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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Refugees: Ukraine

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-17812] To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that Ukrainians who have (a) recently arrived and (b) already settled in Scotland have access to the guide, *Scotland for Ukrainians: a guide for displaced people*, which was published on 2 May 2023.

Reply from Emma Roddick: The Scottish Government has undertaken a range of measures to promote the guidance for displaced people from Ukraine. At the point of publication, the guidance was issued via direct mailing to a wide range of stakeholders and delivery partners, including local government and third sector. It has also been promoted on Scottish Government social media channels including

Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. We have engaged with external stakeholders such as ScotHosts, Help Ukraine Scotland and Barnardo's to have the guidance promoted directly on their social media channels. This ensures the guidance is sent directly to Ukrainians as well as Hosts who support Ukrainian families.

In addition, Scottish Government subsequently published a stakeholder toolkit to support our partners to further promote the guidance. This, too, was issued to a wide range of stakeholders and delivery partners. The toolkit, which is available online to download, contains information on the guidance alongside a range of assets for use, including key messages, social media posts and videos focusing on accommodation, showcasing Scotland, and rights and protections.

The Scottish Government has produced posters promoting the guidance and worked closely with local authorities and our partner organisations such as the Scottish Refugee Council, Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain and Volunteer Edinburgh to have the posters displayed at arrival points, in welcome accommodation, or other places where our partners meet with people displaced from Ukraine.

The guidance was also promoted in Scottish Government's Scottish Government: 'Supporting Ukraine' monthly newsletter, with a call to action for those subscribers to share the content widely.

We are grateful to our partners for their work in helping to ensure displaced people from have access to the guide and we are committed to continuing to work in partnership to further promote it widely.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-17812>

The guide referred to above can be read at

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

The toolkit referred to above can be read at

<https://sgmarketing-newsroom.prgloo.com/resources/f/safer-scotland-campaigns/ukraine-a-guide-for-displaced-people/stakeholder-toolkit>

To subscribe to the newsletter referred to above see

<https://scot.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=feffb8d81365d935d19ae1c3d&id=fa845163cc>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Illegal Migration Bill: Access to Justice

Patrick Grady (SNP) [904937] What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential impact of the Illegal Migration Bill on access to justice.

Chris Stephens (SNP) [904948] What recent discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on the potential impact of the Illegal Migration Bill on access to justice.

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Alex Chalk): The Illegal Migration Bill will break the business model of ruthless people-smuggling gangs, deter migrants from making dangerous channel crossings, and restore fairness to our asylum system. The Bill provides a robust but fair legal framework to remove illegal migrants swiftly while ensuring the proper opportunity to appeal remains. I am working closely with colleagues on the implementation of the Bill.

Patrick Grady: Access to justice is a basic human right, and judicial review is a particularly vital safeguard against unlawful state decision making, so why are the Government blocking the opportunities for judicial review in the Illegal Migration Bill? Does that not reflect a Government who are perhaps not so confident about the actual legality of the Bill?

Reply from Alex Chalk: No, absolutely not. Access to justice is at the heart of the

Bill, and indeed we make sure that where it is necessary, people can have the legal advice to make those points. But the hon. Gentleman's question is a little rich in circumstances where the SNP seems hellbent on getting rid of jury trials in some of the most significant cases. We are absolutely clear that juries are the lamp of our liberty. We will not be getting rid of them—why is the hon. Gentleman so keen to do so?

Chris Stephens: In relation to that answer, as Lord Reed set out clearly in the Supreme Court in 2017, the principle of “unimpeded access” to the courts is a right that can be traced all the way back to Magna Carta. How will the courts be able effectively to uphold the rule of law if the UK Government use legislation to shut off legal avenues for judicial review?

Reply from Alex Chalk: Respectfully, the hon. Gentleman may not have quite read the entirety of the Bill, which makes it clear that in appropriate cases where there is an imminent risk of serious and irreversible harm, there will be the opportunity to make those points. He mentions Magna Carta; Magna Carta also includes the right to be tried by a jury of one's peers, which he apparently wants to get rid of. I am interested to note that one of the most effective critics of that proposal was none other than the most eminent Scottish jurist Lord Hope of Craighead. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): I start by congratulating the new Justice Secretary on his appointment: he has always come across as a measured and principled parliamentarian, and someone who is very serious about the rule of law. But what better way to trash that hard-earned reputation than by penning a joint opinion piece with the Home Secretary in defence of the outrageous Illegal Migration Bill, which blatantly trashes four international rights conventions and which the Law Society itself has warned has serious implications for the UK's standing as a country that upholds the rule of law? Why is the Justice Secretary defending the Home Secretary instead of the rule of law?

Reply from Alex Chalk: The rule of law is absolutely essential to who we are as a nation. It does mean, on the one hand, that no one should be mightier than the law and we should all be accountable equally before it, but it also means that where there are those who break the law—I pause to note that arriving illegally in the UK has been against the law for decades—there must be consequences. If there are not, the rule of law is brought into disrepute. That would be bad for our country and, indeed, for the international rules-based order.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-16/debates/975433E0-C40A-489A-A553-7DB2CC841C02/IllegalMigrationBillAccessToJustice>

Lord Reed's statement of principle, referred to above, can be read in the Supreme Court judgement at

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0233-judgment.pdf>

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

Steve McCabe (Labour) [904884] What recent assessment [has the Minister] made of the adequacy of the timescales for processing applications to the Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme.

Reply from the Minister for Armed Forces (James Heapey): The Ministry of Defence continues to process ARAP applications at pace, thanks to the recruitment of more caseworkers and improved systems and processes. In the first four months of 2023 we issued more than 12,200 eligibility decisions. We aim to process all outstanding initial applications by August 2023.

Steve McCabe: I have recently written to the Minister about a family still trapped in Afghanistan, whose case, I was told in January, was being processed by the MOD, but this is about more than a constituency case. The standing of our armed services is affected, and scandals such as the pilot threatened with Rwanda do not help. Does the Minister recognise that the shambles over our treatment of Afghan refugees is damaging the reputation of our military, with obvious implications for future operations?

Reply from James Heappey: I certainly do not recognise the connection that the hon. Gentleman has made. The offer made through ARAP, the scheme to bring to the UK Afghans who served alongside the UK armed forces and whose lives are now at risk as a consequence, is being honoured and continues to be a major line of effort by the MOD. We have had hundreds of thousands of applications, the vast majority of which have come from people who either served in the Afghan national forces—while their effort was heroic, they were never who ARAP was aimed at—or never had anything to do with the UK armed forces at all. Their desperation to leave their country is understandable, but the ARAP scheme is what it was always set up to be, the evacuation of those who served alongside the UK armed forces, and the MOD continues to put a lot of effort into delivering that. We will complete the processing of applications by this summer.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-15/debates/4EE7C24C-AC9F-4F67-B414-B231F1CB0C47/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

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

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

Asylum: Applications

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [184319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to take steps to negotiate deals with international counterparts to process asylum claims outside the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are committed to working closely with international partners to tackle the global migration crisis and disrupt the business model of criminal gangs who are putting lives at risk. However, we are unable to comment on discussions that may be being held with other countries. The ground-breaking Partnership between the UK and Rwanda is a model that could be replicated elsewhere, and we are always willing to work with partners around the world to tackle this joint challenge.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184319>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [184350] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to publish guidance on wider groups of Afghans eligible for resettlement under the Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As of 31 December 2022, 24,500 people have been brought to safety from Afghanistan and the neighbouring region. This figure includes over 7,600 individuals granted settled status under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Eligible people are prioritised and referred for resettlement under the ACRS through one of three referral pathways. This includes individuals evacuated or called forward for evacuation under Pathway 1, vulnerable refugees referred by UNHCR under Pathway 2, and British Council and Gardaworld contractors and Chevening alumni referred under the first stage of Pathway 3.

