

# 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 Lords Written Answer

#### Ritual Slaughter

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP)** [HL12297] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 12 December (HL Deb, cols 1337–1340), what is the average time it takes for unstunned (1) lambs, and (2) cattle to die after their throats have been cut under the Halal method of slaughter; and how many lambs and cattle are so slaughtered each year in the UK.

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble:** Legislation on the welfare of animals at slaughter is based on scientific data for time to unconsciousness after the neck cut, rather than time to death, as the period between the neck cut and loss of consciousness has more welfare significance. The time to unconsciousness and time to death will vary amongst animals, influenced by a number of factors including the quality of the neck cut, restraint and occlusion of blood vessels. No data is collected on average time to death for animals subject to religious slaughter or to other slaughter methods, although various research projects have commented upon the time to unconsciousness, such as the EU Dialrel project.

The Department does not hold data on animals killed by Halal slaughter methods each year. The data we hold on this is based on surveys carried out by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The latest FSA survey, carried out earlier this year over a one week period, indicates that 214 cattle and 60,748 sheep were subject to non-stun Halal slaughter that week.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-13/HL12297/>

*The answer referred to above, which is Oral not Written, can be read at*

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-12/debates/80E34825-4745-4A90-A9F5-E1A1CC86EC70/AnimalWelfareStandards>

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## House of Commons Written Answers

### Israel: Palestinians

**Paul Masterton (Conservative)** [202803] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect on the prospects for a negotiated two-state solution of the recent increase in shooting attacks by alleged Palestinian terrorists in Israel and the West Bank.

**Alistair Burt:** We are gravely concerned by the ongoing and increasing violence in the West Bank. We condemn the recent terrorist attacks in the Old City of Jerusalem and in the West Bank. Continued incitement against Israel by Hamas and other actors is unacceptable. The Government is committed to making progress towards a two-state solution, and we will continue to press the parties to refrain from actions that make peace more difficult.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202803/>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Anne Main (Conservative)** [203254] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps the Government has taken return the UK lawyer delegation to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to assess the military detention of Palestinian children in the absence of an offer by the Israeli Government to facilitate that contact.

**Alistair Burt:** The treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention remains a human rights priority for the UK. We will continue to call upon Israel to improve its practices in line with international law and obligations. We have offered to help the Israeli authorities through expert-to-expert talks with UK officials. The offer still stands and we hope Israel will take us up on it. While we recognise that Israel has made some improvements, it needs to do much more to safeguard vulnerable people in its care.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203254/>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Anne Main (Conservative)** [203255] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the number of Palestinian children subjected to military detention in the last five years.

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not made an overall estimate of the number of Palestinian children subjected to military detention in the last five years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's annual Human Rights and Democracy report routinely lists the number of minors held in Israeli military detention. According to the 2017 report, there were approximately 358 minors detained as of the end of 2017.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203255/>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-rights-and-democracy-report-2017/human-rights-and-democracy-the-2017-foreign-and-commonwealth-office-report>

### Israel: Palestinians

**Anne Main (Conservative)** [203256] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart on the Government of Israel (a) ending forcible transfer in its planning policies and (b)

amending planning legislation to ensure planning and construction rights for Palestinian residents in the West Bank and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

**Alistair Burt:** The UK is gravely concerned by Israeli proposals to relocate Palestinian and Bedouin populations, which the UN has said could constitute forcible transfer. We have been clear about our grave concerns with the Israeli authorities and we regularly raise the matter through our Embassy in Tel Aviv. We recognise that Palestinians face severe difficulty in securing building permissions for homes and infrastructure in East Jerusalem and Area C. We continue to urge the Israeli authorities to develop improved mechanisms for zoning, planning and permitting in Area C for the benefit of the Palestinian population, including by facilitating local Palestinian participation in such processes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203256/>

### **Middle East: Peace Negotiations**

**Richard Burden (Labour)** [203275] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for the middle east peace process of recent trends in the level of incitement and intolerance in Israel towards Palestinians and Muslims; and if he will make a statement.

**Alistair Burt:** We are gravely concerned by the ongoing and increasing violence in the West Bank. We condemn the recent terrorist attacks in the Old City of Jerusalem and in the West Bank. The continued incitement against Israel by Hamas and other actors is deeply concerning. The calls for the murder of Palestinian politicians are unacceptable. President Abbas and the Palestinian Authority have repeatedly demonstrated their commitment to non-violence and a negotiated two-state solution. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to avoid engaging in, or encouraging, any type of action or language that makes it more difficult to achieve a culture of peaceful coexistence and a negotiated solution to the conflict.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203275/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Ged Killen (Labour Co-op)** [203455] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will seek discussions with his Israeli counterpart on the Israeli Government's decision to restrict the ability of the Palestinian Ministry of Health to import vaccines.

**Alistair Burt:** We regularly raise the urgent need to ease all access and movement restrictions with Israeli authorities. The availability of some medical supplies and services in the Occupied Palestinian Territories can be restricted by Israeli security procedures. The UK Government supports a project that provides medical equipment and training to medical professionals in Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203455/>

## **Foreign and Commonwealth Office**

### **Minister for Middle East's statement on Israeli settlement announcement**

Minister for the Middle East, Alistair Burt, said: The announcements this week by the Government of Israel to advance over 2,800 housing units in settlements in the West Bank are unacceptable and disappointing.

Such actions are illegal under international law and call into question Israel's commitment to any future peace agreement with the Palestinians. We strongly urge Israel to cease

such actions.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/minister-for-middle-east-statement-on-israeli-settlement-announcement>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Humanist Society Scotland

#### **Tolerant Scotland?**

A new research report by Humanist Society Scotland has shown that tolerance in Scotland to people of different faiths or none in Scotland is very high amongst the Scottish public. However ... around 10% of individuals ... would not accept people of a different religious outlook marrying a relative or being elected their MSP. ...

1,003 people living in Scotland were polled by British Polling Council member Survation on their attitudes to others of a different outlook on religion or non-religious identities during summer 2018. Headline findings from the research include:

- 82% of people in Scotland agree all people of different religions and of no religion should have equal rights with only 3% disagreeing ...
- 9% of people would not accept someone who is of a different religious or non-religious outlook to themselves being elected their MSP, although 80% would ...
- 86% said they had no qualms about the religion of their GP, with older people (65+) being the most accepting of different beliefs in the consulting room (95%) ...
- 86% of respondents said they believed it was possible to live a good ethical life without being religious and 75% said people with very strong religious beliefs are sometimes too intolerant of others

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.humanism.scot/what-we-do/news/tolerant-scotland/>

**Tolerant Scotland? Measuring views on inclusivity toward faith and belief**

<https://www.humanism.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Tolerant-Scotland-e2018.pdf>

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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

**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>

**Islamophobia** (closing date 11 January 2018)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/islamophobia-call-for-further-evidence-17-19/>

**Connected communities – Tackling loneliness and social isolation (Wales)** (closing date 15 January 2019)

<https://beta.gov.wales/connected-communities-tackling-loneliness-and-social-isolation>

**The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On** (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

**Extremism in England and Wales** (closing date 31 January 2019)

<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/>

**Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22**

(closing date 15 March 2019)

<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/ni-human-rights-commission-draft-strategic-plan-2019-2022-consultation>

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