



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

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

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The Prime Minister has announced that a General Election will be held on 4 July

The UK Parliament has, therefore, been prorogued, and will be dissolved on 30 May. Dissolution marks the end of this Parliament, and all parliamentary business will come to an end until after the General Election. Questions asked by MPs that have not already received an answer will not be answered, and Bills that have not been passed before dissolution will 'fall' – i.e. they will not become laws.

**The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is
Tuesday 18 June.**

[Click here to register.](#)

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Graduate Immigration Policy

Gordon MacDonald (SNP) [S6F-03158] To ask the First Minister what the potential implications are for Scotland's economy of the United Kingdom Government's immigration policy changes for graduates.

The First Minister (John Swinney): I am deeply concerned at reports that the United Kingdom Government is considering introducing further measures to restrict the graduate visa route. I have written to the Prime Minister to emphasise that there is no economic or educational argument for such a proposal. Any restrictions to international students' ability to stay and work in Scotland after graduation would damage the higher education sector and our wider economy.

Sixty per cent of the Scottish public support a graduate visa, while the UK Government's own Migration Advisory Committee has recommended retaining the graduate route "in its current form". Scotland's distinct demographic challenge means that it is crucial that we have the tools to attract people to, and retain them in, Scotland. That should be our focus, not turning people away.

Gordon MacDonald: Universities Scotland has written to the UK Government, stating: "Further restrictions to the graduate route would benefit literally no one" and pointing out that "international students make a net positive contribution of at least £4.75 bn to the Scottish economy."

Does the First Minister agree that even the threat of changes to the graduate route could damage our international reputation and that that shows us why decisions about immigration should be made in Scotland, to allow us to put Scotland first and make decisions in our economic interest?

The First Minister: I agree with Mr MacDonald. It is clear that the graduate visa route has resulted in significant economic benefit to our communities, because it has, in essence, anchored the educational achievements of some of the brightest people in the world, contributing to the Scottish economy through our universities and the further activity that flows from that.

It is a very short-sighted proposal. I am uncertain as to whether the Prime Minister will take a decision in the context of an imminent election to change the graduate visa route. However, I assure our university community of the Scottish Government's steadfast support and assistance in doing all that we can to avoid the graduate visa route being in any way altered, because it benefits Scotland and our institutions.

Liam Kerr (Conservative): The Migration Advisory Committee, which was mentioned earlier, stated: "it is the failure to properly fund the sector that has led to an increasing overreliance on immigration." It went on to say that it has "had no indication in ... discussion with Ministers ... that there is any plan in place to address this structural under-funding." Does the First Minister have any plan in place to address the structural underfunding of Scottish universities by the Scottish National Party Government?

The First Minister: The Scottish Government gives significant financial support to the university sector, but, of course, the Scottish Government has to live within the resources that are made available to us through the Barnett formula and the funding of the public purse.

People such as Liam Kerr have to wake up and realise that there is a consequence of 14 years of austerity. That has put insufferable pressure on our public finances, and the people who are responsible for those 14 years of austerity are Liam Kerr and his Conservative colleagues. As a Government, we will do all that we can to support the university sector ...

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat): For the first time, the income from international students has surpassed that from domestic students. That is because of the excellent reputation of Scottish universities. However, that also poses a risk, because it involves being heavily dependent on funding that is subject to global volatility. The First Minister will know about the financial difficulties that have been reported at the University of Aberdeen, where there is “significant doubt” about its ability to continue. The situation is very stark. There have been similar reports about other universities and four colleges. What are the First Minister’s thoughts on how to address that situation, which is not going away and will only get worse?

The First Minister: I take seriously the point that Mr Rennie raises, but it relates directly to the public finances, on which the Government has taken a stance. We have been prepared to increase tax to increase the resources that we have available to invest in key sectors such as the university sector and the college sector.

The Scottish Funding Council engages directly with institutions to support them with the challenges that they face, but I make the point that the continuation of austerity, which is now having such a punishing effect on our public finances, is a material factor that we have to address. The opportunity to do that is in front of the country in the forthcoming election.

https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/meeting-of-parliament-23-05-2024?meeting=15878&iob=135562#orscontributions_M2098E385P721C2591113

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ukrainian Refugees: Fife

Alex Rowley (Labour) [S6W-26817] To ask the Scottish Government what its policy is regarding mandatory rotation of Ukrainian refugees around hotels in Fife.

Reply from Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Scottish Government has welcome accommodation across Scotland. These are managed in partnership with relevant local authorities, who advise on where guests are best placed.

We work collaboratively with local authorities such as Fife to ensure that services are person-centred and delivered in a trauma informed way, and which support effective resettlement.

In the Fife Council area there are three welcome accommodation hotels for displaced people on a temporary basis upon arrival in the country.

On arrival, Fife council will make a needs assessment and will consider the availability of council services to support displaced people in determining which hotel is most suited for presenting individuals or families,

There is no mandatory rotation of guests in Fife, or any other part of the welcome accommodation estate housing displaced people.

However, from time to time as a result of contracting, consolidation, changes in local services provision or when an accommodation provider chooses to reduce or discontinue the rooms they offer, local authorities may require guests to move to new accommodation and will look to minimise disruption to guests as much as possible.

The Scottish Government remains committed, alongside our Local Authority partners, to supporting Ukrainians access longer-term, sustainable accommodation while they make Scotland their home.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-26817>

Asylum

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-27103] To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to people seeking asylum who are resident in Scotland, including anyone who may be impacted by the Illegal Migration Act 2023.

Reply from Kaukab Stewart: The Scottish Government is strongly opposed to the Illegal Migration Act that will push vulnerable people further into destitution and increase the risk of exploitation and we have raised our serious concerns with the Home Secretary.

We continue to deliver a range of interventions to support people seeking asylum living in Scotland including providing £3.6m of grant funding to Scottish Refugee Council this year for a comprehensive, nationwide Refugee Support Service.

The Service will support refugees and people seeking asylum to settle into communities through providing advice, information and resources, improving access to support services and facilitating social connections and will support the implementation of the third New Scots refugee integration strategy.

Many of the essential services which support people seeking asylum are devolved and are delivered inclusively for everyone living in Scotland, as far as possible within UK immigration legislation and rules. For example, people seeking asylum can access NHS healthcare and asylum-seeking children are entitled to school education.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27103>

The New Scots refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2024/>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Tackling Illegal Migration

The Minister for Countering Illegal Migration (Michael Tomlinson) [HCWS488] The Government's No. 1 priority is keeping the UK safe and our border secure. Illegal migration reduces our capability and capacity to help those who most need our support. It puts lives in danger by placing vulnerable people into the hands of smugglers.

We are tackling the evil people-smuggling gangs behind the deadly small boats crossings. We are utilising a range of activity: legislative, operational, and diplomatic. I want to provide an update on key operational lines of effort where we are delivering on our promise to tackle illegal migration.

So far this year we have already returned over 10,000 people who were in the UK illegally. As of 19 May, provisional data shows 10,789 returns in 2024. This is over 2,000 more returns than the same point last year. This includes the removal of 1,708 foreign national offenders from the UK, which is over 400 more than the same point in 2023.

Returning people with no right to be here is only one part of our plan and we continue to deliver on wider enforcement action.

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 gave the Government new powers to tackle criminality, secure our borders and deter people from making dangerous journeys to the UK. Provisional data shows that:

The Home Office Immigration Enforcement Criminal and Financial Investigation teams have arrested over 1,000 persons in connection with various offences under the Act.

Of these, over 750 have been charged and over 540 have been convicted, resulting to date in over 460 years sentencing in total.

This includes the arrest of over 190 individuals identified as small boat pilots. Of these, over 160 have been charged and over 110 have been convicted, resulting in over 75 years in sentencing in total.

In 2023, the NCA conducted the biggest ever international operation targeting networks suspected of using small boats for people smuggling with 136 boats and 45 outboard engines seized. In total, over the last year over 352 boats and 113 engines have been seized by the NCA and international partners.

This comes as an additional £25 million is given to the National Crime Agency to sustain, and scale up, these efforts to disrupt people smugglers and their operations.

The Government doubled the funding available to the National Crime Agency in 2023 to prevent the supply of boats and engines.

Our work across all of these fronts will continue to stop the boats and tackle illegal migration and all of the harms it causes.

Official Statistics:

The Home Office regularly publishes data on immigration on gov.uk. Quarterly statistics can be found in the immigration system statistics quarterly release, and irregular migration to the UK statistics releases. The next update to these publications will be on 23 May 2024. Additional data is available in the migration transparency data and statistics relating to illegal migration.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-21/debates/24052139000018/TacklingIllegalMigration>

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

Refugees: Rwanda

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [26619] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of deporting a refugee to Rwanda.