In the second stage of Pathway 3, our commitment to work with international

partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk still stands. We are not able to open for referrals at this present time, but further information will be published in due course.

Our immediate focus is ensuring the resettlement of those eligible in the first stage of Pathway 3, which includes individuals who directly supported the UK and international community's efforts in Afghanistan

We recognise there are many vulnerable individuals who remain in Afghanistan and the region. However, the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions about who will be prioritised have to be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184350>

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [184887] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the Answer of 15 March to Question 162468 on Afghanistan: Refugees, how many Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy cases are awaiting processing by his Department.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 16 May 2023, 62,564 cases are awaiting processing.

The Ministry of Defence continues to process ARAP applications at pace, and In January, February and March 2023 consecutively, we processed and issued decisions on more applications than in any month previously. We aim to process all outstanding initial applications by August 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184887>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-03-10/162468>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [184990] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the potential benefits of allowing Afghan nationals living in the UK who came under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy to enrol in HM Armed Forces.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: Individuals with Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK have no immigration restrictions on their employment, however, under section 340 of the Armed Forces Act 2006, the right to enlist in the UK Armed Forces is restricted to British (British citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Overseas Territory Citizen or British National (Overseas) Citizen), Irish, or Commonwealth citizens, as either sole or dual nationals. The only exception to this legislation is the special and unique arrangement permitting Nepalese citizens to enlist in the Brigade of Gurkhas.

Afghans relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, and any other migrants to the UK, would only be eligible to enlist in the UK Armed Forces if they applied for and obtained British nationality or were a dual Commonwealth or Irish national.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/184990>

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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [181359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to issue Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy and Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme personnel and their families housed in bridging hotels with notice of their eviction from their hotel accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Bridging hotels are not, and were never designed to be, permanent accommodation. That is why dedicated teams across central and local government have supported over 9,000 Afghans into settled homes.

However, around 8,000 remain in hotel accommodation. Long-term residency in hotels has prevented some Afghans from properly putting down roots, committing to employment and fully integrating into communities. From the end of April 2023, individuals staying in hotels and serviced accommodation began to receive legal notice to leave their temporary accommodation by a certain date.

Dedicated cross-government casework teams, made up of Home Office Liaison Officers and DWP staff, are based in hotels and are working alongside local authority officials to provide advice to Afghans, including information on how to rent in the private sector, find employment and English language training.

The government is providing £285 million of new funding to local authorities supporting the Afghan resettlement schemes. This includes £35 million which will go towards increasing the level of support available as well as a £250 million expansion of the Local Authority Housing Fund to help councils to source homes for Afghans currently in bridging accommodation.

This new, generous package of support comes in addition to the existing support available for people on the ACRS and ARAP schemes, including access to welfare system, the right to work and full access to public services.

The move from hotels into settled accommodation is in the best interests of families and individuals and will enable them to benefit from the freedoms of independent living that only suitable non-hotel accommodation can provide.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-18/181359>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stephen Timms (Labour) [184559] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to help Afghan refugees who have not secured settled accommodation through (a) a direct offer and (b) the Find Your Own Accommodation scheme by the time the bridging hotel accommodation ends.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All eligible Afghan citizens who come to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) have valid immigration status, which means that they have the right to work, the right to rent, access to education and healthcare and can apply for public funds.

The Find Your Own (FYO) accommodation pathway has been established and empowers Afghan families to source their own accommodation, rather than the Home Office. Council support staff in hotels will work closely with households to

help them navigate the pathway.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) own the FYO accommodation policy. Guidance has been made available to local authorities on the FYO accommodation pathway and how to support those on Afghan Resettlement Schemes looking to move into the private rented sector. Local authorities have also been provided with resources which can be distributed to Afghan households on the FYO accommodation pathway. This includes information on the support available, the process, advice on guarantors and how to search for a home. Local authorities can access all available resources on Knowledge Hub. Whilst the Home Office are unable to provide the requested breakdown of the numbers participating in the FYO accommodation scheme, Home Office officials continue to work at pace, alongside c.350 local authorities across the UK, to meet the demand for housing.

The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#), published on 23 February, show that over 9,000 people have now 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).

In December, DLUHC announced the £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund for English councils to obtain housing for those fleeing conflicts (including Ukrainians and Afghans). It is expected to deliver up to 500 homes for Afghan households including larger, complex families. As announced on 28 March this fund is being expanded by £250m with the majority of the additional funding used to provide further housing for Afghans currently in bridging accommodation, and the rest used to ease existing homelessness pressures.

Across the UK, we will provide over £7,000 per person of flexible funding to enable LAs to support move-on from hotels, consisting of a much more flexible allocation of the existing Housing Costs Fund and £4.1k per person of new funding. This new funding recognises the additional burdens being place on councils to support Afghans into settled homes as quickly as possible and in a way that makes sense locally. The flexibility of this funding looks to provide councils with the ability to address the key supply and affordability challenges this cohort face in accessing their own accommodation.

Alongside this new, flexible funding, we will also increase the flexibility of the wraparound support payment to enable it to be used more widely for housing costs, including capital spend where necessary to support moves out of hotels.

The Home Office is unable to provide the amount allocated to each local authority participating in the FYO accommodation scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184559>

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

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

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

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

The following four questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stephen Timms (Labour) [184556] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the number of (a) local authorities participating in the Afghan resettlement scheme and (b) households accepted for resettlement support through the Find Your Own Accommodation scheme, broken down by local authority.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [184557] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding his Department has allocated in total for local authorities

to support Afghan refugees into private rented accommodation through the Local Authority Tariff and Housing Costs Fund; and how much funding has been allocated to each local authority which has agreed to assist refugees through the Find Your Own Accommodation scheme.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [184558] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's factsheet on offers of settled accommodation for Afghan refugees in bridging hotels, published on 24 April 2023, what recent guidance she has issued to local authorities to assist with helping Afghan refugees to secure private rented accommodation through the Find Your Own Accommodation scheme.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [184560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's factsheet on Afghan refugee resettlement moves from bridging hotel accommodation, published on 24 April 2023, how her Department decides which households will receive a direct offer of settled accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All eligible Afghan citizens who come to the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) have valid immigration status, which means that they have the right to work, the right to rent, access to education and healthcare and can apply for public funds.

The Find Your Own (FYO) accommodation pathway has been established and empowers Afghan families to source their own accommodation, rather than the Home Office. Council support staff in hotels will work closely with households to help them navigate the pathway.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) own the FYO accommodation policy. Guidance has been made available to local authorities on the FYO accommodation pathway and how to support those on Afghan Resettlement Schemes looking to move into the private rented sector. Local authorities have also been provided with resources which can be distributed to Afghan households on the FYO accommodation pathway. This includes information on the support available, the process, advice on guarantors and how to search for a home. Local authorities can access all available resources on Knowledge Hub.

Whilst the Home Office are unable to provide the requested breakdown of the numbers participating in the FYO accommodation scheme, Home Office officials continue to work at pace, alongside c.350 local authorities across the UK, to meet the demand for housing.

