



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

### Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Cost of Living](#)

[Other New Publication](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

[Back issues](#)

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

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**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 19 February 2024.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Written Answers

#### Visa Restrictions: Students

**Kevin Stewart (SNP) [S6W-24806]** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the reported contribution of international students to Scottish universities and the wider economy in Scotland, what specific assessment it has conducted to understand any potential impact of new UK visa restrictions, in relation to family members accompanying students.

**Reply from Graeme Dey:** The Scottish Government recognises the significant contribution that international students and their families bring to our economy, communities and culture.

UK Government immigration policies fail to address Scotland's distinct demographic and economic needs and highlights the need for a tailored approach to migration. We are working closely with colleges and universities in Scotland to establish and understand the impact that the UK Government's damaging migration policies have on the sector.

The UK Government frames family migration as a burden. The Scottish Government takes a different view. Scotland needs people to live, work and raise their families here, in light of the pronounced demographic challenge ahead.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24806>

#### **Visa Restrictions: Students**

**Kevin Stewart (SNP) [S6W-24807]** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of the reported contribution of international students to modern languages at Scottish universities, what specific assessment it has conducted to understand any potential impact of new UK visa restrictions, in relation to family members accompanying students, on students studying modern languages at Scottish universities.

**Reply from Graeme Dey:** The Scottish Government has not undertaken any specific assessment regarding the impact of recent changes to visa restrictions introduced by the UK Government on students studying modern languages at Scottish universities.

The Scottish Government recognises the important and valuable contribution that international students make to the Scottish economy, our educational environment and Scottish society. It is essential that immigration policy allows Scotland to attract and retain talent without excessive barriers.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24807>

#### **Visa Restrictions: Students**

**Kevin Stewart (SNP) [S6W-24808]** To ask the Scottish Government, in light of new UK visa restrictions, in relation to family members accompanying students, and any potential negative impact on student wellbeing and academic success as a result of family separation, whether it is considering any measures or support programmes to mitigate any such impact, to ensure that the reported positive contribution of international students in Scotland can continue.

**Reply from Graeme Dey:** We remain deeply concerned that the new UK Government visa restrictions will make Scotland a less attractive destination for international students. We are working closely with the sector to minimise impact. Universities in Scotland are autonomous bodies with responsibility for teaching, assessment and academic and student support.

The Scottish Government will, throughout February 2024, undertake consultation events with members of the Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Working Group on a draft Student Mental Health Action Plan.

The draft Plan recognises the critical importance of early intervention and prevention, ensuring effective access to a diverse range of community-based clinical and non-clinical services, and providing timely clinical acute care for those who require it. It sets out our expectations for institutions on supporting student mental health and wellbeing and how Scottish Government will work with them and the wider public sector.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24808>

### **Visa Restrictions: Students**

**Kevin Stewart (SNP)** [S6W-24809] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of any potential disproportionate impact of UK visa restrictions, in relation to family members accompanying students, on certain nationalities, and the reported importance of attracting diverse talent to Scottish universities, whether it has had any discussions with the UK Government to advocate for exemptions or greater flexibility in the policy for specific cases or countries.

**Reply from Graeme Dey:** The Scottish Government has urged the UK Government to adopt an inclusive approach to family migration to ensure that those with caring responsibilities are not excluded from our education institutions. Scotland must be able to attract and retain talent without excessive barriers and migration policy should support mobility, collaboration and innovation.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice wrote to the new Home Secretary on the 22 December, highlighting Scotland's distinct demographic needs and requested a meeting to discuss our concerns.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24809>

### **Visa Restrictions: Students**

**Kevin Stewart (SNP)** [S6W-24810] To ask the Scottish Government, in light of any potential challenges faced by universities and students impacted by new UK visa restrictions, in relation to family members accompanying students, what steps it is taking to support universities in Scotland to (a) adapt to the new restrictions and (b) provide information and guidance to affected students.

**Reply from Graeme Dey:** The Scottish Government remains deeply concerned about the new UK visa changes and the impact on Scotland's ability to attract international students.

The Scottish Government will launch a Talent Attraction and Migration Service in 2024. The service will help address Scotland's demographic challenges and will attract and welcome more workers from outside Scotland, including the rest of the UK, with the skills that our economy needs.

The service will provide immigration support for employers, including our universities and colleges, based in Scotland and for those wishing to set up in Scotland, to enable them to use the UK's immigration system effectively and efficiently to help meet Scotland's skills and labour needs.

The service will also cater to immigration queries from people whose leave is about to expire and to international students approaching the end of their studies who wish to remain in Scotland and seek employment with a Scotland-based employer. We have also recently launched our International Education Strategy which sets out steps we will take to work collaboratively with the sector to support international students to study in Scotland.

As immigration is a complex legal area, students may wish to seek professional advice, as the Scottish Government cannot provide legal or immigration advice. An immigration advisor can be found through the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner which regulates immigration advice and services.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24810>

*The International Education Strategy, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-international-education-strategy/>

### **Visa Restrictions: Students**

**Kevin Stewart (SNP)** [S6W-24811] To ask the Scottish Government what mechanisms are in place to monitor any impact of UK visa restrictions, in relation to family members

accompanying students, on (a) student enrolment, (b) university finances and (c) the wider economy, in order to understand any long-term effect of the policy in Scotland.

**Reply from Graeme Dey:** UK Government immigration policies fail to address Scotland's distinct demographic and economic needs and highlights the need for a tailored approach to migration. We are working closely with colleges and universities in Scotland to establish the impact that the UK Government's damaging migration policies have on the sector.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-24811>

## UK Parliament Debates

### Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Potential Extension

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-06/debates/799EECEC-BB48-421B-9086-D3A4E050AF4E/HomesForUkraineSchemePotentialExtension>

### Deportation of Foreign National Offenders

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-07/debates/4A8CDEF3-6E5F-4550-ABCD-9706E11814BB/DeportationOfForeignNationalOffenders>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### Windrush Compensation Scheme

**Vicky Foxcroft (Labour)** [901442] What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the time taken to process claims to the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Mohammad Yasin (Labour)** [901445] What recent discussions [the Minister] has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the time taken to process claims to the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Janet Daby (Labour)** [901455] What recent discussions she [the Minister] had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the time taken to process claims to the Windrush compensation scheme.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Laura Farris):** As of December 2023, 91% of all claims either had received a final decision or were less than six months old. The Windrush scheme has reduced the time taken to allocate a substantive casework decision from 18 months to less than four months. That includes making all essential eligibility checks together with a preliminary assessment to make an initial interim payment of £10,000 wherever possible.

**Vicky Foxcroft:** In response to a parliamentary question, the former Immigration Minister, the right hon. Member for Newark (Robert Jenrick), confirmed that by April last year, 41 of the 6,122 Windrush compensation claimants had sadly died before their claims were settled—an increase of more than 100% since 2021. Will the Minister update us on how many applicants have now died while waiting for the Government to right the wrongs done to thousands of innocent survivors and their families?