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](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26619>

Deportation: Rwanda

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [26697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of people who have been served with notices of intent for removal to Rwanda are (a) women and (b) unaccompanied children.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The Home Office does not routinely publish data on the gender or age of those issued with a notice of intent.

The UK-Rwanda Treaty makes clear at Article 3 that the agreement reached between the governments of Rwanda and the UK does not cover unaccompanied children and that the UK Government shall not seek to relocate unaccompanied children under the age of 18.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/26697>

The Treaty referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/656f51d30f12ef07a53e0295/UK-Rwanda_MEDP_-_English_-_Formatted_5_Dec_23_-_UK_VERSION.pdf

Deportation: Rwanda

Diana Johnson (Labour) [26984] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an estimate of the cost to the public purse of paying for medical care for people deported to Rwanda who subsequently require treatment outside that country.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: Anyone relocated to Rwanda will receive care

that is at least of the standard available to Rwandan nationals. This is provided for through private health insurance. Referrals for specific care that cannot be provided within Rwanda can be made under the insurance contract to a third country, with consent of the individual, and as confirmed by a medical referral board. In narrow cases where referrals made are not covered by the insurance contract, the cost will be covered by the Government of Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/26984>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

People Smuggling: Boats

Damien Moore (Conservative) [25943] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps he is taking to prevent the provision of large dinghies by suppliers to people smuggling gangs.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: We are taking a whole-of-route approach from source countries all the way through to the UK and have signed international agreements to enhance co-operation on organised immigration crime.

As announced by the Prime Minister in December 2022, we have doubled funding to the National Crime Agency and other partners to provide £74 million funding to tackle OIC.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/25943>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [27027] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many and what proportion of applicants to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy were rejected and subsequently appealed that decision as of 20 May 2024; and whether the Government has made an assessment of the...

Reply from Andrew Murrison: As of 20 May 2024, 6,324 applicants to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme have used the right to seek a review of the eligibility decision that is set out in published policy. This represents approximately 7% of those found initially ineligible.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is only responsible for administering the ARAP scheme and is therefore unable to provide a comparison with appeals lodged in relation to asylum applications in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/27027>

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: Other Immigration and Asylum

Naturalisation

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [25957] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were (a) naturalised and (b) registered who were (i) under 18, (ii) 19 to 24, (iii) 25 to 29, (iv) 30 to 34, (v) 35 to 39, (vi) 40 to 44, (vii) 45 to 49, (viii) 50

to 54, (ix) 55 to 59, (x) 60 to 64, (xi) 65 to 69 and (xii) 70 or above in each quarter since Q1 2023.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on citizenship in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on naturalisations and registrations broken down by age group are published in table Cit_D02 of the '[Citizenship detailed datasets](#)'. Age breakdowns from 2021 onwards cannot currently be provided due to ongoing work to transition underlying systems that are used to produce the data.

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 December 2023.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar\(opens in a new tab\)](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/25957>

Visas: British Nationals Abroad

Jess Phillips (Labour) [26172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of visas have been granted to the non-British dependents of (a) British Israelis and (b) British Palestinians that have been repatriated since 7 October 2023.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on visas granted, by nationality, main applicants, and dependants are published in table Vis_D02 of the '[Entry clearance detailed dataset](#)'. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate up to the end of 2023. Please note the published statistics do not identify how many visas were issued to dependants of people who have been repatriated since 7 October 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26172>

Immigration: Overseas Students

Michael Fabricant (Conservative) [26828] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will set student immigration quotas which do not restrict the ability of international students to stay in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There are no caps on the number of international students permitted to come to the UK. The Student route is not a route to settlement. There are currently no plans to change this.

Upon course completion, students may apply to extend their leave in the UK, including under work routes if relevant requirements are met.

We keep all our immigration policies under constant review to ensure they best serve the UK and reflect the public's priorities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-17/26828>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Diana Johnson (Labour) [26987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applying to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have been asked to do a DNA test.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: No applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have been asked to do a DNA test.

The Windrush Compensation Scheme does not require claimants to complete a DNA test to confirm they are eligible under the scheme. If the evidence or information initially provided by a claimant is insufficient to confirm their eligibility for the Scheme, they may be sent a non-exhaustive list of further types of information or evidence that could be submitted. Decision Makers will work directly

with individuals to support them with this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/26987>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Diana Johnson (Labour) [26988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people applying to the Windrush Compensation Scheme have asked for (a) a review of their compensation decision and (b) an independent adjudicator to review their compensation decision.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Information relating to how many individuals have asked the Windrush Compensation award offer to be reviewed is included in Windrush Compensation Scheme Transparency Data which is published regularly. The latest published data, covering the period up to March 2024, is available here: [Windrush Compensation Scheme data: March 2024](#)

The relevant data can be found on page WCS_09 - Volume of Tier one and Tier two reviews and outcome.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/26988>

Refugees: Gaza

Marsha De Cordova (Labour) [26252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will take steps to support Palestinian families seeking reunification with relatives from Gaza.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There are no plans to introduce bespoke arrangements for people arriving from the region. Those wishing to come to the UK who currently have no visa can apply under one of the existing visa routes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26252>

Palestinians: Refugees

Rupa Huq (Labour) [25887] To ask the Deputy Foreign Secretary, if he will make an estimate of the number of unaccompanied children in Gaza that have family in the UK; and whether he is taking steps to support family reunions in those cases.

Reply from Andrew Mitchell: Far too many children in Gaza have been orphaned or separated from their parents. We do not have an estimate of how many of these may have family in the UK. The UK is supporting a number of agencies who are targeting funding to respond to the needs of these children. The UK's funding to the Red Cross Movement, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Pooled Fund has supported their work to identify unaccompanied minors, provide care options, and in some cases reunited children with family members.

Palestinians who wish to join family members in the UK may apply to do so via the existing range of routes available. Any application for a UK visa will be assessed against the requirements of the Immigration Rules and our suitability requirements. Consideration will be given to compelling, compassionate and exceptional circumstances raised and may be taken into account where certain requirements are not met.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/25887>

Visas: Palestinians

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [26792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will implement a visa scheme to enable Palestinian children to receive critical medical treatment in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK is exploring how best to support the medical needs of those in Gaza, including what options can be provided in the region.

It is ultimately at the discretion of the Israeli and Egyptian authorities who can cross

the border.

The Home Office is not currently considering establishing a bespoke visa scheme for Palestinian children to receive critical medical treatment in the UK. There are provisions that allow a person to come to the UK for private medical treatment under Appendix V of the Immigration Rules. If the rules are not met, careful consideration will be given on whether a grant of leave outside of the rules would be appropriate. Should applications be submitted from Palestinian children, who have secured permission from the Israeli and Egyptian authorities to exit Gaza, requiring specialist medical treatment they will be treated with the utmost seriousness. If that leads to the identification of specific cases in which a person would be better off making the long journey to the UK to undertake treatment, we will not rule out bringing them to British hospitals, as we have done in the past.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/26792>

Appendix V of the Immigration Rules, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-v-visitor>

Visas: Care Workers

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [26601] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people on a (a) student visa and (b) graduate visa took jobs (i) in caring, leisure and other service occupations, (ii) as care workers and (iii) as senior care workers in the financial year (A) 2021-22 (B) 2022-23 and (C) 2023-24.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office published '[Analysis of migrants use of the Graduate route](#)'. The report shows the proportion of student visa holders who were subsequently granted a work visa after their studies, and those who left the Graduate route and went into work (including those who were granted a Health & Care visa).

The report shows that, of the 25,469 people whose Graduate visas had expired by the end of 2023, 46% had switched to a work visa (9% of the total switched to the Health & Care route). In addition, based on matching Home Office visa records with HMRC income data, of Graduate visa holders who earned in at least one month during the financial year ending 2023 (including those who worked across the full year), 16% worked in the Health and Social Care work sector.

The report does not look at specific occupations Student or Graduate visa holders held, or the number of students who extended into the Health & Care route. This information is not currently published by the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26601>

People Smuggling: Prosecutions

Bob Seely (Conservative) [26916] To ask the Attorney General, with reference to the Answer of 20 January 2023 to Question 125287 on Rape: Prosecutions, how many (a) completed prosecutions and (b) convictions there were for people smuggling in each quarter from the start of January 2005 to the end of September 2015.