The latest [Immigration System Statistics, year ending December 2022](#), published on 23 February, show that over 9,000 people have now 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).

In December, DLUHC announced the £500 million Local Authority Housing Fund for English councils to obtain housing for those fleeing conflicts (including Ukrainians and Afghans). It is expected to deliver up to 500 homes for Afghan households including larger, complex families. As announced on 28 March this fund is being expanded by £250m with the majority of the additional funding used to provide further housing for Afghans currently in bridging accommodation, and the rest used to ease existing homelessness pressures.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184556>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184557>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184558>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184560>

The factsheet referred to above can be read at

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2023/04/24/uk-government-support-for-resettled-afghans-in-bridging-accommodation-factsheet-april-2023/>

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

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

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

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

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

Undocumented Migrants

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [184737] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will make an estimate of the number of migrants who have illegally arrived in the UK since 1 January 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has published data on the number of migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats on a weekly basis since January 2023 which can be accessed here: [Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats](#)

Data on the quarterly total number of attempts to enter the UK irregularly is published in the irregular migration to the UK statistics release within the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed dataset and summary tables](#)'. This data is currently published up to end of December. Data for the next quarter (January to March 2023) is due to be published 25th May 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184737>

Undocumented Workers

Justin Madders (Labour) [183729] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has for the number of people working illegally on app-based work platforms.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office does not have an estimate of the number of individuals working illegally specifically on app-based work platforms. Employers are required to undertake right to work checks on any prospective employee to confirm their legal status. It is a criminal offence for employers to knowingly enter a contract of employment with an individual who does not have a right to work in the UK. Employers that have not conducted the correct checks can face a civil penalty of up to £20,000 per illegal worker and closure of their business. Tackling illegal migration is a key Government priority, including illegal working. During the first quarter of 2023, a total of 1,303 Immigration Enforcement visits took place across the UK to identify illegal working. The Home Office is working with all stakeholders, including law enforcement partners to drive collaboration on tackling illegal working. This includes platform-based business models to ensure compliant recruitment and on-boarding practices, whilst also maintaining protection of legitimate workers and those at risk of exploitation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/183729>

Asylum: Sudan

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [183589] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people with Sudanese citizenship will be able to apply for asylum in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it. Between 2015 and 2022, we have offered places to almost half a million (481,804) people from all over the world seeking safety with our country specific and resettlement schemes.

The UK's resettlement approach will continue to work with the UNHCR and focus on those who are most vulnerable and will benefit most from our support. The UK is proud to have welcomed Sudanese nationals through both our UK Resettlement Scheme and Community Sponsorship in 2021 and 2022.

We also welcome eligible Sudanese nationals through our refugee family reunion route. This policy has reunited many refugees with their family members; more than 44,600 family reunion visas have been granted since 2015, with over half issued to children. This policy also makes clear the discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183589>

Asylum: Sudan

Tobias Ellwood (Conservative) [184320] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to provide safe and legal routes for people displaced from Sudan who are dependents of British nationals to come to the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Over 2,000 people have been evacuated to safety in the longest and largest airlift of any western nation during the crisis in Sudan. As well as British nationals, the UK has also evacuated Sudanese clinicians who work in the NHS.

In addition, those individuals who were evacuated from Sudan by other governments who would have met the criteria for evacuation by the UK government will also be able to come to the UK.

The UK Government is monitoring the situation in Sudan closely to ensure that it is able to respond appropriately. We recognise that some people displaced by the fighting may wish to join family in the UK, and where those family members do not have a current UK visa, they can apply for one via one of our standard visa routes, which remain available, and applications can be submitted at the nearest Visa Application Centre (VAC).

Those wishing to come to the UK for a short time to stay with family can apply for a visit visa which allows them to stay in the UK for up to six months. Immediate family members of British citizens, and those settled in the UK, who wish to come and live in the UK can apply under one of the existing family visa routes. 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

Applications can be made at any VAC and we will accept applications which would normally have to be made in the country where the person is living at any VAC from someone who has been evacuated, or self-evacuated, from Sudan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184320>

Sudan: Refugees

Judith Cummins (Labour) [184400] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether he is taking steps to help support forcibly displaced Sudanese citizens with family members already in the UK.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: Since 25 April, the UK has supported the departure of 2,450 people, including British nationals, dependants, and other eligible nationals out of Sudan. The UK Government continues to provide limited consular assistance to British nationals still in Sudan and to those who have left by alternative means to neighbouring countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184400>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Iran

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [184312] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Iranian nationals have claimed asylum in the UK in each of the last five years.

Asylum

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [184317] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been granted refugee status in the UK in the last 12 months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum claims by nationality in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications by Iranian nationals are published in table Asy_D01 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'.

Data on how many asylum seekers have been granted refugee status are published in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'.

Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the end of December 2022. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184312>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184317>

Asylum

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [184752] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps the Government has taken to support asylum seekers in the UK who are (a) living in relative poverty, (b) affected by mental health issues and (c) homeless.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government is under a legal obligation to provide support to all asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute.

The level of the weekly allowance is reviewed annually to ensure it meets the essential living needs of asylum seekers. From 21 December 2022, the government increased the main rate of asylum support that is provided under sections 4 and 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 to £45 per week on an interim basis. Asylum seekers also have access to free NHS care, which includes mental health services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-11/184752>

Asylum: Health Services

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [184134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on NHS waiting lists for asylum seekers; and if she will take steps to ensure that asylum seekers are not moved to a new area while on an NHS waiting list.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office and its accommodation providers are not statutory providers or commissioners of healthcare. Therefore, they do not have systematic access to health or medical data of asylum seekers. They would

not be immediately aware if an asylum seeker was on an NHS waiting list for treatment unless this information had been submitted to them either directly and consensually by a supported asylum seeker or via Migrant Help.

Section 97(3A) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 sets out factors that may be considered when deciding the type of accommodation to allocate to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers in need of support. The overriding principle when allocating accommodation is that it is offered on a 'no choice basis'. However, requests from asylum seekers on asylum support to be accommodated in a particular location are considered under the Home Office Allocation of Asylum Accommodation Policy. All requests should be considered on a case by case basis, balancing that overarching principle that accommodation is offered on a 'no choice basis' against the strength of the exceptional circumstances that might make it appropriate to agree to the request to provide accommodation in a particular location.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184134>

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

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

The Home Office Allocation of Asylum Accommodation Policy, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1126728/Allocation_of_accommodation.pdf

Asylum: Pregnancy

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [184135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take steps to ensure that asylum seekers who are pregnant are not moved to a new area (a) before and (b) after their baby is born.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Wherever possible, we will settle pregnant women into accommodation where they will be able to access services throughout their pregnancy and into new motherhood.

Pregnant women will be accommodated as close to the maternity unit where they are currently accessing and receiving care, as well as existing sources of family and social support.

Where there is no previous link to maternity services, pregnant women will be dispersed from IA as soon as possible so that they can establish health and community links in the dispersal area and avoid disruption around delivery.

Moves in the late stages of pregnancy would only be undertaken either at the request of the individual or her treating medical practitioners.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184135>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Pregnant Women

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [184480] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason pregnant women detained under the Illegal Migration Bill will not be subject to the 72 hour detention limit introduced in 2016; and what steps she has taken to assess the potential impact of the Illegal Migration Bill on pregnant women.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [184481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women each year who were held in migrant detention while pregnant died in the perinatal period (a) before the implementation of the 72-hour detention limit for pregnant women in 2016 and (b) after the implementation of that limit.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: It is important that we do not inadvertently create perverse incentives for evil people smuggling gangs to target particularly vulnerable groups. Therefore, pregnant women who come to the UK illegally and fall within the duty to remove will not be exempt from detention and removal under this Bill.

