



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Debate

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill: Lords consideration of Commons amendments col 2210 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Lord Benyon): My Lords, I beg to move that this House do agree with the Commons in their Amendments 1 and 2. Amendment 1 would require any recommendations produced by the animal sentience committee to respect “religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage”.

We have carefully considered representations made by noble Lords in debate on a similar amendment, tabled by my noble friend Lord Forsyth of Drumlean. Honourable Members in the other place raised many of the same concerns. We recognise the strength of feeling in both Houses. We have listened, and we have accepted the amendment.

The Government have always sought to create a targeted, balanced and proportionate accountability mechanism within this Bill. We want the animal sentience committee to be led by science and to comprise members who are experts in sentience and animal welfare. Religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage will be neither their area of expertise nor their focus. This is a role for Ministers. We expect the committee to respect provisions and customs relating to these areas when they make recommendations under Clause 2(3) of the Bill.

We have always been clear that it is not the role of the committee to make value judgments about policy or to provide recommendations that do not reflect its expertise or its remit. This amendment will provide additional reassurance on this point. ...

Lord Trees (Crossbench): ... I accept these amendments, particularly Amendment 1, but, as a vet and a veterinary scientist, I have to say that I do not condone some of the activities covered under the amendment in terms of, “religious rites, cultural traditions and historical heritage.”

Some of those activities are not consistent with best practice in animal welfare science or indeed regulation, and I will take this opportunity to make a plea to those directly involved to consider very carefully and to reflect on whether practices which had some historical relevance in ancient times are relevant, necessary or at all acceptable in the 21st century. Having said that, I respect national and international laws pertaining to freedoms—in

particular, Article 9 of the Human Rights Act on religious freedoms. ...

col 2213 Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat): ... [The amendment] to Clause 2, inserts the provision around religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage. It seems sensible that those who have strongly held religious beliefs should be able to have those rites and cultural traditions respected; this is the correct way to proceed. However, insertion of the provision is not necessary, as the Bill already gives the ASC the right to consider non-welfare factors, but we are content to let it stand. ...

col 2215 Lord Benyon: ... The Government would prefer all animals to be stunned before slaughter, but we respect the rights of Muslims and Jews to eat meat prepared in accordance with their religious beliefs. Strict rules are already in place which govern these slaughter methods. Official vets from the Food Standards Agency are present in approved slaughterhouses to monitor and enforce animal welfare requirements. ...

[Amendment agreed]

To read the full transcript see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-07/debates/0132059F-ED6E-4453-AFBC-0198A6CED8FC/AnimalWelfare\(Sentience\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-07/debates/0132059F-ED6E-4453-AFBC-0198A6CED8FC/AnimalWelfare(Sentience)Bill(HL))

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Israel

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Liz Truss: Appalled by the latest reports from Tel Aviv, where innocent people enjoying a Thursday night with friends and family were targeted by gunfire. The UK stands with Israel and against this abhorrent violence.

<https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1512151769912160271>

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Foreign Affairs

House of Lords Written Answer

Iran: Nuclear Power

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL7324] To ask Her Majesty's Government what sanctions, if any, they have placed on the Central Bank of Iran and the National Development Fund; what assessment they have made of the effectiveness of those sanctions; what assessment they have made of the possibility of lifting those sanctions in a re-negotiated Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran (JCPOA); and what assessment they have made of the reported funding by those entities of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Quds Force, and Hezbollah.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: Should the deal in Vienna be concluded, the UK would not lift any sanctions. The UK maintains a number of sanctions consistent with the nuclear deal, including sanctions related to human rights, proliferation and terrorism. The full UK Sanctions List is available on the GOV.UK website (www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-sanctions-list), which provides details of those individuals and entities designated under sanctions regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act. We keep all regimes

and designations under close review.

The UK will continue to condemn the IRGC's destabilising regional activities and maintains a range of sanctions aimed at deterring such behaviour. This includes IRGC political, financial and military support to a number of militant and proscribed groups including Hizballah in Lebanon and Syria, and militias in Iraq. The UK stands firmly against recruitment and use of child soldiers in conflict, as outlined by the Paris Principles which the government has endorsed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-24/hl7324>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

**** Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill**

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

Lords consideration of Commons amendments

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-07/debates/0132059F-ED6E-4453-AFBC-0198A6CED8FC/AnimalWelfare\(Sentience\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-07/debates/0132059F-ED6E-4453-AFBC-0198A6CED8FC/AnimalWelfare(Sentience)Bill(HL))

Assisted Dying Bill

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

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**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Antisemitism Policy Trust briefing

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Online-Safety-Bill-Briefing.pdf>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes tomorrow**

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>

Independent Review of Social Cohesion and Resilience (closing date 2 June 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-review-of-social-cohesion-and-resilience-call-for-evidence/independent-review-of-social-cohesion-and-resilience-call-for-evidence>

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