of the issue; ensuring good access to health care, particularly for inclusion health groups who face multiple barriers to care, is also critical. This includes efforts to improve access to mainstream services and specialist outreach services.

Some members of under-served communities can find accessing healthcare and vaccination services more challenging. UKHSA, in partnership with NHS England and the Department, undertakes a range of actions to improve vaccination coverage for all ages in England. This includes initiatives to improve access to the immunisation programme, data to better identify under-served individuals and populations, training for healthcare professionals and communication with the public. To support this, a range of leaflets and other promotional materials are available, in several languages, in print form and for download from our Health Publications website.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-17/180916>

The leaflets and promotional materials referred to above can be read at

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/>

Blood and Organs: Donors

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [175672] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 24 March 2023 to Question 170758 on Blood: Ethnic Groups, which languages literature relating to NHS blood and transplant donations is available in.

Reply from Neil O'Brien: NHS Blood and Transplant produces literature relating to donations in various languages including Welsh, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil, Urdu, Arabic, Somali, Polish, Romanian, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hebrew, and Yiddish.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-28/175672>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-21/170758>

The literature referred to above can be read at

<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/uk-laws/organ-donation-law-in-england/resources-and-downloads/>

Death Certificates: Ethnic Groups

Dawn Butler (Labour) [179846] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the recording of ethnicity on death certificates has not been made mandatory.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Civil Registration is a devolved matter, and the General Register Office can only advise on death registration in England and Wales.

The information collected on a death registration is specified in law. As the death registration process itself is not the most effective method to establish ethnicity, there are no plans to change the law.

The Minister for Women and Equalities has stated that the government plans to include ethnicity information in the new electronic medical certificate of cause of death. The introduction of this new electronic certificate is being led by the Department of Health and Social Care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-14/179846>

Press Releases

Crown Jewels light and sound show to tour UK and bring magic of Coronation to millions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crown-jewels-light-and-sound-show-to-tour-uk-and-bring-magic-of-coronation-to-millions>

How to watch the Coronation and processions (Saturday 6 May)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-coronation-of-their-majesties-king-charles-iii-and-queen-camilla/how-to-watch-the-coronation-and-processions-saturday-6-may>

How to watch the Coronation Concert (Sunday 7 May)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-coronation-of-their-majesties-king-charles-iii-and-queen-camilla/how-to-watch-the-coronation-concert-sunday-7-may>

Prime Minister's Easter Message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-rishi-sunaks-easter-message-9-april-2023>

Prime Minister's Vaisakhi Message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-prime-ministers-vaisakhi-message-2023>

The Prime Minister's message for Eid al-Fitr 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-prime-ministers-message-for-eid-al-fitr-2023>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families

- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

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

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

Publications

Deepening poverty in Scotland – no one left behind?

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/file/59848/download?token=w6K8Srzd&filetype=full-report>

Scotland in the Red: A look at personal debt statistics in Scotland 2022

<https://www.stepchange.org/Portals/0/assets/pdf/scotland-in-the-red-stepchange-scotland.pdf>

News

Dramatic increase in very deep poverty sees nearly half a million Scots facing profound hardship

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/dramatic-increase-very-deep-poverty-sees-nearly-half-million-scots-facing-profound-hardship>

Thousands more Scots living in very deep poverty - charity

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-65305563>

Number of Scots living in 'very deep' poverty up almost 50 per cent since mid-1990s

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/number-of-scots-living-in-very-deep-poverty-up-almost-50-per-cent-since-mid-1990s-4107578>

Debt and arrears levels in Scotland rocket

<https://tfn.scot/news/debt-and-arrears-levels-in-scotland-rocket>

Half of all UK consumers have cut non-essential spending

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/apr/03/half-of-all-uk-consumers-have-cut-non-essential-spending>

Shoppers swap fresh for frozen as food bills rise

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-64421268>

UK inflation: Food prices rise at fastest rate for 45 years

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65312127>

UK inflation falls by less than expected as food prices soar by 19.1%

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/apr/19/uk-inflation-falls-consumer-prices-index>

Surge in smart meters remotely switched to more expensive 'pay-as-you-go' plans

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/surge-smart-meters-remotely-switched-expensive-pay-as-you-go/>

More than 90 charities unite behind a powerful call on party leaders to guarantee essentials for low-income households amid rising hardship

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/90-charities-unite-behind-guarantee-essentials>

UK cost of living crisis leading people to gambling, says charity

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/09/cost-of-living-crisis-increase-problem-gambling-uk-gamcare>

