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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Refugees from Ukraine (Supersponsor Scheme)

Rachael Hamilton (Conservative) [S6O-02411] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on whether it plans to resume the supersponsor scheme for Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville): Since the war against Ukraine began, more than 24,700 people sponsored by an individual or by the Scottish Government have arrived in the United Kingdom. The decision to pause the scheme was difficult—a surge in applications, combined with pressure on short-term accommodation, meant that it was needed to ensure that we could continue to welcome those already with a visa. A review of that decision against an agreed set of criteria is under way, and Parliament will be

updated in due course.

In the meantime, people can apply for a visa with an individual sponsor.

Rachael Hamilton: The Scottish Government seems to have overstretched its capacity and resources with the supersponsor scheme for Ukrainian refugees, leaving many in a perilous position, unsure of where they will live and when the Government's short-term housing may run out for them. What measures, if any, has the cabinet secretary taken to ensure that every sponsored refugee who is taken in by the Scottish Government will be given long-term housing options as soon as the short-term housing option contracts end, given that the scheme was paused in July last year as a result of a lack of availability of housing?

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: I thank the member for the question, but I caution against suggesting that people are in "perilous" positions. The people we are speaking about have come to Scotland under circumstances that we cannot even begin to imagine. That is why it is very important that there is a reassurance that the short-term welcome accommodation is there.

Of course, there is a great deal of work going on around long-term accommodation with the private rented sector and with councils, and a number of councils have taken up the opportunity of using the Scottish Government funding to bring back void and other accommodation back into use for our Ukrainian guests. I would be more than happy to provide further information to the member on that if she wishes.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15386&i=131267#ScotParlOR>

Refugees from Ukraine (MS Victoria)

Ben Macpherson (SNP) [S6O-02412] To ask the Scottish Government, regarding any implications for refugees from Ukraine, whether it will provide an update on the disembarkation of the MS Victoria, prior to the ship's planned departure from the port of Leith on 11 July 2023.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice (Shirley-Anne Somerville): There are matching teams on board the MS Victoria supporting all guests to move on to suitable alternative accommodation before the contract ends on July 11. The teams work closely with guests to encourage them to consider a range of housing options including social housing, private rented sector properties, hosted accommodation or alternative welcome accommodation including hotels.

We remain on course to safely disembark the ship ahead of the end of the contract, with the majority of guests who were resident now having already departed or having plans to disembark in the coming weeks.

Ben Macpherson: I pay tribute to all those involved in that operation and appreciate and welcome the work that is under way by matching teams on board the MS Victoria to provide assistance and to minimise the inevitable disruption by helping guests to transition successfully to new accommodation through a trauma-informed and person-centred approach, as the cabinet secretary has emphasised.

I would be grateful if the cabinet secretary could also provide an update on on-going discussion between the Scottish Government and the private rented sector on helping to remove any remaining barriers to access to suitable accommodation for my constituents, especially regarding the cost of deposits for secure tenancies.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: I thank Ben Macpherson for that question and pay tribute to the work that he and Deidre Brock MP have done to support their newest constituents while they have been in Leith.

In addition to providing £1.72 million in grant funding to bring 100 properties in the city back into use, we are working with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and local authorities to consider whether we can bolster existing local authority support packages that help people with the cost of deposits and other barriers to

accessing private rented properties. Officials and the Minister for Housing have also engaged directly with letting agents, landlords and tenant reference agencies to understand and overcome some of the non-monetary barriers to accessing private rental properties and to ensure that displaced people from Ukraine are able to access information about private tenancies.

If Mr Macpherson has further constituency work, I would be more than happy to work with him, as we have done in the past, alongside my colleague the Minister for Housing.

Miles Briggs (Conservative): I associate myself with the words of Ben Macpherson and also take the opportunity to thank those who work in our schools in Edinburgh who have offered a very warm and supportive learning environment to those young people while they have been being educated here in Edinburgh. My question is on maintaining connections between those young people. We know that many of them will now be moving to different parts of the country, but their support network is here in Edinburgh. What support will be provided to ensure that they can continue to keep those relationships going in the future?

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: I associate myself very much with the remarks that Miles Briggs has made about the warm welcome that has been given within our schools—particularly, but not only, in Edinburgh—to our youngest Ukrainian guests. It is very important that councils are working together on that. The City of Edinburgh Council is not the only one that has been on board the ship; many others have, as well, and the councils in Edinburgh and elsewhere are working exceptionally closely to make sure that we do everything that we can in public agencies and the third sector to maintain connections and make the transition from MS Victoria to other accommodation as seamless and easy for people as possible.

Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat): On Monday, at the cross-party group on mental health, of which I am a co-convener, we heard a presentation from Edinburgh-based charity Feniks on the mental health and integration needs of Ukrainian refugees settling here. The findings from those who responded to its survey suggest that more support is required for refugees in navigating the system and accessing services such as mental health and children's services. What additional measures can be provided to those who have sought sanctuary in Scotland to ensure that they get all the support that they need, and what can be done to ensure that the support is trauma informed?

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: Again, that is another very important issue. The fact is that this is not just about housing or, indeed, schooling but about ensuring that we wrap around as much support as possible for Ukrainians as they come to Scotland, for however long that may be.

Scottish Government officials, councils and other public agencies are working closely on the issues around support, whether in the health service or in wider services. If the cross-party group has particular concerns, I would be more than happy to receive further feedback from it, as Emma Roddick and I would be interested to see what we can learn from it.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=15386&i=131268#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Immigration: Legal Obligations

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6W-18721] To ask the Scottish Government whether it or any other Scottish public authority is under a legal obligation to report persons to the Home Office who arrive in Scotland with no immigration permission, and, if so, what any such legal obligations are, and which authorities they apply to.

Reply from Emma Roddick: Scottish public authorities exercise their functions in

accordance with all relevant legal requirements, including those set out in legislation passed by the UK Parliament relating to reserved matters.