**Reply from Laura Farris:** I can confirm that we have been made aware of 53 claimants who have unfortunately passed away. I want to provide the hon. Lady with two reassurances: first, if we are notified an individual is suffering from a critical or life-limiting illness, their claim is prioritised; secondly, if they do pass away, their family are still able to pursue their claim.

**Mohammad Yasin:** Only 14% of 150,000 eligible applicants to the compensation scheme

have received redress. Will the Government learn lessons from the Horizon scandal and listen to victims and campaign groups who are calling on them to lower the burden of proof for claims, and ensure that legal aid is guaranteed to all eligible claimants?

**Reply from Laura Farris:** So far, £75 million has been paid out on more than 2,000 claims. ... However, we have been making consistent improvements to the compensation scheme, including making it easier for applicants to use, and we have rapidly accelerated the speed at which we make our payments.

**Janet Daby:** Victims of the Windrush scandal have experienced huge injustices of destitution, humiliation and varied health issues, as well as delays in receiving compensation. To make matters worse, they do not currently receive compensation for the loss of private pensions. Will the Minister look into reducing the delays and compensating Windrush victims for private pension losses?

**Reply from Laura Farris:** We consider each claim on its facts, and no two claims are the same. I would be happy to write to the hon. Lady about specific issues, but I reassure her that we do not take a blanket approach to each individual and we assess claims individually. ...

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op):** The Conservatives have failed the Windrush generation twice now: first by denying their rights as British citizens, and secondly by delaying their compensation, as we have just heard again. Labour would sort out the compensation scheme, re-establish the major change programme and Windrush unit scrapped by the Conservatives and appoint a Windrush commissioner to ensure that this kind of scandal never happens again. What is the Government's plan here?

**Reply from Laura Farris:** I find it difficult to accept that a scheme is failing when more than 80% of claims have now received a final decision, and more than 90% have either received a final decision or are less than six months old. So I disagree with that. I think it was suggested that we should take the scheme out of the Home Office—perhaps that is Labour's proposal. I remind the hon. Lady that Martin Levermore, the independent adviser to the Windrush scheme, supported the scheme remaining in the Home Office in his most recent report, published in March 2022.

**Anneliese Dodds:** There is no accountability for the failures being felt so acutely by so many people who, frankly, do not have much time left to see justice. The Windrush generation and their families helped to build our NHS, but today we see big inequalities in health outcomes. Labour's race equality Act would include a target to close the appalling maternal mortality gap for black and Asian women. It seems another nine months have passed since the maternity disparities taskforce last met—is that because the Minister for Women and Equalities thinks this is another of her alleged fake problems?

**Reply from Laura Farris:** I say to the hon. Lady that that is not accepted. In fact, the Health Secretary made an announcement on maternal services this week; I think it would be appropriate to refer to my colleagues at the Department of Health and Social Care, and then I will write to the hon. Lady on this point.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-07/debates/AE2ED1BE-52BD-45F2-B965-577F5E759A39/WindrushCompensationScheme>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>*

*The response to a parliamentary question referred to above can be read at <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-15/189883>*

*The Independent Adviser's report referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-person-report-on-the-windrush-compensation-scheme/third-independent-person-report-on-the-windrush-compensation-scheme-how-the-home-office-is-doing-on-international-engagement-a-jamaica-perspective>*

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11954] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were detained after crossing the English Channel in boats involved in uncontrolled landings in 2023.

**Reply from Michael Tomlinson:** There were no uncontrolled landings in 2023. All people making these illegal, dangerous and unnecessary crossings of the Channel by small boat in 2023 were detected before reaching the UK and were placed under immigration control immediately upon arrival.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11954>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11955] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people arrived in the UK clandestinely (a) on larger vessels and (b) in a vehicle on a ferry in 2023.

**Reply from Michael Tomlinson:** The Home Office publishes statistics on detected irregular arrivals to the UK in the 'Irregular migration to the UK statistics' release on gov.uk.

Data on people who have arrived in the UK on larger vessels and in a vehicle on a ferry are included in the 'Recorded detections at UK ports' figures on table Irr\_01 of the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed datasets](#)', with the latest data up to the end of September 2023.

The Home Office does not publish the requested data in any further breakdowns.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11955>

### Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11956] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what information his Department holds on the number of people who attempted to enter the UK on small boats who were (a) intercepted by French authorities and (b) returned to France in (i) 2022 and (ii) 2023.

**Reply from Michael Tomlinson:** The French authorities provide the Home Office with regular operational updates, including estimates of the number of people who have been prevented from crossing to the UK.

Home Office records show that in 2022, around 33,000 crossing attempts (defined as an individual person attempting to cross the Channel by small boat) were prevented and returned to France. This compares with around 26,000 in 2023.

The decline in numbers of crossings prevented in 2023 relative to 2022 reflects the 30% decline in overall attempts made in 2023 relative to 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11956>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Afghanistan

### Refugees: Afghanistan

**John Healey (Labour)** [11988] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people that have relocated to the UK under the (a) Afghan relocations and assistance policy and (b) Afghan citizens resettlement scheme are residing in service family accommodation.

**Reply from James Heapey:** As of 2 February 2024, our records show 1,843 Afghans (principal applicants and family members) eligible for the Afghan

Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme (ARAP) are currently in settled Service Family Accommodation (SFA) across the United Kingdom.

SFA properties are also used to provide short-term, transitional accommodation for some ARAP-eligible families on arrival to the United Kingdom. 850 Afghans (principal applicants and family members) are currently in transitional SFA prior to onwards movement into longer-term, settled accommodation.

SFA is available to ARAP eligible applicants and family members only. The Home Office are responsible for administering the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/11988>

*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 Answers: Ukraine

### Refugees: Ukraine

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [12469] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of providing a minimum of 12 months notice to the first arrivals under the Ukrainian sponsorship schemes of plans for continued sponsorship on the current schemes' expiration.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The UK Government is, of course, mindful that permission for the first arrivals under the Ukrainian schemes will start to expire from March 2025, and that Ukrainians in the UK, as well as their hosts and sponsors, are understandably seeking more certainty to help them continue to settle in the UK and live independently. We are keeping the Ukraine schemes, and the evolving situation in Ukraine itself, under constant review to assess the best approach, including ensuring that Ukrainians in the UK are informed about the sponsorship options available to them in good time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12469>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Ukraine: Refugees

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [12470] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has had discussions with his Ukrainian counterparts on plans for the futures of those resident in the UK on Ukrainian sponsorship schemes beyond the schemes' expiration.

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [12626] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of providing additional funding to local authorities beyond the expiration date of the Ukraine sponsorship schemes, to help support those from Ukraine currently resident in the UK under such schemes.

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** The Home Office is reviewing what may be needed beyond Spring 2025 and an update on the future of the scheme will be provided well before the first visas expire in Spring 2025.

The UK Government supports the Ukrainian government and shares its desire for Ukraine eventually to welcome their people back to help rebuild the country.