Cost of living: Large rent rise causes 66-year-old to live in a van

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-kent-65274902>

Pensioner who refused to put heating on over cost of living dies of hypothermia

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/04/03/pensioner-refused-to-put-heating-cost-of-living-hypothermia/>

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Other New Publications

Lived experiences of gambling, gambling-related harms, and crime within ethnic minority communities

https://howardleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Howard-League_Summary_Lived-experiences-of-gambling-gambling-related-harms-and-crime-within-ethnic-minority-communities_Commission-on-Crime-and-Gambling-Related-Harms_April-2023.pdf

Scottish Third Sector Tracker, Wave 5: Winter 2022

Report

[https://storage.googleapis.com/scvo-documents-evidence/0693z00000b67PyAAI-Scottish third sector tracker wave5 report winter22.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/scvo-documents-evidence/0693z00000b67PyAAI-Scottish%20third%20sector%20tracker%20wave5%20report%20winter22.pdf)

Infographic

<https://storage.googleapis.com/scvo-documents-evidence/0693z00000ZlyVUAAZ-Scottish-Third%20Sector%20Tracker%20-%20Wave%205%20Winter%202022.pdf>

Data tables

<https://storage.googleapis.com/scvo-documents-evidence/0693z00000ZlyWDAAZ-Wave-5%20data%20tables.xlsx>

An Introduction to Cyber Security

<https://www.cyberscotland.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Introduction-to-Cyber-Security-Mar23.pdf>

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Other News

Census reveals first data on sexuality and gender by religion and ethnicity

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/census-england-wales-christian-hindu-b2313945.html>

New Bill has power to increase trust and confidence in Scotland's charities

<https://tfn.scot/opinion/new-bill-has-power-to-increase-trust-and-confidence-in-scotlands-charities>

King Charles supports study into Royal Family slavery links

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65200570>

Grooming gangs and ethnicity: What does the evidence say?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65174096>

NSPCC warns against framing grooming gangs problem as ethnicity-based

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/apr/03/nspcc-warns-against-framing-grooming-gangs-problem-as-ethnicity-based>

Ethnicity of grooming gangs cannot be ignored, police told

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/02/grooming-gangs-ethnicity-political-correctness-rishi-sunak/>

Tories and Labour row over the role of British Asians in grooming gangs

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/04/03/tories-labour-grooming-abuse-gangs-asians-rishi-suella/>

Grooming gangs don't just come 'from one ethnic background', Tories warned

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-suella-braverman-grooming-gangs-labour-b2313059.html>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

House of Commons Library Briefing

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9705/CBP-9705.pdf>

Section 35 Order challenge

<https://www.gov.scot/news/section-35-order-challenge/>

Gender recognition reform: Section 35 Order challenge - petition

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/gender-recognition-reform-section-35-order-challenge-petition/>

Scottish Parliament written answer

Rona Mackay (SNP) [S6W-17198] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what its response is to the UK Secretary of State for Scotland's use of section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 to prevent the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill from proceeding to Royal Assent, after it was passed by the Scottish Parliament.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill was passed by an overwhelming majority of the Scottish Parliament, with

support from members of all parties. The use of section 35 of the Scotland Act 1998 to stop the legislation proceeding to Royal Assent is an unprecedented challenge to the Scottish Parliament's ability to legislate on clearly devolved matters.

The Order was made without any specific prior engagement or notification by the Secretary of State during the Bill process. It was made without any specific request for amendments to the Bill from any UK Minister. Since the Order was laid, and despite requests, the Secretary of State and the UK Government have refused to provide any further clarification or engagement with the Scottish Government or Scottish Parliament. We have offered to discuss specific changes to the Bill with the Secretary of State, but given that this offer has not been taken up, it is impossible to know what changes would satisfy the reasons the UK Government has given, particularly as he has highlighted that the existence of two different schemes within the UK is in itself problematic.

To uphold the democratic decision of the Parliament, and ensure proper protection of devolution, Scottish Ministers will now lodge a petition for judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision. The Scottish Government does not consider the reasons set out by him provide sufficient justification for his decision to make an order under section 35 of the Scotland Act. The Scottish Government also believes that the UK Government has not used the power in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK and Devolved Governments (agreed in 1999 and updated in 2013), or as envisaged when the Scotland Act was passed.

While the Scotland Act conferred the power in Section 35 on the Secretary of State, its use is unprecedented, so it is important to have clarity on the interpretation and scope of the power, and its impact on devolution. Those matters and the use of the power on this occasion should be legally tested in the courts.

The deadline for lodging a petition necessitates doing so during recess but I will make a statement to Parliament after the Easter recess, subject to agreement of the parliamentary bureau.