The Scottish Government has no functions in connection with which it may be required to report persons to the Home Office on the grounds of immigration status. Other public authorities may, however, be subject to such requirements.

The sharing of personal information between public authorities must be considered in line with relevant data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 and the GDPR.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-18721>

Illegal Migration Bill

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6W-18719] To ask the Scottish Government whether it is conducting any equalities, human rights or children's rights assessments, in respect of any impact in Scotland of the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill.

Reply from Emma Roddick: This Bill will disproportionately impact vulnerable groups including victims of trafficking, children and LGBTQIA+ people. It is regrettable that the Home Office did not publish an Equality Impact Assessment for the Bill until the 10 May, by which point it had already passed through the House of Commons, consequently restricting the ability of those involved to scrutinise this Bill to the full extent of their powers.

The Joint Committee on Human Rights published a [report](#) on the Illegal Migration Bill last week in which it said certain provisions were incompatible with the UK's legal obligations under international law, including the European Convention on Human Rights. The Home Secretary herself, was unable to make a statement that provisions of the Bill are compatible when it was introduced. The implications of the bill as it applies to Scotland are being assessed in the context of the requirement for legislative consent and were also considered by Parliament when the bill was debated in April. The requirement to carry out and publish any impact assessments belongs with the UK Government.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-18719>

Asylum Accommodation

Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6W-18718] To ask the Scottish Government what consultation it has had with (a) the Home Office and (b) Scottish local authorities, regarding ships, barges or vessels being used in Scotland in 2023 to accommodate people seeking asylum, and whether it will publish any relevant correspondence.

Reply from Emma Roddick: Asylum and immigration are entirely reserved to the UK Parliament and are handled by the Home Office, including provision of asylum accommodation for people who would otherwise be destitute while waiting for an asylum decision from the Home Office.

The Scottish Government has regular discussions with the Home Office and local authority representatives about asylum accommodation, including different types of contingency accommodation. We have been consistently clear that people seeking asylum should be accommodated in communities, with access to the essential support and services they need. The Scottish Government supports widening dispersal in principle, but believes that participation by local authorities should be voluntary. Funding for local authorities, introduced for the first time in 2022, is a positive step but this needs to be a long term commitment to make asylum dispersal more attractive and enable better support for people seeking asylum as well as local communities. Improved partnership working, data and information sharing are also needed. The Scottish Government is clear that the Home Office must engage

with local authorities and COSLA on these matters.

As part of the UK Government's plans to pursue alternative accommodation sites, the UK Immigration Minister spoke to Scottish Government and COSLA on 25 May. In that meeting the Scottish Government was very clear that hotels and other forms of temporary accommodation, including vessels, are not suitable for people seeking asylum. It is not comparable to use for displaced people from Ukraine or other groups supported in temporary accommodation, because of fundamental differences in the rights and agency of people seeking asylum. While people are waiting for a decision on their asylum application they are restricted from working and have no recourse to public funds – a policy which prevents access to most mainstream benefits.

The Scottish Government was also clear that if the Home Office were to impose a vessel in Scotland they must: undertake a detailed risk assessment and engagement through the Asylum Partnership Board and local service providers in Scotland; fully engage the relevant local authority in this work; and that suitable funding is provided for local authorities and services to ensure that essential services are in place, people are supported appropriately and any impact on local services is minimal.

There are no current plans to publish correspondence in order to prevent substantial prejudice of relations between administrations and in the interest of maintaining the effective conduct of public affairs.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-18718>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [189287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will use discretionary powers to ensure that Afghan nationals who (a) served with the British Armed Forces and (b) would have been eligible for resettlement under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme will not face deportation under the Illegal Migration Bill if they arrived in the UK by irregular means.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: If an individual meets the conditions of the duty to make arrangements to remove under clause 2 (with the exception of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children) they will be subject to the provisions under the Illegal Migration Bill.

If an individual is eligible for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy they should not make dangerous and illegal journeys to the UK but should apply through the scheme.

We are taking a regulation making power to include further exceptions to the duty to remove, and we will be considering whether this should be exercised to except additional cohorts from the provisions under the Illegal Migration Bill.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-13/189287>

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

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [189547] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps she has taken to support Afghans eligible for resettlement under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy who did not secure housing in the UK before travelling.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The latest [Immigration system statistics, year ending March 2023](#) (published on 25 May 2023), show that a total of 21,004 people have been resettled in the UK under the Afghan schemes – the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).

We do not want to see Afghan families and individuals in bridging accommodation for any longer than is necessary – and we are working alongside c.350 local authorities to support all Afghan families and individuals, including those relocated here under the ARAP, into homes of their own. From the end of April 2023, the government began issuing families and individuals in hotels and serviced accommodation 3 months legal notice to leave their temporary accommodation.

Dedicated multi-disciplinary teams, consisting of Home Office Liaison Officers, DWP staff, and local authority officials are based in hotels and provide bespoke support to Afghan households, including information on how to rent in the private sector, find jobs and access English language training.

The government is providing £285 million of new funding to local authorities supporting the Afghan resettlement schemes. This includes £35 million in new cash for local authorities, which will go towards increasing the level of support available and overcoming key barriers in accessing the housing system and employment and a £250 million expansion of the Local Authority Housing Fund to help councils to source homes to house Afghans currently in bridging accommodation.

More information concerning the support being provided to hotel guests, and additional funding being offered to Local Authorities and Councils can be found here:

[UK government support for resettled Afghans in bridging accommodation factsheet – April 2023](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-14/189547>

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

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [189919] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether Afghan refugees who are in hotels can apply for homelessness with any local authority.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: We recognise the work of local authorities up and down the country in providing housing and integration support to enable Afghan families to begin their new lives in the UK. All Afghan arrivals via the ARAP and ACRS schemes have had the right to work and receive benefits from the first day of their arrival, as well as access to public services which includes housing and homelessness assistance.

