

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Entry Clearances: Ministers of Religion

Mhairi Black (SNP) [260037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps his Department is taking to engage with the views of religious groups on the new Tier 2 Minister of Religion visa route.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 2 route for Ministers of Religion has been in place for several years. In January 2019 changes were made to the Immigration Rules governing the Tier 5 visa for religious workers. The Government wrote to faith leaders in December, setting out the detail and rationale behind those changes.

We are embarking on an extensive programme of engagement, in connection with the future immigration system, and will be talking to representatives from a range of faith and community groups. Officials also remain in regular contact with their representatives.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-04/260037/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Sex and Relationship Education: LGBT People

Jeff Smith (Labour) [259293] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will issue guidance on LGBT issues to schools to guarantee that all children, regardless of their religious or non-religious background, receive age-appropriate LGBT-inclusive Relationships and Sex Education when the new subject is introduced in 2020.

Jeff Smith (Labour) [259294] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how children who are or who may later identify as LGBT and their peers will learn about LGBT issues in a fully inclusive and tolerant manner if state-funded religious schools are permitted to omit such content from RSE.

Jeff Smith (Labour) [259295] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he will take to monitor whether schools are teaching fully LGBT-inclusive Relationships and Sex Education when the subject becomes compulsory in 2020.

Nick Gibb: From 2020, relationships education will become compulsory for all primary aged pupils and relationships and sex education (RSE) for all secondary

aged pupils in England. Alongside this, we are introducing health education for all pupils in state funded schools. The guidance will be published in due course and information concerning the guidance is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/relationships-and-sex-education-and-health-education>.

Pupils should receive teaching on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) relationships during their school years. Primary schools are enabled and encouraged to cover LGBT content if they consider it age appropriate to do so. This would be delivered, for example, through teaching about different types of family. RSE in secondary schools should meet the needs of all pupils, regardless of their developing sexuality or identity. The guidance sets out that secondary pupils should be taught the facts and the law about sex, sexuality and gender identity. When teaching the subjects, schools should ensure there is equal opportunity to explore the features of stable and healthy same-sex relationships. This should be integrated appropriately into the RSE programme, rather than addressed separately or in only one lesson.

All schools, including faith schools, must have regard to the draft guidance. In all schools, the religious background of all pupils must be considered when planning teaching so that the topics that are included in the core content are handled appropriately. Schools must also ensure they comply with the relevant provisions of the Equality Act 2010. The guidance includes an example of how schools can address LGBT relationships in a faith context; for example, the Catholic Education Service currently publishes a model RSE curricula.

Key aspects of relationships education, RSE and health education are in scope for Ofsted inspection; for example, through inspectors' consideration of pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare; and pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Information about how Ofsted inspects schools is set out in its published school inspection handbook. The new Ofsted framework from September 2019 will also introduce a separate grade for 'personal development'.

We have also committed to reviewing the guidance every three years. This will enable us to monitor the implementation of these subjects and make changes in future where required.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259293/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259294/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259295/>

House of Commons Library

Briefing: The contribution of the Jewish Community to the UK

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2019-0149/CDP-2019-0149.pdf>

Scottish Government

Opt-out system for donation gets go-ahead

Legislation to introduce an opt-out system of organ and tissue donation for deceased donors has been passed by the Scottish Parliament. ...

Under the new law, if an adult does not opt-in or opt-out of donation they may be deemed to have authorised donation for transplantation. This is subject to the safeguards in the Bill which seek to ensure that donation will not go ahead where it would be against the person's wishes.

The Scottish Government will be working with stakeholders to ensure that systems and training for health professionals are in place before opt-out is introduced. A public awareness campaign, launching later this year, will provide more information about what the changes mean and what choices people will have. ...

The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill ... amends the existing Scottish legislation that supports donation by introducing a new, additional form of authorisation called 'deemed authorisation'. This means that donation may proceed where a person was not known to have any objection to donation.

Under the system there will be protections for adults without capacity to understand deemed authorisation, adults resident in Scotland for less than 12 months and children under 16 who will not be subject to deemed authorisation and will only be able to donate if they, or someone on their behalf, explicitly authorise it. ...

There will be a high profile awareness-raising campaign running at least 12 months before the introduction of the new system, and on a regular basis after implementation. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.scot/news/opt-out-system-for-donation-gets-go-ahead/>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Hugh Lanning

Ronnie Cowan (SNP) [259303] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations his Department has made to the Israeli Government on the deportation of Hugh Lanning.

