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

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament Debates

Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-05-14/debates/0EE947EC-1CC0-4B86-9370-662FD1A7FC34/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRules>

No Recourse to Public Funds

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-15/debates/92017DD4-AA9B-4A16-9E3D-C17CC0CEAE8D/NoRecourseToPublicFunds>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Illegal Migration Act: Northern Ireland

Gavin Robinson (DUP): To ask the Secretary of State for Home Department if he will make a statement on the High Court judgment in Belfast of 13 May 2024 disapplying the Illegal Migration Act 2023 in Northern Ireland.

Reply from the Minister for Legal Migration and the Border (Tom Pursglove):

Let me start by expressing the Government's disappointment at this judgment. We continue to believe that our policy is lawful, that our approach is compatible with international law and, specifically, that the Illegal Migration Act proposals are compatible with article 2 of the Windsor framework. The Government will take steps to defend their position, including through an appeal. ...

This judgment changes nothing about our operational plans to send illegal migrants to Rwanda this July or the lawfulness of our Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024. We continue to work to get regular flights off to Rwanda in the coming weeks, and nothing will distract us from that or from delivering to the timetable I have set out. We must start the flights to stop the boats.

The Government have consistently applied immigration law on a UK-wide basis. It is important to remember that those who have been served a notice for removal to Rwanda are being considered under the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and the Safety of Rwanda Act. This judgment relates to the Illegal Migration Act and so does not impact our operations or planning for Rwanda.

Preparations to begin flights within weeks are continuing at pace. As the Prime Minister made clear, "nothing will distract us" from the job of implementing the Rwanda policy. We must start the flights to stop the boats. That is the fair thing to do, it is the right thing to do for our country and it is the humane thing to do. Our conviction that the Rwanda scheme is lawful and necessary is unchanged. We are acting in the national interest and we will not be deterred.

Gavin Robinson: ... When my colleagues and I raised these concerns here in Parliament, we were told by the Government that we were wrong, yet the High Court in Belfast said yesterday that we were right. ... the Government will know that the rationale outlined yesterday by the High Court for the Illegal Migration Act will similarly apply to the Safety of Rwanda Act as well. ...

Although the Government chose to dismiss the concerns we outlined ... they had an opportunity to put this issue beyond doubt. I tabled an amendment to new clause 3 ... in order to maintain the integrity of this country's sovereign immigration policy and the integrity and protection of our borders, but they chose not to do so. ...

In 1922, long before the EU was envisaged, and long before the UK joined and then departed, the islands of Great Britain and Ireland had an integrity in immigration policy: the common travel area applied. What steps are the Government taking to get a British Isles solution to immigration, outside the control of the EU and outside, as it is, the Schengen area? Finally, what steps will the Minister and his Government take to assert Parliament's sovereign will to protect the borders of the United Kingdom?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... The Government are considering judgment very carefully ... and we are taking legal advice. ...

We have consistently made it clear that the rights commitments in the Belfast/Good Friday agreement should be interpreted as they were always intended, and not expanded to cover reserved issues, such as illegal migration. We are equally clear that immigration is a reserved matter that has always been applied uniformly across the UK. We do not accept that the Good Friday agreement should be read so creatively as to extend to matters such as tackling illegal migration, which is a UK-wide issue and not in any way related to the original intention of the Good Friday agreement.

... all immigration legislation provides a UK-wide framework for legal and illegal migration. We continue to have a constructive working relationship with the Irish Government when it comes to ensuring that abuse of the common travel area is robustly and appropriately tackled. On the specific point about asserting Parliament's sovereign will around these matters, I would argue that the recent Safety of Rwanda Act clearly asserts Parliament's sovereign will. While the latest judgment relates to the IMA, we are committed to appealing it. ...

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): ... just weeks after the Prime Minister negotiated the Windsor framework in February last year, he promptly brought forward immigration legislation that appears to have left Northern Ireland with immigration rules that are different from those for the rest of the UK. Concerns about the Illegal Migration Act 2023 were raised at the time by ... Gavin Robinson ... why did the Government choose to ignore his warnings? ... the Illegal Migration Act was the second of three Bills, all of which had one goal in mind—sending asylum seekers to Rwanda ... It has been a shambles from start to finish. ...

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... we will uphold our legal obligations—we are committed to that—but the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024 does not engage the Good Friday agreement, including the rights chapter. Those rights seek to address long-standing, specific issues relating to Northern Ireland's past, and do not extend to matters engaged by the Act. I should also reiterate for him, because perhaps he missed this, that we are operationalising the Rwanda policy on the basis of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022. ...

William Cash (Conservative): Will my hon. Friend indicate the extent to which the Illegal Migration Act 2023, the Windsor framework and the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, as it relates to the sovereignty of the whole United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, could have been worded sufficiently clearly and unambiguously to remove the grounds for this judgment, in line with the disapplication principles set out in paragraph 144 of the Supreme Court judgment on Rwanda from last November, which is extremely clear?

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... The Government are clear that the will of Parliament has been expressed on these issues. The position is as I have set out, and we will robustly defend it. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): The SNP welcomes the judgment from the High Court of Belfast, and thanks the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the individual in the other case for taking this matter forward. It is important that these awful pieces of legislation are challenged. ... The court found that the Illegal Migration Act 2023 was incompatible with article 2 of the Windsor framework and with the European convention on human rights ... The court also found incompatibility between the 2023 Act and the Human Rights Act 1998 on the duty to remove, obligations to potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking, and responsibilities to children and their best interests—all extremely serious matters that remain of concern. ...

My fellow Scottish MPs and I are disturbed by the fact that our constituents, neighbours and friends are not even afforded the same rights as those in Northern Ireland. What are the implications of that decision for the Union? Human rights should be for all of us.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: ... We are taking legal advice, and as I have said, I can be very clear that the judgment changes nothing about our operational plans to send illegal migrants to Rwanda this July, or the lawfulness of our Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024. Concerns have been expressed about migrants flocking to Northern Ireland to avoid deportation to Rwanda, but there is absolutely no benefit whatsoever to doing so. ...