Reply from Robert Courts: The Immigration Act 1971 (the Act) sets out offences for illegal entry, illegal working, and assisting unlawful immigration into the United Kingdom.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) holds management information showing the number of offences charged by way of section 24 (illegal entry/arrival), section 25 (assisting unlawful immigration to member State or the UK), section 25A (helping an asylum-seeker to enter the UK), and section 25B (assisting entry to the UK in breach of deportation or exclusion order) of the Act in which a prosecution commenced and reached a first hearing at a magistrates' court.

The table attached shows the number of these offences from the start of January 2005 to the end of September 2015.

The CPS does not hold data which shows the number of defendants charged with, prosecuted, and convicted for offences created by the Act. The figures in the table relate to the number of offences and not the number of individual defendants. An individual defendant may be charged with more than one offence against the same complainant. No data is held showing the final outcome or if the charged offence was the substantive charge at completion of prosecution.

[Table](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-17/26916>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-17/125287>

Immigration: Legal Aid Scheme

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [26716] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether she has made a recent assessment of the adequacy of legal aid provision for immigration cases.

Reply from Mike Freer: Legal aid is available for asylum cases, for immigration matters for victims of domestic abuse and modern slavery, for separated migrant children and for immigration detention cases.

Once commenced, individuals who receive a removal notice under the Illegal Migration Act (IMA) will have access to merits and means free legal advice in relation to the removal notice.

We have taken action to increase access to legal aid for immigration and asylum cases, by:

- Setting fees for IMA work at 15% above the usual hourly rate;
- Providing up to £1.4 million of funding in 2024 for accreditation and re-accreditation of senior caseworkers to conduct immigration and asylum legal aid work;
- Allowing Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS) providers to give guidance remotely, at the discretion of providers and subject to their professional judgement and their obligations towards vulnerable persons; and
- Introducing payment for travel time between Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) and DDAS surgeries.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) monitors supply across its legal aid contracts on an ongoing basis and, where demand is greater than the available supply, takes action within its operational powers to secure additional provision to ensure the continuity of legal aid-funded services.

The LAA regularly engages with provider representative groups, including on the provision of immigration and asylum services, via forums such as the Civil Contract Consultative Group.

The ongoing Review of Civil Legal Aid is considering the broader economic context of the civil legal aid market as a whole, including for immigration cases, so that it can operate sustainably in the long-term; the Green Paper consultation is expected in July 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/26716>

Refugees: Loans

Neil O'Brien (Conservative) [27155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much his Department spent on refugee integration loans in each year since 2007.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Refugee Integration Loans were introduced in 2007 following a public consultation and are intended to help people with the costs of integrating into UK society. They are funded by the Home Office, who make the

initial decisions on applications. They are then administered and recouped by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

Refugee integration loans are interest-free loans with favourable repayment terms for individuals who are over 18 and meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a refugee;
- you have humanitarian protection;
- a dependant of a refugee or someone with humanitarian protection.

Individuals are currently able to borrow between £100 and £500. Between £100 to £780 can be borrowed if submitting a joint application with a partner.

All loan repayments are expected in full and money recovered can be recycled to provide funds for new refugees

The Home Office work with DWP to administer the loans across different IT platforms. Consequently, data is not held in an easily reportable format and would require a manual search of records that would incur a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/27155>

Refugees: Carers

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [26632] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of making it easier for refugees who are carers to qualify for UK citizenship.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office expects all applicants for naturalisation to meet the statutory requirements which are based on a period of residence in the UK, including being free from immigration time restrictions and being of good character.

The Government considers that those seeking to make a permanent home in the UK should be equipped to integrate successfully in society, with an appropriate level of English and an understanding of British life. All applicants are therefore required to pass the Life in the UK test and meet the English language requirement. The aim is to ensure that those who intend to settle here develop both the language skills that enable them to make a success of living permanently in the UK and have an understanding of life here and society's expectations.

There are no plans to change the requirements for citizenship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26632>

Asylum: Republic of Ireland

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [26374] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been sent by the authorities in the Republic of Ireland to the UK in the last 12 months.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: In 2020, we agreed operational arrangements which allow for the return and readmission of asylum seekers where this is agreed by both participants. Ireland has not returned anyone to the UK under these arrangements, including in the last 12 months.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/26374>

Asylum: Rwanda

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [26921] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Rwandan nationals have successfully applied for asylum in the UK since 2019.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on grants by nationality are published in table Asy_D02 of the '[Asylum applications, initial 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 2023.

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

The UK has a proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Those who need protection are normally granted refugee status or humanitarian protection.

All asylum and human rights claims lodged from within the UK and admitted to the UK asylum system, including those seeking asylum from Rwanda, are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with our international obligations, and 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/2024-05-17/26921>

Asylum

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [26868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance his Department issues to asylum seekers on (a) housing, (b) work rights and (c) recourse to public funds once they have been granted leave to remain.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Individuals granted asylum have access to the labour market and to mainstream services that support their integration, including benefits and healthcare. We are working across Government to ensure these services meet the needs of all newly granted refugees.

Support is offered from Migrant Help or their partner organisation to all individuals when they receive a decision on their asylum claim. This support includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-17/26868>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [26152] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of children who have been allocated a transfer to a local authority through the National Transfer Scheme have been refused by that local authority.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [26153] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of children have refused their (a) first and (b) second move on the National Transfer Scheme; and what guidance his Department issues on refusals by children to move through the National Transfer Scheme.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [26154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department has issued guidance on the time period within which young people should be (a) referred to the National Transfer Scheme and (b) moved to the receiving local authority.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: The decision for any UAS child to be referred to the NTS for transfer lies with the local authority as the child’s corporate parent. The NTS Protocol sets out the criteria for referring a child to the NTS, and the associated timeframes, which can be found here: [Unaccompanied asylum seeking children: national transfer scheme](#). The NTS Protocol also outlines the escalation procedure on how to proceed when any issues arise between the receiving local authority around a transfer.

The most recent published data can be found at: [RASI \(Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration\) data: Q3 2023](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26152>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26153>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26154>

Asylum: Children

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [26698] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied children are recorded as missing from asylum hotels as of 16 May 2024.

Reply from Michael Tomlinson: There are no unaccompanied asylum-seeking children housed in hotels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/26698>

Asylum: Hotels

Damien Moore (Conservative) [26726] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress his Department has made on ending the use of seaside hotels for housing asylum seekers.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office has been clear that the use of hotels is a temporary and short-term measure to ensure we meet our statutory obligation to accommodate destitute asylum seekers. We have made significant progress in returning 150 hotels to communities across the UK as of the beginning of May. Our statutory accommodation needs are kept under continuous review, and we will write to MPs and local authorities as further decisions on hotels are made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/26726>

Asylum: Hotels

Gregory Campbell (DUP) [26853] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will make an estimate of the number of hotels that will be used as temporary accommodation for asylum seekers between 1 January 2024 and 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/2024-05-17/26853>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL4448] To ask His Majesty's Government, following their press release on 1 May stating that individuals are to be detained for removal to Rwanda in the next nine to 11 weeks, how many such individuals they anticipate will be granted immigration bail in the interim.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: As all detention decisions are particular to the individual concerned it would be inappropriate to predict the extent of any related future activity.

The government has repeatedly stated that it will not be providing a running commentary on the removals process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/hl4448>

The press release referred to above can be read at

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord German (Liberal Democrat) [HL4447] To ask His Majesty's Government, following their press release on 1 May stating that detention capacity had been increased to more than 2,200 spaces for those being removed to Rwanda, how many additional detention spaces have been created for this purpose and where they are located.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office currently operates seven immigration removal centres (IRCs) throughout the UK

As of 24 April the Home Office has the capacity to detain around 2,200 people in IRCs, including those liable for removal to Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-08/hl4447>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Deportation: Rwanda

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4682] To ask His Majesty's Government how many women are currently being detained for removal to Rwanda.

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4683] To ask His Majesty's Government in which immigration removal centres the additional 2,200 detention spaces referred to in their press release of 1 May are located.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office currently operates seven immigration removal centres (IRCs) throughout the UK (six in England and one in Scotland); Harmondsworth and Colnbrook IRCs at Heathrow; Brook House and Tinsley House IRCs at Gatwick; Derwentside IRC in County Durham; Yarl's Wood IRC in Bedfordshire and Dungavel House IRC in South Lanarkshire, Scotland.

As of 24 April, the Home Office has the capacity to detain around 2,200 people in IRCs, including those liable for removal to Rwanda.

