

Political Affairs Brief

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
SCoJeC

Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Holocaust](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Consultations](#)

Home Affairs

UK Parliamentary Question

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport in respect of how many eligible places of worship grants have been made under the listed places of worship grant scheme in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average amount of each grant was in the latest period for which figures are available. [32102]

John Penrose: The listed places of worship grant scheme makes payments equivalent to the VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings primarily in use for public worship. In the 2009-10 financial year, 3,745 claims were paid UK-wide, with a total value of £14,963,412.67, giving an average grant of £3,996.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w005.htm#1012216000089>

[TOP](#)

Holocaust

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

John Mann (1229) Letter from Polish Ambassador to Lithuania Janusz Skolimowski - That this House condemns the article in Lithuanian magazine Veidas on 14 November 2010 entitled The International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg - the biggest legal farce in history; welcomes the letter of 26 November 2010 from the Polish Ambassador to Lithuania Janusz Skolimowski condemning the article; affirms the Ambassador's position that the statements of P. Stankeras contained in the article, which undermined the fact of the extermination of Jews during World War II and raised doubts about the historic importance of the Nuremberg Trials, should be met with the highest condemnation; notes the Ambassador's statement that he found it particularly painful that such statements which denied the historical nature of the Holocaust were being formulated in the part of Europe which was a witness to this tragedy and his further statement that the responsibility for the truthfulness of the historic legacy passed to subsequent generations demanded greater caution in undertaking discussions in the press; and endorses both Poland and Lithuania's work on the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=42242&SESSION=905>

[TOP](#)

UK Parliamentary Questions

Foreign Trade: Israel

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value of (a) exports to and (b) imports from, Israel was in each of the last 10 years. [31705]

Mr Prisk: The data requested are shown in the following table:

	UK exports to Israel	UK imports from Israel
2000	1,961	1,291
2001	1,868	1,253
2002	1,857	1,082
2003	1,729	1,074
2004	1,793	1,153
2005	1,908	1,251
2006	1,762	1,260
2007	1,743	1,350
2008	1,874	1,465
2009	1,667	1,406

Source: United Kingdom Balance of Payments, The Pink Book, ONS

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w004.htm#101221600057>

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken with his international counterparts to encourage Hamas to (a) accept the Quartet Principles and (b) join the peace negotiation process; what response he has received to such steps from Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [31714]

Alistair Burt: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 22 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 77W.

Hamas' ideology of violence directly undermines prospects for peace in the region. We will continue to call on Hamas, with international partners, to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to release Gilad Shalit unconditionally.

Recent statements from Hamas show no signs that it is moving in this direction.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w001.htm#10122018000075>

Lebanon: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of (a) the security situation in southern Lebanon and (b) the role of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in maintaining peace and security in Southern Lebanon. [31596]

Alistair Burt: The situation in southern Lebanon remains calm since the border clash on 3 August. We continue to call on all parties to comply with United Nations Security Council Resolution UNSCR 1701, which calls for full respect by Israel for Lebanon's territorial integrity, and the disarmament of Hezbollah and other militias. We continue to work with Lebanon, regional and international partners to see UNSCR 1701 implemented.

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) continues to play a critical role in contributing to the peace and stability in southern Lebanon, as demonstrated by their actions to prevent the border clashes between the Lebanese armed forces and Israeli defence forces on 3 August 2010 from escalating.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101220/text/101220w0001.htm#10122018000074>

[TOP](#)

Relevant Legislation ** New or updated

UK Parliament

Daylight Saving Bill

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

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/035/amend/ml035-i.1-2.html>

Localism Bill

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

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

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

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220-0001.htm#1012201000308>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220-0002.htm#10122019000665>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220-0003.htm#1012211000092>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldbills/026/amend/ml026-vira.htm>

Parliamentary Question

Lord Bassam of Brighton: To ask Her Majesty's Government why they judged that the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill did not require an impact assessment.[HL4944]

Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Government take the view that a regulatory impact assessment is not required for the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill on the grounds that its impact will fall on citizens rather than business or the public sector front line.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101220w0001.htm#1012207000522>

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

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

Scottish Parliament

** Certification of Death Bill

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

Stage 1 evidence from the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, the Muslim Council of Scotland, and the Scottish Government

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/or-10/he10-3802.htm#Col3861>

[TOP](#)

Consultations

** new or updated

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

Charity Commission for England and Wales: Views on Future Strategy

(closes 14 January 2011)

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/RSS/News/pr_strategic_review.aspx

Improvements to Criminal Justice Statistics (closing date 18 February 2011)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/statistics-cp171110.htm>

National statistics, published by the Department of Health about the experience of black and minority ethnic patients (closes 18 February 2011)

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_121762

[TOP](#)

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