



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Lords Written Answer

Food: Northern Ireland

Lord Dodds of Duncairn (DUP) [HL7545] To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent assessment they have made of (1) the availability of kosher food in Northern Ireland, and (2) the restrictions imposed by the provisions of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland, when fully implemented, on the movement of kosher food from Great Britain to Northern Ireland.

Lord Benyon: We recognise the importance of ensuring the Jewish community in Northern Ireland can continue to access kosher meats.

We have been made aware that a supplier decided to stop supplying kosher meat to Northern Ireland. They explained that this was owing to difficulty for them complying with the Official Controls Regulation which applies in Northern Ireland by virtue of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

We have been working with those concerned to identify alternative options. An alternative GB supplier of kosher meats has now been identified.

Goods moving from GB-NI would not need any certification under the proposal set out in the Government's July 2021 Command Paper, *Northern Ireland Protocol – the way forward*.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/hl7545>

The Command Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1008451/CCS207_CCS0721914902-005_Northern_Ireland_Protocol_Web_Accessible_1_.pdf

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Israel

House of Lords Written Answer

Preventive Medicine: Coronavirus

Lord Mendelsohn (Labour) [HL7709] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have had discussions with any country which is protecting the clinically extremely vulnerable by making pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP) available to these individuals; and, if so, which countries they have had those discussions with.

Lord Kamall: The Department's Antivirals and Therapeutics Taskforce is evaluating the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis and how it could be deployed in the United Kingdom. We have recently engaged with the United States of America on a bilateral basis and discussed with Singapore and Israel during a UK Health Security Agency international forum. These discussions have provided an understanding of the experiences of these countries for the clinical and logistic application of pre-exposure prophylaxis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-05/hl7709>

United Nations

Holy Days Should Be for Reflection, Not Incitement, Secretary-General Stresses in Statement on Jerusalem, Reiterating 'Provocations' Must Stop Immediately

The following statement was issued today by the Spokesperson for UN Secretary-General António Guterres:

The Secretary-General remains deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation in Jerusalem, particularly the incidents in and around the holy sites. He is actively engaged with leaders to do all they can to lower tensions, avoid inflammatory actions and rhetoric, and restore calm.

The provocations must stop immediately. The ongoing holy days for Muslims, Jews and Christians should be a period of peace and reflection, not incitement and violence. The Secretary-General reiterates that the status quo at the holy sites in Jerusalem must be upheld and respected.

He is committed to supporting Palestinians and Israelis to resolve the conflict on the basis of relevant United Nations resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements. The Secretary-General also reaffirms the need to avoid the excessive use of force and to stop all unilateral measures, like settlements and evictions, that can undermine the two-State solution.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sgsm21241.doc.htm>

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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>

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>

Ping Pong: Commons consideration of Lords message

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-20/debates/928E4063-939E-4DD2-9E5D-8CAE431145EB/NationalityAndBordersBill>

Online Safety Bill

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

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated today

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