The Home Office takes the welfare of those in detention seriously. We will only detain pregnant women when it is necessary and in appropriate accommodation with appropriate healthcare provisions.

An equality impact assessment has been completed for the Illegal Migration Bill, and is available here: [Illegal Migration Bill publications](#).

The Home Office are not aware that any women who have been pregnant whilst in immigration detention have died during their perinatal period.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184480>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184481>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Pregnant Women

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [184482] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many women who were held in migrant detention while pregnant miscarried or experienced a still birth each year (a) before the implementation of the 72-hour detention limit in 2016 and (b) after the implementation of that limit.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [184483] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the ten years up to and including 2016, how many midwife appointments on average did (a) pregnant women held in migrant detention centres and (b) pregnant women in the wider UK population have in the course of their pregnancy.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

Data on the total number of pregnant women detained in the immigration detention estate each quarter is published in table PWD_01 of the 'Immigration Enforcement data: Q4 2022'. This data is only available from July 2016 and goes up to the end of September 2022. For data prior to 2010, see the archived Detention tables.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184482>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184483>

The data referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1138252/IE_Q4_2022_Published.ods

Asylum: Children

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [184133] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that children who are asylum seekers remain in areas local to their schools.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Guidance can be found here: [Asylum accommodation requests: caseworker guidance](#). The pressures on the asylum estate means accommodation must be on a 'no choice basis'. However, children who are asylum seekers and in their final school or college year leading up to their GCSE, Scottish Highers, AS or A-level exams may remain accommodated in that particular area to allow them to complete exams, provided that they have been enrolled at that school for a significant part of the previous school year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-09/184133>

Refugees: Housing

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [183866] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has plans to introduce a policy similar to Homes for Ukraine scheme for individuals from (a) Afghanistan, (b) Syria, (c) Sudan and (d) Ethiopia.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK continues to welcome refugees through existing resettlement schemes which are global in scope, including the UK

Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme and the Family Reunion Scheme. The UK has offered a place through these routes to just under 500,000 individuals since 2015.

Under these schemes, the UNHCR will refer refugees for resettlement after undertaking an assessment of people's needs and vulnerabilities. The UK does not seek to influence which cases are referred by the UNHCR under these global schemes.

The Community Sponsorship Scheme is open to refugees of all nationalities under the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), or the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). As such, there are currently no plans to establish any new sponsorship schemes specifically for individuals from Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan or Ethiopia.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-05/183866>

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 Mandate Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

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

<https://www.gov.uk/settlement-refugee-or-humanitarian-protection/family-reunion>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Christopher Chope (Conservative) [184265] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will set out her Department's specification for adequate (a) accommodation, (b) catering, (c) laundry facilities and (d) transport facilities for people seeking asylum who are non-detained; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation and other support whilst their application for asylum is being considered as set out in the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. The Act also sets out the need to meet essential living needs. The support package provided usually consists of accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to meet other essential living needs such as food, toiletries, travel and clothing. The support rate for those in contingency accommodation is intended to cover essential living items that are not met by the accommodation provider such as clothing, non-prescription medicine and travel.

The Asylum Accommodation service providers identify suitable accommodation and ensure that it conforms to the accommodation standards and provision set out in Schedule 2 of the Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC).

The Statement of Requirements, available via the link below, sets out the full details of our contractual obligations:

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC -
Schedule 2 - Statement of Requirements.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2018-1112/AASC_-_Schedule_2_-_Statement_of_Requirements.pdf)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184265>

Asylum: Housing

Richard Drax (Conservative) [182571] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department plan to take to screen asylum seekers accommodated on a barge in Portland Port.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All asylum seekers who arrive in United Kingdom are subject to robust security checks at Manston. Additionally, the Home Office provides 24/7 health facilities at Manston, including trained medical staff and a doctor for all those on site and people are taken to hospital for further care if needed and all asylum seekers undergo a health check upon arrival.

The Home Office will assess an individual's suitability to reside at Portland prior to placement there and will continue to assess each person's suitability at regular intervals whilst on the vessel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-25/182571>

Asylum: Portland Port

Richard Drax (Conservative) [183891] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to provide interpreters for asylum seekers housed in Portland Port.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are discussing with the local voluntary and community sector about appropriate provisions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-05/183891>

Asylum: Portland Port

Richard Drax (Conservative) [183892] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to provide asylum seekers accommodated in Portland Port with timely access to (a) mental health practitioners and (b) Section 12 approved doctors.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Through the Multi Agency Forum health sub group, we are working closely with local health colleagues to ensure appropriate health and safety arrangements are in place. This includes on-site healthcare to limit pressures on local NHS services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-05/183892>

Asylum: Portland Port

Richard Drax (Conservative) [183893] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to ensure the safety of doctors and nurses helping asylum seekers on the barge at Portland Port.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Through the Multi Agency Forum health sub group, we are working closely with local health colleagues to ensure appropriate health and safety arrangements are in place.

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/2023-05-05/183893>

Asylum: Portland Port

Richard Drax (Conservative) [183894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to prevent the spread of any infectious diseases in Portland barge; and what assessment she has made of the potential public health impacts of housing asylum seekers in Portland Barge on (a) Dorset Council and (b) Dorset health authority.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We take both the welfare of those in our care and our wider public health responsibilities extremely seriously. This includes offering diphtheria vaccines and antibiotics to all asylum seekers on arrival. The Home Office provides 24/7 health facilities at Manston, including trained medical staff and a doctor for all those on site. All asylum seekers undergo a health check upon arrival and, if needed people are taken to hospital for further care.

The vessel will be managed by a specialist and experienced provider, which has a

strong track record of providing this kind of accommodation, having managed the two vessels in Scottish ports for the past year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-05/183894>

Asylum: Portland Port

Christopher Chope (Conservative) [184264] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 May 2023 to Question 181795 on Asylum: Portland, for what reason she has not provided specific information requested in response to parts (a) to (i) of that question.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Those accommodated on the barge in Portland will already be in the asylum system, having been through initial screening and checks. They will have had their fingerprints and identities recorded by the Home Office as part of robust security checks prior to going aboard.

Those being accommodated are likely to come from various countries, and already in the asylum system, having been through initial screening and checks. They will be non-detained. It will be managed by a specialist and experienced provider, which has a strong track record of providing this kind of accommodation. We will continue to work closely with the councils, communities, and key local partners to manage any impact in Dorset. If someone is late returning from a visit off the vessel, they will be contacted to ascertain their whereabouts.

The provision of an accommodation barge at Portland Port will provide the capacity for a maximum of 506 asylum seekers. The vessel will contain multiple occupancy rooms that are an appropriate size for the number of occupants in the appropriate space standard. The vessel will always remain in line with marine industry safety regulations and meet all statutory requirements.

There will be adequate accommodation, catering, laundry, facilities to support their well-being and transport to and from the Port into the local community. The site at Portland and is designed to be as self-sufficient as possible, in order to minimise the impact on the local community. Legal representatives will be allowed, though any entry into and or movement through the port is controlled by the security provider.

We will assess individual's suitability to reside at Portland, appropriate procedures will be in place to prevent the spread of infectious disease, which is being considered by the Multi Agency Forum health subgroup.

