



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Oral Answer

#### Northern Ireland Protocol

*col 981 The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Brandon Lewis):* ... We will continue to do what is right for the United Kingdom. We want to work with our partners in the EU. When people get a chance to read through the Command Paper, they will see that we are not taking the opportunity to trigger article 16, because we want to work in partnership and find a solution to all the problems that works for people in Northern Ireland. When we even have the Chief Rabbi and the president of the Board of Deputies coming together to make clear the substantial problems of the Jewish community in Northern Ireland, that should make it clear that the protocol is a problem for communities right across Northern Ireland. We have a duty to resolve it, not play politics with it. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-07-21/debates/D4E9C0BB-69A1-4734-AF0D-D6B8C098C671/NorthernIrelandProtocol#contribution-2520C3F5-FFF4-4397-A3DF-7EC26F501BA0>

*The Command Paper referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1004581/CCS207\\_CCS0721914902-001\\_Northern\\_Ireland\\_Protocol\\_PRINT\\_1\\_2\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004581/CCS207_CCS0721914902-001_Northern_Ireland_Protocol_PRINT_1_2_.pdf)

### House of Commons Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### University of Bristol: Judaism

**Andrew Murrison (Conservative)** [33175] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he has received any representations on the views expressed by Professor David Miller at Bristol University on Jewish students and organisations.

**Andrew Murrison (Conservative)** [33176] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether Bristol University has shared with him the results and conclusions of its investigation into Professor David Miller's conduct towards Jewish students launched in March 2021.

**Michelle Donelan:** The views of Professor Miller are ill-founded and wholly reprehensible, and the government wholeheartedly rejects them. We consider that the University of Bristol could do more to make its condemnation of that conduct clear to current and future students.

I understand the university is currently investigating these comments. The university has not yet completed the investigation. The government is not involved in this process and all details will remain confidential to the university until it has reached its conclusion.

I met with representatives of the University of Bristol in May 2021. I was reassured that the university recognises its obligations to keep Jewish students safe and to support them if they feel in any way threatened. I understand they are committed to completing the confidential investigation as quickly as possible with the rigour required for a complex investigation of this kind.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33175>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-14/33176>

## House of Lords Written Answers

### Livestock: Ritual Slaughter

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated)** [HL1822] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of (1) sheep, and (2) cattle, which were slaughtered without prior stunning in the last year for which figures are available, split by (a) Kosher, and (b) Halal slaughter; and what percentage of UK slaughterhouses are licensed to carry out such slaughter.

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The most recent assessment was carried out by the Food Standards Agency (FSA), on behalf of Defra and the Welsh Government, over a one-week period in 2018. During that period, the numbers slaughtered without stunning were 60,748 sheep by halal and 222 sheep by Shechita; and 214 cattle by halal and 164 cattle by Shechita.

Religious slaughter can only be carried out in an FSA approved slaughterhouse but there is no separate licensing of slaughterhouses carrying out religious slaughter.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1822>

### Livestock: Ritual Slaughter

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated)** [HL1823] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the average time it takes for an unstunned (1) sheep, and (2) cow, to die after having their throat cut in a UK slaughterhouse.

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** No such assessment has been made.

When an animal is slaughtered without stunning, in accordance with religious rites, it must not be moved in any way until it is unconscious and, in any event, not before the expiry of 20 seconds for sheep and 30 seconds for cattle from the neck cut.

These "standstill" times are to ensure the animal is unconscious and insensible so it can be moved and are not related to the time it may take for the animal to die.

All slaughterhouses in England, including those where religious slaughter takes place, must have CCTV in place in all areas where live animals are present.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1823>

### Meat: Ritual Slaughter

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated)** [HL1824] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to legislate to ensure that meat from animals which have been slaughtered without prior stunning is clearly labelled as such.

**Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:** The Government has committed to consult on what can be done through labelling to promote high standards and high welfare across the UK market. First, we will launch a call for evidence this summer to assess the impacts on different types of labelling reforms for animal welfare, including method of slaughter. This will feed into the Government's wide-ranging review on food labelling to ensure that consumers can have confidence in the food they buy and to facilitate the trade of quality British food at home and abroad.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-07/hl1824>

## Crown Prosecution Service

**CPS data summary Quarter 4 2020-2021: Hate Crime**

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publication/cps-data-summary-quarter-4-2020-2021#a03>

## Scottish Government

**Updated Guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): wedding ceremonies and civil partnership registrations, receptions and celebrations**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-weddings-civil-partnerships-receptions-celebrations/>

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral services**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

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## Holocaust

### House of Commons Debate

#### EU Settlement Scheme

*col 1002* **Chris Law (SNP):** I was particularly taken aback by the story of one of my constituents, Irena Jendrycha. Irena is 77 years old and was born in a Nazi concentration camp in 1943. She was scheduled to be executed but was saved when the camp was liberated at the end of the war. Incinerators were being prepared for the extermination of all the camp's inhabitants at 12 o'clock that day but Irena and her mother were thankfully saved just in time, 10 minutes away from death, a moment Irena describes as an act of God.

After the camp's liberation, Irena and her mother were sent to a refugee camp in Italy where her mother met Irena's stepfather, after he had been released from a Russian gulag at the end of the war. As a family, they were transported to the UK and, at the age of four, Irena settled in Scotland. She has spent her life here since then and, in fact, has never even left the UK after arriving all those decades ago.