Under homelessness legislation, the first local authority approached will need to take a homelessness application and assess what duties are owed. The council can then consider if a local connection referral is appropriate. In cases where there is no local connection, but there is a local connection to a different local authority; they may refer the household back to where they do have a local connection.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189919>

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 Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Temporary Accommodation

Justin Madders (Labour) [188732] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many and what proportion of people on the Homes for Ukraine scheme are being housed in temporary accommodation.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: As we set out previously, we always knew that a proportion of our arrivals on the Homes for Ukraine scheme would end up relying on LA temporary accommodation services and that's why we provided councils with a tariff for each arrival to allow them to plan appropriately.

Data on the number of Ukrainians, including those on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, in temporary accommodation is available [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-09/188732>

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

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

British Nationality: Ceremonies

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [189009] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 12 June to Question 187782 on British Nationality: Ceremonies, whether an applicant can take their ceremony outside of the three month window.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The published guidance provides further information on this:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-nationals-nationality-policy-guidance>

If an applicant asks for an extension of time to attend their ceremony and gives an acceptable reason, an extension of up to 3 months may be allowed (or whatever longer period may be justified by the reason given for the request).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-12/189009>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/187782>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Widowed People

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [189577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people (a) applied for and (b) were granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a bereaved partner in (i) 2020, (ii) 2021, (iii) 2022 and (iv) 2023 to date.

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [189578] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department plans to recommence the publication of the number of individuals granted indefinite leave to remain as a bereaved partner as part of its quarterly statistics releases.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Due to data quality issues, data on individuals granted indefinite leave as a bereaved partner from 2021 and later cannot currently be provided. We intend to recommence the publication of these numbers once these

issues have been resolved.

In 2020, 92 people were granted of indefinite leave as a bereaved partner; 84 wives and 8 husbands. Corresponding information on applications is not available.

The Home Office publishes data on settlement grants in the [Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#). The available data relates to grants of indefinite leave to remain as a bereaved partner up to 2020 and are published in table Se_04 of the [Settlement data tables](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-14/189577>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-14/189578>

Migrants: Hong Kong

Sarah Owen (Labour) [189460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help protect people from Hong Kong living in the UK from (a) intimidation and (b) violence.

Reply from Tom Tugendhat: The UK Government has taken firm action following restrictions on the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong, including delivering a UK-wide welcome Programme to support BN(O) (British National Overseas) status holders led by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

The Programme includes:

- funding for local authorities in England to provide English language and destitution support,
- establishing 12 virtual Welcome Hubs across the UK,
- funding for organisations to deliver UK-wide and regional projects,
- a comprehensive Welcome Pack on GOV.UK which advises new arrivals on how to settle into life in the UK.

As you would expect, Home Office officials work closely with the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and DLUHC, as well as other government departments, to ensure that the UK is a safe and welcoming place for both those who hold BN(O) status and other Hongkongers.

As I have made clear previously, freedom of expression is fundamental to who we are as a country. We do not tolerate attempts to silence, intimidate or harm those speaking truth to power. I urge anyone who is experiencing such behaviour to contact the police.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-13/189460>

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

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

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

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

Windrush Generation

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [189843] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allocate additional funds to the Windrush Compensation Scheme; and if she will make a statement to mark the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush in Britain.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Scheme has reached its public commitment of deploying 154 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Executive Office (EO) Decision Makers by Quarter 2 2023. The Scheme also continues to run ongoing recruitment campaigns to ensure the necessary level of staffing is maintained and has continued to backfill those who leave.

As set out by the Home Secretary at the Windrush Working Group Meeting on 24 January 2023, additional experienced EO decision makers have also been deployed on a temporary basis to assist with accelerating decision making; these staff are in addition to meeting the public commitment to post 154 substantive EO decision makers recruited.

Regarding allocating additional funds to the Windrush Compensation Scheme, there is no cap on the amount of compensation the Scheme will pay out. The Government is determined to right the wrongs for affected members of the Windrush generation and will ensure that all funding requirements are met.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189843>

The Minutes of the Working Group Meeting referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-cross-government-working-group-minutes-of-meetings/minutes-of-the-windrush-cross-government-working-group-24-january-2023-accessible-version>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [189999] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much and what proportion of the total budget for the Windrush compensation scheme has been allocated.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There is no cap on the amount of compensation the Windrush Compensation Scheme will pay out. The Government is determined to right the wrongs for affected members of the Windrush generation and will ensure that all funding requirements are met.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-16/189999>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [189879] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claims for compensation under the Windrush compensation scheme have been awarded as of 15 June 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Information relating to the number of claims that have been paid compensation through the Windrush Compensation Scheme is included in Windrush Compensation Scheme Transparency Data, together with the Windrush Schemes Fact Sheet, both of which are published regularly.

The latest Transparency data for the Compensation Scheme was published on 1 June 2023, which covers the period up to the end of April 2023. Data covering the period of May 2023 up to 15 June 2023 has not been published yet.

The requested information can be found on Tab WCS_03 [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: April 2023](#)

The latest Windrush Schemes factsheet is available here: [Windrush Schemes Factsheet – April 2023](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189879>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Compensation Scheme: Appeals

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [189881] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unsuccessful claims for compensation under the Windrush compensation scheme have been subject to appeal up to 1 June 2023.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme has established a review process for those dissatisfied with their compensation offer. First, a review can be conducted through an internal Home Office review by a senior decision maker not involved with the original decision (Tier 1). If someone is still dissatisfied, an independent review is conducted by the Adjudicator's Office (Tier 2).

Information relating to the number of Windrush Compensation Scheme claims that applied for a Tier 1 or Tier 2 review is included in Windrush Compensation Scheme Transparency Data.

