

# Political Affairs Brief

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

## Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Consultations](#)

## Home Affairs

### Communities and Local Government

#### **Government engagement with the Muslim Council of Britain**

... A spokesperson for the Department for Communities and Local Government said:

"The Muslim Council of Britain has made a commitment to Government to examine their internal processes and ensure that the personal actions of all members, including senior leaders, remain true to the organisation's agreed policies, avoiding a repeat of the issues which arose after one member signed the Istanbul Declaration.

"The MCB has stated its categorical opposition to attacks on British defence interests and confirmed its unwavering support for British troops across the world. It has also made clear that it stands firmly against Anti-Semitism and other forms of racism.

"The significance of these actions on the part of the MCB has led to the Government lifting the suspension of its formal relationship with that organisation. The MCB will now contribute to ongoing dialogue with Government as one amongst a wide range of Muslim organisations.

"We will closely monitor how the internal processes progress over the coming months."

Correspondence relating to this decision is available for download at

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/1438206>

### Ministry of Justice

#### **New support for victims of terrorism overseas**

Victims of terrorist atrocities abroad will now be able to claim compensation under a new scheme announced today by Justice Secretary, Jack Straw... . Introduced today by Home Secretary Alan Johnson as part of the Crime and Security Bill, the new Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation Scheme, will provide the innocent victims of foreign terrorist attacks financial compensation as an expression of public sympathy and in recognition that a British citizen has been a blameless victim. ... The Victims of Overseas Terrorism Compensation scheme will apply to designated terrorist acts that occur outside the United Kingdom and:

- broadly mirror the existing domestic criminal injuries compensation scheme which compensates blameless victims of violent crime in England, Scotland and Wales who have no other recourse to compensation,
- as with the domestic scheme, compensation awards will be calculated according to a tariff based on the seriousness of the injury,
- eligibility for compensation will be limited to British victims and nationals of a

member State of the European Union and European Economic Area with a sufficient connection to the UK.

... The new statutory scheme will apply to any terrorist act that takes place on or after 18 January 2010. However, the government appreciates that there will be victims of overseas terrorist attacks in recent years who continue to face hardship as a result of the on-going consequences of a disability arising from the injuries they sustained.

In recognition of this the government will, alongside the introduction of the statutory scheme, provide assistance to eligible victims of overseas terrorist attacks since January 2002 who are in such a position. Details of this time-limited scheme will be announced in due course. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease180110a.htm>

## Department for Culture, Media and Sport

**Options for the disposal of redundant churches and other places of worship**

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/disposal\\_redundant\\_churches.pdf](http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/disposal_redundant_churches.pdf)

[TOP](#)

## [Israel](#)

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

#### **Enhancing university links between Britain and Israel**

Foreign Office Minister Ivan Lewis expressed delight that UK government is to contribute an additional £29,000 to the Britain-Israel Research and Academic Exchange partnership (BIRAX). ...

" ... BIRAX currently supports 15 innovative scientific research projects - with topics ranging from galaxy clusters to motor neuron degeneration - involving 17 different universities from across the UK and Israel. The volume and calibre of applications submitted to the scheme in 2009 demonstrated just how keen British and Israeli academics are to work together and complement each other's research strengths. Government support for BIRAX is a tangible example of our determination to oppose boycotts against Israel, which are unacceptable and do nothing to promote understanding or the cause of peace in the Middle East. We hope the extra money we are investing will boost BIRAX in its second year and help extend the scheme more widely. But in this we are not alone. We are part of a broader partnership – including the Government of Israel, Pears Foundation, UJIA, Universities UK, the British Council and Israel's University President's Association – that recognises the value of enhancing academic co-operation and building stronger links between our nations." ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/news/latest-news/?view=News&id=21590012>

[TOP](#)

## Relevant Legislation \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Children, Schools and Families Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/childrenschoolsandfamilies.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/008/amend/pbc0081501a.25-31.html>

#### **\*\* Constitutional Reform and Governance Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/constitutionalreformandgovernance.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmbills/004/amend/pbc0041501a.265-271.html>

#### **Crime and Security Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/crimeandsecurity.html>

#### **\*\* Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/equality.html>

Third marshalled list of amendments to be moved in Committee

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldbills/020/amend/ml20-iii.htm>

Scottish Parliament Equal Opportunities Committee: Legislative Consent Motion Report

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/reports-10/eor10-01.htm>

#### **Flood and Water Management Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/floodandwatermanagement.html>

[TOP](#)

## Consultations \*\* new or updated

**Protection of Vulnerable Groups Implementation: Consultation on Significant Draft Secondary Legislation, Guidance and Regulatory Impact Assessment** (Scotland only) (closes 2 February 2009)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/children-families/pvglegislation/Consultation09>

**Communities and Local Government: Creating a Single Equality Scheme for 2010 – 2013** (closes 28 February 2010)

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/corporate/pdf/987402.pdf>

**Proposal to amend the Licensing Act 2003 to simplify the procedures for Licensing Statements; Interim Authority Notices; and Temporary Event Notices** (closes 9 February 2010)

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference\\_library/consultations/6498.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/6498.aspx)

[TOP](#)