

# 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

#### Teachers: Qualifications

**Lyn Brown (Labour)** [197426] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what percentage of (a) religious education and (b) history lessons in state secondary schools are taught by teachers with no post A-level qualification in the subject.

**Nick Gibb:** In 2017, there were 118,200 hours of religious education taught in state funded secondary schools. Of these, 24.2% of hours were taught by a teacher with no relevant post A level qualification in religious education or a related subject such as philosophy. A 'relevant post A level qualification' is defined as a first degree or higher, Bachelor of education (BEd) degree, Postgraduate certificate of education (PGCE), Certificate of Education or another qualification at level 4 or above, which is in a discipline deemed relevant to that subject based on Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) codes.

These figures relate to all qualified teachers in state funded secondary schools

In 2017, there were 185,700 hours of history taught in state funded secondary schools. Of these, 8.8% of hours were taught by a teacher with no relevant post A level qualification in history or a related subject such as archaeology.

These figures relate to all qualified teachers in state funded secondary schools.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-29/197426/>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

#### Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour)** [196753] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2018 to Question 188021 on Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, how many officials of his Department have been involved in visiting religious buildings.

**Andre Gwynne (Labour)** [196754] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2018 to Question 188021 on Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, whether officials of other Government departments have been involved in (a) visiting religious buildings and (b) attending faith-based roundtables.

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour)** [196755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2018 to Question 188021 on Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, which (a) mosques, (b) gurdwaras, (c)

churches, (d) temples and (e) faith-based roundtables officials of his Department attended.

**Andrew Gwynne (Labour)** [196756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 16 November 2018 to Question 188021 on Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, whether (a) he and (b) Ministers of his Department have attended (i) religious buildings and (ii) meetings with religious representatives to discuss the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme in 2018.

**Victoria Atkins:** Over the three years of the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, more than ten Home Office officials have visited religious buildings across the 3 years' it has been running, alongside visits by Community Coordinators funded by the Department, and faith representatives. Officials from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), have been involved with meetings of the Sikh Roundtable and the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, where the POW scheme has been promoted or discussed.

The names of the places of religious worship visited by officials in relation to the Places of Worship scheme are exempt from release under Section 38(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, on the grounds of the endangerment of the safety of individuals. However, officials have discussed the scheme at meetings of the Sikh Roundtable, the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, and Independent Advisory Group on Hate Crime. The Minister for Faith, Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, was present to discuss the scheme at the Sikh Roundtable in July 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196753/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196754/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196755/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-28/196756/>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-02/188021/>

*Information about the Places of Worship: Security Funding Scheme can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

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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>

## Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

## Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

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

## Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

**\*\* closes tomorrow**

**Reform of the legal requirements for divorce** (closing date 10 December 2018)

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/reform-of-the-legal-requirements-for-divorce/>

**The future of civil partnership in Scotland** (closing date 21 December 2018)

<https://consult.gov.scot/family-law/the-future-of-civil-partnership-in-scotland/>

**2021 Census: Outputs Strategy Consultation for Northern Ireland** (closing date 9 January 2019)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/dfp/2021-census-outputs-strategy-consultation-for-northern-ireland-document.pdf>

**Extremism in England and Wales** (closing date 31 January 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/extremism-in-england-and-wales-call-for-evidence>

**Racial harassment in higher education** (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

**Draft guidance to challenge bullying in schools** [Wales only] (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-guidance-challenge-bullying-schools>

**One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here** (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

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