To read this very long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-14/debates/9FCE34D0-665B-4EAA-8C2C-6A0345F58980/IllegalMigrationActNorthernIreland>

The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at <https://www.judiciaryni.uk/files/judiciaryni/2024-05/NIHRC%27s%20Application%20and%20JR295%27s%20Application%20and%20In%20the%20the%20matter%20of%20The%20Illegal%20Migration%20Act%202023.pdf>

The Supreme Court judgement referred to above can be read at <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2023-0093-etc-judgment.pdf>

Rwanda: Asylum and Immigration

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [902788] If [the Minister] will issue guidance to lawyers on the potential implications for the criminal justice process of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024.

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Alex Chalk): The hon. Lady asks about the implications for the criminal justice system of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024. To be clear, that Act relates to immigration and potentially administrative law. It does not substantially impact on the criminal law, and accordingly no specific guidance is required.

Alison Thewliss: ... May I praise the quick response from solicitors and the community in Glasgow to Rwanda removals, very much in the spirit of the Glasgow Girls and the Glasgow Grannies and Kenmure Street three years ago? Is there a deliberate policy to remove people from Scotland to England to prevent them from accessing legal aid, as they would be able and fully entitled to do in Scotland? What guidance has been issued to lawyers in this respect? Lastly, what right do MPs have to intervene in cases of removal, because I have been told that MPs have been asked for wet signatures from people who have been taken to immigration removal centres in England.

Reply from Alex Chalk: There are several questions in there but the answer to the first question is no, that is not correct. The point about legal advice is very important: people should get legal advice so that they can make their points. That is why we are investing heavily: when the Illegal Migration Act 2023 comes into force there will be a 15% uplift; we have invested £1.5 million to reaccredit senior caseworkers; and we are also paying for travel time. We recognise that; the legislation is necessarily robust and we are also ensuring people get the legal advice they need. ...

Chris Stephens (SNP): ... the Members for Glasgow Central (Alison Thewliss) and for Glasgow North East (Anne McLaughlin) and I have constituents who have been removed from Scotland to England and threatened with deportation. Can the Secretary of State answer this question: why are MPs being denied access to their constituents? It seems outrageous. Does he not agree that this is unacceptable and that lawyers and their elected representatives should not be impeded by arbitrary barriers when accessing constituents who are threatened with deportation?

Reply from Alex Chalk: I would be more than happy to discuss that point with the hon. Gentleman. Of course MPs should have access in appropriate circumstances, but the critical point is for individuals to get legal support—I say that with no discourtesy to him as a constituency MP. That legal support is important. As I have said, when the IMA comes into effect we will increase funding by 15%, pay for travel time and ensure the reaccreditation of senior caseworkers. That is what individuals need: support through legal advice, and that is what we are providing.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-14/debates/E4ED4664-F96B-4348-94C1-198ABD95E834/RwandaAsylumAndImmigration>

Immigration: Legal Aid

Steven Bonnar (SNP) [902801] What recent assessment [the Minister's] Department has made of the adequacy of legal aid provision for immigration cases.

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Alex

Chalk): ... We have taken action to broaden access in immigration and asylum cases by: uplifting fees for work done under the Illegal Migration Act 2023, when it commences; providing up to £1.4 million this year for accreditation and re-accreditation of senior caseworkers conducting legal aid work; allowing detained duty advice scheme providers to give guidance remotely, where appropriate; and introducing payment for travel time between immigration removal centres and detained duty advice scheme surgeries.

Steven Bonnar: The Bar Council of England and Wales has submitted its grave concerns to the Ministry of Justice's review of civil legal aid, citing that it is "not sustainable in its current form" and that it has significant concern "in relation to future availability of counsel" in immigration and asylum cases. It also notes that in real terms civil legal aid fees have now halved compared with what they were 28 years ago. What are the next steps to ensure the future of legal aid in immigration cases, or is justice now for only the wealthy?

Reply from Alex Chalk: ... We are broadening access to legal aid. The means test review, when fully implemented, will put an additional £25 million into legal aid and bring an additional £2 million into the scope of legal aid. We are rolling out the housing loss prevention advice service—that is another £10 million going in. There will be up to £141 million going into legal aid. We are also rolling out the review of civil legal aid, which will report later this year. ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-14/debates/13C8A7C1-F7B9-488D-8ADE-4E750618257C/ImmigrationLegalAid>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Dawn Butler (Labour) [24415] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much will people whose claims have been rejected be offered to move to Rwanda voluntarily.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Individuals who have no right to remain in the UK legally are being offered voluntary relocation to Rwanda under a new agreement with the Government of Rwanda. This will relocate individuals who have no right to work, rent or remain in the UK to relocate to Rwanda and allow them to build safe and prosperous lives there.

Individuals will receive £3,000 to support their relocation, paid to them on a card that can only be used in Rwanda. This builds on our already widely used voluntary returns scheme, which saw more than 19,000 people return to their country-of-origin last year. We can also now facilitate relocation to Rwanda, providing an alternative for those whose country of origin is unsafe or those who would prefer not to return, but have no right to remain in the UK.

Under this Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Rwanda, individuals relocated voluntarily will have the same package of support for up to five years and access to integration programmes, so that they can study, undertake training, and work. Actual spend of the policy will be reported as part of the annual Home Office Reports and Accounts in the usual way.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/24415>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65705fd4746930000d4888dc/CS_Rwanda_1_2023_UK_Rwanda_Agreement_Asylum_Partnership_Protection_Refugees_Migrants.pdf

Deportation: Rwanda

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [25486] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate he has made of the number of individuals deemed eligible for removal to Rwanda that (a) have (i) partners and (ii) spouses and (b) are a dependent of an individual who has been granted (A) asylum and (B) other leave to remain.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: It would be inappropriate to start giving out numbers. This is operationally sensitive information.