We remain steadfast in our support for Ukraine, the Ukrainians now living in the UK and the local authorities supporting them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12470>

and

### **Refugees: Ukraine**

**Beth Winter (Labour)** [12625] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has had discussions with Cabinet colleagues on the future of those resident in the UK on Ukrainian sponsorship schemes beyond the schemes' expiration.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The UK Government is, of course, mindful that permission for the first arrivals under the Ukrainian schemes will start to expire from March 2025, and that Ukrainians in the UK, as well as their hosts and sponsors, are understandably seeking more certainty to help them continue to settle in the UK and live independently.

The Home Office continues to work closely with colleagues across government, our European counterparts and the Ukrainian Government, on options for the future of the Ukraine schemes. We will ensure that Ukrainians here in the UK are informed about the options available to them in good time before the expiry of the first Ukraine scheme visas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-01/12625>

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

### **Immigration**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [12231] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of introducing an overall cap on the number of migrants to the UK.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Government remains completely committed to reducing levels of legal migration. Our points-based immigration system allows us to control who comes to the UK to work, study and visit.

In May 2023, we took decisive action to tackle the substantial rise in the number of students bringing dependants to the UK. These reforms have now been implemented.

On 4 December 2023, we announced a major package of measures to curb immigration abuse and further reduce net migration.

This package of measures, taken together with the measures the Government announced in May 2023 to restrict the number of overseas students able to bring dependants, means that around 300,000 people who were eligible to come to the UK last year would not be able to do so in future.

We keep all our immigration policies under review to ensure they best serve the UK and reflect the public's priorities, including filling skills gaps and growing the economy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12231>

*The announcement relating to student reforms referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-05-23/debates/23052378000021/ImmigrationUpdate>

*The announcement relating to immigration abuse referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

### **Immigration Controls: Personal Income**

**Alistair Strathern (Labour)** [12475] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 January 2024 to Question 11230 on



Immigration: Personal Income, how many people on the current 10 year route to settlement will now have to meet a higher income threshold.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** People on the 10-year route to settlement do not need to meet an income threshold. Under Appendix FM, a partner, parent, or child can make an application for settlement on the basis of the five-year route where they meet the requirements of the rules, including where applicable the Minimum Income Requirement. Where those requirements are not met, but there are exceptional circumstances, then applicants may be granted permission to stay under the ten-year route to settlement.

Those on the ten-year route to settlement are able to switch back to re-commence the five-year route if they meet all of the requirements including, where relevant, the level of Minimum Income Requirement in place at the time they make their application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12475>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/11230>

### **Windrush Compensation Scheme**

**Dianne Abbott (Independent)** [12223] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have received an award from the Windrush Compensation Scheme in each quarter since that Scheme was launched.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** An individual could have more than one claim under the Windrush Compensation Scheme Rules, for example as a primary claimant, close family member, or as a representative of an estate. In addition, a claim may receive a preliminary, interim and/or full and final payment.

Data on the total number of people who have received a compensation payment is not published. Transparency Data shows how many claims have received a payment under the scheme.

The latest published data, covering the period up to November 2023, is available here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-november-2023.WCS\\_03](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-november-2023.WCS_03)

refers; Value of Windrush Compensation Scheme payments made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12223>

*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**

**Clive Lewis (Labour)** [12730] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people whose application for an award under the Windrush Compensation Scheme has been denied have appealed in each quarter since that scheme was launched.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Information on the number of Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants, who have requested a review of their full and final decision, is included in the Windrush Compensation Scheme Transparency Data, which is published regularly. However, the publication does not distinguish between reviews requested on the basis of the claim being awarded a zero entitlement decision (denied), or where the claimant is not satisfied with the value offer received.

The latest published data, covering the period up to December 2023, is available here: [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: December 2023](#).

The relevant page is WCS\_09, which contains details of the cumulative number of reviews requested at Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 2 reviews are completed by an

Independent Adjudicator outside of the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-01/12730>

*Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>*

### **Visas: Married People**

**Steve McCabe (Labour)** [12502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make it his policy to maintain the minimum income threshold level for spouse visas in place on 1 February 2024.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** On 4 December 2023 the Home Secretary announced his intention to raise the MIR to £38,700, aligned to the level at which the General Skilled Worker threshold is set.

On 30 January 2024, the Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border confirmed the Immigration Rules we intend to lay on 14 March will set out that from 11 April 2024 the minimum income threshold for Family visas will be raised to £29,000, that is the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of earnings for jobs which are eligible for Skilled Worker visas. We will incrementally increase the threshold, moving to the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile (currently £34,500), and finally to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile (currently £38,700, and the level at which the General Skilled Worker threshold is set) by early 2025.

It is important that the changes are delivered in a sensible and pragmatic way that gives families time to adapt, but ensures they deliver the reduction in numbers the British people expect.

This change will not be applied retrospectively to people already on the five-year partner route. Those who already have a Family visa within the five-year partner route, or who apply before the minimum income threshold is raised, will continue to have their applications assessed against the current income requirement and will not be required to meet the increased threshold. This will also be the case for children seeking to join or accompany parents.

Anyone granted a fiancé(e) visa before the minimum income threshold is raised will also be assessed against the current income requirement when they apply for a Family visa within the five-year partner route. Those already in the UK on a different route, who apply to switch into the five-year partner route after the MIR has been increased, will be subject to the new income requirement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-01/12502>

*The announcements referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

*and*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-30/debates/24013063000013/LegalMigrationImplementation>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

### **Visas: Families**

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [12314] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if his Department will issue guidance on exemptions to meeting the minimum income requirement threshold for family visas.

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [12315] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason his Department has changed the timescale for the introduction of the new salary threshold for legal migration.

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [12319] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of proposed increases in the

minimum income threshold for family visas on people in each region.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** On 4 December 2023 the Home Secretary announced his intention to raise the MIR to £38,700, aligned to the level at which the General Skilled Worker threshold is set. On 21 December 2023 we set out further details on how we would implement this through a staged implementation. On 30 January 2024, we confirmed the Immigration Rules we intend to lay on 14 March will set out that from 11 April we will raise the threshold to £29,000 - that is the 25th percentile of earnings for jobs which are eligible for Skilled Worker visas. We will incrementally increase the threshold to the 40th percentile (currently £34,500), and finally to the 50th percentile (currently £38,700, and the level at which the General Skilled Worker threshold (GSWT) is set) by early 2025.

It is important that the changes are delivered in a sensible and pragmatic way that gives families time to adapt, but ensures they deliver the reduction in numbers the British people expect.

Whilst the level of the minimum income requirement (MIR) is being raised, other aspects of the MIR will remain unchanged including exceptions.

For example, where the applicant's partner is in receipt of specified benefits or allowances in the UK, such as Disability Living Allowance, the applicant will be able to meet the financial requirement by providing evidence of "adequate maintenance", rather than meeting an income threshold.

The family Immigration Rules also contain provisions to allow for a person to be granted a Family visa even where they do not meet the MIR, where they show that their case raises exceptional circumstances, and a refusal of family leave would lead to unjustifiably harsh consequences for them or their family.

