



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Written Answer

Police: Ministers of Religion

Lord Patten (Conservative) [HL3240] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of police practice regarding affording priests and religious ministers access to the (1) dead, or (2) dying, at the scene of a crime.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The College of Policing, in their role as the professional body for policing, have produced Authorised Professional Practice (APP) in relation to the management of crime scenes.

Their APP includes guidance on the preservation and security of a scene in order to maintain the integrity and provenance of any material which may be recovered from it. It sets out that investigators should be mindful of the impact that securing and managing a scene can have on a community. However, decisions taken in relation to the management of a crime scene are an operational matter for the Force responding to the incident. In making decisions, we would expect officers to consider the APP and use their professional judgement based on the specific circumstances and demands of the investigation.

The College of Policing have confirmed that while there are no plans at present to amend or provide additional guidance in relation to this area unless the law changes, they would welcome further engagement with faith, community leaders or others who have concerns about the current APP to understand their views and consider possible next steps. They can be contacted via

stakeholders@college.police.uk

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-20/hl3240>

The APP referred to above can be read at

<https://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/investigations/managing-investigations/#managing-scenes>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Gender Recognition Reform: Marriage

Meghan Gallacher (Conservative) [S6W-03465] To ask the Scottish Government whether provision will be made to ensure protection for persons authorised to solemnise a marriage to refuse, on grounds of religious belief or consciousness, to conduct a marriage of a person who makes a self-declaration under the proposed provisions in its draft Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

Shona Robison: There is existing provision on celebrants not contravening provisions on gender reassignment discrimination by refusing to solemnise a marriage if the celebrant reasonably believes the gender of the person getting married has become the acquired gender under the Gender Recognition Act 2004. This provision is contained in paragraph 25 of schedule 3 of the Equality Act 2010: Equality Act 2010 (legislation.gov.uk) which is generally reserved to the UK Parliament. The Scottish Government's intention is this provision would continue to apply under the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-03465>

Scottish Parliament Motion

John Mason (SNP) [S6M-01894] **Scottish Interfaith Week 2021** – That the Parliament welcomes Scottish Interfaith Week 2021, which is taking place from 31 October to 7 November; notes that this year's theme is Together for Our Planet, which ties in with COP26 hosted in Glasgow; acknowledges Interfaith Scotland's belief that climate action is important for people of all backgrounds, faiths and cultures to get involved in; believes that the work being done to spread climate awareness is key to the survival of the planet; understands that Scottish Interfaith Week brings people together while promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures, and encourages everyone who wishes to take part to participate.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S6M-01894>

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Holocaust

House of Commons Written Answers

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65350] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will publish the specifications for the National Holocaust Memorial specified in September 2015 and how close proposed sites had to be to Parliament.

Kemi Badenoch: The site specification published on 7 September 2015 stipulated a prominent location in Central London

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/459046/National_Memorial_and_Learning_Centre.pdf

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65350>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65351] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56726 on the cost of the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, for what reason that answer did not provide the information requested about the (a) category of project, (b) mitigation factor and (c) optimism bias factor used.

Kemi Badenoch: Separately identifying elements of the project appraisal would risk a misleading answer. The HMT Green Book is the Government's comprehensive guidance on project appraisal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65351>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56726>

The Green Book, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938046/The_Green_Book_2020.pdf

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65352] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56726 on the cost of the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, on what dates the independent verification of the planned mitigation relating to optimum bias took place.

Kemi Badenoch: Independent verification is ongoing as part of the programme management arrangements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65352>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56726>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65353] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 27 October 2021 to Question 56730 on the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, what assurances the Government has received on progress in raising the £25 million of private funding required for the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre; and what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the private funding required will be available before main construction begins.

Kemi Badenoch: The Government receives regular progress updates. Funding arrangements will be in place before main construction begins.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65353>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56730>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65354] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 27 October 2021 to Question 56730 on the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, in what form the commitment to provide £25 million of private funding for that centre was made; and if he will publish the wording used.

Kemi Badenoch: Foundation member, Gerald Ronson CBE, has set up an independent charity to raise the funding and has committed to securing pledges of at least £25 million.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65354>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56730>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65355] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56728 on the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, what criteria will determine the appropriate time for providing more detailed figures; and for what reason those criteria are not currently met.

Kemi Badenoch: The timing of publication will depend on the chosen operating model.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65355>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56728>

Holocaust Commission

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65356] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56731 on the Holocaust Commission, what progress has been made to date in implementing the recommendation of the Holocaust Commission relating to an endowment fund to secure the long-term future of Holocaust education.

