



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### Westminster Hall Debate

#### **Antisemitism and Other Racism in Football**

*col 405WH Theresa Villiers (Conservative):* ... Although much good work has been done to seek to drive racism out of football, it remains a problem in the game, as it does in wider society. I want to focus today on anti-Jewish racism. I feel that does not get the attention it deserves, and that the gravity of the harm that it causes is not fully recognised. I want to pay tribute to organisations, such as Action Against Discrimination, Kick It Out, the all-party parliamentary group against antisemitism, and to Lord Mann, the Government's independent adviser on antisemitism, for all the work they have done to tackle the pollution of our national game.

It would be helpful to list a few of many recent antisemitic incidents connected to football. In January 2021, a vile antisemitic comment was posted online, directed at Celtic's Israeli midfielder Nir Bitton, following a game against Rangers. In March 2021, a "Happy Passover" message, posted by Aston Villa, received a number of negative and abusive responses. Those comments were deleted, and a further statement was posted by the club, which received 27,000 dislikes. In April that year, the announcement of a proposed super league prompted an outpouring of antisemitic hate on social media, much of it directed at the owners of Chelsea, Manchester United and Spurs. Vile tropes and stereotypes were deployed, and Jews were accused of "ruining football".

In August, talkSPORT issued an apology after presenters failed to challenge a caller who used an antisemitic stereotype on air in relation to a Jewish figure in football. In November last year, three men were arrested in connection with a social media video showing West Ham fans chanting an antisemitic song towards a Jewish man on a plane. In that same month, a Chelsea supporter was jailed for posting antisemitic tweets, including photos of Auschwitz and a man performing a Nazi salute.

In January this year, an Everton supporter was found guilty of singing antisemitic chants. He was given a football banning order, preventing him from attending matches for three years. In March 2022, a clip was posted on Twitter of a group enthusiastically singing an anti-Spurs song, ending with the words, "f-ing Jew". In May, two Burnley fans were arrested on suspicion of racially aggravated public order offences, after one of them was videoed

making a Nazi salute towards Tottenham supporters during a premier league game.

*col 406WH* I am afraid time prevents me from embarking on anything like a comprehensive account of the harassment and intimidation to which Jewish people are routinely subjected at football matches. ... A very long list of antisemitic episodes in football across Europe is set out in a 2021 report by Lord Mann. He was assisted in that work by 15 young people who are ambassadors for the Holocaust Educational Trust. ...

I want to highlight some of the positive work that is underway ... For example, in January 2018, Chelsea football club announced a “Say No To Antisemitism” campaign to raise awareness and educate their players, staff, fans and the wider community ... In January 2020, it became the first club to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism. In December that year, the English Premier League also adopted that definition, and many clubs followed suit. The English Football League and the Football Association did so on Holocaust Memorial Day 2021. In February 2021, Kick It Out, the game’s leading anti-racism body, working with Lord Mann, prepared an action plan to combat antisemitism ...

That brings me to the Y-word. I appreciate that it is a contested term, but there can be no doubt that it is widely viewed as offensive and racist—it is a term of abuse. ... Its inclusion in Tottenham chants is therefore offensive in itself, and can also trigger antisemitic responses, with consequent harms. As such, following a review of the issue, the club stated that “it is time to move on from associating this term with our Club.”

*col 407WH* It went on to say: “The Club already refrains from engaging with any social media handle or bio that contains the Y-word and we do not permit it being printed on shirts in any official retail outlets or used in any official Club context”, to which my response would be, “About time too.” ...

While these various initiatives to root out antisemitism in football are very much to be welcomed, there is clearly much more to be done. The professional game needs to take this issue much more seriously than it does currently. ... Urgent action is needed to crack down on the online manifestation of football-related anti-Jewish racism.

The Football (Offences) Act 1991 made racist chanting that is “threatening, abusive or insulting to a person” an offence when committed within football grounds. The police need to take action when those offences are committed. They need to take antisemitic crime in the football arena much more seriously than they do at the moment, and there needs to be enforcement against this kind of behaviour online, as well. ...

