



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

[Home Affairs](#)

[Israel](#)

[Relevant Legislation](#)

[Back issues](#)

## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Written Answer

#### Schools: Dairy Products and Meat Products

**Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat)** [87932] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment has she made of the current School Food Standards mandatory servings of meat and dairy and its impact on the (a) UK's health goals, (b) climate science, and (c) modern dietary choices.

**Nick Gibb:** The Department wants pupils to be healthy and well nourished. The Department encourages a healthy balanced diet and healthy life choices. The standards for school food are set out in the Requirements for School Food Regulations 2014 and are to ensure that schools provide children with healthy food and drink options, and to make sure that children get the energy and nutrition they need throughout the school day.

The requirement in the school food standards to serve meat and dairy products applies to all schools. The Department is aware that for some faith schools, vegetarianism is an important part of that faith. There may therefore be cases where there is no demand for meat and dairy products from any of the school's parents or pupils, and in this scenario it would not be realistic to expect the school to produce meat or dairy based meals that will not be consumed.

The Department has committed to supporting schools to drive up their sustainable practices on food. Schools can voluntarily follow the Government buying standards if they so wish, which include advice around sustainable sourcing. The Department also recognises the importance of plant-based foods from a cultural and environmental point of view. The school food regulations already allow schools the freedom to provide plant-based meals as needed. Meat must be served on three or more days each week and beyond this, schools may provide a meal with any other type of protein every day if they choose to.

The Department's school food standards regulate the food and drink provided at both lunchtime and at other times of the school day. Beyond this, the Department believes that head teachers, school governors and caterers are best placed to make decisions regarding their school food policies, taking into account local circumstances and the needs of their pupils. In doing so, the Department expects

schools to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with particular requirements, for example to reflect dietary and cultural needs. School food policies work best when schools discuss them with parents and pupils, so that parents have the opportunity to raise pupils' particular dietary needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-15/87932>

*The Regulations referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1603/contents/made>

TOP

## Israel

### Scottish Parliament Motion

**Pauline McNeill (Labour) [S6M-06888] Immediate and Comprehensive Investigation into the Killing of a Palestinian Teenager** – That the Parliament notes comments made by the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Tor Wennesland, who called for an "immediate and thorough investigation" into the killing of a teenage Palestinian girl on 14 November 2022 and indicated that he was "appalled" by the killing; understands that the 15-year-old was shot by Israeli forces during a raid in the occupied West Bank city of Beitunia; further understands that eye witness reports from the scene suggest that the girl was denied medical attention for 25 minutes; echoes Tor Wennesland's calls for an immediate inquiry, which it considers would provide justice for the family and community following this devastating loss, and believes that this tragedy is another example of Israeli forces showing little regard for the lives of innocent Palestinians who endure the daily hardships that living under what it sees as a brutal occupation creates.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06888>

*The comments referred to above can be read at*

<https://twitter.com/TWennesland/status/1592170953257385984>

TOP

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

### UK Parliament

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/48625/documents/2495>

## **Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

## **Online Safety Bill**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

## **Schools Bill**

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

## **Scottish Parliament**

### **Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

### **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

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

**TOP**

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