The published guidance on the current MIR is contained in the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chapter-8-appendix-fm-family-members>

Analytical work has been undertaken across Government to support decision making in this process, and an Impact Assessment will be developed in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12314>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12315>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-31/12319>

*The announcements referred to above can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-12-04/debates/921A08A2-F615-48F2-8C56-423A29556F9F/LegalMigration>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-01-30/debates/24013063000013/LegalMigrationImplementation>

### **British National (Overseas): Voluntary Work**

**Elliot Colburn (Conservative)** [12723] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has made an assessment of the potential merits of allowing British National (Overseas) passport holders to undertake voluntary work as (a) sportspersons and (b) sports coaches.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The restriction on working as a professional sportsperson applies to those holding permission on certain visa routes, including the British National (Overseas) visa. If an individual meets any of the indicators listed in the definition of a professional sportsperson at Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules, they are classified as such, and if the restriction on work as a professional sportsperson is present in their visa conditions, they would therefore be breaching the terms of their visa.

However, it is not this Government's intention to restrict anyone coming to the UK and taking part in sport recreationally. 'Amateur' is defined in the Immigration Rules as: "Amateur" means a person who engages in a sport or creative activity solely for personal enjoyment and who is not seeking to derive a living from the activity."

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-01/12723>

*Information about the British National (Overseas) visa referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>*

### **Refugees: Homelessness**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [12095] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 23 January 2024 to Question 10209 on Refugees: Homelessness, what steps he is taking to monitor the effectiveness of the support his Department provides to local authorities to reduce the risk of homelessness for new refugees.

**Reply from Felicity Buchan:** We have welcomed nearly 200,000 Ukrainians to the UK since the war began and provided £1.1 billion to councils through a tariff for each arrival in their area to support guests and sponsors. Most Ukrainians have been able to sustain housing without the need for homelessness support. This year councils across the UK have been allocated £150 million to help prevent homelessness for Ukrainian households and others at risk of homelessness, and there will be an additional £120 million available next year.

The vast majority of Afghans who were in bridging hotels have been supported to move into settled accommodation. We have provided a £35 million package for local authorities to increase the support available to Afghans and help overcome the specific barriers they face in accessing the housing system, including £7,100 per person in flexible housing fund to help households into settled accommodation. There is also £9,150 per household available to local authorities for homelessness costs, and up to 6 months wraparound funding of £28 per person per day for those in temporary accommodation.

We will continue to support the Afghan cohort into settled housing, including through the £450 million third round of the Local Authority Housing Fund which follows the first two rounds of £750 million to help house Ukrainian and Afghan families in England. The Department continues to monitor homelessness in these groups, working closely to support local authorities so they are able to carry out their duties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/12095>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-17/10209>

### **Asylum**

**Justin Madders (Labour)** [11811] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many claims for asylum were suspended in each month between September and December 2023.

**Reply from Tom Purslove:** The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the outcomes of asylum claims, including grants, refusals and withdrawals, is published in table Asy\_D02 of the '[Asylum applications, decisions and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2023. Data up to the end of 2023 will be published on 29 February 2024.

Further 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/2024-01-29/11811>

### **Asylum: Gaza**

**Anne McLaughlin (SNP)** [12563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential implications for his Department's policies on deciding asylum applications of the conflict in Gaza.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Asylum claims made by claimants from Gaza, as is the case with all asylum claims lodged in the UK and admitted to the UK asylum system, have an individual assessment made against the background of relevant case law, policy guidance and the latest available country of origin information.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-01/12563>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Asylum: Immigration Controls**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11682] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has had recent discussions with Border Force on allegations that people seeking asylum in the UK that have returned to their country of origin for a holiday.

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11683] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of exit checks conducted by Border Force which identified people seeking asylum in the UK attempting to return to their country of origin in 2022.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Officers conduct exit checks as part of specialist operations. If an individual with an open asylum claim leaves the UK without authorisation at any time before the conclusion of their application for asylum, they are deemed to have implicitly withdrawn their claim. Each incident is considered on a case by case basis, and we do not routinely comment on individual cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-29/11682>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-29/11683>

### **Asylum: Poverty**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [12883] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of the level of support provided to asylum seekers on levels of poverty among asylum seekers.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Home Office has a legal obligation to meet the essential living needs of destitute asylum seekers. Support is usually provided in the form accommodation and a weekly allowance. Additional support is also available to pregnant women, young children, and individuals who have exceptional needs over and above those of the average supported asylum seeker or their dependants.

The level of the allowance is reviewed each year to ensure it covers an individual's "essential living needs". Full details of the items that are considered essential are set out in reports on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk). Following the 2023 review, allowances have increased for many supported individuals including pregnant women and young children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-05/12883>

### **Asylum: Employment**

**Deidre Brock (SNP)** [12606] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing an asylum right to work pilot on asylum seekers.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Asylum seekers cannot work unless they have had their asylum claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those who apply and are granted permission to work after 12 months are restricted to applying for jobs on the Shortage Occupation List (SOL). This is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Our current policy approach on permission to work is longstanding and there are no plans to make changes, other than aligning it with the upcoming Immigration Salary List, which replaces the SOL. It is important that we distinguish between individuals who need protection and those seeking to work here who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. The Government has always been clear that asylum seekers do not need to make perilous journeys in order to seek employment in the UK.

Unrestricted access to employment could act as an incentive for more migrants to choose to come here illegally; leading to further dangerous journeys across the Channel and supporting the business model of evil people smugglers, rather than claim asylum in the first safe country they reach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-01/12606>

### **Asylum: Employment**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers whose asylum application has remained unresolved for more than 12 months have been granted permission to work in each year since 2015.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** The Home Office is unable to state how many asylum seekers were granted the right-to-work because their application remained unresolved for more than 12 months in each year since 2015, as the number of asylum seekers granted permission to work is not published.

Those who have claimed asylum in the UK and have had their asylum claim outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own, are able to apply for permission to work. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-26/11565>

### **Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre: Children**

**Kevan Jones (Labour)** [12910] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether children will be detained at Derwentside immigration removal centre.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Derwentside immigration removal centre, currently a female only centre, will be converted into a facility for men in due course. There is no intention for children to be detained at Derwentside.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-05/12910>

### **Prisoners: Foreign Nationals**

**John Hayes (Conservative)** [11684] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people serving prison sentences in England and Wales as of January 29 2024 were born outside of the United Kingdom.

**Reply from Edward Argar:** Data on the nationality of prisoners serving sentences in England and Wales are published in the Offender Management Statistics Quarterly, which is available online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/offender-management-statistics-quarterly>

As the data requested in relation to the place of birth of prisoners in custody on 29 January 2024 relates to nationality data for future publication, we cannot release it at this time.

The removal of Foreign National Offenders (FNO) is a Government priority and we removed 16,676 FNO between January 2019 and September 2023. Published figures show that FNO returns have increased in the latest 12-month period (ending September 2023) by 19% when compared to previous 12-month period (3,577

compared to 3,011).