*col 408WH* Antisemitism is a poison that dates back millennia. Millions have lost their lives to that vicious hatred over the centuries, culminating in the horrors of the Holocaust and industrialised killing. Every year on Holocaust Remembrance Day we make a commitment never to forget what happened and to remain always vigilant against antisemitism and racism. ...

*col 409WH* **Rosie Duffield (Labour):** ... Back in 2008, Lord Mann, then the hon. Member for Bassetlaw, undertook a big piece of work called, “Antisemitism in European football: a scar on the beautiful game”. He updated his report as the Government’s independent adviser on antisemitism, working with young football fans in association with the Holocaust Educational Trust. The report highlights some shocking examples: Nazi salutes; the use of swastikas; disgusting racist chants; and even the depiction of Anne Frank on some mock football cards.

While it is positive that some police forces and football clubs are striving to do better, others inexplicably turn a blind eye to this particular form of racism. Perhaps the title of David Baddiel’s book is especially relevant here: “Jews Don’t Count”. ...

*col 410WH* **Scott Benton (Conservative):** ...Historically, the use of the Y-word by Tottenham fans was initially taken as a positive step to deflect antisemitic abuse that they were subjected to at matches more than 40 years ago from opposition fans who faced no sanctions for their actions. The term continues to be used to the present day by many of my fellow supporters. Tottenham, as a club, has always maintained that fans have never

used the word with any deliberate attempt to offend. Spurs fans often use the word as a term of endearment towards one another, and as a defence mechanism against the antisemitic abuse that still exists in the stands today ... However, it is clear that not all Jewish supporters see the term in the same way. ...

It should be made clear that the use of the Y-word by Tottenham fans should never be cited as an excuse for the evil of antisemitism, both in society at large and in football. ...

On my way to a game at the old Upton Park ground, I was in a pub with West Ham fans. After singing disparaging chants about Tottenham, those fans proceeded to hiss to imitate the evil of the holocaust, in a direct reference to Tottenham's Jewish heritage. It was not just a few mindless idiots, but dozens of people, and it lasted a long time. ... it was only last month that an opposition supporter at Tottenham was ejected for making a Nazi salute—again, presumably in reference to the Jewish connection to our club. ... a further example would be the use of the Israel flag by Rangers fans, which is often met with blatant antisemitism online as well.

**col 412WH Jim Shannon (DUP):** ... I recall an incident that occurred in 2020, just after England's victory against Ukraine in the 2020 Euros. A 17-year-old boy admitted to verbally abusing a Jewish man on the London underground. Sometimes people understand they are wrong, but they still do not take the correct precautions to not say these things. Respect for others is so important, but we live in an era where racial abuse is all too common and young people see it being normalised through social media. ...

Our modern society must drive for inclusivity at every level, and rightly so. However, on too many occasions, this inclusivity does not extend to our Jewish friends ... and society must grasp that. Those Jewish friends are as British as you and I, and that lack of inclusivity needs to be addressed. ...

**col 413WH Christian Wakeford (Labour):** ... There is a growing trend of Jews attending games hoping to see their team defend with vigour, but instead finding themselves defending their children from racist vitriol. However, this is news to no one. Everyone knows that antisemitism has haunted the stands of British football for far too long. Antisemitism seems to be a common feature of the sport. While some clubs have shown an increasing commitment to stamping out prejudice and discrimination in their clubs through the adoption of the IHRA definition, as well as Chelsea's "Say No to Antisemitism" campaign, it seems to have had little traction as of yet.

We see examples of antisemitism in football everywhere. Tottenham Hotspur football club is, of course, home to a large Jewish population, and rival supporters have used the pejorative Y-word ... with little consequence for doing so. West Ham fans found themselves banned from attending club games after they sang antisemitic songs on a commercial flight. Arsenal fans spat at Spurs fans that they would be "gassing Jews". Even at grassroot and junior football, I have heard local reports from Maccabi of their Jewish players—some only seven years of age—being hissed at by players on the opposite side, replicating the noise of the gas chambers. ...