Individuals who were previously present in a safe third country and entered the UK by a dangerous and unnecessary method are liable to be relocated to Rwanda. As this is an ongoing operational matter it would be inappropriate to provide a running commentary on individual cases or numbers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4682>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4683>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Rwanda: Entry Clearances

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL4803] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they plan to make representations to the government of Rwanda about the denial of entry into that country of a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, who is a British citizen, at Kigali airport on 13 May.

Rwanda: Foreign Relations

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL4804] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the implications of the government of Rwanda's apparent refusal to allow staff of Human Rights Watch into the country for (1) UK-Rwanda relations, and (2) the UK-Rwanda asylum partnership.

Reply from Lord Benyon: The FCDO recognises the importance of organisations like Human Rights Watch and the work that they do. Our High Commissioner in Rwanda has spoken with the individual concerned and, along with other international partners, discussed the incident with the Rwandan government. The Monitoring Committee, agreed as part of the UK-Rwanda Treaty, will have the power to set its own priority areas for monitoring and have unfettered access for the purposes of completing assessments and reports.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-21/hl4803>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-21/hl4804>

The Treaty referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6631f2f6f3e54f33b3bb08b8/FINAL_Statutory_Statement_under_Constitutional_Reform_and_Governance_Act.pdf

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

Immigration Controls: Families

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL4780] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 14 May (HL Deb cols 565–70), whether they will now answer the question as to whether the family test was applied to the changes in the Immigration Rules.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: During the Motion of Regret Speech on 14 May 2024, in answer to Baroness Lister's question, I set out the evidence and advice that was taken in to account before making the decision to increase the Minimum Income Requirement (MIR).

We did not seek further advice from the Migration Advisory Committee, but we did consider its previous advice and evidence regarding net fiscal contributions and access to benefits.

We also took into account reports about the impact of the MIR on families by the Migration Observatory, the Journal of Economics, Race and Policy and the Justice and Home Affairs Committee.

For the avoidance of doubt, this means the Family Test was not applied when making the decision to increase the MIR. There is no legal obligation for the test to be applied.

A full regulatory assessment and equalities impact assessment on the changes to the Immigration Rules laid on 14 March will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/hl4780>

The Minister's remarks referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-05-14/debates/0EE947EC-1CC0-4B86-9370-662FD1A7FC34/StatementOfChangesInImmigrationRules#contribution-F27A0480-A89F-4FAB-A797-B3F3BC2E0718>

The Migration Observatory report referred to above can be read at

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/commentaries/family-fortunes-the-uks-new-income-requirement-for-partner-visas/>

The Journal of Economics, Race and Policy report referred to above can be read at

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41996-018-0022-8>

The Justice and Home Affairs Committee report referred to above can be read at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34107/documents/188323/default/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Jackson of Peterborough (Conservative) [HL4691] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost to the public purse of the judicial review sought by the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements on the implementation of the EU Settlement Scheme with regard to the upgrade from pre-settled to settled status.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The judgment of the judicial review sought by

the Independent Monitoring Authority for the Citizens' Rights Agreements on the implementation of the EU Settlement Scheme found that the pre-permanent right to reside under the Withdrawal Agreement does not expire for failure to make a second application to the EUSS; and a Withdrawal Agreement permanent right to reside is acquired automatically by a pre-settled status holder as soon as they meet the relevant conditions, even if they have not applied for settled status under the EUSS.

Information on the cost to the public purse is not held in a reportable format and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4691>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2022/3274.html>

Undocumented Migrants: Northern Ireland

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL4639] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to (1) address, and (2) mitigate, the potential implications of the recent High Court ruling in Northern Ireland which ordered the disapplication of some provisions of the Illegal Migration Act 2023.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Government is considering the judgment carefully before deciding on next steps.

The Government has 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 legal debate concerning illegal migration. The Government will take all steps to defend that position, including through appeal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4649>

The High Court ruling 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>

Immigration: Republic of Ireland

Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru) [HL4665] To ask His Majesty's Government how many migrants seeking permanent residence in the UK entered directly from the Republic of Ireland in the latest year for which figures are available.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Journeys from Ireland to the UK are within the Common Travel Area (CTA). As part of the CTA arrangements, the UK does not operate routine immigration controls of individuals arriving in the UK by air or sea from within the CTA, and no immigration checks are undertaken at the land border with Ireland.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4665>

Refugees: Gaza

Lord Wigley (Plaid Cymru) [HL4664] To ask His Majesty's Government how many refugees from Gaza have been accepted into the UK since October 2023.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office publishes data on asylum decisions in table Asy_D02 of the '[Immigration System Statistics Quarterly Release](#)' on gov.uk. The latest data relates to 2023. Data for the year ending March 2024 will be published on 23 May 2024. From October to December 2023, 69 asylum claims (relating to 84 people) from nationals of the Occupied Palestinian Territories, of which Gaza forms a part, were granted some form of protection.

Asylum

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4723] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the appropriate length of time before an asylum claim can be deemed inadmissible, given that current Home Office caseworker guidance states that "the inadmissibility process must not create a lengthy 'limbo' position, where a pending decision or delays in removal after a decision mean that a claimant cannot advance their asylum claim either in the UK or in a safe third country".

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The safe third country inadmissibility process does not specify a specific timescale for an inadmissibility decision to be made. The process provides flexibility to ensure that the relevant information can be gathered by Home Office staff to make the appropriate decision. We consider it is right that officials have a reasonable opportunity to carefully examine the evidence in a case to determine whether inadmissibility action is appropriate. Where it is considered appropriate that they also have the opportunity to approach relevant third countries and enter into discussions about the person's removal before a decision is made. Where a claimant is under consideration of the inadmissibility policy, they are issued a Notice of Intent informing them their claim is being considered under this policy, and providing them with an opportunity to put forward any reasons why their claim should not be declared inadmissible. —If they are detained, they have 7 days, if they are non-detained, they have 14 days, and additional time can be requested if necessary.

The inadmissibility policy sets out that the process must not create a lengthy 'limbo' position, where a pending decision or delays in removal after a decision mean that a claimant cannot advance their asylum claim either in the UK or in a safe third country. If, taking into account all the circumstances, it is not possible to make an inadmissibility decision or effect removal following an inadmissibility decision within a reasonable period, inadmissibility action must be discontinued, and the person's claim must be admitted to the asylum process for substantive consideration.

As a general guideline, it is expected that in most cases, a safe third country will agree to admit a person within 6 months of the claim being recorded, enabling removal soon after, subject to concluding legal challenges or other removal barriers. Therefore, we consider that there are adequate safeguards build into the policy to ensure that a claimant is not left in limbo.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-16/hl4723>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/662b67df6963baceeb225266/Inadmissibility.pdf>

Asylum: MOD Wethersfield

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4684] To ask His Majesty's Government when they anticipate that the conditions stipulated by the special development order for the former RAF Wethersfield site will be met; and whether a work plan for the required improvements will be published.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Wethersfield is safe for asylum seekers, and we are working at pace to ensure we abide by the conditions in the Special Development Order.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4684>

Asylum: Housing

The Lord Bishop of Chelmsford [HL4685] To ask His Majesty's Government whether beginning the 28-day move-on period for a person with newly granted refugee status from the issuing of a biometric residence permit will be regularly reviewed as government policy.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Currently, the 28 day period begins from when a Biometric Residence Permit is issued. The longer-term position is under consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4685>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Homelessness

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL4412] To ask His Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers with children have been made homeless on achieving refugee status in the past 12 months.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL4413] To ask His Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers with at least one disabled child who have achieved refugee status have been made homeless on achieving that status in the past 12 months.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office does not hold the information requested.

The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their application for asylum is being considered. Following the service of an asylum decision, an individual continues to be an asylum seeker for the purpose of asylum support until the end of the relevant prescribed period set out in legislation. This period is 28 calendar days from when an individual is notified of a decision to accept their asylum claim and grant them leave and we have no plans to extend this period. Whilst our legislative power is clear, we do in practice already extend support beyond this. Our current process means that individuals can remain on asylum support for at least 28 days after they have been issued a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP), which means that individuals have longer than 28 days to make arrangements to move on before their asylum support ends. It is important that individuals initiate plans to move on from asylum support as soon as they are served their asylum decision in order to maximise the time they have to make move on arrangements.

