

# Political Affairs Brief

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

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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## Home Affairs

### UK Parliamentary Question

#### Anti-Semitism

**Lord Patten:** To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made, or intend to make, an assessment of the incidence of anti-Semitism in the United Kingdom.[HL2030]

**The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Neville-Jones):** The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) National Community Tension Team (NCTT) monitors anti-Semitic incidents and provides information to local police forces if there is anything that they need to be aware of. In addition, the Community Security Trust (CST) runs its own reporting centre for victims of anti-Semitism who are not comfortable with reporting to the police. The CST has a good relationship with the NCTT and other police forces.

The combined work of the NCTT and the CST provides a comprehensive breakdown of the anti-Semitic incidents that have taken place across the country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101006w0001.htm#10100613001000>

### Communities and Local Government

**The training and development of Muslim Faith Leaders: Current practice and future possibilities**

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1734121.pdf>

### Department for Culture, Media and Sport

**Savings measures announced for Listed Places of Worship grant scheme**

The scope of the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme is to be amended in line with Government efficiency savings, Tourism and Heritage Minister John Penrose announced today. At the moment listed places of worship, of any faith or denomination, can claim a grant equal to the VAT paid on eligible works. However, following discussions with church bodies, it has been agreed to return the scheme to its original scope of eligibility which will exclude works on clocks, pews, bells, organs and professional services such as architects' fees, for the rest of this financial year. ...

The changes will come into effect from 4 January and will apply until the current end date of the scheme, 31 March. Today's announcement also applies to the Memorials Grant

Scheme, under which professional fees will no longer be eligible from 4 January 2011.

**To read the full press release see**

[http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media\\_releases/7470.aspx](http://www.culture.gov.uk/news/media_releases/7470.aspx)

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### European Commission

#### **Commission approves additional amount of €61.4 million in support for the Palestinian people in 2010**

The European Commission decided on 5 October 2010 to provide an additional financial package worth €61.4 million for the Occupied Palestinian Territory ... in addition to the €295 million already approved from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.

Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Commission Vice-President stated: "This additional package shows our determination to support the Palestinian people and the Palestinian state-building process, which is making strong progress. ..."

Some €41.4 million of the funds from yesterday's decision will go towards helping the Palestinian Authority meet its salary obligations for teachers, doctors and nurses in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The funds will be channelled through the EU's assistance mechanism for the occupied Palestinian territory, PEGASE, which was launched in February 2008. €20 million will be provided to UNRWA's General Fund to allow it to continue to meet its obligations to provide health, education and social protection services to the Palestinian refugee population. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1295&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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## [Relevant Legislation](#) \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### **Daylight Saving Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/daylightsaving.html>

#### **Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

#### **Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/fixedtermparliaments.html>

#### **Identity Documents Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

First Reading, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101005-0001.htm#10100520000476>

## Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/parliamentaryvotingsystemandconstituencies.html>

## Scottish Parliament

### End of Life Assistance Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

### **General Medical Council (GMC) Equality Scheme 2011 – 2014** (closes 15 October 2010)

<https://gmc.e-consultation.net/econsult/consultation Dtl.aspx?consult Id=140&status=2&criteria=>

### **Guidance on Concessionary Schemes for Surface Water Drainage Charges**

*Applies in England only* (closes 22 October 2010)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/surface-charges/index.htm>

### **Consultation on the change to policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund** (closes 29 October 2010)

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7313.aspx>

### **Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency** (closing date 10 November 2010)

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461\\_GEO\\_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty\\_acc.pdf](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf)

### **Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order** (Scotland) (closes 26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

### **Charity Commission: Proposed withdrawal of paper forms for Annual Returns, Registration applications, and forthcoming Charitable Incorporated Organisations** (closes 2 December 2010)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About\\_us/About\\_the\\_Commission/ols\\_consultation\\_intro.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_the_Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx)

### **Equality Act 2010 - Performance of the Public Sector Equality Duties in Wales**

(closes 17 December 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/equality/equalityact2010/?lang=en>

### **Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education** (closes 31 December 2010)

[http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page\\_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen](http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen)

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