All information regarding the Bibby Stockholm vessel in Portland can be found on the asylum accommodation factsheet found here: [Portland Factsheet](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184264>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/181795>

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

Immigration: Sponsorship

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7511] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for adopting systems similar to (1) Humanitarian Parole, and (2) the Welcome Corps, used in the USA, in the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The UK has an approach in place to support individuals who do not meet the requirements of the Immigration Rules but where there are exceptional and compassionate reasons for allowing them to remain here. Discretionary Leave allows an individual to be granted leave outside

the Immigration Rules if they do not qualify for refugee status or humanitarian protection, or due to exceptional circumstances relating to their family or private life. The UK already operates two sponsorship schemes which share similarities with the United States' Welcome Corps initiative. The first is the Community Sponsorship Scheme, launched in 2016, which enables civil society to directly support refugees resettled to the UK through identifying housing and providing integration support. This scheme provides sanctuary to refugees identified and referred by UNHCR for resettlement directly from regions of conflict and instability. The second is Homes for Ukraine, which launched last year in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, allowing Ukrainian nationals and their immediate family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor in the UK who is willing to accommodate them for a minimum of six months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-27/hl7511>

Information about the American Humanitarian Parole scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/humanitarian-parole>

Information about the American Welcome Corps, referred to above, can be read at <https://welcomecorps.org/>

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 Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Sudan: Refugees

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL7517] To ask His Majesty's Government what procedures they have put in place for Sudanese nationals who seek to escape the violence in their country and join family members in the UK.

Reply from Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Our current refugee resettlement schemes allow us to support the most vulnerable refugees direct from regions of conflict and instability. Through these schemes, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees refers refugees they have assessed as in need of resettlement here. Sudanese nationals who have travelled to a third country and wish to join family members in the UK will need to apply for a visa in the most appropriate route. Further information can be found online at GOV.UK

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-27/hl7517>

Information about the various visa routes referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/illegal-migration-bill-factsheets/safe-and-legal-routes>

Refugees: Sudan

The Lord Bishop of Leeds [HL7600] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they are making to welcome those Sudanese refugees fleeing violence who want to come to the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: There are no plans to create a country specific scheme for refugees fleeing Sudan.

The UK continues to welcome refugees through existing resettlement schemes which are global in scope, including the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS), Community Sponsorship, the Mandate Resettlement Scheme and the Family Reunion Scheme.

Under these schemes, the UNHCR will refer refugees for resettlement after undertaking an assessment of people's needs and vulnerabilities. The UK does not seek to influence which cases are referred by the UNHCR under these schemes.

The UK has provided sanctuary to almost 500,000 individuals since 2015. However, our resources are futile and we cannot provide resettlement to everyone.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/hl7600>

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 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 Family Reunion Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settlement-refugee-or-humanitarian-protection/family-reunion>

Refugees: Uganda

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7655] To ask His Majesty's Government what safe and legal routes exist for a Ugandan LGBT+ individual, who is under threat of imprisonment because of anti-homosexual laws in Uganda, and wishes to come to the UK to claim asylum as they have a family member living in the UK.

Lord Murray of Blidworth: Between December 2015 and 2022, the Government's family reunion policy has granted more than 44,659 family reunion visas, bringing many families together.

This safe and legal route allows immediate family members, as defined in the Immigration Rules, of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. Where somebody has a link to the UK, they may be eligible for our other family routes and can find more information on how to apply on gov.uk here: Indefinite leave to remain (permission to stay as a refugee, humanitarian protection or Discretionary Leave): Family reunion

There is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge, in keeping with almost all countries around the world. 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.

Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/hl7655>

Information about Indefinite Leave to Remain, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/indefinite-leave-to-remain>

Information about Family Reunion, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settlement-refugee-or-humanitarian-protection/family-reunion>

Diphtheria: Migrants

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7297] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the incidence of diphtheria in migrants arriving via irregular transit routes.

Reply from Lord Markham: There is an effective vaccine against diphtheria which in the United Kingdom is offered as part of the routine childhood programme. Vaccination offers high levels of protection against symptomatic disease, meaning that it is a very rare infection in the UK where vaccination coverage is high. The risk of diphtheria to the general UK public therefore remains very low.

There was an increase in the number of cases of diphtheria detected among people seeking asylum in the last quarter of 2022, with a total of 73 confirmed cases of

diphtheria among this population in England in 2022 and one case confirmed so far in 2023. The majority of these cases were detected in people arriving via small boat Channel crossings. There have been no linked cases in workers in asylum seeker settings or linked cases in the general public.

The UK Health Security Agency, Home Office and NHS England are working with local partners to put measures in place to manage the risk of diphtheria in this population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-04-19/hl7297>

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7546] To ask His Majesty's Government which police forces they have had discussions with in the last six months with regard to unaccompanied children seeking asylum that go missing from Home Office-commissioned hotels; and what evidence the police forces have indicated with regard to any of those unaccompanied children being forced into county lines drug activity and organised criminal gangs.

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.

We are in contact with police forces in the regions where the unaccompanied children are being housed including as part of multi-agency forums in the event that a child does go missing.

Information about children after they have been found 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/2023-04-27/hl7546>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Detainees: Deportation

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7656] To ask His Majesty's Government, under the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill, how many individuals they are planning to hold in detention, ready to be removed, at the end of (1) 2024, (2) 2025, (3) 2026, and (4) 2027.

Asylum: Children

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7657] To ask His Majesty's Government, under the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill, how many unaccompanied children seeking asylum they are planning to remove from the UK on their 18th birthday at the end of (1) 2024, (2) 2025, (3) 2026, and (4) 2027.

Asylum: Deportation

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL7658] To ask His Majesty's Government, under the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill, how many people they are planning to remove to a safe third country in each of the years (1) 2024, (2) 2025, (3) 2026, and (4) 2027.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As set out in clause 1(1), the purpose of the Bill is to prevent and deter unlawful migration, and in particular migration by unsafe and illegal routes, by requiring the Home Secretary to return illegal migrants to their home country or remove them to a safe third country.

An economic impact assessment will be published for the Bill in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/hl7656>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/hl7657>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/hl7658>

Children: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL7628] To ask His Majesty's Government when a child is under the care and accommodation of the Home Office, due to the Home Secretary's duty to detain and remove under clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill, what international or domestic legislation the Home Office is required to meet.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The duty to make arrangements for the removal of an illegal migrant who meets the conditions in clause 2 of the Illegal Migration Bill does not apply to unaccompanied children, although clause 3(2) of the Bill confers a power to remove them in the circumstances set out in clause 3(3). Clause 15 of the Bill further provides the Home Office with the power to provide or arrange accommodation and support for unaccompanied children. This power relates to non-detained accommodation.

The intention is to only provide accommodation and support to these children on a temporary basis before being transferred to a local authority.

We expect local authorities to continue to meet their statutory obligations to children from the date of arrival and for the Home Office to only step in sparingly and temporarily. The best place for these young people is and will remain within a local authority care placement.

The Home Office is not currently in the position of corporate parent to any unaccompanied child. There is nothing in the Bill which changes this position and it will continue to be for the local authority where an unaccompanied child is located to consider its duties under the Children Act 1989.

