



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answers

Planning Permission

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [109282] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the steps required to protect effectively sites of Jewish heritage in the planning system.

Christopher Pincher: The Government and its heritage adviser, Historic England, help to protect Jewish sites within the planning system through:

- advising the Secretary of State for DCMS on Listing and Scheduling;
- statutory advice in relation to planning applications that may have an impact on the setting and character of listed synagogues, mikvah or other premises, and;
- engagement with Jewish communities seeking to make changes to their built heritage or manage it more effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-21/109282>

Hamas: Fundraising

Kevan Jones (Labour) [110268] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to tackle Hamas's fundraising activities in the UK since 31 January 2020.

Damian Hinds: Hamas' proscription was extended to cover the organisation in its entirety in November 2021. The extension means that all of Hamas' assets are considered terrorist property and therefore liable to seizure, complementing the asset freeze covering all of Hamas under the Counter-Terrorism (International Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. The asset freeze prevents funds, economic resources or financial services from being made available to, or used by, Hamas. The investigation and prosecution of proscription and terrorist financing offences under the Terrorism Act 2000 is a matter for the police and Crown Prosecution Service. It would be inappropriate for the Government to comment on this matter further.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-24/110268>

House of Lords Written Answer

British Nationality

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour) [HL5490] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the proposed powers in clause 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill (HL Bill 82) to enable the Secretary of State to rescind British citizenship without notice for those with or entitled to dual citizenship would apply to anyone automatically (1) in possession of, or (2) entitled to, citizenship of another country based on a parent's country of birth, whether or not they choose to exercise that entitlement; and if so, whether they have notified other national governments of this change.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The use of powers under section 40 may apply regardless of the person's nationality or country of origin or that of their parents, but it must comply with the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

Clause 9 of the Nationality and Borders Bill relates solely to how a person is notified of a decision to deprive them of their British citizenship. There is no change to the reasons for which a person could be deprived of their British citizenship or to their right of appeal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-18/hl5490>

The Nationality and Borders Bill (as amended in Public Bill Committee) can be read at <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-02/0187/210187v1.pdf>

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See also Commons written answer 110268 " Hamas: Fundraising" in the Home Affairs section above.

House of Commons Written Answers

Israel: Foreign Relations

Kevan Jones (Labour) [110269] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of further opportunities for UK-Israel collaboration following the signing of UK-Israel Strategic Partnership.

James Cleverly: The memorandum of understanding, signed on 29 November and accessible here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-israel-strategic-partnership-memorandum-of-understanding-2021>

commits to the development of a new, bespoke UK-Israel Bilateral Roadmap. This Roadmap will define UK-Israel cooperation for the next decade across the breadth of the bilateral relationship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-24/110269>

Palestinians: Development Aid

Kevan Jones (Labour) [110270] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if she will place a copy of her Department's Memorandums of Understanding with the Palestinian Authority for 2020/21 and 2021/22 in the House of Commons Library.

James Cleverly: In line with our transparency commitments, our 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 Memorandums of Understanding with the Palestinian Authority will be

made available on DevTracker shortly.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-24/110270>

Gaza: Israel

Caroline Ansell (Conservative) [110479] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with her Israeli counterpart on increased Hamas rocket fire towards Israel from Gaza; and if she will make a statement.

James Cleverly: Our position on Hamas is clear: we condemn Hamas' continued attacks against civilians which are unacceptable and unjustifiable. We continue to call upon Hamas and other terrorist groups to permanently end their incitement and indiscriminate rocket fire against Israel. Hamas must renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept previously signed agreements.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-24/110479>

Department for International Trade

UK takes first steps towards new trade deal with Israel

... International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan will today meet with Israel Minister of Economy Orna Barbivai to kickstart preparations for a new trade deal that will deepen economic ties between long-standing allies. ...

The UK is Israel's third largest trading partner, with £2.7 billion worth of British exports going there in 2020 and an overall trade relationship worth £4.8 billion.

Last year, Israeli investment into the UK was worth over £200m and secured hundreds of jobs across the UK. A new agreement will aim to play to our strengths as fellow tech superpowers, boosting our strong trade and investment relationship in industries of the future like digital, services and life sciences and creating high-paying jobs across the country. ...

During her three-day visit, the Secretary of State will encourage greater collaboration between UK and Israeli tech industries. ... She will also visit the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where she will discuss UK and Israeli agri-tech expertise. ...

The Secretary of State will also travel to Ramallah to meet with PNA Minister of National Economy Khalid Osaily and visit the UK-Palestinian Tech Hub to strengthen links between UK and Palestinian tech enterprises.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: We're using our independent trade policy to revitalise old agreements we inherited from the EU. Unlike in the past, we can now work with friends and allies like Israel to strike deals that are truly tailored to our strengths in areas like digital trade, services, and life sciences.

This new trade agreement is part of our commitment to build a stronger relationship with Israel and is a huge opportunity to deepen ties with a fellow democracy and tech superpower so together we can create well-paid, high value jobs in both countries.

Chris Southworth, Secretary-General of the International Chambers of Commerce, says: Israel and the UK are two highly innovation focused economies with deep cultural affinity between both nations so this is a fantastic opportunity for both governments to set new standards in trade in services ...

As part of her visit, the International Trade Secretary will also confirm plans to host a UK-Israel Innovation Summit this spring.

The UK and Israel have long shared a culture of entrepreneurial, tech-savvy and innovative businesses, and the summit will showcase the shared talents and skills of world-leading British and Israeli companies ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-first-steps-towards-new-trade-deal-with-israel>

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>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-01/debates/27B38534-29F7-4BAB-A06F-3D76133377EE/NationalityAndBordersBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-01/debates/DB8DE906-AF60-4B7D-9334-4362B62CC74F/NationalityAndBordersBill>

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

Marriage Law (Northern Ireland) (closing date 18 February 2022)

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-marriage-law>

Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights (closing date 8 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/human-rights-act-reform-a-modern-bill-of-rights>

Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland (closing date 28 March 2022)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

**** Trade with Israel** (closing date 30 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/trade-with-israel-call-for-input>

CPS: Public interest guidance for suicide pact and 'mercy killing' type cases

(closing date 9 April 2022)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-public-interest-guidance-suicide-pact-and-mercy-killing-type-cases-0>

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