

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Coroners

**Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op)** [214635] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many (a) post-mortem investigations and (b) inquests were undertaken by coroners into deaths in assessment and treatment units in each year since 2010.

**Edward Argar:** The Ministry of Justice collates statistics on the number of inquests and post-mortem investigations commissioned and publishes these annually. They can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coroners-and-burials-statistics>

Since 2011 deaths of patients detained under the Mental Health Act 1983 have been separately recorded along with deaths in other forms of state detention and custody. However, with this exception deaths are not otherwise sub-categorised by location and the number of deaths of voluntary patients in treatment and assessment units is not recorded.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214635/>

#### Early Day Motions

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [214582] To ask the Leader of the House, if she will publish a response to EDM 1967 entitled, Parliamentary Prayers.

**Andrea Leadsom:** The provision of Parliamentary Prayers is a matter for the House. However, many Members of all faiths appreciate the opportunity for quiet reflection before making important decisions during debates and the course of the Parliamentary day. Over recent years Parliament has made many inclusive reforms, including the creation of a multi-faith prayer room.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-30/214582/>

## Charity Commission

### Opportunity for charities to become authorised advisors to EU citizens applying to settle in the UK

The Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) has launched [a new scheme for charities and other organisations](#) to apply more quickly to become registered advisors to EU citizens when they apply to settle in the UK.

The scheme is aimed at smaller, community-based charities and other organisations, including faith-based and local advice groups.

Successful applicants will be able to provide basic 'level 1' advice (solely on EU settlement), without needing to complete the written exam, which is usually part of the application process. The streamlined process will allow applications to be considered more quickly, with decisions expected 4 to 6 weeks after receipt.

It is a criminal offence for a person to provide immigration advice or services in the UK unless their organisation is [regulated by the OISC or meets certain other specific criteria](#).

Details about what assistance can be given to migrants without the requirement to be regulated can be found in the [OISC immigration assistance document](#).

Further guidance for the Community and Voluntary Sector about registering with the OISC, as well as information on the new EU settlement scheme registration is available on [the OISC website](#).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/opportunity-for-charities-to-become-authorised-advisors-to-eu-citizens-applying-to-settle-in-the-uk>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Israel: Immigration Controls

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [212609] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent steps he has taken to raise cases where British Nationals have been refused entry to Israel; and if he will seek assurances from Israeli authorities that all due legal process is followed in such cases to safeguard the rights of UK citizens.

**Alistair Burt:** It is for the Government of Israel to decide its immigration policy. The UK's immigration policies and controls are similarly protected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-25/212609/>

#### Gary Spedding

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [212610] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will raise the case of Gary Spedding, who was recently refused entry to Israel, with his Israeli counterpart; and what consular assistance was provided to Gary Spedding in that case.

**Alistair Burt:** It is for the Government of Israel to decide its immigration policy. The UK's immigration policies and controls are similarly protected. Consular officers contacted Mr Spedding to offer Consular assistance in line with our policy. They also contacted Israeli authorities, by which time Mr Spedding had already been returned to the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-25/212610/>

### Israel: Immigration Controls

**Caroline Lucas (Green)** [212611] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many (a) British nationals were refused entry to Israel and (b) requests for assistance his Department received from British nationals held at the Israeli border in 2018.

**Alistair Burt:** Israeli authorities provide no data to us on the number of British nationals refused entry to Israel. In 2018 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) received 19 requests for assistance from British nationals held at the Israeli border.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-25/212611/>

### Palestinians: Politics and Government

**Jim Cunningham (Labour)** [213945] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the level of political stability in the Palestinian Territories.

**Alistair Brut:** While we have not made a specific assessment of this matter, the UK remains concerned about any actions which increase instability in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We continue to support Palestinian state building and a strong and empowered Palestinian Authority in support of a two-state solution and as an effective partner for peace with Israel. Along with EU partners, we have encouraged the Palestinian leadership to work toward strong, inclusive, accountable and democratic institutions, based on respect for the rule of law and human rights.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/213945/>

### Hebron: Israel

**Richard Burden (Labour)** [214157] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the effect on regional security of the Israeli Government's decision not to renew the mandate of the international observatory task force in Hebron; and if he will make a statement.

**Alistair Burt:** While we have not made any assessment of this decision, our Ambassador to Israel raised our concerns over this issue with the Israeli authorities on 29 January.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-29/214157/>

## House of Lords Written Answers

### Israel: Military Exercises

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL13039] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have invited the Israeli Air Force to join the Royal Air Force in Exercise Cobra Warrior in September 2019; and what consideration they gave, when awarding a contract to Elbit Systems UK, of the use of that company by the government of Israel.