Detention powers in the Bill, including in relation to children, are set out in clause 10.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/hl7628>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50885/documents/3348>

The Children Act 1989, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/41/contents>

Children: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL7629] To ask His Majesty's Government, following a section 35 report being issued for a child and detention still being maintained for 28 days under the provisions of the Illegal Migration Bill, whether the child will be able to Judicial Review the decision.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The purpose of rule 35 of the Detention Centre Rules 2001 is to ensure that people in detention who are particularly vulnerable are brought to the attention of those with direct responsibility for authorising, maintaining and reviewing detention. Rule 35 is a reporting mechanism, and where a report is completed, it does not automatically mean that the person should be released.

The Bill creates new detention powers which will allow the Home Secretary to detain a person pending a decision as to whether the new duty to remove applies, and thereafter to detain pending their removal.

For the first 28 days of detention, those who are detained under the new detention powers within the Illegal Migration Bill will be prevented from challenging their detention during this period by way of judicial review. An individual will be able to apply to the Home Secretary for bail during this period, although that decision may not be challenged by way of judicial review during the first 28 days. An individual

may make an application to the High Court for a writ of habeas corpus (or the equivalent in Scotland) to seek release at any time.

Where people are detained for the purpose of removal, they will usually be detained in Immigration Removal Centres. Short-term Holding Facilities are usually used to detain individuals on arrival to the UK, for the purpose of initial examination, which would include an assessment of whether the new duty to remove applies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-03/hl7629>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/50885/documents/3348>

The Detention Centre Rules 2001, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2001/238/contents/made>

Press Release

UK and Romania pledge to tackle human trafficking

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-romania-pledge-to-tackle-human-trafficking>

New Publications

Second Independent Person report on the Windrush Compensation Scheme: oversight and performance one year on

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-person-report-on-the-windrush-compensation-scheme/second-independent-person-report-on-the-windrush-compensation-scheme-oversight-and-performance-one-year-on>

Your guide to finding a settled home in the UK

Leaflet is intended for people who have come to the UK through Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) or Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and eligible British Nationals who are temporarily staying in hotels or serviced accommodation.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1156115/6.8384_HO_Afghan_leaflet_A4_V10_WEB.pdf

Guidance: Finding a school place when relocating from hotel accommodation

Available in English, Dari, and Pashto

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/finding-a-school-place-when-relocating-from-hotel-accommodation>

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 - May 2023

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics-may-2023/>

News: Channel Migrants

Rishi Sunak: I won't rest until we can stop the boats

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-iceland-speech-migrants-eu-ukraine-war-2023-xg2kgkqfr>

Suella Braverman creating law to seize small boat migrants' phones – despite ongoing investigation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/suella-braverman-migrants-phones-law-investigation-b2329073.html>

BBC to review impartiality of its immigration and small boats coverage

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/bbc-small-boats-impartiality-immigration-review-b2342187.html>

News: Afghanistan

Afghan families in Yorkshire issued with eviction letters from Suella Braverman

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/16/afghan-families-yorkshire-eviction-letters-from-suella-braverman>

I was told it's normal': Afghan refugee who worked for UK sleeping rough in London

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/19/i-was-told-its-normal-afghan-refugee-who-worked-for-uk-sleeping-rough-in-london>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Legal migration is too high, says Rishi Sunak

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65643684>

Rishi Sunak hints at new 500,000 net migration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-uk-immigration-net-migration-plan-2023-mjpvx263>

PM refuses to commit to migration level pledge

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-65627148>

Rishi Sunak says immigration is 'too high' but says he won't 'put a number' on plan to cut it

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-immigration-suella-braverman-b2341974.html>

Rishi Sunak says he aims to bring immigration below level he 'inherited'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/19/rishi-sunak-says-he-aims-to-brings-immigration-below-level-he-inherited>

I want to bring down soaring legal migration, says Rishi Sunak

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/17/rishi-sunak-pledge-to-reduce-legal-migration/>

Rishi Sunak shies away from immigration manifesto pledge

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jeremy-hunt-splits-from-suella-braverman-on-migrant-labour-dpt2c63bq>

Net migration is at a new record high. How did it come to this?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/net-migration-is-at-a-new-record-high-how-did-it-come-to-this-wkq60zrwb>

Sunak and Braverman must look beyond borders to resolve net immigration row
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/19/rishi-sunak-and-suella-braverman-must-look-beyond-borders-to-resolve-net-immigration-row>

Train fruit pickers and lorry drivers to cut migration, says Suella Braverman
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65593353>

Sunak seeks European court reform to fight migrant crisis
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sunak-seeks-european-court-reform-to-fight-migrant-crisis-7062fpc5j>

Suella Braverman's 'train fruit pickers in UK to cut migration' comment branded 'naive' by Scotland farming industry
<https://www.scotsman.com/country-and-farming/suella-bravermans-train-fruit-pickers-in-uk-to-cut-migration-comment-branded-naive-by-scotland-farming-industry-4143564>

Stand-off over Braverman plan to ban families of foreign students
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-foreign-students-immigration-rishi-sunak-2023-d7fq520fq>

Multicultural push will end in tears, says Braverman
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/15/suella-braverman-home-secretary-conservatism-conference/>

Migrants must adopt our values, says Suella Braverman
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/conservatives-immigration-latest-news-suella-braverman-jacob-rees-mogg-liz-truss-5flgtksj6>

Home Office to fast-track thousands of Iraqi and Iranian asylum claims
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/may/16/home-office-to-fast-track-thousands-of-iraqi-and-iranian-asylum-claims>

Michael Gove: High immigration levels putting pressure on housing and public services
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/05/16/michael-gove-high-immigration-levels-pressure-housing/>

Rishi Sunak vows to use 'as many barges as it takes' to house asylum seekers
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sunak-asylum-seekers-small-boats-barges-b2338587.html>

Rishi Sunak says international system for policing human trafficking 'not working'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rishi-sunak-human-trafficking-illegal-migration-bill-b2339509.html>

UK immigration policies threaten Scottish universities and economy
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23524188.uk-immigration-policies-threaten-scottish-universities-economy/>

Scots farmers call for end to UK Government 'anti-migration rhetoric'
https://www.heraldscotland.com/business_hq/23524216.scots-farmers-call-end-uk-government-anti-migration-rhetoric/

More migrant fruit pickers will be allowed in the UK if needed, says Rishi Sunak
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-fruit-pickers-braverman-sunak-b2340079.html>

King Charles praises Church of Scotland for 'inspiring' refugee work
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23536028.king-charles-praises-church-scotland-inspiring-refugee-work/>

Asylum accommodation: what's going on?
<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/2023/05/19/accommodation-asylum/>

Albanian prisoners paid by UK government to return home
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-65533198>

UK men offered £10K to pose as dads in visa scam, BBC investigation finds
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65556437>

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Community Relations

News

The desi landlords helping to reshape British pub culture
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-65532039>

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Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Bill of Rights Bill

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [904938] Whether it remains [the Minister's] Department's policy to progress the Bill of Rights Bill.

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Alex Chalk): I am looking carefully at the full range of the Department's work before setting out plans in detail.

Nadia Whittome: The Human Rights Act 1998 is an essential piece of legislation that protects us all from abuses of power, yet the Bill of Rights Bill proposes to scrap it, weakening human rights protections in UK law and making it harder for people to hold the Government and other public bodies to account. If the Minister will not answer my question about the Bill's future, can he at least commit to keeping the Human Rights Act on the statute book?

Reply from Alex Chalk: Human rights are important. ...