Everyone considered for relocation will be screened and have access to legal advice. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis, and nobody will be relocated if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

For those with family links in the UK, who want to be considered for entry to the UK, they should seek to do so via legal and safe routes. Nobody should put their lives into the hands of criminal people smuggling gangs by making dangerous and irregular journeys.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-09/25486>

Deportation: Rwanda

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [25180] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals that have been detained for removal to Rwanda have also been served an (a) notice of inadmissibility and (b) inadmissibility decision.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office will not be providing a running commentary on ongoing operational activity. However, all individuals will have their cases considered in line with the published inadmissibility guidance:

[Inadmissibility – third country cases: caseworker guidance.](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25180>

Asylum: Rwanda

Dawn Butler (Labour) [24416] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, who will conduct initial asylum screenings under the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The screening process is designed to capture basic information about the individual, immigration history and their protection claim and is conducted by a range of officials under the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/24416>

Asylum: Rwanda

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [25398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of the commencement of detention operations undertaken by his Department following the passage of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024 on levels of contact with people whose asylum claims have been deemed inadmissible.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office routinely monitors levels of compliance for individuals who are required to report as a condition of their bail. We have a range of interventions available to us to maintain contact, including face to face reporting, contact by telephone, digital reporting and notifications from the accommodation providers where they reside.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25398>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation: Rwanda

Deidre Brock (SNP) [24672] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the video entitled The first individuals set to be removed to Rwanda, posted on X by his Department on 1 May 2024, what the objectives of posting the video were;

when the video received ministerial clearance; and if he will publish the minutes of the meeting in which the decision was made to produce the video.

Deidre Brock (SNP) [24948] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the video entitled The first individuals set to be removed to Rwanda, posted on X by his Department on 1 May 2024, who produced the video; and how much the video cost to produce.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Videos on government social media accounts should inform the public about government policy and delivery. This video showed Immigration Enforcement officers executing their public duties as they do all the time. It was produced by civil servants as part of their routine duties and involved no additional costs. As with all videos featuring service users or sensitive content, every care was taken to protect subjects' identities. The video went through normal approval processes for social media content.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-02/24672>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/24948>

The video referred to above can be watched at

<https://twitter.com/ukhomeoffice/status/1785635671316537510>

Asylum: Rwanda

Dawn Butler (Labour) [24412] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish a breakdown of how the £171,000 per person deported to Rwanda agreed in the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership will be spent.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The most recently published information, which includes a breakdown of the per person costs, is the National Audit Office Report which can be found here: [UK-Rwanda Partnership - NAO report](#).

The per person costs are to provide a 5-year integration package. This includes accommodation, essential items such as food, medical services, education, language training and professional development. Rwanda will also support individuals with work opportunities and access to integration programmes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/24412>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Bill Wiggin (Conservative) [24405] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have died while attempting to cross the English Channel to the UK illegally in each year since 2020.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office is aware of a total of 69 persons known to have died while attempting to cross the English Channel in small boats since 2020:

2020: 6 deaths reported

2021: 34 deaths reported

2022: 4 deaths reported

2023: 12 deaths reported

2024: 13 deaths reported (as at 30 April 2024)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/24405>

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

Asylum: Republic of Ireland

Andrew Bridgen (Independent) [25221] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has plans to negotiate an agreement with the Republic of Ireland on the return of asylum seekers (a) from Ireland to the UK and (b) from the UK to Ireland.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: In 2020, we agreed with Ireland bilateral non-legally binding operational arrangements which allows for the return and readmission of asylum seekers when agreed by both participants.

We will only make agreements that are in the interests of the UK, and will not accept any future deals which might increase the significant burdens already placed on the UK by the level of illegal migration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25221>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Entry Clearances: Families

Deidre Brock (SNP) [24775] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been given entry clearance to the UK on the basis of family life as (a) a partner, (b) a parent and (c) exceptional circumstances in compliance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in each year since 2012.

Deidre Brock (SNP) [24776] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been given leave to remain on the basis of (a) family life as a (i) partner and (ii) parent and (b) exceptional circumstances in compliance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in each year since 2012.

Immigration: Families

Deidre Brock (SNP) [24777] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people who were given (a) entry clearance and (b) leave to remain on the grounds of family life as a partner under Immigration Rules Appendix FM were granted access to public funds following a successful change of conditions application in each year since 2012.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The number of applications for Entry Clearance and to stay in the UK that are made on the basis of family life as a partner or parent and any exceptional circumstances in compliance with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the number of applicants granted access to public funds following a successful entry clearance or leave to remain change of conditions application, do not form part of any current transparency data or migration statistics and is not published.

The transparency data does, however, include a range of processing data and the latest data can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data#uk-visas-and-immigration

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-03/24775>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-03/24776>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-03/24777>

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

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

The European Convention on Human Rights, referred to above, can be read at

https://70.coe.int/pdf/convention_eng.pdf

Social Services: Migrant Workers

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [26146] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential impact of the salary threshold for visas for social workers on the recruitment of social workers from overseas.

Reply from Helen Whately: Social workers are recruited under the Health and Care Worker visa, and therefore are exempt from the salary threshold of £38,700 required by the Skilled Worker visa. Social workers recruited from overseas are subject to national pay scales, and therefore must be paid in line with the National Health Service agenda for change pay scales.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26146>

Asylum

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [25181] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals that have been issued a notice of intent of inadmissibility have subsequently been admitted to the asylum system since 1 January 2022.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office does not routinely publish data on those who are admitted to the UK asylum system after a notice of intent has been issued.

General data on inadmissibility is published as part of the quarterly immigration system statistics and can be found at [How many people do we grant protection to?](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25181>

Asylum: Hotels

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [25783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made an assessment of projected trends in the number of hotels being used as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers between 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute and accommodation needs are kept under continuous review.

Data on the number of supported asylum seekers in accommodation (including in contingency hotels and other contingency accommodation) is published in table Asy_D11 here: [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#). Data is published on a quarterly basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/25783>

Detention Centres

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [25179] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the capacity of the immigration detention estate was on (a) 8 May 2024, (b) 8 January 2024 and (c) 8 July 2023.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Immigration detention capacity figures are not static and are subject to operational demands.