Andrew Murrison: Whilst we are aware of Mr Lanning's denial of entry into Israel, we have not raised this matter with the Israeli authorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259303/>

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Maria Caulfield (Conservative) [259336] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of Hamas's role in the ongoing humanitarian situation in Gaza.

Andrew Murrison: As the UK said at the UN Security Council on 22 May, Hamas's ongoing decision to embrace violence and reject the Quartet Principles lies at the heart of the Gazan tragedy. Hamas's decision to send rockets towards Israel is unacceptable and must stop. Our policy on Hamas is clear: they must renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements. Violence further undermines the humanitarian situation in Gaza, creates fear amongst the Israeli and Palestinian populations, and damages the prospects for peace. We urge all parties to demonstrate restraint, and work towards a durable agreement that addresses the underlying causes of the conflict and transforms the situation in Gaza.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-03/259336/>

The statement to the UN referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/encouraging-all-parties-to-achieve-peace-for-israelis-and-palestinians>

Palestinians: Terrorism

Joan Ryan (Change UK) [261073] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, with reference to his Department's Memorandum of Understanding with the Palestinian Authority (PA), what discussions his Department has had with the PA on reports that the PA President's spokesperson describing convicted Palestinian terrorists as soldiers who act on their behalf and receive orders from them.

Andrew Murrison: The UK strongly condemns all forms of violence and incitement on both sides of the conflict. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to avoid engaging in or encouraging any type of action and language that makes it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict. Officials are looking into the specific allegation raised.

Our partnership with the Palestinian Authority (PA) includes a commitment from the Palestinian leadership to adhere to the principle of non-violence and to tackle language and avoid actions that could incite violence or hatred. The March 2019 assessment of the terms of the 2018-19 Memorandum of Understanding found that the PA continues to demonstrate a credible commitment to DFID's 'partnership principles', including the principles of non-violence, under increasingly volatile conditions. As in other parts of the world where DFID works, this does not mean that we agree on all of the government or authority's policies or actions – but rather that there is a credible foundation on which to work to tackle poverty and work towards the Sustainable Development Goals. We continue to press the Palestinian Authority to reform the prisoner payments system, as I did so personally during my recent visit in Ramallah.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261073/>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above is not available online.

The following four questions all received the same answer

Palestinians: Education

Joan Ryan (Change UK) [261074] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what the average salary is of employees of the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education whose salaries are paid for by his Department through the PEGASE scheme.

Joan Ryan (Change UK) [261075] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many employees of the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Education employees whose salaries are paid for by his Department through the PEGASE scheme receive a salary in excess of 2000 NIS per month.

Palestinians: Health Services

Joan Ryan (Change UK) [261076] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what the average salary is of employees of the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health whose salaries are paid for by his Department through the PEGASE scheme.

Joan Ryan (Change UK) [261077] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many employees of the Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health employees whose salaries are paid for by his Department through the PEGASE scheme receive a salary in excess of 2000 NIS per month.

Andrew Murrison: UK financial aid to support the Palestinian Authority's (PA's) health and education sectors is used exclusively to pay the salaries of vetted health and education public servants, including teachers, doctors and nurses, in the West Bank. The EU vets the list of PA health and education sector employees before

every disbursement of financial aid to ensure only eligible beneficiaries receive UK aid, at a range of grades based on the PA payroll system. These payments are then independently audited. The average salary and number of employees earning in excess of 2,000 NIS per month who receive UK aid therefore could change each time a disbursement is made. The data necessary to calculate figures for every DFID disbursement is held by the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261074/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261075/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261076/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-06-06/261077/>

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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>

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>

Stage 3 consideration of amendments

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12180&i=109992#ScotParlOR>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12180&i=109993#ScotParlOR>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

Scottish Human Rights Commission Draft Strategic Plan (closing date 28 June 2019)
<http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1860/strategic-plan-consultation-vfinal-eh.docx>

Online Harms White Paper (closing date 1 July 2019)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

Opt-out organ donation: organs and tissues excluded from the new system (closing date 22 July 2019)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/opt-out-organ-donation-organs-and-tissues-excluded-from-the-new-system>

Regulation of pre-paid funeral plans (closing date 25 August 2019)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/regulation-of-pre-paid-funeral-plans-consultation-on-a-policy-proposal>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438