The latest Transparency data for the Compensation Scheme was published on 1 June 2023, which covers the period up to the end of April 2023. Data covering the period of May 2023 up to 1 June 2023 has not yet been published.

The requested information can be found on Tab WCS_09 [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: April 2023](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189881>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Compensation Scheme: Applications

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [189883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants for compensation under the Windrush compensation scheme have died while waiting for a decision on their application.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Windrush Compensation Scheme staff are working hard to ensure cases are prioritised for claimants with critical or life-limiting illnesses.

In the unfortunate circumstances where a claimant has passed away after submitting a compensation claim, before the claim is fully resolved, the team continues to work closely with the appointed representative, usually members of the family, to ensure the compensation payment is made as quickly as possible to the family member.

At the end of April 2023, in line with the latest published Transparency data, out of the 6,122 claims received by the Windrush Compensation Scheme, we are aware of 41 claimants who have unfortunately passed away after having submitted a claim.

Please note that this data is manually recorded and is reliant on the person receiving the information on a claimant's death, notifying the Windrush Compensation Scheme to record this information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189883>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Health Services

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [188801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether an individual is entitled to an Immigration Health Surcharge refund where they have paid the surcharge but have been refused registration with a GP as they were leaving the UK within 6 months.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [188802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people on a charity worker visa who have paid the Immigration Health Surcharge are entitled to (a) register with a GP and (b) access NHS care.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Primary medical care, which includes access to, and medical care provided by, GP services, is free of charge to all overseas visitors, regardless of immigration status. Individuals, who have been refused registration

with a GP are not entitled to a refund of the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS). The IHS is paid by temporary migrants who make an application to come to the UK to work, study or join family for more than six months, or to extend their stay in the UK. Payment of the IHS enables migrants to access the NHS on broadly the same basis as UK residents for the duration of their valid immigration permission in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-09/188801>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-09/188802>

Asylum: Applications

Julian Knight (Independent) [189810] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure asylum seekers are given accurate information on the (a) expected processing times for and (b) progress of their applications.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Prime Minister made an announcement on the 13 December 2022 committing to clear the backlog of legacy asylum claims, those made before 28 June 2022, by the end of 2023.

Separate work is underway to process all other asylum claims awaiting consideration, as laid out in the ministerial written statement of 8 June 2023.

We are developing a portal which will enable asylum seekers to access real time updates on their case. An early version of this has been in test with representatives and we are looking to develop its usage and build the asylum seeker aspects during the latter part of this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189810>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

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

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-06-08/hcws837>

Asylum: Applications

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [189862] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will commission the creation of a digital tool to enable asylum seekers to be provided with updates on their case.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are developing a portal which will enable claimants to access real time updates on their case. An early version of this has been in test with representatives during 2022/23 and we are looking to develop its usage and build the customer aspects during 2023/2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189862>

Refugees: Children

Helen Hayes (Labour) [189373] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children were accommodated in Home Office operated hotels in each month since October 2022 by age.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

If any child goes missing the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. A multi-agency, missing persons meeting is chaired by the local authority to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe. Similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

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

The data requested cannot be provided as it comes from live operational databases that have not been quality assured.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-13/189373>

Refugees: Children

Helen Hayes (Labour) [189374] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children accommodated in Home Office operated hotels (a) have gone missing since July 2021 and (b) are missing as of 13 June 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

There are 154 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) missing as of 8 June 2023.

If any child goes missing, including UASCs, the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. A multi-agency, missing persons meeting is chaired by the local authority to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe. Similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-13/189374>

Asylum: Children

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [189803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of unaccompanied asylum seeking children who went missing from hotel accommodation remain unaccounted for.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We take the safety of those in our care seriously. We have robust safeguarding procedures in place to ensure all young people in hotels are safe and supported as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

Young people are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses. All contingency sites have security staff on site 24/7 and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the welfare and safety of vulnerable residents.

As of 05 June, there were 154 young people missing.

If any child goes missing, including an accompanied asylum seeking child, the MARS (Missing After Reasonable Steps) protocol is followed. A multi-agency, missing persons meeting is chaired by the local authority to establish the young person's whereabouts and to ensure that they are safe. Similar protocols within police forces have safely reduced the number of missing episodes from placements by 36%.

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189803>

Asylum: LGBT+ People

Sarah Owen (Labour) [189420] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps his Department plans to take to protect overseas families of UK asylum seekers who have fled persecution due to their sexuality.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: The UK is committed to promoting the human rights of LGBT+ people around the world and ensuring that no one faces violence or discrimination for being LGBT+. Our Refugee Family Reunion visa scheme allows eligible family members of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection, including LGBT+ refugees, to reunite with them in the UK. Additionally, through our international programmes and diplomatic engagement, we bring communities and governments together to strengthen rights and freedoms. Since 2018, we have provided over £13.5 million of UK-funded projects to empower and build the capacity of grassroots LGBT+ organisations and human rights defenders worldwide.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-13/189420>

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

Asylum: Women

Tonia Antoniazzi (Labour) [189890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support women who have sought asylum.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are eligible for support under section 95 of the Immigration & Asylum 1999 Act. The support provided usually consists of accommodation with utility bills and council tax paid and a weekly allowance to meet other essential living needs including food and non-alcoholic drink. All asylum seekers have access to free NHS care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189890>

Asylum: Hotels

Nia Griffith (Labour) [189594] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what was the cost to the public purse of hotels used to house asylum seekers from January to May 2023.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their application for asylum is being considered. The global pandemic and an increased influx of small boat arrivals has presented us with significant challenges when it comes to the provision of asylum accommodation. We have therefore had to source hotel accommodation across the United Kingdom. Costs are subject to change depending on numbers being accommodated within the asylum system. The Home Office is currently spending around £7m per day on hotel accommodation. Total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at [HO annual reports and accounts](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-14/189594>

Asylum: Hotels

Nia Griffith (Labour) [189595] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the average length of stay of a family of asylum seekers

accommodated in an asylum hotel.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We encourage every Local Authorities who does not currently house supported asylum seekers to support the asylum dispersal scheme so that we can minimise the length of stay in contingency accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-14/189595>

Asylum: Hotels

Christopher Pincher (Independent) [188256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made on moving asylum seekers from unsuitable temporary hotel accommodation; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office aims to end the use of hotels and move asylum seekers to less expensive and more suitable accommodation.