We have recently announced measures to further increase removals including the extension of the Early Removal Scheme window to 18 months; working closely with Home Office to facilitate timely removals and using diplomatic pressure to conclude bilateral Prison Transfer Agreements with specific countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-29/11684>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

### Asylum Seekers: Convictions

**Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative):** To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to review the criteria for the granting by Home Office officials of asylum status for individuals with previous convictions for offences committed in the United Kingdom.

**Reply from the Advocate-General for Scotland (Lord Stewart of Dirleton):** My Lords, the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 strengthened existing legislation and reduced the criminality threshold. From 28 June 2022, anyone convicted of a particularly serious crime resulting in a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, who is considered a danger to the United Kingdom, will be denied asylum and will be considered for removal from the United Kingdom. We believe this approach is the right one.

**Lord Jackson of Peterborough:** My Lords, the public are rightly concerned at recent cases which seem to indicate that our asylum system is broken and that we are unable to deport foreign criminals and failed asylum seekers due to bureaucratic inertia, judicial intervention and incompetence. Will my noble friend therefore commit to an urgent review of the criteria used in assessing asylum claims, including alleged religious conversions to Christianity, facilitated by the Church of England? Does he agree with me that, fundamentally, this and future Governments must decide between the safety and security of their own citizens and the perverse and damaging rulings of a foreign court?

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** My Lords, there are several reasons why a decision may be overturned at appeal, including new evidence that was not available to asylum caseworkers. Where a crime has been committed, it will be considered whether the person committing the crime poses a danger to the community and should be denied protection. As for the matter of Christian conversions that my noble friend raised, it is important to bear in mind that the Christian church—the Church of England—is not an arm of the Home Office, and that conversion is not a bureaucratic exercise but rather a matter of the operation of grace, such as we heard from the right reverend Prelate earlier.

**Lord Blunkett (Labour):** My Lords, will the Minister confirm that this is absolutely nothing to do with foreign courts? If the system, as outlined by the noble Lord, Lord Jackson, is broken, there have been 14 years for this Government to put it right. Is it not correct that, from 2004 onwards, the restriction was already in place in relation to the removal of those who had committed crimes—including sexual crimes—enhanced, yes, by the Nationality and Borders Act 2022? Is it not the process, rather than anything to do with the law, that requires examination?

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** My Lords, any foreign national convicted of a crime and given a prison sentence is considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity. Under the legislation to which the noble Lord referred, the UK Borders Act 2007, a deportation order must be made where a foreign national has been convicted of an offence and received a custodial sentence of at least 12 months. As to the other matters raised in the question, it is important to remember that restrictions on returning persons to the countries from whence they came are also

matters of our international obligations, including treaties such as the European Convention on Human Rights.

**The Lord Bishop of St Albans:** My Lords, both the Church of England and my most reverend friend the Archbishop of Canterbury have repeatedly said that we want the boats to stop, criminal gangs to be prosecuted and people to be held accountable if they commit offences. We note that a prominent Member in the other place recently said that the Church is “facilitating industrial-scale bogus asylum claims”, which has been widely reported in the press. Administering the sacrament of baptism is one of the core duties of the clergy. Given that, what is the evidence to substantiate claims that baptism is being used systematically and extensively to support asylum claims? ... We would like to see the evidence.

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** My Lords, I have already spoken on the nature of baptism, and I hope that what I said corresponds with the views of the right reverend Prelate on the matter. All asylum claims are considered carefully on their individual merits, including issues relating to the freedom of religion and belief and the credibility of a conversion. Indeed, on that last point, additional training is being rolled out to officials who assess matters of credibility in this context. I invite the House to reflect on the fact that the Home Office has for many years worked closely with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Freedom of Religion or Belief and the asylum advocacy group, and engaged with a wide range of faith groups to assist in training caseworkers. ...

**Baroness Meacher (Crossbench):** My Lords, if an asylum seeker is assessed as presenting no risk to the people of this country, even if they have committed crimes in the past, which may have been related to the persecution they faced in their own country, will they be granted asylum in this country?

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** My Lords, all applications will be treated on a case-by-case basis. The situation the noble Baroness described is one in which the individual circumstances will rule.

**Lord Coaker (Labour):** ... There are 8,786 convicted foreign criminals with varied status living in communities. Half have been here for at least 12 months, with almost 4,000 for over five years. The inspectorate said that the Government had lost control and that this was “no way to run a government department”. ... what will the Government do to look at implementing the existing process and get on with it?

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** My Lords, progress is being made. In the year ending September 2023, there were 5,506 enforced returns, an increase of 54% on the previous year. In that cohort, foreign national offenders make up the majority of enforced returns, at 62%.

**Lord Forsyth of Drumlean (Conservative):** My Lords, can my noble and learned friend comment on press reports that suggest that the Home Office has been following a policy of not returning people to Afghanistan? ... Can he say what proportion of the cases that have come before the Home Office have resulted in people being returned to Afghanistan?

**Reply from Lord Stewart of Dirleton:** ... it is not Home Office policy that dictates the return of persons to Afghanistan; rather, it is our adherence to international treaties, as I said earlier. On the specific figure my noble friend sought, in 2023 99% of Afghan applications were granted. That figure is up from 49% of applications from that country in 2020. It reflects our international obligations and the situation in that unhappy country.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-02-08/debates/AAEA3747-0E34-4AB7-8560-9D3B50153842/AsylumSeekersConvictions>



## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

### Asylum: Rwanda

**The Lord Bishop of Bristol** [HL1885] To ask His Majesty's Government how many people who have arrived into the UK illegally since 1 January 2022 and who would therefore be eligible for removal to Rwanda have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism for modern slavery.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Home Office publishes statistics on detected irregular arrivals to the UK in the 'Irregular migration to the UK statistics' release on gov.uk. Data on NRM referrals from small boat arrivals and the outcomes of the NRM referrals is published in tables Irr\_D04 and Irr\_D05 respectively of the '[Irregular migration to the UK detailed datasets](#)' with the latest data up to the end of May 2023.

Information on NRM referrals from people who have arrived through other irregular routes is not published.

[Irregular migration datasets](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/hl1885>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

### Visas: Afghanistan

**Baroness Coussins (Crossbench)** [HL1888] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 24 January (HL1408 and HL1409), how many visas for relocation to the United Kingdom have been issued since 8 November 2023 to Afghans eligible under (1) the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, and (2) the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The UK has made an ambitious and generous commitment to help at-risk people in Afghanistan and, so far, we have brought around 24,600 people to safety, including thousands of people eligible for our Afghan schemes. We continue to honour our commitments to bring eligible Afghans to the UK. The data published within the immigration system statistics release (month ending September 2023, published 23 November 2023) provides a breakdown of arrivals by quarter. The number of individuals resettled under the schemes is as follows: 11,684 individuals under ARAP, 9,699 individuals under ACRS Pathway 1, 70 individuals under ACRS Pathway 2 and 70 individuals under ACRS Pathway 3. Afghan operational data is viewable on Gov.UK.