We offer move on support to all individuals through Migrant Help or their partner organisation. This includes providing advice on accessing the labour market, on applying for Universal Credit and signposting to local authorities for assistance with housing. Individuals do not need to wait for their BRP to make a claim for benefits and are encouraged to do so as early as possible if they require them. Individuals can contact Migrant Help in three ways:

- The freephone line 0808 8010 503. This is available 24/7/365
- Webchat through the website at <https://www.migranthehelpuk.org>.
- Raise an Issue via an online enquiry form, again at <https://www.migranthehelpuk.org>

We continue to identify and make efficiencies in supporting newly recognised refugees during the move on period and to mitigate the risk of homelessness. We are fully committed to working with partners in doing this. We have already worked closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to ensure the right asylum decision data is being shared with local authorities to enable effective planning and to lessen the impact on existing homelessness and rough sleeping pressures. We are also utilising Home Office Liaison Officers to replicate part of the Afghan resettlement move on process. We have been working in three local authority areas since December 2023; Glasgow, Brent and Hillingdon.

This has now been expanded to Manchester and Liverpool.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/hl4412>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-07/hl4413>

Press Releases

Migration numbers fall further as measures have major impact

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/migration-numbers-fall-further-as-measures-have-major-impact>

Home Office confirms changes to the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-office-confirms-changes-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

Prime Minister announces new funding to stop the boats

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-new-funding-to-stop-the-boats>

Joint Statement between UK and Austria on tackling illegal migration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-between-uk-and-austria-21-may-2024>

UK and Albania working innovatively to build on migration partnership success

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-albania-working-innovatively-to-build-on-migration-partnership-success>

New measures to tackle student visa abuse

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-tackle-student-visa-abuse>

David Bolt appointed as interim Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration from 3 June 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/david-bolt-appointed-as-interim-icibi-from-3-june-2024>

New Publications

House of Commons Library Briefing: Migration Statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN06077/SN06077.pdf>

House of Commons Library Briefing: Asylum Statistics

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN01403/SN01403.pdf>

International migration research, progress update: May 2024

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/articles/internationalmigrationresearchprogressupdate/may2024>

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission: Updated Factsheet: Illegal Migration Act Challenge

<https://nihrc.org/assets/uploads/publications/Illegal-Migration-Act-Challenge-Fact-Sheet-updated-May-2024.pdf>

Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2023

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6650621490043ecd97fe04f3/Report+on+review+of+weekly+allowances+paid+to+asylum+seekers+and+failed+asylum+seekers_2023.pdf

Migrant journey: 2023 report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrant-journey-2023-report>

Immigration system statistics, year ending March 2024

Summary of latest statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Why do people come to the UK? To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

Safe and Legal (Humanitarian) routes to the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/safe-and-legal-humanitarian-routes-to-the-uk>

How many people do we grant protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/how-many-people-do-we-grant-protection-to>

How many people are granted settlement or citizenship?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/how-many-people-are-granted-settlement-or-citizenship>

How many people have been granted settlement via the EU Settlement Scheme?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/how-many-people-have-been-granted-settlement-via-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-system-statistics-year-ending-march-2024/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Immigration system statistics data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-system-statistics-data-tables>

Irregular migration to the UK, year ending March 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2024>

Long-term international migration, provisional: year ending December 2023

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/longterminternationalmigrationprovisional/yearendingdecember2023>

Visas and citizenship data: Q1 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664b468cbd01f5ed32793e8c/UKVI_VSI_Q1_2024.ods

RASI (Resettlement, Asylum Support and Integration) data: Q1 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664b4202bd01f5ed32793e8a/UKVI_RASI_Q1_2024_Published.ods

Monthly monitoring of entry clearance visa applications

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monthly-entry-clearance-visa-applications/monthly-monitoring-of-entry-clearance-visa-applications>

Windrush Task Force data: Q1 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664b4501f34f9b5a56adcaa9/UKVI_VC_WRTF_Q1_2024.ods

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>

Analysis of Ukrainian nationals in employment in the UK, March 2022 to March 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664e1848ae748c43d37940b4/Counts_of_Ukrainian_Nationals_in_Employment_-_March_2022_to_March_2024.ods

Updated: Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by age and sex of applicant

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1158985/Ukraine_Sponsorship_scheme_visas_-_by_age_and_sex_to_31_March_2023.ods

Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by age and sex of applicant up to 31 March 2024

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/664e16aa993111924d9d3a4d/Ukraine_Sponsorship_scheme_visas_-_by_age_and_sex_to_31_March_2024.ods

Updated: Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

Updated: Afghan bridging hotel exit operational data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-bridging-hotel-exit-operational-data>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

No Rwanda flights before election, says Rishi Sunak

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-69052507>

No Rwanda flights before election, says Sunak

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/23/no-rwanda-flights-before-general-election-rishi-sunak/>

Rwanda flights will not take off before general election, says Sunak

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/article/2024/may/23/rwanda-flights-not-leave-before-general-election-rishi-sunak>

Rishi Sunak admits no Rwanda deportation flights will take off before election

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-flights-rishi-sunak-election-immigration-b2550054.html>

Inside the secret government Rwanda training base

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2qq6qexvzpo>

UK will foot bill if migrants require medical care outside Rwanda

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-will-foot-bill-if-migrants-require-medical-care-outside-rwanda-993b28qh3>

Charity files legal action against Home Office over Rwanda policy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rwanda-charity-home-office-immigration-lawyers-b2548701.html>

Family fears for asylum-seeker facing Rwanda flight

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3ggpqn05w6o>

Deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda is 'inhumane'

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/deporting-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-is-inhumane>

News: Channel Migrants

Record 10,170 people arrive in UK via small-boat Channel crossings this year

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/may/25/record-10170-people-arrive-in-uk-via-small-boat-channel-crossings-this-year>

Number of migrants crossing Channel believed to have hit 10,000 for year so far

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/dover-james-cleverly-channel-rwanda-rishi-sunak-b2551001.html>

Migrant smugglers quadruple price of passage across the Channel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/20/smugglers-quadruple-price-of-passage-across-the-channel/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Net migration to UK fell 10% last year, ONS says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ce99y7l741po>

Net migration to UK drops after hitting record levels, fuelling election debate

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/office-for-national-statistics-immigration-government-home-office-nigeria-b2550100.html>

Record number of asylum seekers granted right to stay

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2024/05/23/uk-net-migration-even-higher-than-previously-thought-ons/>

Rishi Sunak backtracks plan to restrict graduate visas after cabinet opposition

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/article/2024/may/21/indian-students-union-urges-uk-to-retain-graduate-visas>

Visa curbs threaten to close universities, Cameron warns Sunak

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/visa-curbs-threaten-to-close-universities-cameron-warns-sunak-9d8k5r0d7>

David Cameron: No limit on English-speaking international students

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/david-cameron-international-students-universities-uk-immigration-1dl0rh7kt>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Community Relations: Religion

Stephen Timms (Labour) [26028] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to help quantify the (a) economic and (b) social value of faith groups to the UK.

Reply from Simon Hoare: Faith is a vital part of peoples' identities and of their communities. It guides the moral outlook of many, inspiring great numbers of people to public service. This Government recognises the huge contribution of people of faith to public life, and supports the work of faith groups across the country to provide help to those in need.

We are currently considering the findings and recommendations of Colin Bloom's independent review on faith engagement, published last year. This review presents us with an opportunity to understand better the contribution of faith groups to our society, and the vital role that they play in our national life.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/26028>

The Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64478b4f529eda00123b0397/The_Bloom_Review.pdf

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

UK Biobank: Ethnic Groups

Valerie Vaz (Labour) [27024] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions she has had with (a) UK Biobank and (b) UK Biobank funders on the adequacy of the proportion of UK Biobank participants from BAME backgrounds.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: The scientific and ethical impacts of cohort diversity on the generalisability of research findings is part of ongoing conversations on health data, including with UK Biobank. As a funder, the Government routinely engages in discussions about diversity with UK Biobank through the Medical Research Council and National Institute for Health and Care Research. The Department is committed to increasing participation of ethnic minority groups in health and social care research, and is working in partnership with diverse communities to ensure they have a stronger voice in shaping priorities for research, the design and delivery of research, inclusive recruitment into studies, and the mobilisation of evidence into practice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-20/27024>

Information about the UK Biobank, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.ukbiobank.ac.uk/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Breast Cancer: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Merron (Labour) [HL4629] To ask His Majesty's Government what progress they have made in reducing inequalities in outcomes for breast cancer patients from black and minority ethnic backgrounds over the past (1) 10 years, (2) five years, and (3) two years.

Breast Cancer: Health Services

Baroness Merron (Labour) [HL4631] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the collection and reporting of ethnicity data for breast cancer patients to support understanding of variations in outcomes and patient experience of NHS care.