To support this, we are bringing into use large disused military's sites and vessels, which will provide adequate, safe, and secure, non-detained accommodation for asylum seekers.

Additionally, the funding for dispersal accommodation has changed; for existing dispersed accommodation and beds in hotels, the government will provide local authorities with a one off retrospective £750 payment for each asylum seeker in Home Office accommodation on the 1 of April 2023; up from £250 last year. Furthermore, a new pilot will be introduced to offer local authorities an additional one off payment of up to £3,000 for new dispersal beds which are brought on and occupied quickly.

The Home Office are also making more efficient use of existing hotels. By asking people to share rooms, where it's appropriate to do so, we've found an additional 11,500 places which will save taxpayers an extra £250 million a year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-07/188256>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Human Trafficking: Boats

Lord Balfe (Conservative) [HL8184] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps, if any, they have taken (1) to identify the source of boats used for people smuggling to the UK, and (2) to stop the supply of boats used for such smuggling from being obtained by the smugglers.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office works closely with international partners and with manufacturers to tackle the supply of the small boats used in these dangerous, illegal and unnecessary crossings.

However, it would not be in the interests of operational security to detail the specific activities being undertaken.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/hl8184>

Human Trafficking: Boats

Lord Balfe (Conservative) [HL8185] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Murray of Blidworth on 30 May (HL7826), whether there is any way in which boats "disposed of by Border Force's approved contractors" could be reused by people smugglers.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: All vessels that have been subject to seizure are held by Border Force until completion of any criminal investigation activities.

The majority of boats are not fit for re-sale and unseaworthy, as they arrive in very poor condition and may be damaged during the recovery process.

The boats are disposed of by Border Force's approved contractors and, where appropriate, any suitable materials are recycled. There are no plans to revisit these arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-05/hl8185>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-15/hl7826>

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

Legal Aid Scheme: Immigration

Lord Bach (Labour) [HL8268] To ask His Majesty's Government, in the past year, what proportion of immigration legal aid providers have (1) opened no new legal aid cases, and (2) opened no more than 30 new legal aid cases.

Reply from Lord Bellamy: Between April 2022 and March 2023, 7% (11) of immigration legal aid providers opened no new cases and 15% (23) opened no more than 30 new cases.

In total there are 152 legal aid providers who hold a contract to provide immigration and asylum legal aid service. The above data reflects active immigration work reported between April 2022 and March 2023, inclusive.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) delivers services for immigration legal aid by Procurement Area and Access Point geographical area. These are procured and delivered at office level. A provider could therefore have opened over 30 new cases, spread across several office locations with varied levels of active immigration casework. There are no Procurement Areas in which no new immigration legal aid cases have been opened.

The LAA frequently reviews market capacity to make sure there is adequate provision of legal aid, in all categories of law, throughout England and Wales. The LAA moves quickly, where issues arise, to secure provision and to ensure demand for legal aid services is met across the country. Legal advice on a range of civil matters including housing, debt, discrimination, and education is available, wherever people are, through the [Civil Legal Advice](#) telephone service.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-07/hl8268>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL8363] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to allow asylum seekers the right to work while waiting for their asylum claims to be resolved.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Asylum seekers are allowed to work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List.

It is important that our policy approach distinguishes between those who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Asylum seekers do not need to make perilous journeys in order to seek employment in the United Kingdom. There are various safe and legal routes for those seeking to work in the UK under the Points Based System.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-08/hl8363>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Claudia Webbe (Independent) [1359] Windrush 75th anniversary and pensions – That this House welcomes the 75th anniversary of the arrival of Empire Windrush at Tilbury Dock on 22 June 1948; recognises the arrival of the Windrush Generation from 1948 to 1971 is a key moment in British history; celebrates the contribution of the Windrush Generation and the Caribbean community more generally, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude in helping to reshape, build and transform Britain for the better; notes the conclusion of a leaked Home Office report that the origins of the Windrush scandal lay in three decades of racist immigration legislation designed to reduce the UK's non-white population; notes with concern thousands of Windrush Generation pensioners living abroad had their pensions frozen at the lowest value, which can be less than half of the old Basic State Pension of £156.20, applicable to those who've reached state pension age before 6 April 2016 and only a third of the new State Pension of £203.85; further notes that these are not uprated when UK pensions are increased annually for the more than half a million British pensioners living overseas, despite the Government's estimated cost to do so being 0.3 per cent of the annual pensions budget; believes the freezing of pensions is unjust, unfair, discriminatory and reflects a betrayal of the Windrush Generation; and calls on the Government to ensure that all pensioners living abroad, many of whom have made lifelong payments to their state pensions, should receive the same annual increases as pensioners living in the UK.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61091>

Press Releases

Windrush 75: Celebrating 75 Years of the Windrush Generation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-75-celebrating-75-years-of-the-windrush-generation>

Protecting people seeking refuge in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protecting-people-seeking-refuge-in-scotland/>

New Publications

Website: New Scots

<https://newscots.scot/>

We Believe in a Different Approach – Faith Leader video from Together with Refugees

https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/23vj_twr.mp4

75th anniversary of the arrival of the Windrush generation

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/75th-anniversary-of-the-arrival-of-the-windrush-generation/>

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: May 2023

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1164192/WCS_Data_-_May_2023.ods