I am telling this story because Irena is one of the many millions who has had to apply for the EU settlement scheme. She is one of the UK's last holocaust survivors and told me that the application process made her relive every horror of her past. In her own words, she described it by saying that "any goodness within me was sucked out of me like a syringe".

This is morally reprehensible and should shame the Government, but it is the reality of this

scheme and their hostile environment. ... I am sure that Irena is not the only one who has been left feeling like an outcast with no sense of belonging as a result of having to go through the scheme's process to remain in the place they call home. ... Indeed, Irena made it clear that she was appalled by politicians who every year will pose for pictures, speak in debates and attend events remembering the holocaust, yet are willing to make people like her feel unwelcome due to this hostile regime.

Irena has one question for this Government: "Why are you putting me through this? I have to re-live it, through every horror... I went through this at school and now I am going through it again." ...

Finally, Irena asked me to tell her story today, as she wants to be a voice for the many who suffer in silence. I am deeply humbled that I have been able to do that. I want to assure Irena and all our citizens who call Scotland their home that, despite the cruel, callous and shameful approach of this UK Government, Scotland is their home and they should feel thoroughly welcome. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-07-07/debates/08D939C0-8F36-4EB0-B46C-CC55FCF85D62/EUSettlementScheme#contribution-10703EB3-FC68-4C33-9ED0-D92A242B865C>

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## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answers

#### Arms Trade: Israel

**Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour)** [34506] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, for what reason information on licences granted for the export of arms to Israel is not released for six months after those licences were granted.

**Ranil Jayawardena:** Official licensing statistics are published on a quarterly basis, three and a half months after the end of the reported time period. For example, data for 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 was published 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

This is to allow for any reporting delays to be captured in the data, checking processes to be carried out, etc. These processes are to ensure accurate and reliable statistics in line with the Code of Practice for Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-16/34506>

*The statistics referred to above are available from*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-organisation>

#### Arms Trade: Israel

**Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour)** [34507] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of varying the terms of any licences issued for the export of arms to Israel as a result of the violence in that country and the neighbouring Palestinian Territory in May 2021.

**Ranil Jayawardena:** HM Government takes its export responsibilities seriously and will continue to assess all export licences in accordance with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria (the 'Consolidated Criteria'). HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria. We continue to monitor the situation in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories closely, and we will take action to suspend, refuse or revoke licences – in line with the Consolidated Criteria – if circumstances require.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-16/34507>

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### **Gaza: Israel**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [32277] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policy of reports that British-made military components and hardware were used by Israeli forces carrying out airstrikes on Gaza.

#### **Israel: Arms Trade**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [32279] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment his Department has made of the accuracy of reports that Israeli (a) F-16 fighter jets and (b) Apache helicopters carrying out airstrikes on Gaza contain British-supplied components; and if he will make a statement.

**James Cleverly** [*responding to 32277*] and **James Heapey** [*responding to 32279*]: HM Government takes its export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We consider all export applications thoroughly against a strict risk assessment framework and keep all licences under careful and continual review as standard. HM Government will not grant an export licence if to do so would be inconsistent with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. HM Government publishes quarterly and annual statistics on all our export licensing decisions, including details of export licences granted, refused and revoked. These can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/export-control-organisation>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32277>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32279>

#### **Israeli Settlements**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [32278] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the extent of UK firms operating in illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

**James Cleverly:** The UK's position on settlements is articulated in the Overseas Business Risk Guidance: settlements are illegal under international law. There are therefore clear risks related to economic and financial activities in the settlements, and we do not encourage or offer support to such activity. Ultimately it is the decision of each individual or company whether to operate in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The UK Government is clear that advancement of settlements across the West Bank should be suspended immediately.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32278>

#### **Israel: Palestinians**

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [32405] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of (a) the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's finding of 1 July 2021 that Israel is holding three female Palestinian university students in arbitrary detention and (b) the UN Working Group's request that the Government of Israel remedy the situation without delay and that the appropriate remedy would be to release the students immediately.

**James Cleverly:** We are aware of the findings by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on Israel's continued detention of Layan Kayed, Elyaa Abu Hijla and Ruba Asi. We continue to call on the Israeli authorities to comply with their obligations under international law.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-07-13/32405>

The findings referred to above can be read at

[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session90/A\\_HRC\\_WGAD\\_2021\\_8.docx](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Detention/Opinions/Session90/A_HRC_WGAD_2021_8.docx)

## House of Lords Oral Answer

### Spyware

**Viscount Colville of Culross (Crossbench):** I am as appalled as other noble Lords by the revelation about the use of NSO spyware against over 50,000 people across the world. How long have the Government known about the use of this law enforcement-grade software by authoritarian Governments in surveillance of their opponents and journalists across the world, and what have they done about it?

**Lord True:** My Lords, again, I cannot comment on intelligence and operational specifics. I am obviously aware of the issues raised in the reports, which in the first instance are all with the company and Israeli authorities. But we have raised our concerns several times with the Government of Israel about NSO's operations.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-07-21/debates/DE7C321B-415A-4AEA-8691-08E673DACB97/Spyware#contribution-FE5B7A9A-9C32-41D6-9318-6F962AB752CB>

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## 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 (16 to 19 Academies) (Religious Character) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2946>

#### **Education (Assemblies) Bill**

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

#### **Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill**

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

#### **Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025>



## **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017>

## **Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900>

## **Nationality and Borders Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

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

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

## **Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

## **Northern Ireland Assembly**

### **Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill**

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

### **Animal welfare [EU legislation]** (closing date 3 August 2021)

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation_en)

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