**col 414WH** We need tougher sanctions against offenders, action by social media companies, better education about the plight of Jews and all other races who find themselves subject to racist attacks, and a zero-tolerance policy that does not allow for repeat offenders, as well as—perhaps—policies that punish offenders retrospectively.

The normalisation of racist abuse is a significant step towards the normalisation of racist attacks. We need to be hard on this issue, otherwise we will bring about a worse situation in which our ethnic minorities are physically abused. ...

**col 416WH Gavin Newlands (SNP):** ... Young fans are incredibly impressionable to the behaviour of footballers. ... a 2018 CNN investigation into antisemitism in Europe found that a third of Europeans in the poll knew little or nothing about the Nazis' systematic killing of 6 million Jews. A survey carried out on behalf of the Claims Conference 2018 found that 11% of American adults were not sure they had ever even heard of the holocaust. ...

Equality in football is essential, free from discrimination such as antisemitism and other forms of racism. ...

**col 417WH Jeff Smith (Labour):** ... football is a game that brings people together. It can break down divides, foster friendships and create a positive sense of community. But a minority of fans bring unacceptable attitudes and language. UK football policing authorities note that there was an increase in hate crime incidents reported in stadiums in the first half of last season. ...

It is important to address antisemitism in the context of a worrying upturn in antisemitic hate crime in the UK. In recent years, as we have heard in this debate, Jewish fans have been abused at matches and Nazi salutes have been used. Antisemitic slurs are still used online in relation to football. Antisemitic chants are still sometimes sung from football stands across Europe. ...

The history of the Y-word at Spurs is complex. I used to go and watch Man City at White Hart Lane in the '80s, and Spurs fans used to use the term to take ownership and as a badge of pride. However, times and attitudes change. While not all Jewish Spurs fans find the word offensive, it is widely regarded as an antisemitic slur and the majority of those surveyed by Spurs agreed it was a racist word. We support the club's efforts to ditch the Y-word. ...

**col 418WH The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Nigel Huddleston):** ... we all share the view that it is of the utmost importance to continue tackling the issues of antisemitism and racism in football, in sport and, indeed, in society.

That is why the Government and its arm's length bodies, Sport England and UK Sport, have worked closely with football authorities and the sector to ensure that tackling all forms of racism and discrimination remains a priority. ...

However, as we have seen in the media and online over the past few years, there have been continued incidents of discrimination at and around football matches. Over the past year, incidents have been recorded of antisemitism and of Jewish fans being abused in the UK and across Europe. ...

**col 419WH** As the national governing body for football, the FA has a responsibility to address all forms of discrimination in the game. Of course, that includes antisemitism, and I know that this is something that it does take seriously. Last year ... the FA and the English Football League joined the Premier League in adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism. That provides clear and united guidance across football on what language or actions may be considered antisemitic. The FA has issued fines and bans to players found guilty of antisemitic behaviour. It also works closely with independent bodies, such as Kick It Out, to use the vast reach of football to help educate people, in an effort to wipe out antisemitism. ...

**Jonathan Lord (Conservative):** ... in 2017 there was a small graffiti war, played out on walls and garage doors in Woking, that contained a lot of antisemitism, and that was from rival Polish football fans. As well as attacking things domestically, will we use our positions in UEFA and FIFA—we have a World cup coming—to ensure that the IHRA definition is also imposed internationally and that our international friends also take this matter really seriously?

**Nigel Huddleston:** ... Of course, we do try, both as a Government and in the sporting bodies and entities whose voice carries a lot of weight internationally. ...

This offence and abuse can be a hate crime, which is illegal, and can be and often is pursued in the courts. It is not banter; it is not something to be taken trivially. It can and should lead to pursuits in the courts. ... times change and attitudes change, and it is not really an excuse to say, "Oh, well, we used to do this in the past." ...

**col 420WH** Even where action may not be intended to be abusive or offensive, the reality is that it can be, and there is a responsibility on individuals, governing bodies and clubs to

communicate that it can be and is offensive to their fanbase. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-22/debates/38A9C59A-455F-4DDA-B24E-6615E26582BA/AntisemitismAndOtherRacismInFootball>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Antisemitism-In-Football-For-Online-1.pdf>  
and

[https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Football\\_Booklet.pdf](https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Football_Booklet.pdf)

## House of Lords

### Schools Bill, Committee Stage

col 295 **Baroness Whitaker (Labour):** ... The rationale of Amendment 143J is that attendance policies should respect protected characteristics—that is, those that are cardinal to a child’s identity and enjoin small, short absences such as for religious or other festivals or necessary travel by parents.