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

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

News: Windrush Anniversary

King hails Windrush generation on 75th anniversary

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65977518>

Windrush arrivals made UK a better place - William

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65977518>

Windrush generation celebrated in 75th anniversary

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65977518>

Windrush Day: 'We have put the Great in Britain'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65963870>

Windrush: New 50p coin to mark 75th anniversary released

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65932266>

Windrush: Hundreds with chronic and mental illness sent back to Caribbean

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65926622>

Windrush children's experiences told in Brixton exhibition

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-65961059>

Windrush legacy: the lasting impact of Caribbean migration on Britain and beyond

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/24/windrush-legacy-caribbean-migration-britain>

Windrush 75: How Caribbean culture has helped to shape the UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/windrush-75-caribbean-culture-shaped-uk-anniversary-2023-p9205cgzd>

Windrush 75: What is Windrush and who are the Windrush generation?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43782241>

Windrush generation celebrated in a series of 10 portraits – in pictures

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/gallery/2023/jun/22/windrush-generation-celebrated-10-portraits-in-pictures>

Number of Windrush victims who have died waiting for compensation doubles in two years

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-compensation-deaths-delays-home-office-b2362220.html>

Hundreds of Windrush victims waiting over a year for compensation on 'callous' scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-scandal-compensation-scheme-home-office-b2362201.html>

What did Windrush arrivals find in postwar Britain?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/what-did-windrush-arrivals-find-in-postwar-britain-rb62w9sqn>

Windrush: 'I didn't know what racism was until I came here'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-65950517>

Windrush: The Trinidadian who found happiness in a seaside resort

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-65984346>

Celebrating the Windrush generation at 75

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/celebrating-the-windrush-generation-at-75>

Bittersweet anniversary

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/bittersweet-anniversary>

News: Channel Migrants

Small boats carried 10,000 migrants across Channel this year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/06/18/small-board-migrants-10000-english-channel-new-data/>

Drop in Channel crossings hailed by Sunak as proof policies were 'working' halves in a fortnight

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rishi-sunak-small-boats-drop-b2360122.html>

'Evil people smugglers' are easy to blame for migrant boat tragedies. Here's the truth

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/19/people-smugglers-migrant-boat-disaster-greece>

News: Ukraine

UN retirees host Ukrainian refugee family

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/06/1137887>

Happy endings: the Ukrainian boy stranded in a basement who you helped to escape

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/jun/24/happy-endings-the-ukrainian-boy-stranded-in-a-basement-who-you-helped-to-escape>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Thousands of Albanian asylum seekers abscond from hotels

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/thousands-of-albanian-asylum-seekers-abscond-from-hotels-cscfsc2>

Barge will house migrants set for asylum, not deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/barge-will-house-migrants-set-for-asylum-not-deportation-vtx87xnh7>

Council says cruise ship would be 'floating prison' for asylum seekers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-65995657>

Edinburgh council opposes 'floating prison' for asylum seekers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-hits-out-at-plans-to-house-asylum-seekers-on-floating-prison-pnnsj3893>

Hotel mogul dubbed 'Asylum King' enjoys record profits as Braverman grapples with migrant backlog

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/06/18/alex-langsam-britannia-hotels-migrant-accommodation-profit/>

Migrant hotel costs could soar to £11bn a year if small boats Bill fails

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/06/24/migrant-hotel-costs-11bn-migrant-bill-fails/>

Child refugees detained by UK at risk of 'PTSD, depression and suicidal behaviour', health bodies warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/child-refugee-migration-mental-health-b2359998.html>

Child refugees could develop PTSD if locked up by UK, medical bodies say

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jun/19/child-refugees-could-develop-ptsd-if-locked-up-by-uk-medical-bodies-say>

World Refugee Day: Finding hope away from home

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/world-refugee-day-2023/>

Clearsprings: Home Office asylum contractor prices out homeless

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65984461>

Does the Illegal Migration Bill undermine Wales' commitment to be a Nation of Sanctuary?

<https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/does-the-illegal-migration-bill-undermine-wales-commitment-to-be-a-nation-of-sanctuary/>

Scottish faith leaders have joined forces to voice their opposition to the UK Government's Illegal Migration Bill

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/articles/faith-leaders-voice-fresh-opposition-to-illegal-migration-bill>

UK fruit picking farms like prison, migrant worker tells peers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65987378>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Midwives and Nurses

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [188712] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he plans to take to increase the representation of (a) ethnic minority and (b) internationally educated nurses in governance structures of the (i) nursing and (ii) midwifery professions.

Reply from Will Quince: The National Health Service workforce is more diverse today than at any point in its 75-year history.

The NHS Equality, Diversity and Inclusion improvement plan, which was published on 8 June 2023, requires NHS organisations and integrated care boards to create talent management plans to improve diversity of boards and senior roles and to implement plans to widen recruitment opportunities within local communities. This

should include a focus on career pathways into the NHS such as apprenticeship programmes and graduate management training schemes.

To increase the number of internationally educated nurses at higher grades, NHS England has funded 22 pilot projects as part of an Accelerated Development Programme. NHS England has also been proactive in encouraging ethnic minority nurses and midwives to apply for places on leadership development programmes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-09/188712>

The improvement plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-improvement-plan/>

Nurses: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [188539] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase the proportion of ethnic minority nurses at band 8a or above.

Reply from Will Quince: The National Health Service is one of the most diverse organisations in this country and we hugely value the contribution that all staff make to delivering care and supporting patients.

On 8 June 2023, NHS England published an Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) improvement plan for the NHS workforce. There has been progress in improving diversity of senior management teams; the total number of ethnic minority staff at very senior manager level has increased by 69.7% since 2018 from 201 to 341.

The EDI plan requires NHS organisations and integrated care boards to create talent management plans to improve diversity of boards and senior roles and to implement plans to widen recruitment opportunities within local communities. This includes a focus on career pathways into the NHS such as apprenticeship programmes and graduate management training schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-08/188539>

The improvement plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-improvement-plan/>

Nurses: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [188811] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he has taken to promote the collective voice of ethnic minority senior nurses.