Robert Neill (Conservative): ... [The Lord Chancellor] will know that, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" is not a legal maxim, but it is still a sound one that may apply in this case. If it were thought necessary to make changes to the human rights regime in this country, perhaps the report of Sir Peter Gross offers a better way forward, but does he also agree that his Department's important priorities are those that affect people's day-to-day lives in their interactions with the justice system? Ensuring that we have fully efficient and working court

systems and an efficient and human prison system may therefore be higher priorities. Perhaps meeting the Bar Council and the Law Society to iron out the remaining matters from the Bellamy review and ensuring that we have a proper prison workforce strategy, rather than legislating, may therefore be his best priorities ...

Reply from Alex Chalk: My hon. Friend makes powerful points, and they are borne very much in mind.

Ellie Reeves (Labour): ... Positive obligations are a cornerstone of the Human Rights Act 1998. They mean that the state must protect as well as refrain from restricting our rights. The victims of the black cab rapist John Worboys used these obligations to hold the police to account for failing to properly investigate more than 105 alleged rapes and sexual assaults perpetrated by him. How can this Government be trusted on ending violence against women and girls when the previous Justice Secretary, the right hon. Member for Esher and Walton (Dominic Raab) wanted to rip up that Act and those obligations? Will the new Justice Secretary commit himself to protecting them and the rights they give to victims?

Reply from Alex Chalk: The rights that the hon. Lady refers to derive from the European convention on human rights: the right to life, the privilege against torture and inhumane or degrading treatment, the right to a fair trial, the right to a family life, and so on. Those stand apart from the Human Rights Act, but she is correct to say that they are important rights. The only thing I would take issue with is where she talks about violence against women and girls. It is the Conservative party that made coercive and controlling behaviour a criminal offence—Labour did not. It is this party that made stalking a criminal offence—Labour did not. It is this party that made non-fatal strangulation a stand-alone criminal offence—Labour did not. And it is this party that passed Acts such as the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and will pass Acts such as the Victims and Prisoners Bill to ensure that victims are properly served. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): If the right hon. and learned Gentleman wants to be seen as a Justice Secretary who will stand up for the rule of law and access to justice, he should be putting the greatest possible distance between himself and the dreadful pet project of his predecessor by disowning the Bill of Rights altogether. Importantly, will he stop that Bill being split up and dropped into other pieces of legislation, as we have already seen with the Illegal Migration Bill? Instead of undermining respect for international rights, why does he not work to incorporate more rights into domestic law, such as the UN convention on the rights of the child?

Reply from Alex Chalk: Human rights matter. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave a few moments ago. I reiterate this point, because it is important: one of the most vital aspects of access to justice is the right to be tried by a jury of one's peers. That matters, because it is a bulwark against the power of an overweening state. He should know that. Why is he playing so fast and loose with hard-won Scottish freedoms?

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-16/debates/7360B26B-F520-487C-AE24-FF082D3DBA04/BillOfRightsBill>

New Publication

Scottish Human Rights Commission Letter on housing conditions of Scottish Gypsy Traveller Community

<https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2428/20230512-letter-to-local-authorities-on-scottish-gypsy-traveller-housing.pdf>

Inclusive Britain: Responding to the Government's progress updates

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/inclusive-britain-responding-governments-progress-updates>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Religion: Education

Sarah Owen (Labour) [183569] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of Religious Education on addressing racial or religious prejudice in schools; and whether she has had recent discussions on improving standards of Religious Education teaching with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Government recognises the importance of providing good quality religious education (RE) for pupils. RE remains a compulsory subject for all state-funded schools in England, including academies, for all pupils up to the age of 18.

The Government's policy is to allow RE curricula to be designed at a local level, whether that is through a locally agreed syllabus or by individual schools and academy trusts developing their own curricula. The Department does not quality assure, approve, endorse or promote locally agreed syllabuses for RE or any associated resources and materials. The Department has therefore made no formal assessment of the potential impact of RE on addressing racial or religious prejudice in schools.

Whilst RE seeks to educate young people on the importance of tolerance and acceptance of those of all faiths and beliefs, it is not the only subject within a school's curriculum that does so. For example, all schools have a duty to promote fundamental British values, which includes mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs.

Developing and deepening pupils' understanding of these values is part of the Ofsted inspection framework, alongside expectations that schools develop responsible citizens and promote an inclusive environment that meets the needs of all pupils, irrespective of their characteristics.

The Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect and the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference. Guidance can be found at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health

Schools should address any intolerant, racist or discriminatory views expressed by pupils through their wider anti bullying and safeguarding policies. 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 advice for schools, which outlines schools' responsibilities, is available at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying

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. These resources include the Respectful School Communities toolkit, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop 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. The toolkit is available at:

www.educateagainsthate.com/school-leaders/?filter=guidance-and-training-school-leaders

The Department is also providing over £3 million of funding between August 2021 and March 2024 to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. The Department has deliberately focused this grant programme on preventing and tackling bullying of pupils with protected characteristics. This includes projects targeting the bullying of particular vulnerable groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

The Department is not aware of any discussions with my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on improving standards of RE teaching.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183569>

Religious Hatred: Internet

Sarah Owen (Labour) [183568] To ask Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, whether she has had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the potential merits of including provisions in the Online Safety Bill on tackling online hate language targeted at religious groups.

Reply from Paul Scully: Under the Online Safety Bill, all user-to-user and search services will need to put in place systems and processes to prevent their users from encountering priority illegal offences, including religiously aggravated public order and harassment offences. They must also swiftly remove other illegal content once it has been reported or they become aware of its presence.

Services which are likely to be accessed by children will also be required to protect child users from content and activity that is harmful to children, including content that is abusive or incites hatred on the basis of religion.

Where content does not meet the criminal threshold and is accessed by adults, the Bill will ensure that the largest services remove content that is prohibited in their terms of service, such as hate speech. These services must also offer their adult users tools which reduce the likelihood that they see certain categories of content, or alert them to the nature of it. These tools will specifically apply to content which is abusive, or incites hatred, on the basis of religion.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-02/183568>

Press Release

Podcast host sentenced for terrorism offences

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/podcast-host-sentenced-terrorism-offences>

News

Black Labour MPs demand 'urgent action' on Forde report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/mps-islamophobia-b2341706.html>

Neo-Nazi podcaster's website still online after jailing

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65603077>

Host of 'vile, racist' podcast to be sentenced for stirring up hatred

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/wales-pembrokeshire-adolf-hitler-winchester-crown-court-national-action-b2338793.html>

Teenager planned far-right terror attack 'to accelerate race war' in Britain

<https://www.independentco.uk/news/uk/crime/luke-skelton-terror-attack-race-war-b2339897.html>

Golly doll pub managers give voluntary police interview

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-65637482>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Marriage: Relatives

Philip Davies (Conservative) [184328] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment he has made of the health implications of first cousin marriages.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: The first ever National Health Service genomics strategy, published in October 2022, seeks to drive equity in access to genomic testing. One of the ways NHS England is driving equity in access to genomic testing is through the roll out of culturally competent genetics services for consanguineous couples.