Management information shows that detention capacity on 8 July 2023 was c2158 immigration removal centre (IRC) beds, rising to c2219 IRC beds on 8 January 2024. As of 24 April 2024, there is a capacity to detain c2200 people in IRCs, including those liable for removal to Rwanda, with more coming online in the coming months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25179>

Immigration: Detainees

Kate Osborne (Labour) [25992] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

with reference to the Introduction to the Government Response 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 (CPT/Inf (2024) 09), whether he has had recent discussion with Cabinet colleagues on the implications for their policies of the (a) conditions of detention and (b) treatment of persons held under immigration powers in the UK.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Detention plays a key role in maintaining effective immigration control and securing the UK's borders, particularly in connection with the removal of people who have no right to remain in the UK but who refuse to leave voluntarily.

The Home Office takes the welfare and safety of people in its care very seriously and we are committed to ensuring the proper protection and treatment of people in detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/25992>

The Government response referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: Detainees

Kate Osborne (Labour) [25082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Rule 35(1) reports made by GPs working in Immigration Removal Centres setting out their concerns that continued detention of a person was likely to be injurious to their health were received by his Department from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023; how many such persons were released from detention as a result of such a report; and in how many cases was detention continued because his Department believed that the vulnerabilities identified by the medical practitioner were outweighed by immigration control factors.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: We regularly publish data on Rule 35(1) report from GPs in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs).

For the information from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023. Information is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-q4-2023>

DT_03: Reports made by a medical practitioner to the Home Office under Rule 35 on individuals in immigration detention by level (1, 2 and 3).

To maintain the highest standards of accuracy, the Home Office refers to published data, as this has been subject to rigorous quality assurance under National Statistics protocols prior to publication.

We do not routinely publish information about whether continued detention could be harmful to a person's health along with details on number of people released or where detention was continued for immigration control reasons.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/25082>

Asylum: Mental Health

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [25399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of detaining asylum seekers that have experienced torture on their mental health.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office takes the welfare and safety of people in its care very seriously and we are committed to ensuring the proper protection and treatment of vulnerable people in detention.

The Home Office recognises that some groups of people can be at particular risk of harm in immigration detention. This is the basis of the Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy. In accordance with the policy, people considered to be vulnerable, including those suffering from serious mental health conditions and victims of

torture, are detained only when the risk factors in their case are outweighed by the immigration considerations.

People entering detention have a medical screening undertaken by a nurse within two hours of their arrival at an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) which seeks to identify any immediate or long-term healthcare risks. Subject to them providing consent, everyone detained in an IRC is also given an appointment with a doctor for a physical and mental examination which takes place within 24 hours of their arrival at the IRC.

Everyone in detention also has access to a complete range of medical care throughout their period in an IRC including primary care, dentistry, substance misuse treatment services, mental health care and welfare services. Depending on the outcomes of the reception screening and the doctor's appointment, clinical pathways into other healthcare services such as mental health or welfare services may be initiated.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25399>

The Adults at Risk in Immigration Detention policy, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64425cd122ef3b000f66f66f/Adults_at_risk_in_immigration_detention_GOV.pdf

Immigration: Detainees

Kate Osborne (Labour) [25081] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Government Response to the recommendation in paragraph 47 of 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 (CPT/Inf (2024) 09) that a healthcare professional be present during all Assessment, Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) interviews in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs), if he will take steps to address resourcing constraints of healthcare staff in order to meet the needs of mentally vulnerable people in detention.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Healthcare services in immigration detention facilities in England are commissioned by NHS England. We take our responsibility towards detained individuals seriously and work closely with NHS England to ensure the health and safety of people we detain is safeguarded.

Healthcare staff attend Assessment, Care in Detention and Teamwork (ACDT) reviews where possible, and particularly if there are health concerns with the individual in question or a specific request for healthcare attendance has been made. [DSO 01/2022 Assessment care in detention and teamwork](#) provides guidance on the care and management of individuals under the ACDT process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/25081>

The Government Response referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Illegal Migration Act: Northern Ireland

[The answer given by the Minister in the House of Commons](#) was read in the House of Lords.

Lord Coaker (Labour): Can the Minister confirm that, if this Belfast judgment stands, we will be in the chaotic and damaging situation of asylum seekers having different levels of protection in different parts of the UK? How on earth have the Government let it come to this? What assessment has been made of that discrepancy in the movement of asylum seekers across the UK?

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Sharpe of Epsom): My Lords, I start by expressing the Government's disappointment at this judgment. We continue to believe that the policy is lawful, that our approach is compatible with international law and, specifically, that the Illegal Migration Act proposals are compatible with Article 2 of the Windsor Framework. The Government will take all steps to defend their position, including through an appeal. We have consistently made clear that the provisions in the Belfast/Good Friday agreement referred to in the Windsor Framework were developed specifically against the background of Northern Ireland's unique circumstances. They do not concern, and should not be brought into, the complex debate on illegal migration. ...

Lord Dodds of Duncairn (DUP): My Lords, whatever the rights and wrongs of people's views on the Rwanda Act or the Illegal Migration Act, it has always been a clear principle that immigration law is a matter for application on a UK-wide basis. This is the latest in a string of rulings in the High Court in Belfast that says that Acts of Parliament not only are incompatible with the human rights convention but can be struck down and disapplied by the Windsor Framework agreed by the Parliament of this United Kingdom. Surely the Government have to deal with the fundamental problem. They said in the *Safeguarding the Union* Command Paper that the Windsor Framework did not deal with anything other than trade or goods—that is clearly and totally false ...

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The noble Lord makes the very good point that immigration is a reserved matter and that the Government have consistently applied immigration law on a UK-wide basis. This judgment relates to the Illegal Migration Act, so it does not impact our planning or operations for Rwanda. I am afraid that I cannot speculate as to the other matters that he raised.

Lord Hannan of Kingsclere (Conservative): ... the Windsor Framework was sold in this House and in the other House as something that would apply only to pork pies and technical standards. If it is now being interpreted that the Windsor Framework can be used to strike down primary legislation passed in our Parliament, surely that is not operating as we understood it. ...

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... the Government intend to take all steps to defend their position, including through an appeal. ...

Lord Rogan (UUP): My Lords, the Minister will recall that last week in this House I raised my concerns about the Irish Government's plan to mobilise 100 Garda officers to stop asylum seekers crossing into the Republic of Ireland from Northern Ireland, in effect, creating a hard border on the island. ...