Reply from Lord Markham: Reducing inequalities and improving breast cancer outcomes for ethnic minority women is a priority for the Government. To support this work, NHS England has commissioned six new cancer clinical audits, which will provide timely evidence for cancer service providers of where patterns of care in England may vary, increase the consistency of access to treatments, and help stimulate improvements in cancer treatments and outcomes for patients, including for breast cancer. The Royal College of Surgeons began work on this audit in October 2022, and the first outcomes are expected in September 2024.

NHS England is also leading a programme of work to tackle healthcare inequalities centred around five clear priorities, which are set out in the operational planning guidance for the health system. The Core20PLUS5 approach proactively targets groups that are less likely to engage with services in the most deprived quintile of the population, along with ethnic minority communities and inclusion health groups, across five clinical areas which includes early cancer diagnosis, specifically screening and early referral.

The issue of improving equality monitoring, by reference to ethnicity and the other eight protected characteristics, is being considered at a national level under the programme called the Unified Information Standard for Protected Characteristics (UISPC). Evaluating the use of the 2021 ethnicity census categories is part of this programme. The UISPC Publication Steering Group is reporting to NHS England and the Department this year, which will inform a view on the next steps, including any plans for publication and consultation, and an implementation timetable. Preparatory work has been undertaken by NHS England that would facilitate the introduction of the 2021 ethnicity codes, should a decision be made to adopt the

2021 ethnicity census codes, or to implement an alternative approach to ethnicity, if recommended.

NHS England's operational planning guidance recognises the importance of improving the quality of data for patient characteristics. This is one of the five strategic priorities in their drive to reduce healthcare inequalities, as improved data quality will help to reveal health inequalities and inform action to address them. NHS England has therefore asked systems to continue to improve the collection and recording of ethnicity data across primary care, outpatients, accident and emergency, mental health, community services, and specialised commissioning.

NHS England's National Disease Registration Service (NDRS) collects ethnicity data for all cancer patients through a variety of routine, national data feeds, including the Cancer Outcomes and Services Dataset, Hospital Episode Statistics data, and Patient Administration System data. The NDRS publishes key performance indicator data on the national registration statistics for England. The latest published indicator data, for invasive cancer cases excluding non-melanoma skin cancers, diagnosed in 2020, shows that ethnicity data is complete for 94.9% of cases.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4629>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-14/hl4631>

Information about Core20PLUS5, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/national-healthcare-inequalities-improvement-programme/core20plus5/>

Information about the Unified Information Standard for Protected Characteristics, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/the-review-report-equality-objectives-and-information-review-as-at-31-march-2023/>

Armed Forces: Recruitment

The Lord Bishop of Lichfield [HL4694] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that more people from minority faith groups are recruited and retained by the UK armed forces.

Reply from the Earl of Minto: Defence is dedicated to recruiting and retaining the best talent, drawn from the broadest diversity of thought, skills, and background, to reflect the society we serve.

In addition to the various informal Defence staff networks that reflect faith and beliefs, the Armed Forces Chaplaincy is evolving to increase the proportion of minority faith chaplains, as well as non-religious pastoral officers to support Service personnel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-15/hl4694>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Hate Crimes: Successful Prosecutions

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-27369] To ask the Scottish Government what proportion of alleged hate crimes reported since the commencement of the Hate Crime

and Public Order (Scotland) Act 2021 have been successfully prosecuted.

Reply from Dorothy Bain: Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) uses a live, operational database to manage the processing of reports submitted to Procurators Fiscal by the police and other reporting agencies throughout Scotland. It is designed to meet business needs in the processing of criminal cases, rather than for statistical purposes and the information within it is structured accordingly. Information provided is at date of extract and may therefore be subject to change as data and systems are updated for operational reasons.

From 1 April to 14 May 2024, 123 hate crime charges and 422 charges with one or more hate crime aggravations have been reported to COPFS. The combined total number of charges is 545.

As at 14 May 2024, 343 charges have been marked for court proceedings and a further 60 charges have been marked as “not separately actioned”. Where a charge is marked as “not separately actioned”, no action was taken against the charge, but action (prosecution in court) was taken against the accused and some of the libel in the charge may have been incorporated into a charge that was actioned.

COPFS is not the holder of conviction data but, according to our case management system, 26 charges have so far resolved after court proceedings, a conviction is recorded in 17 of these charges.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27369>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Sectarianism

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-27516] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will review its policies aimed at tackling sectarianism to assess their effectiveness and report any findings to the Parliament.

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-27517] To ask the Scottish Government when it last met with the Scottish Football Association to discuss sectarianism.

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-27518] To ask the Scottish Government how it is tackling sectarianism in wider society, in addition to football.

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-27519] To ask the Scottish Government who has ministerial responsibility for tackling sectarianism in football.

Monica Lennon (Labour) [S6W-27520] To ask the Scottish Government when it last met with the Scottish Premier Football League to discuss sectarianism.

Reply from Siobhian Brown: The Scottish Government remains committed to tackling all forms of prejudice and discrimination, including sectarianism. Football has a role to play in tackling sectarianism but, like all societal problems, it manifests across society and therefore our approach to tackling it cannot be confined to football alone.

Since 2012, we have invested over £16.5 million to tackle sectarianism and as Minister for Victims and Community Safety, I have committed £402,000 in 2024-25 for projects working in schools, colleges, workplaces and communities providing opportunities for learning and engagement with children and adults, delivered through Sense over Sectarianism, Nil by Mouth, Sacro, Youth Scotland, The Fair Play Foundation, Youthlink Scotland and The North Kelvin Sports Development Group. This work is monitored and reviewed annually to ensure it continues to make an impact including within football.

The Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing and Sport works closely with both the Scottish Football Association and Scottish Premier Football League on all matters related to football participation and governance. As part of this on-going engagement, Ministers last met with the SFA on 20 December 2023 and the SPFL on 1st February 2024 to consider how we can use the power of football and its

exceptional reach in communities right across the country to deliver positive outcomes on a wide range of societal problems including sectarianism.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27516>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27517>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27518>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27519>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-27520>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Hate Crimes Against Muslim Women

Baroness Gohir (Crossbench): To ask His Majesty's Government how they plan to reduce hate crimes against Muslim women and to what extent their plans involve engaging with diverse Muslim women's groups across the country. ...

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (Baroness Swinburne): My Lords, anti-Muslim hatred is abhorrent and has no place in our society. From ensuring the safety of worshippers and working with the police to supporting victims, we will continue to take swift action to address anti-Muslim hatred, and this includes safeguarding Muslim women. We are committed to tackling anti-Muslim hatred through a co-ordinated cross-departmental effort. To this end, we will provide £117.6 million to protect mosques and Muslim faith schools across the country until 2028.

Baroness Gohir: I thank the Minister for meeting me last week, when I shared concerns about Tell MAMA, in that Muslim communities do not have trust and confidence in Tell MAMA. I have written a letter to the Government with 31 questions about Tell MAMA, and the Government have not answered them. ... when will Tell MAMA's data be made available in full? When will Tell MAMA's poor governance and the quality of its work be assessed? When will its funding be reviewed? It gets around £1 million a year, and no one knows what it does with this money. Why the lack of transparency when it comes to Tell MAMA?

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: We have funded Tell MAMA since 2012 to monitor and support victims of anti-Muslim hatred. Tell MAMA is subject to internal grant funding review processes and due diligence checks. This is the case for all funded partners' processes before any funding agreement can be processed annually. Therefore, Tell MAMA engages regularly with DLUHC officials monitoring its progress. ...

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, British Muslim women have borne the brunt of the sharp rise in anti-Muslim hate crimes, as the noble Baroness has mentioned, but there are well-established women's groups that have been at the forefront of providing follow-up support for many who do not feel able to report some of these crimes to the police or even to other groups, including those mentioned today. Have there been any reviews or evaluations, particularly of Prevent funds that could be redirected to Muslim

women's groups and organisations that have years of experience in providing support and education for women and their families?

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: I assure the noble Baroness that there is extensive engagement to understand the issues affecting British Muslims, including Muslim women. ...

Baroness Warsi (Conservative): My Lords, it pains me to stand up on this Question, particularly when we are talking about an organisation that should be dealing with monitoring anti-Muslim hatred. ... To some extent I bear responsibility, as I was there when the organisation was set up. There are deep concerns about its finances, governance, associations and connections, including with the now-defunct Quilliam Foundation—which has associations with think tanks in the United States that are peddling anti-Muslim hatred and Islamophobia—and with people whom successive Home Secretaries have excluded from the United Kingdom. These are really serious allegations about an organisation that is there to protect Muslims in the United Kingdom. I urge my noble friend to look at these matters seriously. It is important that organisations funded by the Government to protect British nationals of whatever faith have the confidence of the communities they seek to protect.