**Baroness Barran [Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Education]:** My Lords, the Government understand the importance of schools developing their attendance policies in a way that considers the characteristics of individual pupils, including those with protected characteristics that may mean they face greater barriers to attendance. The Equality Act 2010 protects pupils with certain characteristics, such as race, disability and religion, from discrimination in their educational setting. Schools have clear duties under the Act, and we expect them to develop all policies, including attendance policies, in line with those duties.

The department recently published attendance guidance, *Working Together To Improve School Attendance*, which we intend to put on a statutory footing through the Bill. In addition, through this guidance and their own Equality Act obligations, academy trust boards and governing bodies of maintained schools are expected to ensure that their schools have an attendance policy that considers their obligations under the Act.

As I believe the amendment to be unnecessary, I ask the noble Baroness to withdraw it.

*Amendment withdrawn*

col 305 **Baroness Meacher (Crossbench):** ... I applaud the Government for including in this Bill Clause 56, which seeks to ensure that schools currently avoiding registration and inspection are included in Ofsted’s remit in the future. ... This country has been standing by while an unknown number of extremist, fundamentalist, isolationist schools are teaching children to reject the values of the country in which they are growing up. What will some of those children do when they grow up? Will they join a terrorist organisation? We simply do not know.

Ofsted ... says that at least 6,000 children are being educated in 900 unregistered schools, or, as it puts it, likely many more. It is very concerning that Ofsted has issued more than 100 warning notices to those it believes are running illegal schools, and 40% of those settings have not changed to comply with registration as a result. These are people who do not respect the law, so we have to be very tough with them.

It is worrying that children are not learning the most fundamental subjects, including maths and English. Not only is the narrow religious curriculum in many unregistered schools unacceptable but these schools may have unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Ofsted says that it found settings with severe health and safety hazards, and other problems. No one is able to check on these things so long as schools evade registration. ...

In Clause 56, the Government are seeking to extend registration to independent education institutions—that is fantastic—but only to those which provide all, or the majority, of the child’s education. Herein lies a significant loophole. The proprietors of some such settings

know that if they are inspected, they will have to choose between changing to something very different and closing down. They are therefore very wily and will do all they can to continue to evade regulation and inspection. They will use every loophole they can find to wriggle out of their safeguarding duties. Amendment 146B would limit registration to establishments that provide 18 hours of teaching for 39 weeks of the year. That would be something, but I believe these schools would adjust their regime and continue to avoid registration.

Without doubt, as soon as the Bill receives Royal Assent, these proprietors—who all know one another; there are little groups of them—will get together and split their provision into separate morning and afternoon settings, or some other configuration such as one teacher taking kids in the morning, another in the afternoon. Neither will then be subject to registration under Clause 56 as it stands ...

*col/ 306* By applying registration only to establishments providing at least a quarter of a child's education, [amendment 147] would not catch common after-school classes in music, sport or, indeed, religion. ...

Amendment 152 would close off another loophole for unregistered schools. Many of them operate in private dwellings; indeed, 85% of illegal education settings in Hackney, the borough with the greatest prevalence of illegal schools, are private dwellings. If the proprietor puts down a mattress in a school, on inspection, the school may be classified as a dwelling and a warrant would be required under the law as it stands. Without a warrant, the inspection would be invalidated, so, as Clause 63 stands, a warrant will be required for almost every investigation to prevent that. This will generate unacceptable pressure on the courts, the courts will then put a whole lot of pressure on the inspectors to prove that they really need the warrant, and the whole system could be snarled up. It is reasonable to suppose that determined proprietors will disguise their settings as dwellings to try to protect themselves from Ofsted's new powers. ...