Afghan operational data is released quarterly with the next publication due around the 22 February 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/hl1888>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/hl1408>

*and*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-10/hl1409>

*The statistics referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-september-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 Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

### Overseas Students

**Lord Tyrie (Non-affiliated)** [HL1884] To ask His Majesty's Government how long they have made internal estimates relating to (1) the number of foreign students arriving in the UK, (2) the number of dependents brought to the UK by foreign students, and (3) the total amount of fees paid by foreign students.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Home Office publishes data on student visas by nationality in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

Data on the grants of student visas are published in table 'Vis\_D02' of the detailed entry clearance visas dataset

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables#entry-clearance-visas-granted-outside-the-uk>

Nationality and time frames can also be filtered. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates from January 2005 up to the end of September 2023.

Additionally, the Migrant journey: 2022 report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrant-journey-2022-report>

shows that 99% of people whose leave in the UK started on a student visa in 2022 had a recorded arrival.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar':

[https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content\\_store\\_document\\_type=upcoming\\_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance](https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?keywords=immigration&content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=relevance)  
[asylum application datasets](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-23/hl1884>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Visas: Overseas Students

**Lord Tyrie (Non-affiliated)** [HL1905] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the proportion of those issued student visas in (1) 2018, (2) 2019, (3) 2020, (4) 2021, (5) 2022, and (6) 2023, who (a) remain in the UK today, and (b) are expected to remain in the UK five years after their visa was first issued.

**Lord Tyrie (Non-affiliated)** [HL1906] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the proportion of those issued a visa as a dependent of a student in (1) 2018, (2) 2019, (3) 2020, (4) 2021, (5) 2022, and (6) 2023, who (a) remain in the UK today, and (b) are expected to remain in the UK five years after their visa was first issued.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** The Home Office publishes data on how people move through the immigration system in the Migrant Journey report. The report contains information on the number of people starting a journey each year broken down by immigration route (e.g. study) and applicant type (e.g. dependant), and how long they continued to hold leave to remain in the UK. The latest report covers up to the end of 2022 and shows that for those who started their journey on a Study visa in 2017, 20% of main applicants and 26% of dependants held valid leave five years later. The report looks at periods when people held valid leave

which does not necessarily mean they were in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/hl1905>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/hl1906>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrant-journey-2022-report>

### **Asylum: Bibby Stockholm**

**The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford** [HL1887] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that residents on the Bibby Stockholm can access outside space and the surrounding community without requiring inspection by staff or the use of scanners each time.

**Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom:** Those accommodated on the vessel are non-detained. However, movement in and around the Port will need to adhere to the health and safety requirements of the Port itself. Through our service supplier, the Home Office provides a bus service to take asylum seekers from the Port to destinations agreed with local agencies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-24/hl1887>

## **UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights**

**Evidence Session: Safety of Rwanda (Asylum & Immigration) Bill**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/14210/html/>

## **Press Release**

**Anti-torture committee highlights immigration issues in the UK**

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/anti-torture-committee-highlights-immigration-issues-in-the-uk>

## **New Publications**

**Report to the United Kingdom Government on the visit to the United Kingdom carried out by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) from 27 March to 6 April 2023**

<https://rm.coe.int/1680ae68ac>

**Response of the United Kingdom Government to the report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) on its visit to the United Kingdom from 27 March to 6 April 2023**

<https://rm.coe.int/1680ae68b0>

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

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

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

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

## News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

**Opposition parties attack Rishi Sunak over £1,000 Rwanda bet**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-68209330>

**SNP demand ethics probe into Rishi Sunak's £1000 bet on asylum seekers**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24099076.snp-demand-ethics-probe-rishi-sunaks-1000-bet-asylum-seekers/>

**Rishi Sunak bet: Prime Minister accused of breaching ministerial code over £1,000 Rwanda bet with Piers Morgan**

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/rishi-sunak-bet-prime-minister-accused-of-breaching-ministerial-code-over-ps1000-rwanda-bet-with-piers-morgan-4506322>

## News: Other Immigration and Asylum

**Tens of thousands of people in the UK could be being denied rights while waiting for visa renewals**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/visa-renewals-foreign-nationals-home-office-b2481715.html>

**Plan to remove asylum seeker housing licensing requirements scrapped, court told**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/michael-gove-government-high-court-lawyers-prime-minister-b2492341.html>

**Home Office drops plan to remove housing protections from asylum seekers**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/feb/07/home-office-drops-plan-to-remove-housing-protections-from-asylum-seekers-in-england-and-wales>

**James Cleverly warned on immigration by Scottish food and drink chiefs**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24110198.james-cleverly-warned-immigration-scottish-food-drink-chiefs/>

**'The waiting is terrible, I wake up screaming': thousands living in limbo amid UK asylum backlog**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/11/uk-asylum-backlog-rishi-sunak-legacy-cases>

**Bibby Stockholm: Government to investigate migrants' baptisms**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-dorset-68239004>

**Bishop defends churches helping asylum seekers in wake of chemical attack suspect case**

<https://news.sky.com/story/bishop-defends-churches-helping-asylum-seekers-in-wake-of-chemical-attack-suspect-case-13065102>

**C of E refutes claims of 'conveyor belt' of asylum seeker fake conversions**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/10/c-of-e-refutes-claims-of-conveyor-belt-of-asylum-seeker-fake-conversions>

**Diocese brands ex-vicar's 'conveyor belt' of asylum baptisms claim 'nonsense'**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/archbishop-government-home-office-canterbury-suella-braverman-b2493599.html>

**Too many churches are facilitating bogus asylum claims. This must stop**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/03/too-many-churches-are-facilitating-bogus-asylum-claims/>

**Asylum seekers dupe church leaders to avoid deportation, say judges**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/02/10/asylum-seekers-dupe-clergy-to-avoid-deportation/>

**'No data' on asylum seekers who stay in UK after changing religion**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-asylum-seeker-right-remain-uk-religion-abdul-ezedi-bnhbpjrvb>

**Church allows asylum seekers to exploit it**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-allows-asylum-seekers-to-exploit-it-qhm2d929t>

**Christian conversions and immigration: Bad Faith**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-times-view-on-christian-conversions-and-immigration-bad-faith-xq08pj0rb>

**Church is right to accept all converts in good faith**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/abdul-ezedi-attack-church-of-england-asylum-seekers-convert-h68ld2b7q>

**Church of Scotland urges public to challenge hostile migrant rhetoric**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24096778.church-scotland-urges-public-challenge-hostile-migrant-rhetoric/>

TOP

## Equality

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

#### Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

**Theresa Villiers (Conservative)** [12959] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if she will provide additional funding for research into the development of effective interventions to help tackle disparities in maternal health outcomes for black and Asian women.

**Reply from Andrew Stephenson:** The Department funds research in maternal and neonatal health through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) and welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including disparities in maternal health outcomes for black and Asian women.