Kemi Badenoch: The UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation has been established to advise the Government on all the recommendations made by the Holocaust Commission in their 2015 report. Good progress is being made with the implementation of that report and updates on specific elements will be provided at the appropriate time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65356>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56731>

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Peter Bottomley (Conservative) [65357] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, pursuant to the Answer of 25 October 2021 to Question 56727 on the National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service, whether the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation made approximate estimates of the cost of creating that centre on each of the three sites shortlisted in January 2016 by CBRE; and what the basis was for its conclusion that one of the sites was cost prohibitive.

Kemi Badenoch: The Foundation's assessment of sites identified by CBRE, and all other alternatives considered, was set out in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement submitted as part of the planning application and published on Westminster City Council's website.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-28/65357>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-10-15/56727>

The Environmental Statement referred to above can be read at

https://www.westminster.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cd_6.11_environmental_statement_volume_2_main_text_december_2018.pdf

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Israel

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

James Cleverly Yesterday I met with Palestinian PM @DrShtayyeh at #COP26 to discuss impact of climate change. I welcomed the PA's ambitious action plan and efforts to increase coordination for sustainable access to water, food and energy.

<https://twitter.com/JamesCleverly/status/1455852453409214466>

Department for International Trade

22 September 2021: Decision No.1/2021 of the Joint Committee for United Kingdom-Palestinian Authority Trade and Cooperation on adopting the rules of procedure

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-palestinian-authority-political-trade-and-partnership-committee-documents/22-september-2021-decision-no12021-of-the-joint-committee-for-united-kingdom-palestinian-authority-trade-and-cooperation-on-adopting-the-rules-of-p>

22 September 2021: Decision No.2/2021 of the Joint Committee for United Kingdom-Palestinian Authority Trade and Cooperation on amending Protocol 1

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-palestinian-authority-political-trade-and-partnership-committee-documents/22-september-2021-decision-no22021-of-the-joint-committee-for-united-kingdom-palestinian-authority-trade-and-cooperation-on-amending-protocol-1>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Peace Institute

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government which conflicts its new institute for peacekeeping will aim to resolve and by when. (S6O-00320)

The Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture (Angus Robertson): As a global citizen, Scotland aims to contribute to peace efforts through conflict resolution with others. That is why we are committing to establishing a peace institute by the end of 2022. Discussions on the role and remit of the peace institute are at an early stage. I look forward to updating Parliament once we have developed our thinking further. I would welcome Mr Rennie's contribution in the development of the peace institute.

Willie Rennie: I appreciate that the institute will not have an overnight impact, but I am interested in the work that has been done so far, because the situation is urgent. Has there been any early engagement with the warring factions in the Tigray war in Ethiopia? What has been the response from the Israeli and Palestinian authorities? ...

Angus Robertson: ... The peace institute for Scotland will be one of the integral parts of our overall framework for the Scottish council for global affairs. Fundamental to everything that we do is our determination to be a good global citizen. That is reflected in our international development programme and the priority that we give to human rights. The peace institute will contribute to those values. ...

Edward Mountain (Conservative): As perhaps the only member of the Parliament who has served with the United Nations peacekeeping force ... I know how important it is for peace to be negotiated and then, more often than not, policed. Is that not why we need to get behind the established peacemakers, rather than supporting self-promoting idealist plans that undermine the organisations that can actually deliver peace and then police it, such as the UN? ...

Angus Robertson: ... I have had the good fortune of visiting UN peacekeeping operations, including those from the Irish Republic on the Golan Heights. ... Scotland's peace institute will operate within the devolved competence of the Scottish Government. We are already engaged in peace work. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13382&i=121468#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Government Freedom of Information Release

Transfer of ownership of Israel and Palestine teaching resource

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100234659/>

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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 (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>

Public Bill Committee

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-04/debates/e7d92895-a24c-4e12-b319-de3a829ef79f/NationalityAndBordersBill\(FifteenthSitting\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-11-04/debates/e7d92895-a24c-4e12-b319-de3a829ef79f/NationalityAndBordersBill(FifteenthSitting))

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

Labelling for Animal Welfare (closing date 6 December 2021)

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/animal-welfare-market-interventions-and-labelling/labelling-for-animal-welfare/>

Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 22 December 2021)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/proposals-for-bills/proposed-assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

Animal Welfare – revision of EU legislation (Food Safety) (closing date 21 January 2022)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12950-Animal-welfare-revision-of-EU-legislation/public-consultation_en

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan 2022-2025

(closing date not stated)

<https://nihrc.org/news/detail/we-want-to-hear-from-you-about-our-strategic-planning-2022-2025>

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