

# Political Affairs Digest

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

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Coroners

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

**Bob Blackman (Conservative)** [163078] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) Jewish and (b) Muslim deaths have been processed in each coroner area in the last 12 months.

**Bob Blackman (Conservative)** [163079] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many non-invasive autopsies have been (a) requested and (b) provided in each coroner area in the last 12 months.

**Bob Blackman (Conservative)** [163080] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, on how many occasions the three-day target for the release of bodies after initial report has not been met in each coroner area in the most recent period for which figures are available.

#### Coroners: Working Hours

**Bob Blackman (Conservative)** [163081] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many and which coroner areas offer an out-of-hours service for cases other than homicide, mass fatalities and organ or tissue donation.

**Rory Stewart:** The Ministry of Justice does not have operational responsibility for coroner services and therefore only holds information that it has decided to collect from coroners on the basis that it would be useful in policy making. We collect annual data on deaths reported to coroners, including inquests and post-mortem examinations held. The figures for the number of post mortems held in 2017 which involved less invasive techniques are available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/706047/coroners-statistics-2017-csvs.zip](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/706047/coroners-statistics-2017-csvs.zip).

The Ministry of Justice does not currently collect from coroners information on the number of less invasive post-mortem examinations which have been requested, Jewish or Muslim deaths investigated by coroners, and release of bodies or out of hours services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-11/163078/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-11/163079/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-11/163080/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-07-11/163081/>

## House of Lords Written Answer

### School Meals: Meat

**Baroness Hodgson of Abinger (Conservative)** [HL9377] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Agnew of Oulton on 4 July, what action they will take to ensure that parents can prevent their children in state schools from being fed meat from animals slaughtered without pre-stunning.

**Lord Agnew of Oulton:** Head teachers, governors and their caterers are best placed to make decisions about their school food policies. We expect schools to act reasonably and to provide choices that take account of cultural, religious and special dietary needs. We also expect schools to work with parents in making appropriate arrangements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-07-10/HL9377/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-06-20/HL8818/>

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## Israel

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Alistair Burt:** UK deeply concerned by escalation at the Gaza perimeter and fatalities today, including the killing of an IDF soldier. Urge Hamas to end acts of violence. Urgent need for both sides to show restraint and protect civilians. Agree with @NMIladenov that cycle of violence must end now

<https://twitter.com/AlistairBurtUK/status/1020435181755424769>

### United Nations

**UN chief urges Hamas and Israel to 'step back from the brink of another devastating conflict' in Gaza**

"I am gravely concerned over the dangerous escalation of violence in Gaza and southern Israel," said Secretary-General António Guterres in a statement.

"I deeply regret the loss of life. It is imperative that all sides urgently step back from the brink of another devastating conflict", he added.

On 30 March this year, Palestinians in Gaza – controlled by Hamas, a militant Palestinian faction – started a mass protest against a blockade of the enclave imposed by Israel since the early 1990's. The confrontation between the sides has since escalated.

On Friday, Palestinian gunmen killed an Israeli soldier and the Israeli military launched dozens of strikes that killed three Hamas fighters, according to media reports. A fourth Palestinian was killed by Israeli gunfire during a protest near the border.

In the statement, Mr. Guterres called on Hamas and other Palestinian militants in Gaza to

cease the launching of rockets and incendiary kites and provocations along the enclave's border fence. He also said Israel must exercise restraint to avoid further inflaming the situation.

"Any further escalation will endanger the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike, deepen the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and undermine current efforts to improve livelihoods and support the return of the Palestinian Authority to Gaza," he said.

The Secretary-General also encouraged all to engage with the UN, and particularly his Special Coordinator, Nickolay Mladenov, and work to find "a way out of this dangerous situation".

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/07/1015302>

### **Essential services on verge of shutdown in Gaza as emergency fuel set to run out**

"At least one hospital has been forced to shut down for a few hours, and services are being dramatically reduced at others," said Jamie McGoldrick, the Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

"Given ongoing blackouts of about 20 hours a day, if fuel does not come in immediately, people's lives will be at stake, with the most vulnerable patients, like cardiac patients, those on dialysis, and newborns in intensive care, at highest risk", he added.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza – controlled by Hamas, a militant Palestinian faction – has been negatively impacted by a blockade of the enclave imposed by Israel.

Since last Monday, the Israeli authorities have prohibited the entry of fuel into Gaza as part of tightened import and export restrictions, reportedly in response to the launch of incendiary kites from Gaza into Israel, which has caused extensive property damage.

Mr. McGoldrick called on Israel to end restrictions preventing the import of fuel and for donors to provide immediate funding for emergency fuel, currently set to run out in early in August. ...

Four other hospitals are likely to run out of fuel within the next three days ...

The Palestinian Ministry of Health already has implemented strict contingency measures: hospitals have reduced diagnostic, sterilization and cleaning services, increasing the risk of infections amongst patients.

Elective surgeries are being further reduced. ...

"Until more sustainable solutions for the electricity crisis in Gaza are found, two steps can avert further devastation in Gaza in the short term," said Mr. McGoldrick. "Israel must let fuel and other essential supplies in and donors must mobilize resources to ensure that critical facilities receive the fuel they need." ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/07/1015312>

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## **Relevant Legislation** \*\* new or updated today

### **UK Parliament**

#### **Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.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

### Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

### Financial Memorandum of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

(closing date 31 August 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/109042.aspx>

### Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 4 September 2018)

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/108999.aspx>

### 20 years of the Human Rights Act (closing date 14 September 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/joint-select/human-rights-committee/news-parliament-2017/20-years-human-rights-act-launch-17-19/>

### Antisemitism: Survey of European Jews (closing date not stated)

<http://www.eurojews.eu/>

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