

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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House of Lords Written Answer

Ritual Slaughter

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative) [HL5539] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportion of meat (1) sold as Halal which has not been slaughtered in accordance with Halal requirements, and (2) not sold as Halal which has been slaughtered in accordance with Halal requirements nonetheless.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: There are currently no specific EU or national requirements governing the sale and labelling of Halal or Kosher meat. Where any information of this nature is provided voluntarily, it must be accurate and must not be misleading.

It is for Muslim religious authorities to determine what is Halal and as such some Halal accreditation bodies will accept meat from animals that are stunned prior to slaughter as Halal, whereas others will only accept meat from animals slaughtered without stunning.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-08/HL5539/>

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House of Lords Written Answers

Gaza: Health Services

Lord Steel of Aikwood (Liberal Democrat) [HL5382] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether, following the announcement by the Palestinian Ministry of Health that because of fuel shortages affecting hospitals and clinics "urgent action is needed to prevent collapse of Gaza's health system", they are planning to offer any assistance.

Lord Bates: We remain concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza and continue to monitor it closely, including the effect electricity shortages are having on the health sector. The UK will continue to urge all the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution for Gaza and to take the necessary practical steps to improve conditions, including restoring the availability of

electricity as a matter of urgency. The UK is supporting approximately 1 million Gazans by addressing critical water, sanitation and hygiene needs through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and is a long-term supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), which provides basic services to 1.3 million people in Gaza, including basic health care.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-05/HL5382/>

Gaza: Infrastructure

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL5394] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their response to the offer by the government of Israel to provide assistance for rebuilding Gaza's infrastructure, and to that government's request for the international community to fund that work.

Lord Bates: The UK Government consistently calls on the Israeli Government to ease movement and access restrictions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) and repeatedly calls on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law. We welcome recent Israeli announcements to ease restrictions on the importation of material into Gaza for much needed infrastructure projects such as the proposed Central Gaza Desalination Plant and other waste water plants under construction, which many international donors are supporting. The UK is currently engaging with relevant stakeholders to discuss the development of infrastructure for enhanced water and electricity supply in Gaza, and continues to urge all the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution for Gaza and to take the necessary practical steps to improve conditions.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-05/HL5394/>

Gaza: Hospitals

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL5453] To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they intend to take, if any, in response to reports that Beit Hanoun Hospital has closed due to severe shortages of fuel for hospital generators.

Lord Bates: The UK is concerned about reports that Beit Hanoun Hospital has been partially closed in order to rationalise fuel. The UK continues to monitor the humanitarian situation in Gaza closely. The UK is supporting approximately 1 million Gazans by addressing critical water, sanitation and hygiene needs through the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and is a long-term supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), which provides basic services to 1.3 million people in Gaza, including basic health care. The UK will continue to urge all the parties to prioritise progress towards reaching a durable solution for Gaza and to take the necessary practical steps to improve conditions, including restoring the availability of electricity as a matter of urgency.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-02-06/HL5453/>

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Relevant Legislation

** new or updated today

UK Parliament

European Union (Withdrawal) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Scottish Parliament

Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Repeal) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/105269.aspx>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Introducing 'opt-out' consent for organ and tissue donation in England (closing date 6 March 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-opt-out-consent-for-organ-and-tissue-donation-in-england>

Promoting Organ Donation and Transplantation in Northern Ireland (closing date 9 March 2018)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/promoting-organ-donation-and-transplantation-northern-ireland>

Electoral Reform (Scotland) (closing date 12 March 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00529431.pdf>

Human Rights (Scottish Parliament) (closing date 16 March 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106453.aspx>

Creating a Parliament for Wales (closing date 6 April 2018)

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=292>

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