*col/ 307* Clause 63 introduces a requirement that inspectors can enter a private dwelling only if a warrant has been issued, and a request for a warrant is permissible only if consent has been refused. This leaves in limbo the situation of an inspection in what could be deemed a private dwelling where consent has been given. ...

Registration and inspection of schools must, of course, be dealt with sensitively and authorities cannot be given free access to private dwellings without a warrant if consent is not given. Nevertheless, if the first intimation for Ofsted that a school is in a so-called private dwelling is when it attempts to enter the building, it will need to go away, fill in the forms and ultimately get a warrant, which could take a week or more. This will allow lots of time for the proprietors to conceal, dispose of or fabricate false evidence about whether a school was in operation within the dwelling. Surprise is essential in such situations. ...

*col/ 308 Lord Mendelsohn (Labour):* ... These amendments relate to unregistered schools or, more accurately, illegal schools. The Government's measures, together with the provisions on home schooling, represent an important translation of the commitments to address a long-standing problem. ...

I am pleased that the Government have drafted the Bill with a strong acknowledgement that there are those who are determined to dodge or ignore the legislation. The amendments I propose are suggestions as to how any potential gaps could be eliminated in the Bill. What was previously unacceptable must no longer be possible. ...

... it is vital that local authorities have the capacity to seek and probe to get relevant information, as those who use illegal schools largely claim that they are home educating. This is clear dishonesty. ...

Those who provide or use unregistered settings, many from closed communities and organised groups, have a strong intent to avoid the rules and no interest in balancing the rights to educate with proper safeguarding. They have used loopholes and the lack of investigative rights, access, capacity and data to avoid complying with the existing law, so it is vital that the Bill properly ensures that adherence follows its passage in law.

The Bill goes to great lengths to address this. The definition based on time at unregistered settings helps to close the leeway given to the nature of supervision and addresses the false representation of home schooling. Providing powers to Ofsted to enter and inspect is welcome, and strengthened by being underpinned by police support if needed—but I note and strongly agree with the points from the noble Baroness, Lady Meacher, on this one. ...

*col 309* The key measure is to make “provision for Ofsted to have the authority to investigate any suspicions of an institution trying to work around its qualification as an educational institution, and therefore the regulatory provisions, and that Ofsted ... can determine whether to initiate an investigation if this is perceived to be occurring and that there is accountability for these actions.”

Amendment 171D is another discouragement but tries to target not just the providers but the enablers, who may try to assist the establishment or operation of such institutions but can avoid the definitions of “provider” in the current framing of the Bill. The amendment “would enable the revocation of charity status to ensure that charity status is not accorded to those involved in helping, assisting or facilitating disobedience”. ...

*col 314* **Baroness Barran:** ... we consulted in 2020 on defining full-time provision as being 18 or more hours per week. However, we concluded that this approach would encourage gaming of the system, allowing settings to opt out of regulation by operating just short of the threshold. ...

*col 315* Regulating part-time settings would address the risk that currently unregistered full-time provision is split into separate settings. ... However, most part-time provision does serve a legitimate purpose, and this risks interrupting the support and education that those settings provide, where it is provided legitimately. We believe that automatically applying the regulatory regime for independent schools to therapeutic and part-time settings would be inappropriate and likely to introduce unnecessary burdens. However, we will look at this again ...

The powers as drafted aim to balance the need to enable Ofsted to search effectively with the safeguarding of civil liberties. [Amendment 152] would risk disrupting that balance. I know that the noble Baroness’s concern is that one would lose the element of surprise if inspectors went to an address and then had to go away and get a warrant, but requiring warrants before people’s homes are searched, particularly where consent is not given to enter the property, is a proportionate safeguard.

However, we do believe that the element of surprise can be maintained, because the Bill allows for pre-emptive warrants if one of three conditions are met. Those conditions are that: “consent to enter is unlikely to be given unless a warrant is produced”, that “it is not practicable to communicate with any person entitled to grant entry”, or that “seeking consent to enter may frustrate or seriously prejudice the purpose of entering.”

So I think we have the grounds, in the context the noble Baroness describes, to use pre-emptive warrants. ...