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: ... I have taken up this matter since I came into this position. The department is being asked to investigate and look at all the matters raised by the noble Baroness, Lady Gohir, and others.

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated): My Lords, notwithstanding the concerns raised by the noble Baronesses, Lady Gohir and Lady Warsi, I am also aware of many of the allegations in their questions. I have worked with Muslim women for subsequent Governments for at least 26 years, while I have been in the House and long before. What assurance can British Muslim women take from a prolonged absence of any meaningful engagement or action to address their experiences of discrimination inside, outside, at work and within the institutions that serve them? ...

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: I would like to reassure the House that we have conducted extensive engagement over the last year in particular. The DLUHC Secretary of State hosted a round table with Muslim experts in late 2023 to hear of their experiences and feedback. Ministers have also conducted visits to a broad range of community groups to increase understanding and to see the valuable work that many Muslim community groups are doing. We are engaged in these matters, and this is one of many things we are doing to try to combat some of the issues that Muslim women in particular are facing.

Baroness Sherlock (Labour): My Lords, as the shadow Faith Minister, I hear increasing reports when I meet faith communities that their members are feeling unsafe in our country. ... Muslim women—especially hijabi women—are very often on the front line of Islamophobia on our streets.

The Government have refused to bring forward a new hate crime strategy, even though the old one is four years old and out of date, and we are seeing soaring levels of Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Can the Minister tell the House who the Government consulted before making their decision? ...

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: His Majesty's Government have publicly confirmed ... that they do not intend to publish a new hate crime strategy. However, we remain committed to protecting all communities from crime and we have a number of programmes in place to do so. For example, the Government have worked with the police to fund True Vision, an online hate crime reporting portal designed so that victims of all types of hate crime do not have to visit a police station to report. We also fund the national online hate crime hub, a central capability designed to support individual local police forces in dealing with online hate crime. This is a cross-departmental piece of work. We are working with every department to try to make sure we cover all bases.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, is it not important to ensure that young Muslim girls know how they should be treated when they are in the community, and where they can go for help? One of our best academy trusts is Star Academies, which runs Muslim faith schools. In light of the problems that have been outlined, can my noble friend perhaps beef up the teaching and the education in our schools to ensure that young Muslim people know where to go for help and what their expectation of how they are to be treated should be?

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: I totally agree ... It is really important that we make sure that everyone has the necessary skills to deal with this appropriately.

Lord Sahota (Labour): My Lords, I recently read a report saying that more and more Sikh women are wearing turbans and are often the victims of hate crime as well. Are the Government engaged with any programmes or funding for Sikh women who are the victims of these hate crimes?

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: I will check for the noble Lord what specific engagement there has been. I am aware that there is cross-faith group engagement ... for all religions and all groups, including women from those faith groups.

Baroness Manzoor (Conservative): My Lords, I welcome the action the Government are taking to ensure much greater integration. My concerns are disadvantaged women in society and their access to health. Can my noble friend tell me whether they are looking not only at hate crime but at access to NHS services?

Reply from Baroness Swinburne: ... It is really important that, in all walks of life, nobody feels they are being discriminated against. It is therefore important to make sure that everybody has the necessary skills to raise their concerns and that there are avenues available to do so. I will raise this with my noble friend the Minister for Health to make sure we cover it adequately. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-05-20/debates/F90BB0E1-FA54-4B6C-A635-039B0E1BCD8B/HateCrimesAgainstMuslimWomen>

The True Vision portal, referred to above, can be accessed at

https://www.report-it.org.uk/your_police_force

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Universities: Antisemitism

Lord Weir of Ballyholme (DUP) [HL4608] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the scale of antisemitic activity and incidents currently being committed on university campuses.

Reply from Baroness Barran: According to the Community Security Trust, there was an increase of 203% in university-related antisemitic incidents in 2023, which rose from 60 in 2022 to 182 in 2023. Of these 182 incidents, 148, or 81%, occurred in the aftermath of 7 October, and 134, or 74%, overtly referred to Israel and events in the Middle East and included anti-Jewish content or targeting. The department continues to monitor the situation and to support higher education providers to manage incidents.

On 9 May 2024 the Secretary of State chaired a roundtable at 10 Downing Street with Vice-Chancellors from universities across the UK, joined by the Prime Minister and other Ministers. The discussion focused on tackling antisemitism in higher education (HE), including preventing an escalation of protest activity such as that seen in the United States in recent weeks.

On the same day the department announced the intention to provide £500,000 to the University Jewish Chaplaincy, enabling it to rapidly boost the vital support it offers to Jewish students on campus.

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced £7 million to

tackle antisemitism in education. The cornerstone of this package for HE will be a new framework that will enable universities to demonstrate through their processes and practice a commitment to preventing and tackling antisemitic abuse.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/hl4608>

The CST data referred to above can be read at

[https://cst.org.uk/data/file/9/f/Antisemitic Incidents Report 2023.1707834969.pdf](https://cst.org.uk/data/file/9/f/Antisemitic%20Incidents%20Report%202023.1707834969.pdf)

Information about the roundtable and funding for University Jewish Chaplaincy, both referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-call-on-university-leaders-to-protect-jewish-students>

The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

Universities: Antisemitism

Lord Weir of Ballyholme (DUP) [HL4609] To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with university Vice Chancellors to combat antisemitism on university campuses; and what steps they intend to take to improve the situation.

Reply from Baroness Barran: On 9th May 2024, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, chaired a roundtable at No 10 Downing Street with Vice Chancellors from universities across the UK and was joined by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, and other Ministers. The discussion focused on tackling antisemitism in higher education, including preventing an escalation of protest activity such as that seen in the United States in recent weeks.

On the same day, the department announced its intention to provide £500,000 to the University Jewish Chaplaincy, enabling it to rapidly boost the vital support it offers to Jewish students on campus.

In his Autumn Statement, my right hon Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced £7 million to tackle antisemitism in education. The cornerstone of this package for higher education will be a new framework that will enable universities to demonstrate, through their processes and practice, a commitment to preventing and tackling antisemitic abuse.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/hl4609>

Information about the roundtable and funding for University Jewish Chaplaincy, both referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-call-on-university-leaders-to-protect-jewish-students>

The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

Universities: Antisemitism

Lord Weir of Ballyholme (DUP) [HL4610] To ask His Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the National Union of Students to take action to combat antisemitism on university campuses.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The government remains disengaged from the National Union of Students (NUS) while the NUS continues to take robust action against antisemitism within its membership.

The department is pleased to see that the NUS is implementing the recommendations from the Tuck Report and will continue to monitor its progress carefully.

On 9 May 2024, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, chaired a roundtable at 10 Downing Street with Vice Chancellors from leading universities across the UK and was joined by my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister, and other Ministers to discuss tackling antisemitism in higher education (HE). The discussion focused on tackling antisemitism in HE, including preventing an escalation of protest activity such as that seen in the United States in recent weeks.

On the same day the department announced the intention to provide £500,000 to the University Jewish Chaplaincy, enabling it to rapidly boost the vital support it offers to Jewish students on campus.

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced £7 million to tackle antisemitism in education. The cornerstone of this package for higher education will be a new framework that will enable universities to demonstrate through their processes and practice a commitment to preventing and tackling antisemitic abuse.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2024-05-13/hl4610>

The Tuck Report, referred to above, can be read at

[https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent Investigation into Antisemitism Report NUS 12 January 2023.pdf](https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent%20Investigation%20into%20Antisemitism%20Report%20NUS%2012%20January%202023.pdf)

Information about the roundtable and funding for University Jewish Chaplaincy, both referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-to-call-on-university-leaders-to-protect-jewish-students>

The Autumn Statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-2023/autumn-statement-2023-html>

Press Releases

Secretary of State's speech on Antisemitism

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/secretary-of-states-speech-on-anti-semitism>

Racist gesture results in football ban

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/racist-gesture-results-football-ban>

New Publication

Lord Walney Review: Protecting our Democracy from Coercion

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66462426b7249a4c6e9d3687/E03131940_HC_775_Walney_Review_v02_PRINT.pdf

News

'Weaponising' of hate crime bill stretching police resources

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/24333764.weaponising-hate-crime-bill-stretching-police-resources/>

Give police new powers to tackle extreme protest groups, ministers told

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/give-police-new-powers-to-tackle-extreme-protest-groups-ministers-told-3l9sb9fbs>