In January my Rt Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced the first ever NIHR Challenge, backed by £50 million, to task researchers and policymakers with finding new ways to tackle maternity disparities.

We expect the funding call to launch in spring 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-05/12959>

*The announcement referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/health-secretary-announces-new-womens-health-priorities-for-2024>

### Football: Ethnic Groups

**Rupa Huq (Labour) [12144]** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent assessment she has made of trends in the levels of racial bias in football; and what estimate she has made of the number of off-pitch roles for former black male footballers.

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** The Government's aim is to increase diversity among sporting organisations and to help the sport sector be more inclusive and welcoming to its spectators, participants and people in its workforce. In August 2023 we published our sport strategy "Get Active" which has diversity and inclusion embedded throughout.

It is for football organisations to assess levels of diversity in the sport and the number of off-pitch roles for former black footballers, and to decide on the appropriate initiatives to increase diversity in their organisations. The Football Association recently announced they will be evolving their Leadership Diversity Code to be mandatory for all professional clubs. I hope this will provide the data needed to assess any work that may need to be done to help football become as diverse as the community it represents.

I will continue to engage with football authorities on such issues.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/12144>

*The Strategy referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ef008f13ae15000d6e302c/11187-DCMS-Sports\\_Strategy\\_Report\\_CM\\_ACCESSIBLE-02.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ef008f13ae15000d6e302c/11187-DCMS-Sports_Strategy_Report_CM_ACCESSIBLE-02.pdf)

### Football: Equality

**Rupa Huq (Labour) [12142]** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, whether her Department has made an assessment of the adequacy of the Football Leadership Diversity Code.

**Reply from Stuart Andrew:** The Government's aim is to increase diversity among sporting organisations and to help the sport sector be more inclusive and welcoming to its spectators, participants and people in its workforce.

It is for The Football Association (FA) to assess the impact of their Football Leadership Diversity Code. I recently met with The FA to discuss the Code, including changes to make the reporting of diversity data mandatory for all professional clubs in the English Leagues from the 2024/2025 football season - as well as new requirements for workforce data on LGBT+ and disability. I will continue to monitor the progress of the Code and hope it contributes to a positive impact on diversity in the sport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-01-30/12142>

*The Diversity Code referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/football-leadership-diversity-code/football-leadership-diversity-code-summary-october-2020.ashx>

## UK Parliament Early Day Motion

**Martyn Day (SNP) [364]** The Pioneers display and Peter McLagan – That this House commends the temporary display entitled The Pioneers: The First Asian and Black MPs, which is being transferred to form part of the permanent hang in Admissions Order Office Corridor; reflects on the protracted process of permanently acknowledging our groundbreaking Asian and Black MPs; notes with dismay the exclusion of Scotland's first mixed-race MP, Peter McLagan, who served the Linlithgowshire constituency from 1865 to 1893; further notes that Peter was the longest-serving Scottish Member during the reign

of Queen Victoria; and calls on the Parliamentary authorities to rectify the omission of Peter McLagan from The Pioneers display at the earliest opportunity.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/61855>

## New Publication

**The Race Report 2023**

<https://www.race-report.uk/>

## News

**Labour plans to extend equal pay rights to black, Asian and minority ethnic staff**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2024/feb/04/labour-plans-extend-equal-pay-rights-black-asian-minority-ethnic-staff>

**Labour 'to extend equal pay rights to ethnic minorities' in draft Race Equality Act**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/labour-race-equal-pay-equality-b2490399.html>

**Labour plans to give ethnic minorities and disabled 'full right to equal pay'**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/05/labour-to-put-race-on-same-footing-as-sex-in-equal-pay/>

**Labour plans to extend equal pay rights to racial minorities**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labour-plans-to-extend-equal-pay-rights-to-racial-minorities-xf6f9qqqc>

**Labour's equal pay law risks ramping up racial tensions**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/labours-equal-pay-law-risks-ramping-up-racial-tensions-srrnmphd0>

**'My journey from racist abuse at the tills to property tycoon'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-68203736>

TOP

## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### Press Release

**Man who commented online "Britain needs 650 Thomas Mairs" sentenced for posting extremist content**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/man-who-commented-online-britain-needs-650-thomas-mairs-sentenced-posting-extremist>

### News

**Islamophobia is endemic in the UK and getting worse, says Yousaf**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/islamophobia-scotland-first-minister-muslim-europe-b2490940.html>

**Black police officers' group calls for ethnic minorities to boycott joining Met**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/05/black-police-officers-group-calls-for-ethnic-minorities-to-boycott-joining-met>

**Black teenager stopped by Met Police 6 times in 5 months**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-68219504>

**Racial Justice Sunday - Moderator urges people to 'call out' racism**

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/racial-justice-sunday-moderator-urges-people-to-call-out-racism>

**I've battled racism and misogyny in British broadcasting for years As a Black woman, it's exhausting**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/feb/08/racism-misogyny-british-broadcasting-black-woman-creative-industries-boys-club>

**BBC employee who called Jewish people 'Nazis' no longer works at corporation**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/04/bbc-employee-called-jews-nazis-no-longer-works-corporation/>

**BBC journalists 'liked' anti-Semitic tweets despite promise to crack down on bias**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/02/04/bbc-journalists-anti-semitism-jews-cyprus-israel-arabic/>

**British antisemitism is a homegrown problem**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/british-antisemitism-is-a-homegrown-problem-kv7kffjvr>

TOP

## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Releases

**Focus on the future as the Parliament sets out its plans to mark 25 years**

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/focus-on-the-future-as-the-parliament-sets-out-its-plans>

**First Minister confirms new government appointments**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/first-minister-confirms-new-government-appointments/>

**Views sought on changes to Scottish elections**

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/views-sought-on-changes-to-scottish-elections>

TOP



## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### Sikhs

**Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op)** [13040] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the report by the Office for National Statistics entitled Equalities data audit, final report, published on 25 October 2018, how many and what proportion of the datasets audited as part of that process included data on Sikhs.

**Reply from John Glen:** The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. ...

The purpose of the equalities data audit is to identify which protected characteristics, as identified in the 2010 Equalities Act<sup>1</sup>, are collected in the data sources, not the detail of the data within the sources. This reflects its primary purpose as a resource for researchers, signposting them to potential sources of data for use in their work.

In the original 2018 *Equalities data audit, final report*<sup>2</sup>, we identified that almost 60 of the approximately 230 data sources audited at that time (approximately 26%) collected data on the protected characteristic of religion or belief. Just under half of these used the Government Statistical Service's (GSS) religion harmonised standard<sup>3</sup>. As "Sikh" is one of the response options within this harmonised standard, this would suggest that they included data on Sikhs. However, no assessment was made of whether these data sources did include data on Sikhs. Equally no assessment was made of whether other sources that did not use the harmonised standard also included data on Sikhs.