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: ... the Government will take all steps to defend their position, including through an appeal. ... It is about maintaining the UK's border integrity.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, the Illegal Migration Act is the basis on which the Home Office has any authority to accommodate children. I understand from my noble friend that the Government are appealing, but is the Act disapplied and, if it is, what does that do to the authority of the Home Office to accommodate any unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in Northern Ireland?

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: My Lords, obviously the Government are still seeking advice on all aspects of what the judgment means, but we will be appealing. I should also say that the final order will not be handed down for another two weeks, so an appeal cannot be lodged until after that final order is handed down.

Lord Dubbs (Labour): My Lords, in the meantime, what is the position of asylum seekers in Northern Ireland who no longer come under the Illegal Migration Act? Are they able to apply for asylum?

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: No, I do not believe they are. I do not think this has any impact on, for example, the safety of Rwanda or relocation to Rwanda under existing legislation. ...

Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Illegal Migration Act gives Ministers the power to detain those who have arrived in small boats. My understanding is that that is still not yet in force after a number of months—since last July. What prevents anybody who has arrived on a small boat since last July then travelling to Northern Ireland?

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: My Lords, we do not believe that this will induce people to go to Northern Ireland. The cohort we are detaining has been considered under existing legislation, so those who are part of that cohort can and will be removed to Rwanda. There would be no benefit to their going to Northern Ireland to avoid this removal. The NABA cohort is anyone who arrived in the UK on or after 1 January 2022 and who received a notice of intent prior to 29 June 2023, which informed them that their asylum claim may be considered inadmissible and that they may be removed to Rwanda.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, until any appeals in relation to the Northern Ireland cases are concluded, will the Minister undertake not to commence Section 57 of the Illegal Migration Act, concerning age assessment, which has now been disapplied in Northern Ireland?

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: I cannot make that commitment. ...

To read this long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-05-15/debates/C67F41A6-22CB-425F-ABE1-738C49617A1C/IllegalMigrationActNorthernIreland>

The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciaryni.uk/files/judiciaryni/2024-05/NIHRC%27s%20Application%20and%20JR295%27s%20Application%20and%20In%20the%20the%20matter%20of%20The%20Illegal%20Migration%20Act%202023.pdf>

Safeguarding the Union, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65ba3b7bee7d490013984a59/Command_Paper_1.pdf

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

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4341] To ask His Majesty's Government whether asylum seekers arriving in the UK unlawfully from the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be subject to removal to the Republic of Rwanda, under the provisions of the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Anyone in the UK illegally, including those who arrived through illegal, dangerous, and unnecessary means, may be in scope for removal to Rwanda.

Only those who face a real and imminent risk of serious and irreversible harm based on their individual circumstances will be able to appeal decisions in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-02/hl4341>

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

Illegal Migration Act 2023 and Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL4340] To ask His Majesty's Government when they expect to be able to make a full value for money assessment of (1) the Illegal

Migration Act 2023, and (2) the Safety of Rwanda (Asylum and Immigration) Act 2024; and when they expect to be able to assess with certainty the level of deterrent effect of this legislation.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Both the Illegal Migration Act 2023 and the Safety of Rwanda Act 2024 aim to put a stop to illegal migration into the UK by removing the incentive to make dangerous small boat crossings.

The Home Office has published its Economic Impact Assessment for the Illegal Migration Act

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/impact-assessments-covering-migration-policy>

and Safety of Rwanda Act

[Safety of Rwanda \(Asylum and Immigration\) Bill: impact assessments](https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-02/hl4340)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-02/hl4340>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Married People and Overseas Students

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL4276] To ask His Majesty's Government how many applications were received for transitioning from a student visa to a spousal visa each year from 2018 to 2022, and what percentage of the applicants were male.

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL4277] To ask His Majesty's Government what was the success rate of applications for transitioning from a student visa to a spousal visa each year from 2018 to 2022.

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 how many extend into other categories (e.g. family) at the end of each year, following their initial leave. The latest report covers up to the end of 2022.

The Home Office publishes data on grants of extensions of stay in the UK, in the [Immigration system statistics quarterly release](#).

Table Exe_D02 shows the number of grants of extensions of stay in the UK, by current and previous category of leave, available from Immigration system statistics data tables. Data on extensions by previous category is available for main applicants and calendar year 2020 only. This data will be updated for 2021 onwards in future Immigration system statistics publications.

Please note, the published statistics relate to the number of grants, not applications.

[extensions dataset](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/hl4276>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/hl4277>

Forced Marriage: British Nationality

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench) [HL4278] To ask His Majesty's Government between 2018 and 2022 how many British citizens, if any, have reported being in a forced marriage to individuals in the UK who have students visas.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Since April 2019, police forces in England and Wales have been required to provide quarterly data returns to the Home Office on so-called 'honour'-based abuse offences, including forced marriage. The most recent data show 172 forced marriage related offences recorded in the year ending March 2023.

In addition, the joint Home Office and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) also publishes statistics on forced marriage cases reported to the unit. The most recent statistics show the FMU provided

support in 280 cases of forced marriage in 2023.

The Home Office does not hold data on forced marriages relating to individuals with student visas.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-01/hl4278>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Legal Migration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/14841/html/>

Press Release

Failed asylum seekers detained for removal to Rwanda

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/failed-asylum-seekers-detained-for-removal-to-rwanda>

New Publications

Letter from Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Shirley-Anne Somerville to UK Government Home Secretary James Cleverly on immigration enforcement operations in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/immigration-enforcement-letter-social-justice-secretary-home-secretary/>

Attitudes to Immigration in Scotland: Cautious pragmatism?

https://migrationpolicyscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Attitudes_Scotland_May24.pdf

UK/Rwanda: Exchange of Letters on the Interpretation of the Agreement for the Provision of an Asylum Partnership to Strengthen Shared International Commitments on the Protection of Refugees and Migrants

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664485fff34f9b5a56adc7b4/TS_32.2024_UK_Rwanda_Exchange_Letters_Agreement_Asylum_Partnership_Refugees_Migrants.pdf