All registered independent schools that are charities are required to provide a broad education, and the inspectorates and the Department for Education can hold them to account for this. Settings which are not registered independent schools may have charitable status, but they of course need to show that they meet their charitable objects, including through the reporting each year to the Charity Commission that all registered charities have to undertake.

*col 316* Where a charitable setting is operating in such a way that it is providing a full-time education to sufficient primary or secondary pupils, Clause 56 would require it to register. It can then be held to account to provide a broad education, just as with other schools. We do not see the need to remove charitable status from charities that are not operating as schools. ...

The Government consider that Amendment 171C is unnecessary. Ofsted can already inspect settings reasonably believed to be operating full-time unlawfully and without

registration. That would permit investigating the activities at a number of premises where inspectors reasonably believed on the basis of evidence that they were really operating as one institution. That evidence might relate to individuals acting in concert, and other evidence—

**Baroness Meacher:** ... Has she been in touch with Ofsted and is she satisfied that it is reassured that it will be able to inspect these illegal schools—these, in my view, very high-risk schools? Is Ofsted content?

**Baroness Barran:** I am obviously cautious about speaking on behalf of Ofsted, but we have worked closely with it in developing this legislation. My understanding is that it is content, but I would not want to speak on its behalf, as it is an independent body. ...

I was talking about how institutions might be operating separately but effectively as one institution. The evidence Ofsted might use to establish that could relate to individuals acting in concert or other evidence of links between the activities, such as the same pupils being educated on different premises. Clause 63 is intended to enhance Ofsted's powers of inspection in these circumstances. This could include the investigation of so-called "tapestry schools" ... In brief, we believe that those loopholes are closed.

As I explained, we do not believe it appropriate to regulate part-time settings until we have considered the response to the call for evidence on unregistered alternative provision. However ... parents have a duty to ensure that their children who are of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education. ... A parent who sends their child to a different setting that provides only a narrow religious education with no secular education each weekday is very unlikely to be ensuring that their child receives a suitable full-time education ...

*Amendments withdrawn or not moved*

**To read the full transcript see**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-22/debates/69622FA6-4853-4188-9D4A-D49BDF9BE8DC/SchoolsBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-22/debates/69622FA6-4853-4188-9D4A-D49BDF9BE8DC/SchoolsBill(HL))

*The amendments referred to above can be read at*

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/46902/documents/2003>

*The guidance referred to above can be read at*

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1073616/Working\\_together\\_to\\_improve\\_school\\_attendance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1073616/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance.pdf)

## Senedd Written Answer

**Andrew RT Davies (Conservative)** [WQ85473] What is the Welsh Government doing to tackle racism in schools?

**Minister for Education and the Welsh Language (Jeremy Miles):** The Anti-racist Wales Action Plan launched on 7 June contains a number of actions for education. These include the strengthening of our 'Rights, Respect, Equality' anti-bullying guidance, and strengthening data collection and reporting of racist incidents and harassment in schools in Wales; focus on youth work; embedding an understanding of anti-racism, and the confidence and ability to challenge harmful norms across the curriculum; to improve the diversity of the teaching workforce and embed anti-racist professional learning.

<https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/85473>

*The Action Plan referred to above can be read at*

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/anti%E2%80%91racist-wales-action-plan.pdf>

TOP

## Holocaust

### House of Lords Written Answer

#### National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service: Disclosure of Information

**Baroness Deech (Crossbench)** [HL771] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they used the section 21 Freedom of Information Act 2000 exemption in their 27 May response to a request relating to optimism bias in the costing of the UK Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre (FOI 17451012); and where the information requested is already available on the (1) percentage allowance for optimism bias, (2) category of project, (3) mitigation factor, and (4) optimism bias factor.

**Lord Greenhalgh:** We received a request for information which precisely matched a parliamentary question. The answer to the parliamentary question is publicly available

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/hl771>

FOI 17451012, referred to above, is not currently available online.

TOP

## Israel

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Trade Agreements

**Diana Johnson (Labour)** [14452] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, what recent steps she has taken to increase the proportion of UK trade through free trade agreements.

