



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Home Affairs

House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Collective Worship: Coronavirus

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [5213] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, for what reasons more than 30 people are allowed to attend a worship service while weddings are restricted to 30 people during stage three of the covid-19 roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions; and if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of lifting that limit in line with worship service restrictions.

Funerals: Coronavirus

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [4553] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what discussions he has had with relevant stakeholders on determining the number of attendees allowed at a wedding ceremony by how many people the venue can safely accommodate and not a numerical limit in line with funeral restrictions during the covid-19 outbreak.

Weddings: Coronavirus

Damian Hinds (Conservative) [4579] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the pilot of covid-19 testing at large-scale events, whether the Government plans to implement testing protocols for weddings to (a) enable the maximum number of guests to be increased from 30 May 2021 and (b) help that sector recover during its main summer season.

Penny Mordaunt: The Events Research Programme aims to examine the risk of transmission of Covid-19 from attendance at events and explore ways to enable people to attend a range of events safely. To achieve this, the programme will explore how a combination of testing and non-pharmaceutical interventions (actions that people can take to mitigate the spread of coronavirus) can inform decisions on safely lifting restrictions at events from Step 4. The initial research pilots have already started and are taking place throughout May.

At Step 4, which will be no earlier than 21 June, the Government aims to remove all limits on weddings, civil partnership ceremonies and receptions, subject to the outcome of the Events Research Programme and the Social Distancing Review.

Further guidance will be issued ahead of Step 4.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-21/5213>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-20/4553>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-20/4579>

Scottish Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19): 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

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Palestinians

Martyn Day (SNP) [3972] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2021 to Question 615 on Israel: Palestinians, what assessment his Department has made of the level of child casualties in the conflict in Gaza; and what representations he has made to his Israeli counterpart to request the cessation of Israeli airstrikes in densely-populated civilian areas.

James Cleverly: The UK welcomes the announcement of a ceasefire in Israel and Gaza on 20 May, which is an important step to ending the cycle of violence and loss of civilian life. Every effort must be made to avoid loss of life, especially that of children.

The Foreign Secretary visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories on 25 and 26 May for talks with senior leaders and reiterated the UK's firm commitment to the two-state solution as the best way to deliver Palestinian self-determination and ensure Israel's status as a Jewish, democratic state.

The UK has provided an initial \$4.5 million of UK aid to UNRWA's emergency flash appeal, to help address immediate humanitarian needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-19/3972>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-12/615>

Morocco: Western Sahara

Rachel Hopkins (Labour) [4086] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether Morocco claims sovereignty over all of Western Sahara.

James Cleverly: That is a matter for the Government of Morocco. As the Foreign Secretary stated on 11 December 2020, the UK regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/israel-and-morocco-uk-responds-to-announcement-of-normalisation>

The UK supports UN-led efforts to achieve a lasting and mutually acceptable

political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We note the UN's position on the status of Western Sahara, which is set out on its website:

<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/nsqt/western-sahara>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-05-19/4086>

TOP

Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Assisted Dying Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875>

Charities Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

**** Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

House of Commons Library briefing: Regulating Online Harms

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8743/CBP-8743.pdf>

TOP

Consultations ** new or updated today

Race Equality Action Plan: An Anti-racist Wales (closing date 17 June 2021)

<https://gov.wales/race-equality-action-plan-anti-racist-wales>

Evidence for Equality National Survey (EVENS) (closing date 30 June 2021)

<https://evensurvey.co.uk/>

Protect Duty (closing date 2 July 2021)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

Curriculum for Wales Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) guidance (closing date 16 July 2021)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-05/consultation-document-curriculum-for-wales-religion-values-and-ethics-guidance.pdf>

Curriculum for Wales Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Statutory Guidance and Code (closing date 16 July 2021)

https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2021-05/consultation-document-relationships-and-sexuality-education-guidance-and-code_0.pdf

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19 (closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

[TOP](#)

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