**Earl Howe:** Her Majesty's Government works closely with the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) in order to counter the destabilising regional activity of Iran and Hezbollah, and to conduct operations against Daesh. The IDF also provides crucial access and overflight for the RAF to be able to conduct air operations in support of Op SHADER. Accordingly, in support of this important defence relationship, the RAF invited the Israeli Air Force to join Exercise COBRA WARRIOR, alongside RAF, German, and Italian Air Force Units.

The Exercise enables participating Air Forces to learn mutual lessons from operating together; just as the RAF does on exercise with many other Air Forces. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has a contract with Elbit Systems UK for the MORPHEUS Battlefield Management Application. Under the contract Elbit Systems UK will provide the British Army with an operationally proven battle management application for both headquarters and tactical units. As with all MOD contractors, we assess the legal and financial status of a company before placing a contract, and take into account any other factors which may impact on delivery of the requirements.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13039/>

### **Jerusalem: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL13040] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel regarding the status of Palestinians in East Jerusalem who have been denied full Israeli citizenship and cannot travel abroad.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We regularly make clear our serious concerns about the situation in East Jerusalem to the Israeli authorities and the Municipality of Jerusalem. We remain deeply concerned about restrictions on freedom of movement to and from East Jerusalem.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13040/>

### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated)** [HL13043] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the government of Israel about (1) the number of, and (2) the level of fines imposed on Palestinians.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We have not recently raised this issue with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-22/HL13043/>

### **Palestinians: Health Services**

**Lord Turnberg (Labour)** [HL13085] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 21 January (HL12583), what assessment they have made of the finding in the report by the World Health Organisation Monthly Report December 2017: Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip, published on 7 February 2018, that more than 13,000 Palestinians were allowed to leave Gaza for medical treatment in 2017 in Israel.

**Lord Bates:** DFID continually assesses the humanitarian context in Gaza, including the health sector, which remains under significant strain. Movement restrictions on patients seeking medical treatment outside Gaza remain a critical concern, particularly since the number of patients requesting access to medical care outside Gaza on a monthly basis increased significantly in 2018 compared to 2017. Recent information from the World Health Organisation Monthly Report November 2018: Health Access for Referral Patients from the Gaza Strip, published on 30 December 2018, showed that there is a positive trend over the prior 12 months for medical permits granted by the Government of Israel. However, access to some medical services, such as cancer treatment, remains constrained. The UK hopes to see this positive trend continue and for the wounded and critically ill in Gaza to be able to access the urgent medical care they need.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-23/HL13085/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12583/>

The December 2017 report referred to above can be read at

[http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/WHO\\_monthly\\_Gaza\\_access\\_report\\_Dec\\_2017-final.pdf?ua=1](http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/WHO_monthly_Gaza_access_report_Dec_2017-final.pdf?ua=1)

The November 2018 report referred to above can be read at

[http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/WHO\\_Monthly\\_report\\_November\\_2018.pdf?ua=1](http://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/documents/WHO_Monthly_report_November_2018.pdf?ua=1)

### **Palestinians: Health Services**

**Lord Turnberg (Labour)** [HL13086] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 21 January (HL12583), what representations they have made to the Palestinian Authority about (1) its responsibility to pay for the medical care of patients from Gaza treated in Israel, and (2) the limitations it has placed on exit permits for patients from Gaza to receive medical treatment in Israel.

**Lord Bates:** The UK continually monitors the humanitarian context in Gaza, including in the health sector, and we remain deeply concerned about restrictions on movement and access and the impact that this is having on the wounded and critically ill. Officials raised Palestinian Authority (PA) funding of health referrals for patients from Gaza to Israel in a meeting with the Minister for Health in June 2018 and continue to do as part of broader engagement with the PA on their obligations in Gaza. We have not received reports of the PA restricting Gazan exit permits but are looking into this issue.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-23/HL13086/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-01-07/HL12583/>

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## **Other Relevant Information**

### **European Commission**

**Fact sheet: Code of Conduct on countering illegal hate speech online:  
Questions and answers on the fourth evaluation**

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release MEMO-19-806\\_en.pdf](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-19-806_en.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>

## **International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill**

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/internationaldevelopmentassistancepalestiniannationalauthoritieschools.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 in 10 days**

**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/>

**Racial harassment in higher education** (closing date 28 February 2019)

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

**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>

**Scottish charity law** (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

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