High Court Judgement deciding that some provisions of the Illegal Migration Act 2023 cannot be applied in Northern Ireland

Full judgement

<https://www.judiciaryni.uk/files/judiciaryni/2024-05/NIHRC%27s%20Application%20and%20JR295%27s%20Application%20and%20In%20the%20the%20matter%20of%20The%20Illegal%20Migration%20Act%202023.pdf>

Summary

https://www.judiciaryni.uk/files/judiciaryni/2024-05/Summary%20of%20judgment%20-%20In%20re%20NIHRC%20and%20JR%20295%20-%28Illegal%20Migration%20Act%202023%29%20-%20130524_0.pdf

Young People's Attitudes to Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Northern Ireland 2023

<https://datavis.nisra.gov.uk/executiveofficeni/young-peoples-attitudes-to-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-in-ni-2023.html>

Rapid Review of the Graduate Route

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6641e1fbbd01f5ed32793992/MAC+Rapid+Review+of+Graduate+Route.pdf>

Analysis of migrants use of the Graduate route

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/analysis-of-migrants-use-of-the-graduate-route/analysis-of-migrants-use-of-the-graduate-route>

Student visa: Views of students and higher education institutions

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-visa-views-of-students-and-higher-education-institutions/student-visa-views-of-students-and-higher-education-institutions>

Refugees and the UK's international aid response

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10024/CBP-10024.pdf>

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

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

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

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

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda plan expanded to include failed asylum seekers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1ejele5plko>

'Fewer than 10 migrants' on first Rwanda flight

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/16/fewer-10-migrants-first-rwanda-flights-officials-fear/>

Two people detained in Scotland as part of Rwanda scheme

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24328977.two-people-detained-scotland-part-rwanda-scheme/>

Two people detained in Scotland as part of Rwanda scheme, says Shirley-Anne Somerville

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/two-people-detained-in-scotland-as-part-of-rwanda-scheme-says-shirley-anne-somerville-4633569>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Swinney attacks PM's migration crackdown amid care crisis

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24327706.swinney-attacks-pms-migration-crackdown-amid-care-crisis/>

Rishi Sunak has 'fighting chance' of meeting migration pledge, says watchdog

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/graduate-visa-route-uk-migration-rishi-sunak-92wzh77cc>

'We're not allowed to bring our baby from Ukraine': Refugees refused after sudden UK rule change

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-refugees-sunak-changes-b2538499.html>

Tory MP provokes fury as he announces in Commons he has banned asylum seekers cases from his surgery

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/asylum-seekers-banned-tory-mp-commons-b2542294.html>

Illegal Migration Act: Parts should not apply in NI, judge rules

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-69001673>

Brexit blamed as court ruling leaves UK immigration policy in chaos

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/brexit-immigration-court-ruling-northern-ireland-b2544791.html>

Visa for overseas graduates should stay - report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cp9ggmk1zgko>

No widespread abuse of UK graduate visa scheme, Home Office report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/graduate-visa-home-office-student-university-b2544631.html>

Graduate visa scheme contributes very little to UK's skilled workforce, migration adviser admits

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/05/15/graduate-visa-scheme-contributes-little-uk-skilled-workers/>

Backlog in family reunion scheme leads to surge in illegal refugee children

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/backlog-in-family-reunion-scheme-leads-to-surge-in-illegal-refugee-children-s07bsfrq3>

Migrant chaos as hundreds of asylum seekers leave Bibby Stockholm and RAF base

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/bibby-stockholm-migrants-wethersfield-raf-base-hotels-b2541589.html>

The UK's broken refugee policy is delivering vulnerable children into the hands of people smugglers

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/15/uk-broken-refugee-policy-children-people-smugglers>

Migrant-smuggler arrested after BBC investigation

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6pyyqep831o>

Why the BBC could track down a people-smuggling kingpin before the police

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c2qv0grgy7yo>

Celebrating our New Scots Leaders!

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/celebrating-our-new-scots-leaders/>

Home Office asks Windrush man's son for DNA test

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c97z6dgjey9o>

Man told he is not British after 42 years in UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-69016539>

Home Office in threat to deport disabled man to Nigeria after 38 years in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/may/19/home-office-in-threat-to-deport-disabled-man-to-nigeria-after-38-years-in-uk>

British asylum housing tycoon breaks into Sunday Times rich list

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/may/17/british-asylum-housing-tycoon-breaks-into-sunday-times-rich-list>

He became rich housing refugees. Who is the asylum millionaire?

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/graham-king-small-boats-sunday-times-rich-list-28hz6fp23>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Community Cohesion

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [902863] What steps the Government are taking to help ensure community cohesion.

Reply from the Minister for Women and Equalities (Kemi Badenoch): In this country, we believe in religious freedom. Everyone should be able to express their identity, faith and beliefs. However, this must be done in a way that respects the rights of others. Community cohesion in many of our towns and cities has been strained in recent months, following the 7 October attacks in Israel. The boundaries of acceptable behaviour in the public sphere are being tested. That is why on 18 December 2023 I published new guidance for public authorities, reminding them of their legal obligations under the public sector equality duty, and specifically that they should consider how they contribute to the advancement of good relations in communities as they deliver public services.

Andrew Rosindell: ... Does she agree that all public buildings, schools and organisations should be encouraged to fly the appropriate flags as symbols of unity, patriotism and equality, rather than of division?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: I do agree with my hon. Friend. ... The point is that national pride should be celebrated, not shunned. That is why anyone in the UK is able to fly any of our national flags without needing the consent of their local authority, as per Government regulations that exempt national flags.

Jim Shannon (DUP): ... On community cohesion between different ethnicities, what plans does she have to make funding available to enable community events whereby each member of a community can demonstrate their culture and heritage, with all ages and all groups, and to build relationships in a similar way to what we are doing in Northern Ireland?

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: We encourage every celebration of the diversity in ethnicity that we have in this country. In particular, the Government want to emphasise equality under the law, the fact that there are not protected groups but protected characteristics, and that everyone should be free from discrimination. ...