Reply from Will Quince: The NHS Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion improvement plan, published on 8 June 2023, states that National Health Service leaders must demonstrate their commitment to creating a fair environment for their staff.

The Chief Nursing Officer for England has also formed an Ethnic Minorities Advisory Collaborative to advise on inclusive policies and support the retention and development of senior colleagues from ethnic minority backgrounds. This is formed of three independent groups which together work to promote diversity at senior levels: the Global Majority Chief Nurses' Group, which acts as a senior ethnic minority staff advisory group to the Chief Nursing Officer; the black and minority ethnic strategic advisory group; and the Jabali Men's Network, which aims to support the retention and development of men from African, Caribbean, and Asian backgrounds at Band 8C and above.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-09/188811>

The improvement plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-improvement-plan/>

New Publications

At a Crossroads - which way now for the human rights system in Scotland?

https://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/2456/crossroads_what-next-for-human-rights-protection-in-scotland-shrc-june-2023.pdf

Improving the Ethnic Diversity of UK Business: An update report from the Parker Review

https://assets.ey.com/content/dam/ey-sites/ey-com/en_uk/topics/diversity/ey-parker-review-report-2022.pdf

News

Advancing equality with devolved administrations in England

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/blogs/advancing-equality-devolved-administrations-england>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Police: Hate Crime

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL8297] To ask His Majesty's Government, with regard to the case of *Miller v College of Policing*, what steps they are taking to ensure that police forces in England and Wales pay due regard to freedom of speech in the discharge of their responsibilities in respect of allegations of criminal activity arising from social media communication.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: To address the *Miller v College of Policing* judgment and wider concerns relating to the recording of non-crime hate incidents, the Government has introduced a statutory code of practice on this recording for police officers in England and Wales, as provided for in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The code, which entered into effect on 3 June following Parliamentary approval, introduces a new threshold test that means that personal data may only be included in a non-crime hate incident record if the event is clearly motivated by intentional hostility and there is a risk of escalation causing significant harm or a criminal offence. The code will ensure non-crime hate incidents are only recorded when it is absolutely necessary and proportionate to do so, and not simply because someone is offended.

This Government is confident that the code strikes the right balance between better protecting people's fundamental right to freedom of expression, whilst enabling the police to continue to protect vulnerable people and communities.

Reported hate crimes will continue to be recorded in line with the College of Policing's operational guidance on hate crime.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-07/hl8297>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Miller-v-College-of-Policing-judgment-201221.pdf>

The code of practice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-crime-hate-incidents-code-of-practice/non-crime-hate-incidents-code-of-practice-on-the-recording-and-retention-of-personal-data-accessible>

New Publication

Glossary of Antisemitic Terms

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/6847-Antisem-Glossary-2023-8-WEB-VERSION.pdf>

News

Far-right Patriotic Alternative activist jailed over terror manifestos

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-right-patriotic-alternative-activist-jailed-over-terror-manifestos-kshb322mn>

Glastonbury festival pulls 'antisemitic' Jeremy Corbyn film

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/glastonbury-festival-2023-pulls-jeremy-corbyn-film-conspiracy-theory-pfs5cjhw0>

'Racism has been like running a race with a ball and chain around your leg'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-has-been-like-running-a-race-with-a-ball-and-chain-around-your-leg-mt8qlgztz>

Windermere boatmasters banned from mentioning slavery link

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lake-windermere-boatmasters-banned-from-mentioning-slavery-link-w628wx3d8>

Black driver harassed at work with pictures of Ku Klux Klan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/black-driver-harassed-at-work-with-pictures-of-ku-klux-klan-rf8mlhzpj>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Healthcare: Spiritual Care Guidance

Rona Mackay (SNP) [S6W-19396] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the contribution of healthcare chaplains during the COVID-19 pandemic, when new guidance on spiritual care will be published.

Reply from Jenni Minto: I would like to recognise and acknowledge the vital role of spiritual care in supporting individuals throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The World Health Organisation states that "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" and the Scottish Government affirms this statement. The ethos of spiritual care affirms that people are not merely physical bodies requiring mechanical fixing. The Scottish Government is committed to the delivery of the highest quality of care which takes into consideration what matters most to an individual (including personal values and deeply held beliefs) – as part of this we recognise and affirm that spiritual care is a core part of person-centred care.

As part of our commitment to these aims, we have today published a national framework which will support both health and social care providers to consider, and build on the many opportunities and excellent practice which currently exist in the

provision and delivery of spiritual care across Scotland and enhance Scotland's reputation as world leaders in the development and delivery of spiritual care. The framework is available on the Scottish Government website:

<https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781805258858>

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-19396>

Press Releases

Crime remains at historically low-levels

<https://www.gov.scot/news/crime-remains-at-historically-low-levels/>

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2022-23

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-in-scotland-2022-23/>

Embedding rights into the Constitution

<https://www.gov.scot/news/embedding-rights-into-the-constitution/>

Proposals for new constitutional rights for an independent Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/proposals-for-new-constitutional-rights-for-an-independent-scotland/>

New Publications

Discovering meaning, purpose and hope through person centred wellbeing and spiritual care: A National Framework

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcrhm94>

Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2022-23

Report

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2023/06/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23/documents/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23/govscot%3Adocument/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23.pdf>

Data

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2023/06/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23/documents/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23%5B2%5D/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23/govscot%3Adocument/recorded-crime-scotland-2022-23.xlsx>

Building a New Scotland – The Constitution Paper: First Minister's speech

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-constitution-paper-first-ministers-speech-19-june-2023/>

Building a New Scotland: Creating a modern constitution for an independent Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/building-new-scotland-creating-modern-constitution-independent-scotland/>

Factsheet: Independence: what you need to know

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/independence-what-you-need-to-know/>