Culturally competent genetics services for consanguineous couples aims to improve access to genomics services for underserved groups and give families the opportunity to make informed reproductive decisions, whilst respecting their culture, values and beliefs. Through the Equity & Equality Guidance for Local Maternity & Neonatal Services, NHS England will provide around £2.7 million of funding over three years to improve access to culturally sensitive care for families in high need areas and to make available training and support for all health and care professionals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-10/184328>

The strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/accelerating-genomic-medicine-in-the-nhs/>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/C0734-equity-and-equality-guidance-for-local-maternity-systems.pdf>

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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/>

News

Eleven million Britons struggling to pay bills

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-65616188>

Charity warning over energy bills and food insecurity

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65591419>

Don't make cheese sandwiches if you can't afford the ingredients, says Ann Widdecombe

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/05/16/dont-cheese-sandwiches-cant-afford-ingredients-widdecombe/>

Cost of living forces parents to use dirty nappies, says charity

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-65534648>

One million cancel broadband as living costs rise

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-65622403>

Vulnerable Scots 'failed' as set to miss £29m of energy bill support

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23532640.vulnerable-scots-failed-set-miss-29m-energy-bill-support/>

Food bank uses tech to plug donation shortfall

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65574441>

Energy bills predicted to fall from July by nearly £450

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65655866>

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Other New Publication

Ask the Awkward: Online/Offline: Different Worlds?

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/globalassets/asktheawkward-parents--carers-help-sheets.pdf>

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Other News

Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP)

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. Around 160 young people aged 14 – 25 are elected every two years to represent every part of Scotland and campaign for positive change.

The next SYP elections will take place in November 2023, and applications are now open! If you live in Scotland and will be aged between 14 and 25 on Sunday 19th November 2023, you are eligible to stand in the next SYP elections.

For more information about how to stand as a candidate in the election, what the process involves and the role of an MSYP, see <https://syp.org.uk/get-involved/elections/>

Less than half of Britons now believe in God, new study shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/religious-belief-uk-god-heaven-b2340497.html>

Baby boomers lose religious faith faster than other generations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/baby-boomers-lose-religious-faith-faster-than-other-generations-q8wwl2mjm>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

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

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

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

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

Bill of Rights Bill

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

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

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

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

**** Illegal Migration Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51087/documents/3454>

Letter from Lord Murray about amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1157629/18.05.23 - Lord Murray to Lord Coaker - Government Amendments to IMB.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1157629/18.05.23_-_Lord_Murray_to_Lord_Coaker_-_Government_Amendments_to_IMB.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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-16/debates/A95B3CA9-8816-4F58-8D03-45E7321D4C9B/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-05-16/debates/545F4702-E05A-4C12-88A4-9CDD70C115BD/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51231/documents/3453>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Scotland (Self-Determination) Bill

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

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

An inspection of asylum casework 2023 (closing date 26 May 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-asylum-casework-2023>

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>

JPR 2023 Antisemitism in the UK Survey (closing date not stated)

<https://bit.ly/3Vg7DDH> (Scotland)

and

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/panel/UKantisemitism2023> (UK except Scotland)

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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

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>

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Hate Crime in Glasgow

23 May 2023 (online, 9.15–10.00)

GCVS event to dispel some of the myths and misconceptions around hate crime in Glasgow, and offer practical advice for how organisations can support victims of hate crime. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yw8d8jcx>

**** this week!**

A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics

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>

**** this week!**

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>

**** this week!**

The Muslim, State and Mind: Islamophobia in Mental Health and Psychology

25 May 2023 (online and Manchester University –hybrid event, 1.00–2.15)

Centre on the Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE), Our Shared Cultural Heritage Radical Readers, and Manchester Institute of Education's Anti-Racist Teaching Network discussion about how psychological theories and practices serve state interests and perpetuate inequality, especially racism and Islamophobia. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/37h9kwf9>

Volunteers' Week Scotland 2023

1–7 June 2023 (Scotland-wide)

Volunteers' Week is a UK wide campaign when volunteering involving organisations and groups are encouraged to thank their volunteers, past and present and celebrate and recognise volunteering efforts. For information see <https://volunteersweek.scot/>

Applying a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach: Workshop

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>

Police Scotland Positive Action Recruitment Information: BMI Communities

3 June 2023 (Aberdeen, 10.00–1.00)

Police Scotland events focusing on the recruitment process, the training and what life as a police officer is really like. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckr34ya> or contact RecruitmentPositiveActionTeam@scotland.police.uk

**** Inclusion in Volunteering**

6 June 2023 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to identify common themes from diverse groups, with a focus on enabling everyone to volunteer, and increase understanding by challenging stereotypes and assumptions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z9wmtnpj>

**** Refugee Festival Scotland**

16-25 June 2023 (Scotland-wide)

People from refugee backgrounds make a huge contribution to life in Scotland and that's worth celebrating. The Scottish Refugee Council's unique festival brings people together to meet, mix share art, culture and ideas, and get to know each other better. For information and a full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/ubajubzi>

**** Walking Tour: Refugee Histories of Glasgow**

17 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.00)

Walking tour to explore some of Glasgow's refugee histories, across the world and around the city. From international solidarity campaigns to grassroots community action, refugees and asylum seekers have played key roles in the city's cultural and political life in recent years. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wby6j57s>

**** Glasgow Black History Walking Tour**

18 June 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00)

21 June 2023 (Glasgow, 1.00)

CRER walking tours taking participants on a historical journey through Glasgow's mercantile past and examine the city's connections with tobacco, slavery and the abolition movement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mryxxtky>

**** Our Stories, Our Voices**

19 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.30–12.30)

Glasgow Life Adult Learning Services reading of stories, poems, and reflections as part of Refugee Festival Scotland inspired by the theme of hope. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4jhzpx9t>

**** Sharing Stories of Hope and Courage (women-only event)**

19 June 2023 (Glasgow, 10.30–1.30)

Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club event to learn about and celebrate refugee histories in Scotland. Includes a guided tour of Garnethill Synagogue, the Scottish Jewish Archive Centre, and the Scottish Jewish Holocaust Era Study Centre, and in particular the event will hear the story of a woman artist who fled the Nazis in her home in Austria and came to Scotland, and do a craft activity around what gives them hope in challenging times. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yvjmut4t>

Holding Hope in the Face of Hate

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 11.00–1.30)

Interfaith Scotland refugee Week event bringing together members of faith communities and the general public from across Scotland to engage in a dialogue around ways to challenge hatred towards asylum seekers and refugees, especially in light of the growing anti-asylum seeker rhetoric and the cost of living crisis. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2pt4bolx>

**** Learn about the Hostile Environment & How to be a Good Ally**

22 June 2023 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.30)

24 June 2023 (Glasgow, 3.00–5.30)

Workshop for those who want to learn more about the asylum process in the UK, co-created with people who have direct experience of the UK's Hostile Environment policies. This session will breakdown the reality beyond the headlines and the political rhetoric. We aim to answer questions such as: What does it mean to be a refugee? Is an asylum seeker different? Why are people paying smugglers to get in small boats? For information about the 22 June event see <https://tinyurl.com/bdduprh2>, and for 24 June see <https://tinyurl.com/35sj5yte>

**** Scholarship Event**

24 June 2023 (Glasgow, 3.00–7.00)

Africa Future event focussing on scholarship opportunities. This discussion will help asylum seekers find out about how to access scholarships from different universities in Scotland. Participants will be able to ask questions and have responses at the event. Different MPs, MSPs, councillors and Police Scotland will be at the event as well and available to answer questions. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/msxxdtk3>

**** Developing a Volunteer Strategy**

19 September 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss the purpose of developing a strategy for volunteering, the benefits of a volunteering strategy for the wider organisation, and steps to develop a strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mu3dkx53>

**** Supporting Volunteers**

4 October 2023 (Stirling, 10.00–4.00)

Volunteer Scotland course to discuss building a positive relationship with volunteers, plan and deliver a suitable induction process, identify and apply different support methods, and manage some of the challenges of supporting volunteers. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2nbpr7se>

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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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