

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](#)

[Other Relevant Information](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

UK Parliamentary Questions

Food: Labelling

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to bring forward proposals for food labelling guidelines requiring disclosure of slaughter methods for meat products. [18047]

Mr Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations issued by her Department govern the (a) sale and (b) labelling of halal meat; and if she will make a statement. [18120]

Mr Paice: There are no specific regulations governing the sale and labelling of Halal meat. However, if meat is labelled as Halal, this must not mislead the consumer. Information provided on the label or in the presentation of a food must not be false or misleading under the Food Labelling Regulations 1996 (as amended), section 15 of the Food Safety Act 1990 (as amended), Article 16 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 (General Food Law Regulation 2004) and the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations 2008. Information provided or the overall presentation of a food must not deceive the average consumer such that the average consumer would make a purchasing decision that they would not have taken otherwise.

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will assess the merits of bringing forward regulations to require halal slaughtered meat for sale to the public to be clearly labelled as such; and if she will make a statement. [18209]

Mr Paice: The European Parliament has suggested an amendment to the proposed EU Food information regulations to require food labels to indicate whether an animal has been stunned before slaughter.

I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People

should know what they are buying in shops and when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether labelling and point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101020/text/101020w0001.htm#10102051000026>

Communities and Local Government

Citizenship Survey: April-June 2010, England

... The release includes data covering a range of issues including influencing decisions, volunteering, community cohesion, fear of crime, racial and religious prejudice, discrimination and attitudes toward violent extremism. ... the format and content of the quarterly release has been changed compared to previous years so that it now includes headline data covering more topic areas than ever before. ... Data in this statistical release are based on England, however, some figures are based on England and Wales; these are specifically referenced in the text. ...

- Twenty-four per cent of people volunteered formally at least once a month in April-June 2010, levels are lower than those between 2003 and 2007-08 (27 per cent to 29 per cent).
- Eighty-six per cent of people thought their community was cohesive, agreeing that their local area was a place where people from different backgrounds got on well together, higher than in all previous years (apart from 2009-10). ...
- Sixty-five per cent of people said that they were not worried about becoming a victim of crime.
- Seventy-eight per cent of people thought that the number of immigrants coming to Britain should be reduced, whilst three per cent thought the number should be increased.
- Seven per cent of adults in England felt racial or religious harassment was a very or fairly big problem in their local area. There were no consistent trends over time in views of racial or religious harassment.
- Forty-five per cent of people thought that there was more racial prejudice today than there was five years ago; this is lower than in some previous years, including when levels peaked in 2007-08 (56 per cent).
- Twenty-two per cent of people thought that they would be treated worse than people of other races by at least one of the eight public service organisations measured.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/citizenshipsurveyq1201011>

Report

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1546462.pdf>

Wales Office

Welsh Secretary lays Order for Referendum on March 3

Secretary of State for Wales Cheryl Gillan has laid before Parliament the Welsh Referendum Order to take forward arrangements to hold the referendum on further powers for the National Assembly for Wales on March 3, 2011. The Welsh Referendum Order will now also be laid before the National Assembly for Wales. Subject to approval by both Houses of Parliament and the Assembly, the Secretary of State will submit the Order to be made by Her Majesty in Council. The aim is to complete this process before Christmas.

To read the full press release see

<http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/2010/10/21/welsh-secretary-lays-order-for-referendum-on-march-3/>

[TOP](#)

UK Parliamentary Questions

EU-Israel Association Agreement

Baroness Tonge: To Ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the European Union concerning Israel's compliance with the conditions of the European Union-Israel Association Agreement relating to Human Rights and International Law.[HL2584]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): The UK has regular discussions with its EU partners on a number of issues related to the Middle East peace process including the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

The UK has worked hard, with support from other member states, to ensure that the EU has regular discussions about human rights in Israel. This is in line with the human rights elements of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101020w0001.htm#10102046000291>

Israel

Baroness Tonge: To Ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel concerning allegations of a 60 per cent increase in the number of children detained in Israeli prisons in September.[HL2581]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): According to the non-governmental organisation Defence for Children International, in September 2010 there were 269 children in Israeli detention compared to 318 in January 2010.

However, the UK is concerned by reports with the number of children who have been detained without trial. We have called on the Israeli Government to take immediate action to ensure all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures, and that human rights and international law is upheld.

Baroness Tonge: To Ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Israel concerning alleged beatings, threats of rape and electric shocks being given to children under the age of 15 years whilst detained in Israeli prisons.[HL2582]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The UK is concerned by reports of alleged torture and abuse of Palestinian children held in detention by Israel. We have called on the Israeli Government to take immediate action to ensure all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures, and that human rights and international law is upheld.

Baroness Tonge: To Ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with other European Union member states about the treatment of children in Israeli prisons.[HL2583]

Lord Howell of Guildford: The UK is concerned by reports of alleged torture and abuse of Palestinian children held in detention by Israel. We have called on the Israeli Government to take immediate action to ensure all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures, and that human rights and international law is upheld.

The EU has regular meetings to discuss human rights concerns in Israel which includes the mistreatment of prisoners.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101020w0001.htm#10102046000299>

[TOP](#)

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/fixdtermparliaments.html>

Identity Documents Bill

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

**** Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

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

Committee Stage, House of Commons

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101020/debtext/101020-0002.htm#10102049000002>

Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/pro0632010p.85-91.html>

Scottish Parliament

Certification of Death Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

End of Life Assistance Bill

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

[TOP](#)

Other Relevant Information

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Annual Report

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=a683e2c6-3259-4488-bd49-b18a2e2c667c&opt=1>

Public and Charity Perspectives 2010

Report

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=7473f0e0-d382-41cb-b15f-30117e88c35f&opt=1>

Summary

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/DocumentViewer.aspx?ID=d6c6e122-285d-4138-8fc3-6edf50d6640b&opt=1>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated

**** closes tomorrow**

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

Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

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

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

[TOP](#)

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charity SCO29438