**Penny Mordaunt:** We have secured trade agreements with 70 countries plus the EU, partners that accounted for £808bn of UK bilateral trade in 2021.

The Department for International Trade can report significant progress this year. We have signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with New Zealand and a Digital Economy Agreement with Singapore. We have completed three rounds of FTA negotiations with India and one round with Canada. We have completed a Call for Input on an enhanced FTA with Israel, and launched FTA negotiations with Mexico, Switzerland and Greenland. We are preparing to launch FTA negotiations with the Gulf Cooperation Council.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/14452>

### House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

#### Israel: Palestinians

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat)** [HL740] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel about the reported arrest of a Palestinian child by Israeli forces during this year's Jerusalem flag march.

**Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat)** [HL801] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of Israel about the reported arrest of a

Palestinian child by Israeli security forces in the West Bank on 29 May, for throwing rocks.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are concerned about the security situation in Jerusalem and look to all parties to take steps to de-escalate tensions. Israel's extensive use of administrative detention, according to international law, should be used only when security makes this absolutely necessary. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-07/hl740>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/hl801>

#### **Gaza: Israel**

**Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL785]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that an Israeli airstrike on an agrochemical warehouse in Gaza in May 2021 constituted the use of chemical weapons.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We recognise Israel's legitimate need to deploy security measures and we encourage them to deploy these in a way that minimises tension and uses appropriate force. We call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/hl784>

#### **Israeli Settlements: Travel**

**Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL785]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of new Israeli travel entry requirements for the West Bank which came into force on 22 May which were reported to place additional restrictions and surveillance on visitors to those areas, except for those visiting Israeli settlements.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** We are monitoring this issue closely and engaging the Israeli Authorities to understand their application and potential implications. As a friend of Israel, we have a regular dialogue on human rights. We continue to stress to the Israeli authorities the damage that their restrictions on movement, access and trade are doing to the living standards of ordinary Palestinians.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/hl785>

#### **Hebron: Housing**

**Baroness Janke (Liberal Democrat) [HL786]** To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of plans to build a new Jewish housing development in the Old City of Hebron on the prospects of a two-state solution in the region.

**Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon:** Settlements are illegal under international law and undermine the physical viability of the two-state solution. We repeatedly call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue with Israel on legal issues relating to the occupation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-08/hl786>

## **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office**

**Amanda Milling:** I had a productive visit to Israel as the @FCDOGovUK Minister for the Middle East which celebrated the flourishing UK-Israel partnership, championed science, tech and innovation collaborations, supported peace-building across the region

*[includes video]*

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1539917408210718726>

**Amanda Milling:** Delighted to be in the Occupied Palestinian Territories with @UkinJerusalem for next two days. Looking forward to meeting [Palestinian flag] leadership to discuss our important bilateral relationship & engaging with business leaders, civil society, & human rights defenders across the West Bank.

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1539932579704578050>

**Amanda Milling:** My first stop in #OPTs: Had a great briefing from @DanielSeidemann on settlement expansion in East Jerusalem Heard how the E1 settlement plan would seriously hinder a two state solution and prospects of peace. UK urges Israeli Government to end settlement expansion @Diane\_Corner

<https://twitter.com/amandamilling/status/1539945057889001474>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Bill of Rights Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

First Reading, House of Commons (col 879)

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-22/debates/CD4FEF35-9554-4A03-81E0-5A8917C1FB55/EURetainedLaw>

Ministerial Statement

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-22/debates/22062235000019/BillOfRights>

#### **Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

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

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

#### **\*\* Online Safety Bill**

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

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online\\_day\\_pbc\\_0623.pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0004/amend/online_day_pbc_0623.pdf)

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

#### **Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

#### **\*\* Schools Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-22/debates/69622FA6-4853-4188-9D4A-D49BDF9BE8DC/SchoolsBill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-22/debates/69622FA6-4853-4188-9D4A-D49BDF9BE8DC/SchoolsBill(HL))

## Scottish Parliament

### Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated today

### \*\* *closes today*

**Independent Review of Social Cohesion and Resilience** (closing date 23 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>

### \*\* *closes in 7 days*

**Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament** (closing date 30 June 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

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