Far-left groups trying to undermine UK, says anti-extremism tsar

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/far-left-groups-trying-to-undermine-uk-says-anti-extremism-tsar-27rch0nct>

Incel violence as serious as Islamist terrorism, warns minister

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/incel-violence-as-serious-as-islamist-terrorism-warns-minister-77h8v8t28>

Nigel Farage condemned for 'race baiting' after claim Muslims are 'hostile to British values'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/nigel-farage-muslims-british-values-general-election-b2551705.html>

Muslim Vote frontman suggested Britain helped 'create racism'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/05/25/muslim-vote-campaign-frontman-britain-racism/>

Antisemitic hate crimes in London treble in year, data shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/antisemitism-london-hate-crime-michael-gove-b2548118.html>

Michael Gove speaks on antisemitism after Jewish hate crimes triple in London

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/michael-gove-antisemitism-jewish-hate-crime-livestream-b2548545.html>

Gove accuses UK university protests of 'antisemitism repurposed for Instagram age'

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/may/21/gove-accuses-uk-university-protests-of-antisemitism-repurposed-for-instagram-age>

Trial date set for men accused of Daesh-inspired plot against Jewish community

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/national/24343586.trial-date-set-men-accused-daesh-inspired-plot-jewish-community/>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

New Publications

The First Minister's Statement: "Priorities for Scotland"

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2024/05/23/the-first-ministers-statement-priorities-for-scotland/>

Scotland's Census 2022 - Ethnic group, national identity, language and religion

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/2022-results/scotland-s-census-2022-ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion/>

Data tables

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/media/qyubyivg/scotland-s-census-2022-ethnic-group-national-identity-language-and-religion-chart-data.xlsx>

TOP

General Election

Register to Vote in the General Election

**The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is
Tuesday 18 June.**

[Click here to register.](#)

To register to vote, you must be:

- a UK or Irish citizen, or
- a qualifying Commonwealth citizen living in the UK, or
A qualifying Commonwealth citizen is someone from a Commonwealth country who has leave to enter or remain in the UK, or who doesn't need to have permission to live in the UK.
- a qualifying foreign national who is living in Scotland and has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need such permission, including EU citizens.
A qualifying foreign national is a citizen of another country who has permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need permission to live in the UK. This includes EU citizens.

You must also be aged 14 or over (but you can't vote until you're 16 years old)

For more information see

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voting-and-elections/who-can-vote/register-vote>

New Publications

Scottish Parliament Information Centre: UK General Election 2024 – voting

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2024/05/23/uk-general-election-2024-voting/>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator: Charities and campaigning on political issues

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/guidance-and-forms/charities-and-campaigning-on-political-issues/>

News

When is the next general election and who can vote?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62064552>

Moment Prime Minister Rishi Sunak calls general election

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-69048173>

What you need to know to vote in the election

<https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/cl55n3q081eo>

What photo ID will you need to vote in the general election?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-64877005>

How do I vote if I'm on holiday on election day?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cydd7zj9m0do>

Updated guidance for Scottish charities on campaigning about political issues

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/updated-guidance-for-scottish-charities-on-campaigning-about-political-issues/>

General election 2024: What charities should be doing

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/general-election-2024-what-charities-should-be-doing/>

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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/>

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: Rising cost of living in the UK

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9428/CBP-9428.pdf>

News

Inflation rate falls to lowest in almost three years

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c511m7jqyl3o>

'It's not just giving out food parcels': the volunteers helping families

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/article/2024/may/23/its-not-just-giving-out-food-parcels-the-volunteers-helping-families-photo-essay>

What does Ofgem's price cap mean for my energy bills?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/business/what-does-ofgem-s-price-cap-mean-for-my-energy-bills-b2550921.html>

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Other News

Most Scots have no religion - census

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czddp0j488qo>

Census reveals that for first time most Scots have no religion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/census-most-scots-no-religion-church-kirk-q8jfpnxl2>

Majority of Scots have no religion after decline in number of Christians

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2024/05/21/majority-scots-no-religion-after-decline-in-christians/>

Majority of people in Scotland have no religion, census shows

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/may/21/majority-of-people-in-scotland-do-not-believe-in-any-religion-census-shows>

As religious belief declines, Scotland's increasingly secular society needs to find new moral compass

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/as-religious-belief-declines-scotlands-increasingly-secular-society-needs-to-find-new-moral-compass-scotsman-comment-4637681>

Assisted dying plans for terminally ill approved [in Jersey]

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c6ppl7e551do>

Jersey set to move ahead with allowing assisted dying for terminally ill people

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/jersey-assisted-dying-parliament-vote-terminally-ill-b2550093.html>

Jersey approves plans to allow assisted dying for terminally ill adults

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/may/22/jersey-approves-plans-assisted-dying-terminally-ill-adult-residents>

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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>

Criminal Justice Committee, Stage 1 evidence session

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/search-what-was-said-in-parliament/%20CJ-15-05-2024?meeting=15863&iob=135457>

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 Asylum Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3727>

First Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2024-05-22/debates/F0B90D81-16D5-4A1C-A075-38C5447A9879/ImmigrationAndAsylum>

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

**** closes 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!**

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>

**** New Scots Portraits**

11-29 June 2024 (Glasgow, 9.00–5.00)

With New Scots putting down roots in communities across the country, this uplifting collection of portraits by Angela Catlin shows the resilience, pride and hope of people building new lives, from the Isle of Lewis to the Scottish Borders. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/243y2x3j>

**** Refugee Festival Scotland**

14-23 June 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Refugee Festival Scotland is an arts and community festival which takes place every year in the lead up to World Refugee Day, on 20 June. Each event helps to shine a light on the cultural richness and diversity of our communities. It is a celebration of the food and drink, music and poetry, art, dance, language and ideas that people bring with them when they settle in Scotland. For the full programme of events see <https://www.refugeefestivalscotland.co.uk/events/>

**** Beyond the Words**

14 June 2024 (Glasgow, 6.00–7.30)

Documentary filmmaker Maryam Haddadi will be screening and discussing a video art piece commissioned by Refugee Festival Scotland. *Beyond the Words* explores Iranian women's individual mental health and collective identity. It seeks to uncover the world that exists behind simple words, words shared by women in conversations as well as words found in the media. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with Ling Lee. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4xew8ckx>

**** Strong together**

15 June 2024 (Motherwell, 2.00–5.00)

This Refugee Festival Scotland event will bring the local community and Refugees together sharing experience of their past and present life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ypyv5zv6>

**** Refugee Festival at V&A**

16_22 June 2024 (Dundee, 10.00–5.00)

Immerse yourself in a celebration of diversity at V&A Dundee during the Scottish Refugee Festival, where you will be able to experience an enriching blend of cultures, traditions and diverse ways of life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/msyn9cxf>

**** Building Peace Together**

17–23 June 2024 (Dalgety, 9.30–3.00)

Refugee Festival Scotland photography exhibition from Ukraine, taken by the church's Ukrainian Group, walk the Peace Labyrinth, and light a candle. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4uzske5f>

**** Garnethill Refugee Trail: Guided Walk**

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre guided walk for Refugee Festival Scotland to explore some of the places around the Garnethill area which are connected with Jewish refugees from Nazi Europe – from the flats in which refugee artists lived, to the hostels where children from the Kindertransport stayed. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/4nnpfsrc>

**** Child Migrant Voices in Modern Britain**

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 5.30–9.00)

A Refugee Festival Scotland evening of short films about children who migrated to Britain from El Salvador, linked with readings by people with lived experience of child migration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8n44jtb>

**** Surviving Translation**

18 June 2024 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.00)

Refugee Festival Scotland documentary screening and panel discussion with contributors and director. This documentary is looking at mistranslation of female immigrants and irreversible consequences that it can have. It focuses on women who have lived through traumatic experiences in their home countries or during their difficult journeys to the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yck2n5mw>

**** Through my eyes: the person behind my 'status'**

19 June 2024 (Glasgow, 11.00–3.00)

Meet the people behind the mask of 'other' that has been placed upon us. Refugee Festival Scotland collection of artwork – photography, textiles and spray painting – that translates our experiences, perspectives and dreams, along with our stories in order to introduce ourselves and give you a glimpse into our lives. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/45m4yhuf>

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>

**** Scottish Interfaith Week**

11 to 18 November 2024 (Scotland-wide)

Celebrating 20 years of Scottish Interfaith Week, and encouraging people to discover and learn about the lives of others as an effective way to challenge prejudice and misunderstanding. For information see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

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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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