To read the full question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-15/debates/6EEEA437-B550-4EC9-A64A-17846B0284C5/CommunityCohesion>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-15/debates/F1E3D5EB-7CF4-4091-8F9E-570FF1FF889A/GypsyAndTravellerSites>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [25712] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, whether she has had discussions with employers on the (a) public reporting of ethnicity pay gaps and (b) inclusive early talent pipelines.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: As part of the government's ambitious Inclusive Britain action plan, we published comprehensive guidance in April 2023 for employers on how they can measure, report on and address any unfair ethnicity pay gaps within their workforce. We have engaged with employers and representative bodies in both developing and promoting the new guidance.

We have also worked with employers to deliver other relevant actions in Inclusive Britain including:

- Updated guidance for employers on positive action in the workplace, published last April, on how to widen opportunities in a way that is consistent with equalities legislation.
- The report by the independent Inclusion at Work Panel, published on 20 March, on how to achieve fairness and inclusion in the workplace.
- Introducing a voluntary in-work progression offer for low paid Universal Credit claimants, a disproportionate number of whom are from an ethnic minority background.
- Measures to increase the number of young ethnic minorities in apprenticeships.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-10/25712>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

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

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusion-at-work-panel-report-on-improving-workplace-diversity-and-inclusion>

Employment: Ethnic Groups

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [25713] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he has made an assessment of the prevalence of discrimination towards young ethnic minorities seeking employment.

Reply from Mims Davies: Employment statistics show the ethnic minority employment rate at 68%, up 9.2 percentage points on the same quarter in 2010, with 5.4m people from an ethnic minority background in employment which is a record high.

The Department supports people to move into employment by providing access to a range of mainstream services and bespoke programmes that are designed to be flexible to individual needs. We also take targeted action where there is a high ethnic minority employment gap and work with partners, employers, and specific sectors to improve opportunities for all.

The Youth Offer provides individually tailored Work Coach support to young people aged 16 to 24 who are claiming Universal Credit. This support includes the Youth Employment Programme, Youth Employability Coaches for young people with additional barriers to finding work, and Youth Hubs across Great Britain. This was expanded in 2023 to include additional young people on Universal Credit not currently searching for work, including young parents and carers.

In April 2023, the Government's Equality Hub published updated [guidance](#) for employers on how to use the positive action provisions in the Equality Act 2010. This is to help people who share a particular protected characteristic overcome barriers and to level the playing field.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-10/25713>

Education: Travellers

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [25396] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent steps her Department has taken to help improve the educational attainment rate of Romani Gypsy, Roma and Irish traveller children.

Reply from Damian Hinds: A world-class education system that works for everyone is the surest way to ensure that all children and young people can reach their potential. The department has high expectations for all pupils. The department does not design education policy to target certain groups of pupils based on ethnicity, but instead is focused on improving outcomes for all children. For all children to reach their potential they need an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum, taught by great teachers in schools with high expectations and good pupil behaviour.

One of the most significant factors affecting pupil attainment, which cuts across all ethnicities, is economic disadvantage. That is why the department has continued to provide pupil premium funding which will rise to over £2.9 billion in 2024/25. Pupil premium per pupil rates will have increased by 10% over the three years from 2021/22 to 2024/25. This increase will ensure that this targeted funding continues to help schools to support the educational outcomes of disadvantaged pupils.

In 2024/25, the national funding formula (NFF) will allocate £7.8 billion (17.8% of all funding allocated by the NFF) through additional needs factors based on deprivation, low prior attainment, English as an additional language and mobility.

The department recognises the issues faced by Romani Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller children and young people and how schools and others can make a positive difference. While some pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds can, and do, perform well at school, as a group their attainment and attendance at school is particularly low at every key stage of education.

The department will continue to work to deliver reforms, to ensure all children and young people are able to reach their potential and experience the transformative effect of a high-quality education and continue to support schools and leaders to respond to the needs of their schools and communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25396>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Insurance: Travellers

Caroline Nokes (Conservative): [24894] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has had recent discussions with the (a) insurance sector, (b) Financial Conduct Authority, (c) Financial Ombudsman and (d) Equality and Human Rights Commission on the ability of people in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community to obtain (i) buildings and (ii) contents insurance.

Caroline Nokes (Conservative): [24895] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department is taking to help support people in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller

community to obtain (a) buildings and (b) contents insurance.

Reply from Bim Afolami: Insurers make commercial decisions about the terms on which they will offer cover following an assessment of the relevant risks. However, the Government is determined that insurers treat customers fairly and insurers must comply with the relevant legislative and regulatory rules.

The Financial Conduct Authority's rules require insurers to treat their customers fairly and the FCA has robust powers to act against firms that do not comply. The UK Government is also committed to tackling discrimination and the Equality Act 2010 provides legal protections from discrimination due to protected characteristics. This means insurers cannot use ethnicity as a risk factor when determining the price of insurance.

Customers who feel they have not been treated fairly by their insurer are able to complain to the Financial Ombudsman Service, the independent body established to provide arbitration in such cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/24894>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/24895>

New Publication

Gypsies and travellers: educational outcomes

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10016/CBP-10016.pdf>

News

No Black or Asian teachers in more than half of English primary schools, report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/no-black-asian-teachers-england-primary-schools-b2544072.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Schools: Bullying

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [25397] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many incidents of ethnicity-based bullying within schools were reported to her Department in the last 12 months; and what steps her Department is taking to help tackle such incidents.

Reply from David Johnston: There is no legal requirement on schools to record and report incidents of bullying and there never has been. Schools should develop their own approaches for monitoring bullying and exercise their own judgement as to what will work best for their pupils.

All schools are legally required to have a behaviour policy with measures to prevent all forms of bullying. They have the freedom to develop their own anti-bullying strategies appropriate to their environment and are held to account by Ofsted.

In July 2017, the department updated its advice for schools, which outlines schools' responsibilities to support children who are bullied. The advice makes clear that schools should make appropriate provision for a bullied child's social, emotional and mental health needs. This advice is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

The department provided over £3 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2024, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This included projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate related bullying.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/25397>

Anti-semitism

John Hayes (Conservative) [25406] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many universities have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.

Reply from Luke Hall: As of 10 May 2024, 245 higher education (HE) providers in England, including all but six universities, have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism.