As is usual in these circumstances, the Scottish Government will not be able to comment on live legal proceedings.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-17198>

Ministerial Statement and Q&A

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15248&i=130054#ScotParIOR>

House of Commons Library Briefing: The Secretary of State's veto and the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9705/CBP-9705.pdf>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Bill of Rights Bill

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

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

**** Illegal Migration Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3429>

Legislative Scrutiny, Joint Committee on Human Rights

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12975/html/>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0284/amend/illegal_migration_rep_rm_0424.pdf

Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3436>

**** Online Safety Bill**

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

Ministerial Statement: Government Amendments at Lords Committee Stage

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-04-19/hlws713>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-04-19/debates/0C27A2E7-484D-46A2-A68C-4C6B9FBA671E/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50709/documents/3298>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50731/documents/3301>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50781/documents/3332>

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

**** closes this week!**

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

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

Reforming the criminal law to address misogyny (closing date: 2 June 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/reforming-criminal-law-address-misogyny-scottish-government-consultation/>

Review of the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (closing date 18 June 2023)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-race-relations-ni-order-1997>

ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Marketing communications opportunity opens again

Closing date for applications: 28 April 2023

GCVS and the University of Glasgow scheme offering three voluntary sector organisations an opportunity to receive support with their marketing communications. From September to December, 3rd and 4th year Marketing Communications students will create and develop an integrated marketing communications plan based on the needs of the organisations. For information see

<https://www.gcv.org.uk/blog/glauni-marcomms-2023/>

People's Postcode Trust

*There will be two further opportunities to apply for funding in 2023 but **each will only be open for 24 hours**. Applications can be submitted from:*

10am on 3 July 2023

10 am on 2 October 2023

*Application forms will go live at the above dates and times and must be **started and submitted** within the submission window. In the meantime, a copy of the application questions can be downloaded in order to help you prepare your submission.*

National Lottery funding of between £500 and £25,000 for projects on a wide range of themes including supporting marginalised groups and tackling inequality. Funding priorities include communities experiencing racial inequity, people with disabilities, and the LGBT+ Community. For information and to apply see

<https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

and

https://www.postcodetrust.org.uk/media/2724/3_ppt_fundingguide_2023.pdf

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

**** this week!**

Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 Theme Launch

25 April 2023 (online, 4.00–5.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust event to announce the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2024, and get ideas and useful starting points for planning local HMD activities. The event will include conversation with Holocaust and genocide survivors, as they discuss why the theme resonates with them and why it is relevant to us all today. For information see <https://www.hmd.org.uk/holocaust-memorial-day-2024-theme-launch/>

**** this week!**

A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics

26 April 2023 (online, 10.00–3.00)

11 May 2023 (online, 10.00–3.00)

24 May 2023 (online, 10.00–12.00)

THRE course for people who are just starting out and want to learn the fundamentals or who know a bit about human rights and equalities and want to know more. For information about 26 April see <https://tinyurl.com/prje3us3>, about 11 May see <https://tinyurl.com/bdz4edb9>, and about 24 May see <https://tinyurl.com/3yjwdvwt>

**** Applying a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach: Workshop**

2 May 2023 (online, 1.00–4.00)

15 May 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

1 June 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE course about applying a human rights and equalities first approach – for people who already know a bit about human rights and equalities or are already familiar with the human rights and equalities first approach, and want to know how to apply them to their role and/or organisation. For information about 2 May see <https://tinyurl.com/389ys5ke>, about 15 May see <https://tinyurl.com/2p8zzeuv>, and 1 June see <https://tinyurl.com/59fc5enf>

**** Reflections on a Human Rights Agenda for Scotland**

3 May 2023 (online, 9.30–11.00)

Human Rights Consortium Scotland event to listen to conversations and reflections from leading human rights experts and activists who will share their thoughts on the Scottish Government and civil society's priorities to better protect human rights in Scotland in the coming months. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mr47chxy>

The Big Help Out

8 May 2023 (UK-wide)

The Big Help Out will be a national day of volunteering on the Bank Holiday Monday of the King's Coronation weekend. For information see <https://thebighelpout.org.uk/> or contact margaret.starkie@volunteerscotland.org.uk

**** Protect UK Workshop for the Voluntary Sector**

24 May 2023 (online, 12.00–1.00)

National Counter Terrorism Security Office workshop to learn more about the ProtectUK Platform its uses and benefits, and understand how the ProtectUK App (formerly ACT) will benefit your organisation in countering terrorism and developing your protective security and preparedness. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5brvpy7m>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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