Since the publication of this report, the ONS' Centre for Equalities and Inclusion has continued to maintain the underlying audit, with the latest update<sup>4</sup> from October 2023, which was published in November 2023. This shows a total of 85 of the 298 entries (29%) include information on the protected characteristic of religion or belief. Of these 85 data sources, six are produced by the ONS and include data on Sikhs. We would expect other sources that use the GSS harmonised standard also to include data on Sikhs. However, the audit makes no assessment of the way in which the information is captured. This means, it is not possible to use the audit to identify whether data on Sikhs specifically are captured within the broader category of religion or belief for data sources not produced by the ONS.

The audit includes UK data sources from across government and more widely, for data sources for which the ONS is not directly responsible, much of this information has been collated from publicly available information. We rely on users to notify us of any incorrect or missing information. As such, there may be additional data sources on religion or belief that are not included in the audit.

As offered when the ONS published our bespoke analysis of people who identified as Sikh using Census 2021 data on 15 December 2023<sup>5</sup>, Deputy National Statistician for Health, Population & Methods, Emma Rourke, is enthusiastic about continuing engagement with yourself and other members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs. This is to discuss our ongoing work to ensure accurate data on the Sikh community is available. My office will be in touch shortly to make arrangements.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/methodologicalpublications/generalmethodology/onsworkingpaperseries/equalitiesdataauditfinalreport>

<sup>3</sup> <https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/policy-store/religion/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/inequalitiesdataaudit>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-02-05/13040>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/methodologicalpublications/generalmethodology/onsworkingpaperseries/equalitiesdataauditfinalreport>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answer

### Topical Questions: Treasury

**Sajid Javid (Conservative):** The Chancellor will be aware of a proposal from the World War Muslim Memorial Trust to establish a memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum, honouring an estimated 750,000 Muslims who have fought for the British armed forces, with tens of thousands of them paying the ultimate sacrifice. Previous Budgets have supported memorials that honour those who have given us the freedoms that we enjoy. May I ask the Chancellor to personally consider this proposal and help make it a reality?

**Reply from Jeremy Hunt:** My right hon. Friend is absolutely right: we must remember and honour the sacrifices made by those of all nationalities and religions who fought for our freedom, including, I believe, nearly 150,000 Muslims who died in the second world war. My officials would be happy to engage with him to identify how best the Government can help make this vision a reality.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-02-06/debates/73B4084D-688B-4DF1-8037-4AFE9DDF3AD6/TopicalQuestions#contribution-F252978C-915F-40B6-9285-D016B47F5B2E>

TOP

## Cost of Living

### Scottish Government Website

#### Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

### News

#### Cost of living crisis hits activity in deprived English areas hardest, report claims

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2024/jan/11/adults-active-cost-of-living-crisis-fitness-gym>

TOP

## Other New Publication

### **Jews in the UK today**

<https://www.jpr.org.uk/sites/default/files/attachments/Jews%20in%20the%20UK%20today%20-%20Feb%202024%20-%20Jewish%20identity%20report.pdf>

TOP

## **Bills in Progress** \*\* new or updated this week

### **Scottish Parliament**

#### **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 Application (Entry to the United Kingdom) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3530>

#### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3627>

#### **The Equality Act 2010 (Amendment) Regulations 2023 [Draft]**

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2023/9780348253191/contents>

#### **Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3618/stages>

#### **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3649>

#### **\*\* Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3540>

Amendment Papers

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/54090/documents/4411>

and

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/54195/documents/4420>

#### **Immigration and Nationality Fees (Exemption for NHS Clinical Staff) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3660>

#### **Scottish Law Officers (Devolution) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3665>

## Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

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

## Workforce Information (Ethnicity) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3522>

TOP

## Consultations

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

### Health and Social Care Workforce – Help Us to Tackle Racism

(closing date 19 February 2024)

<https://uk.surveymonkey.com/r/7K3359S>

**Democracy Matters** (closing date 28 February 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/democracy-matters/>

**\*\* Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill** (closing date 6 March 2024)

[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sppa/scottish-elections-bill/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sppa/scottish-elections-bill/consult_view/)

**Your Police 2023-2024** (closing date 31 March 2024)

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/strategy-insight-and-innovation/your-police-2023-2024/>

**Ending conversion practices in Scotland** (closing date 2 April 2024)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ending-conversion-practices-scotland-scottish-government-consultation/>

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

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

TOP

## Job Opportunities

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

TOP

## Funding Opportunities

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* closes this week!**

### Bank of Scotland Empower

Closing date: 15 February 2024

Bank of Scotland funding of up to £150,000 for charities working with vulnerable groups who are more susceptible to experiencing harm, discrimination, or disadvantage as a result of the cost of living crisis. The funding is unrestricted, so it can be used towards core costs, delivery costs, project costs and/or general running costs. For information see <https://bankofscotlandfoundation.org/funding-programmes/empower>

## **\*\* Refugee Festival Scotland**

*Closing date: 1 March 2024*

Scottish Refugee Council grants of up to £750 to help deliver arts and cultural events as part of Refugee Festival Scotland. Any event is welcome, from art, film, music, dance and discussion to sport, storytelling, theatre, cookery demonstrations, creative workshops, community-get-togethers and family-friendly picnics. For information see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/get-involved/funding/>

## **Alwaleed Community Grant Scheme**

*Closing date: 11 March 2024*

Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World funding of up to £5,000 for projects which engage with the following themes: Interfaith and intra-faith relations, Islam and the environment, Education and skills development, and Digital Islam. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/4atszf5m>

## **Ethnic Minority Development Fund**

*Closing date: 15 April 2024*

National Lottery Community Fund grants from £500 to £15,000 for projects run by ethnic minority-led third-sector organisations in Scotland that bring ethnic minority people together and build strong relationships across communities, help more ethnic minority people to be the best they can be, by supporting them as soon as possible, or improve places and spaces that matter to ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://cemvoscotland.org.uk/emdf/>

## **Cost-of-Living Support Scotland**

*Application deadline not stated*

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

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

**TOP**

## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

**\*\* new or updated this week**

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

14 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

15 May 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to find out about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service users might prepare themselves for an economy in recession and cost of living spiralling. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

**\*\* this week!**

### **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

15 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

13 May 2024 (Glasgow, 10.00–12.30)

PAIH course explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course also explores the journeys and barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers reaching and building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

### **No Recourse To Public Funds**

21 February 2024 (online, 10.00–12.30)

22 May 2024 (Glasgow (10.00–12.30)

PAIH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information see <https://www.paih.org/what-we-do/migrants-rights-courses>

### **How To Be a Political Commentator - Broadcast Media Training for Women of Colour**

8 March 2024 (Glasgow. 10.30–5.30)

Pass the Mic and Women in Journalism Scotland are working together to host a media commentator training day exclusively for women of colour who are based in Scotland. The purpose of the day is to give you a chance to experience giving interviews on radio and TV. You will meet journalists and presenters, and lunch will be provided. For information see <https://passthemiscotland.org/2024/01/20/media-commentator-training/>

**TOP**

## 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>

TOP

**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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