



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Holocaust

Other Relevant Information

Relevant Legislation

Home Affairs

House of Lords Written Answers

Police: Training

Baroness Greengross (Crossbench) [HL6969] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with police forces in England and Wales about ensuring that all police officers undertake unconscious bias training.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The public rightly expect police officers to meet high standards of professional conduct. In this country, the power of the police to fulfil their duties is wholly dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behaviour and on their ability to secure and maintain this public respect.

The College of Policing, which sets and maintains training standards for policing, published the Code of Ethics in 2014. This includes a set of principles for policing, including that all officers and staff should take active steps to oppose discrimination and make their decisions free from prejudice. This is a cornerstone of police training and development.

The College of Policing's foundation training for all those entering the service includes substantial coverage of police ethics and self-understanding, including the effects of personal conscious and unconscious bias. Initial training covers hate crimes, ethics and equalities, and policing without bias.

Forces also provide local training and development at several different levels ranging from initial entry, leadership and ongoing development to reflect and reinforce organisational values.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-17/HL6969/>

The Code of Ethics referred to above can be read at

https://www.college.police.uk/What-we-do/Ethics/Ethics-home/Documents/Code_of_Ethics.pdf

Coronavirus: Death

Baroness Uddin (Non-affiliated) [HL3099] To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they are collecting on the numbers of COVID-19 deaths broken down by (1) age, (2) occupation, (3) gender, (4) ethnicity, and (5) religion.

Lord Bethell: To provide a more comprehensive response to a number of

outstanding Written Questions, this has been answered by an information factsheet *Science of Covid-19 note for House of Lords*, which is attached due to the size of the data. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

[Science of COVID-19 information factsheet](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-22/HL3099/>

Broadband: Religious Buildings

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL7195] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with churches and faith communities about the difficulties of obtaining broadband access for places of worship which do not have a postcode; and what plans they have to arrange a debate on this issue in the House.

Baroness Barran: The Government has been in discussion with representatives from the Church of England, in particular, regarding the issue of broadband access where places of worship do not have postcodes, or are otherwise missing from telecom provider databases. In some cases this leads to issues in identifying and providing service to such locations.

Over 31,000 premises are listed in relevant databases accessible to the Government as being used as places of worship. Of these, approximately 86% of premises used for religious purposes in Great Britain can access Superfast broadband speeds or better on fixed networks, compared to the UK average of 95%. Approximately 4% of premises used for religious purposes in Great Britain cannot access 'decent broadband' speeds of 10 Megabit/s on Fixed networks, compared to the UK average of 2%, largely due to their rurality. However, 4G data services are also widely available, and this reduces the number of such listed places of worship with no potential service to less than 0.2% of the total.

We are working with relevant stakeholders, including telecom operators (such as Openreach) and Ofcom, to ascertain the extent of this problem, and how many religious premises are still facing these barriers. This includes whether data used by operators is consistent with that available to the Government and to identify appropriate solutions, including ensuring that databases are up to date, but also that all broadband technology solutions that are available to places of worship are considered. Therefore, there are no current plans to debate the matter in the House. We understand the importance for broadband access in places of worship to help improve connectivity for local communities, as well as practical benefits for such premises, including streaming services, security, and accepting contactless donations or administration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-23/HL7195/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Coronavirus: wedding ceremonies

S5W-30726 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on when it will publish updated guidance for wedding ceremonies and receptions in phase 4 of the route map out of lockdown.

Ash Denham: On 15 July 2020, the Scottish Government published guidance on small wedding ceremonies and civil partnership registrations during Phase 3. This followed an announcement by the First Minister that, as from that date, only up to 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, wherever it is taking place, subject to physical distancing requirements. She also committed to a review of this limit again at the end of July.

We will continue to consider how to permit all marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations to take place, with improved hygiene and other precautions, during Phase 4 of our route map, taking account of medical and scientific advice.

Our published guidance in this area will also be kept under review and updated as necessary.

Receptions and other celebrations related to a marriage or civil partnership must comply with the continuing restrictions on public gatherings. During Phase 4 we anticipate that further relaxations on gatherings of family and friends will be possible.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-30726>

The phase 3 guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-small-marriages-and-civil-partnership-registrations/>

Scottish Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: updated guidance for the safe use of places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-guidance-for-the-safe-use-of-places-of-worship/>

TOP

Holocaust

House of Lords Written Answer

Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL6994] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to mark Roma Holocaust Memorial Day on 2 August.

Lord Greenhalgh: Every year we honour the memory of the Roma and Sinti population murdered by the Nazis at the annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on 27 January. The 2nd of August marks the liquidation of the Gypsy Family camp' at Auschwitz-Birkenau and this year due to the restrictions on gatherings brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic we will be honouring the memory of the Roma and Sinti men, women and children murdered by the Nazi's on social media.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-20/HL6994/>

TOP

Other Relevant Information

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Full countries dataset for the second minorities and discrimination survey

Includes the UK as the research was done during 2016.

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/second-european-union-minorities-and-discrimination-survey-main-results#TabPubCountrydata1>

The main results of the second minorities and discrimination survey were published in 2017, and can be read at

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2017-eu-midis-ii-main-results_en.pdf

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/assisteddying.html>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/educationassemblies.html>

Genocide Determination Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/genocidedeterminationbill.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriageandcivilpartnershipminimumage.html>

Scottish Parliament

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

TOP

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