



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Israel

House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Entry Clearances: Israel

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7477] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 June (HL5815), whether (1) Arab, and (2) Jewish, citizens of Israel are treated in the same way when visiting the UK.

Entry Clearances: Israeli Settlements

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL7478] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 June (HL5815), whether citizens of Israel living in the occupied territories of Palestine receive the same treatment on entry to the UK as those who live in Israel.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: Citizens of Israel require leave to enter the UK and are subject to the requirements of the Immigration Rules. When making an application for entry clearance overseas, or for entry at the border, all Israeli citizens are considered individually under the rules and no distinction is made on the basis of their place of residence.

Citizens of Israel holding a national passport do not require a visa to visit the UK. All visitors to the UK are assessed against a set of suitability and eligibility criteria, under the Immigration Rules. The rules apply to all visitors, whether they are applying for a visa in advance of travel or are applying for entry at the UK border.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-28/HL7477/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-07-28/HL7478/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-06-16/HL5815/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-22399 John Finnie (Green): UNESCO Heritage Site Hebron – That the Parliament

notes that, in 2017, UNESCO recognised the old city of Hebron in the West Bank as a Palestinian world heritage site; acknowledges that the designation includes a holy site, known to Muslims as the Ibrahimi Mosque, and to Jews as the Tomb of the Patriarchs; supports the Chairman of Jerusalem's Committee in the Palestinian Legislative Council's condemnation of Israel's reported expropriation of part of Al-Ibrahimi Mosque, which it understands took away the Palestinian Authority's municipality of Hebron from its supervision over the Mosque; further supports his reported view that handing control of the Mosque to the Settlement Planning Council "is a new crime"; shares concerns at reports that this measure aims to expropriate the lands of the Mosque to build new Jewish settlement projects; considers the Israeli actions to be a violation of right to ownership of Al-Ibrahim and the other endowments around it; condemns the Israeli court's reported dismissal of a petition filed by Hebron municipality requesting that it cancel the previous permission it had granted for the Settlement Planning Council to install an elevator inside Al-Ibrahimi Mosque; shares fears that the cumulative effect of such acts, and what it sees as an Israeli assertion of sovereignty, would be de facto annexation; hopes that this site, like all other UNESCO heritage sites, can be a place for peaceful coexistence, and calls on all parties to adhere to international law and humanitarian norms.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22399>

Welsh Parliament Written Answer

Procurement Advice: Illegal Settlements

Janet Finch-Saunders (Conservative) [WQ80889] Will the Minister explain whether the Welsh Government will replicate the Scottish Procurement Policy Note issued by The Scottish Government on 22 August 2014 in relation to advice on the options available to purchasers when dealing with companies active in illegal settlements?

Minister for Finance and Trefnydd: The Welsh Government will be publishing a new Procurement Advice Note (PAN) for all the public sector in Wales, along the same lines as the Scottish Policy Note. The PAN will advise buyers that they may exclude from tendering any company that conducts business with occupied territories either directly or via third parties, including with Israeli settlements in Occupied Palestinian Territory, on the grounds of grave professional misconduct under Regulation 57(8)(c), of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. It will also include model questions for use in pre-qualification questions (PQQs) when using the Restricted tender procedure (and initial questions when using the Open tender procedure) to support the Welsh Government and Welsh public sector bodies to take appropriate action.

<https://record.assembly.wales/WrittenQuestion/80889>

The Scottish Procurement Policy Note referred to above can be read at

<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20160106214501mp/http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00458485.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