While the decision to adopt the definition rests with individual HE providers, the government will continue to encourage all to adopt the definition. Adopting this widely recognised educative tool is a signal that providers take these issues seriously.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-09/25406>

The definition of antisemitism referred to above can be read at

<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>

New Publications

Hate crimes recorded by the police in Scotland, 2022-23

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/hate-crimes-recorded-by-the-police-in-scotland-2022-23/>

Tackling racism and intolerance in the area of health care

<https://rm.coe.int/ecri-factsheet-on-health-07052024-en/1680af9965>

News

Poll finds nearly half want Scottish hate crime law scrapped

https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24318031_poll-finds-nearly-half-want-scottish-hate-crime-law-scrapped/

Hate Crime Act: Half of Scots believe legislation should be repealed, poll shows

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/hate-crime-act-half-of-scots-believe-legislation-should-be-repealed-poll-shows-4626693>

Hate Crime Act must be reconsidered after spurious complaints eventually die down

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/hate-crime-act-must-be-reconsidered-after-spurious-complaints-eventually-die-down-scotsman-comment-4626849>

[Welsh] FM's backers say attacks on him racially driven

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crgg0035dd0o>

Greens promise action over antisemitism allegations

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cle0e0y4pyxo>

Shocking scale of ‘blatant’ racism in the Met as discrimination tribunals soar by 110 per cent

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/met-police-institutional-racism-misconduct-employment-tribunals-b2539181.html>

Three in court over alleged plan to attack Jewish community

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx0331xxd7xo>

Men appear in court accused of IS-style terror plot against Jewish community

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jewish-men-england-greater-manchester-police-islamic-b2544830.html>

Men accused of planning Isis-style attack on Jewish community

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/men-accused-of-planning-isis-style-attack-on-jewish-community-077q2mf3j>

Oxford students who raised concerns about anti-Semitism ‘told to leave’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/05/16/oxford-students-concerns-anti-semitism-told-leave/>

The 7 October Hamas attack opened a space – and antisemitism filled it. British Jews are living with the consequences

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/16/7-oct-hamas-attack-antisemitism-british-jews-jewish-gaza>

Antisemitism in Europe leading some to hide Jewish identity, says leading rabbi

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/article/2024/may/14/antisemitism-in-europe-leading-some-to-hide-jewish-identity-says-leading-rabbi>

On patrol with the Shomrim, the volunteers fighting antisemitism

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/on-patrol-with-the-shomrim-the-volunteers-fighting-antisemitism-6ssmlp6sh>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Search for local heroes to help celebrate 25 years of the Scottish Parliament

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/search-for-local-heroes-to-help-celebrate-25-years-of-the-scottish-parliament>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Debate

Hajj Fraud

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-17/debates/8779C9B8-0466-4808-9F4D-FB9D0B77C8E3/HajjFraud>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Mortgages: Islam

Lord Sharkey (Liberal Democrat) [HL4179] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the disparities between conventional and Sharia-compliant mortgage products in respect of the imposition of capital gains tax.

Reply from Baroness Vere of Norbiton: The government is aware of a difference in tax treatment when a commercial or residential property is refinanced using alternative rather than conventional finance methods. In these situations, a capital gains liability may arise for those using alternative financing, when this would not have been the case for those using conventional financing. The refinancing of main homes is unaffected as Private Residence Relief (PRR) applies.

On 16 January 2024, the government published the *Tax Simplification for Alternative Finance* consultation to seek views on reforms that would address the capital gains issue. The consultation closed on 9 April 2024 and all responses will be carefully considered and a summary of responses will be published in due course together with details of the next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-04-29/hl4179>

Tax Simplification for Alternative Finance, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a5058974ae66000d738aa5/240109-Tax_Simplification_for_Alternative_Finance_Consultation_Document.pdf

New Publications

Devolution in Scotland: "The settled will"?

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8441/CBP-8441.pdf>

Female Genital Mutilation, October - December 2023

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/female-genital-mutilation/october---december-2023>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

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

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

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

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

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

Publication

Poverty stigma: a glue that holds poverty in place

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/stigma-power-and-poverty/poverty-stigma-a-glue-that-holds-poverty-in-place>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

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

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum 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>

Family Visas (Minimum Income) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3684>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

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>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Disclosure Scotland fees: discounting, waivers and accredited bodies

(closing date 28 May 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/disclosure-scotland/fees-discounting-waivers-and-accredited-bodies/>

Review of Charity Regulation (closing date 22 July 2024)

<https://consult.gov.scot/third-sector/review-of-charity-regulation/>

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

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Faithful Welcome

Application deadline not stated

Faith in Community Scotland, and Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees funding of up to £500 to support Scotland's faith communities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and enable them to be an integral part of community life, wherever they are coming from and whatever the reason. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/bdd5kr6n>

Cost-of-Living Support Scotland

Closing date: 21 August 2024

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

No Recourse To Public Funds

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>

**** Police Scotland Recruitment Showcase Event**

1 June 2024 (Jackton, 10.00–3.00)

Police Scotland event providing an opportunity to speak to serving police officers and police staff, find out what it is like to work for Police Scotland, see demonstrations from the dog unit, mounted branch, public order and armed policing specialists, and have the chance to take part in a mock fitness assessment. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/38yb9ucc>

Introduction to refugees: asylum and resettlement

18 July 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand relevant legal definitions and processes including the UK asylum process, learn about the rights and entitlements of asylum seekers and refugees, and identify sources of support that empower people to live fully integrated lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/sbmevc64>

Introduction to working with interpreters

31 July 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable you to understand the roles and responsibilities of interpreters and service providers, understand the rights of the client – confidentiality, professional boundaries, advocacy and advice, know what to consider when planning for an interpreted session, and feel confident to manage the interpreting dynamic as a service provider. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxbdyc5>

Introduction to supporting refugee integration

10 September 2024 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Scottish Refugee Council course to help you understand the key principles of a rights-based refugee-led approach to integration, the underpinning principles of the Scottish integration framework and effective integration planning. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p9p9jdx>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <https://www.gov.scot/>

UK Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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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 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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