News

Humza Yousaf unveils plan for written constitution for Scotland

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65948652>

At a glance: Constitution plan for an independent Scotland

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65951500>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

New Publication

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2022/forced-marriage-unit-statistics-2022>

News

ID rules stopped 14,000 people voting, watchdog finds

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-65988959>

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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/>

Publication

Unable to escape persistent hardship: cost of living tracker, Summer 2023

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/unable-escape-persistent-hardship-jrfs-cost-living-tracker-summer-2023>

News

Millions to receive cost of living payment

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65960125>

UK inflation shock as food costs keeps cost of living high

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65966723>

Curbing inflation will not solve the cost of living crisis

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/06/18/inflation-interest-rates-cost-of-living-crisis/>

Interest rates: Bank of England governor admits rise painful for many

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65982981>

Interest rate hike will have serious consequences for low-income families

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/interest-rate-hike-will-have-serious-consequences-low-income-families>

5.7 million low-income households having to cut down or skip meals, as JRF's cost of living tracker shows "Horrendous new normal"

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/57-million-low-income-households-having-cut-down-or-skip-meals-jrf-s-cost-living-tracker-shows>

No relief for the 7.3 million going without essentials

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/no-relief-73-million-going-without-essentials-jrf-responds-cpi-inflation-figures>

Record 1.5m over-65s still working as cost of living crisis spoils retirement dreams

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/06/19/record-15m-over-65s-working-cost-of-living-crisis-retirement/>

Cost of living: Women 'bearing the brunt' of rising prices

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-65956719>

'Vicious circle' for people pushed to wrong debt help

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-65915609>

People turn to microwave meals as prices soar

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65954252>

Cost of living: Low pay forces family to use water with cereal

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-65999115>

Morrisons and M&S latest to cut price of basics

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65954247>

Rent: 'We've got £1,750 a month and can't find anywhere'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65903095>

Mortgage crisis: 'We can't pay an extra £1,400 a month'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-65761233>

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Other News

Islamic scholars urge Muslims to celebrate Eid under a British moon

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/islamic-scholars-urge-muslims-to-celebrate-eid-under-a-british-moon-g9t3nr0qw>

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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>

Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/police-ethics-conduct-and-scrutiny-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>

**** British Nationality (Regularisation of Past Practice) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3465/publications>

Second Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-19/debates/D64F51DC-85DA-4B28-8104-6F7EF0FFB2C4/BritishNationality\(RegularisationOfPastPractice\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-19/debates/D64F51DC-85DA-4B28-8104-6F7EF0FFB2C4/BritishNationality(RegularisationOfPastPractice)Bill)

Committee Stage and Third Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-21/debates/B69F333D-3E89-469D-8D8C-D1CFAC7865D1/BritishNationality\(RegularisationOfPastPractice\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-21/debates/B69F333D-3E89-469D-8D8C-D1CFAC7865D1/BritishNationality(RegularisationOfPastPractice)Bill)

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/51702/documents/3614>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51741/documents/3631>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51824/documents/3659>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51879/documents/3688>

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/2023-06-22/debates/B6855858-F8BF-4296-8D76-14A527A3B3AF/OnlineSafetyBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-06-22/debates/C956350F-D70E-4409-8A4D-4ED05488C6DE/OnlineSafetyBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51703/documents/3615>

Bill as amended in Committee

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/51870/documents/3679>

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

Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 8 September 2023)
<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/justice/victims-witnesses-justice-reform-bill/>

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)
<https://consult.gov.scot/equality-and-human-rights/a-human-rights-bill-for-scotland-consultation/>

Let's Be Heard – Sharing Scotland's COVID Experience (closing date not stated)
<https://lbh.covid19inquiry.scot/>

Experiences of Racism in Scotland's Night-Time Economy (closing date not stated)
<https://t.co/IUabNPI1nK>

ITV/Tell MAMA survey on mosque safety in the UK (closing date not stated)
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/V7V5B6L>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Creative Communities Glasgow

Closing date for applications 30 June 2023

Glasgow Communities and Place Fund / UK Shared Prosperity Fund grants of up to £80,000 to support and empower communities to develop cultural activities. Projects must be led by their community, and applicants must demonstrate how the project will address priorities in their community, and help overcome the barriers the community faces to creative and cultural engagement. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yc8yf4c8>

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

Big Give: The Christmas Challenge

Closing date for applications: 7 July 2023

When someone donates to a charity through a Big Give campaign, funders are asked to match that donation, so, for example, £50 from a member of the public becomes £100 for a good cause. Charities must secure a minimum of £1k in pledges to be eligible for Champion funding. For information see <https://biggive.org/christmas-challenge/>

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Application deadline not stated

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Crossroads: which way now for the human rights system in Scotland?

28 June 2023 (venue not stated, 2.00–3.00)

3 July 2023 (venue not stated, 11.00–12.00)

13 July 2023 (venue not stated, 6.00–7.00)

Scottish Human Rights Commission roundtables to discuss a SHRC discussion paper [Exploring the experience of human rights protection for the people of Scotland](#) and potential ways forward. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4serrnjt>

**** this week!**

A Conversation on Windrush

28 June 2023 (online, 7.00–8.15)

Welsh People's History Society conversation on the lives and legacy of the Windrush generation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3734ahek>

Scotland's New Human Rights Bill - Have Your Say

11 July 2023 (Glasgow, 12.30–4.30)

CEMVO consultation event to discuss what human rights look like and feel like to you including the right to healthy environment, access to justice, adequate standard of living, and wellbeing. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mtwf86sc>

The story of Empire Windrush in ten documents

21 July 2023 (online, 2.00–3.00)

National Archives event to explore what government records can tell us about migration from the Caribbean in the post-war era, and the experiences of people who settled. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mr22nu2m>

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>

New Scots <https://newscots.scot/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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



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



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

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