



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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Organ Donation

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-21351] To ask the Scottish Government in how many cases family members overrode their relatives' (a) express and (b) deemed authorisation for organ donation after death, in each of the last 10 years.

Jenni Minto: The number of family members who overrode their relative's express authorisation for organ donation after that relative's death, in each of the last 10 years, is set out in the following table. Express authorisation is where someone, in life, has documented their donation decision either on the NHS Organ Donor Register or in some other form of writing.

Families who overrode their relatives expressed authorisation	
Financial year	Families approached but no authorisation given
2013-14	9
2014-15	21
2015-16	18
2016-17	16
2017-18	13
2018-19	12
2019-20	15
2020-21	5
2021-22	9
2022-23	13

The number of family members who overrode their relatives' deemed authorisation for organ donation after that relative's death, in each of the last three years, is set out in the following table. The Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Act 2019, which set up the legal framework for deemed authorisation, came into effect in March 2021. This means that there is only data available on deemed authorisation for the last three years.

Families who overrode their relatives deemed authorisation	
Financial year	Families approached but no authorisation given
2020-21	0
2021-22	11
2022-23	13

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21351>

Organ Donation

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-21353] To ask the Scottish Government how many people made a non-directed kidney donation in each of the last five years.

Jenni Minto: The following number of people in Scotland made a non-directed kidney donation in the last five years:

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
8	13	4	7	7

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-21353>

Welsh Senedd Oral Answers

Engaging communities with heritage

... 328 **Joel James (Conservative):** ... Cadw's website mentions diverse communities, which cover a number of progressive categories, including LGBT and people of colour. But I'm disappointed that we have seemingly ignored an important group who have a considerable part to play: that of faith communities. People of all faiths play a massive role in the preservation of community heritage. To take just one example, the hundreds of listed churches across Wales are maintained tirelessly by volunteers and have been at the centre of congregations for many hundreds of years. Church groups work actively to maintain their heritage in Wales and to promote it to the wider public. And listed places of worship are a vital aspect of local culture and heritage, which serve communities across Wales as community hubs. I feel that their contribution is not being significantly recognised, particularly since faith tourism adds considerably to the Welsh economy, and more needs to be done to develop working partnerships. So, Deputy Minister, what efforts are the Welsh Government willing to make to encourage Cadw to reach out to faith communities of all denominations and help them identify the preservation needs of local heritage, and to help them promote and develop the narrative of their faith in their community, to help expand the financial potential of the faith tourism sector? ...

334 **Dawn Bowden [Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism]:** ... You talked about the contribution of faith tourism, and I know that we've had discussions in this Chamber before about the historic churches of all denominations—the fact that some of those are now lying empty, they will fall into disrepair if they're not looked after. Some are listed, some are not. A number of the churches and chapels in Wales are listed, but there is no doubt that a number of those buildings around Wales are closing. And it is vital that we work with all the different denominations to discuss the future of those buildings, and that's what Cadw are doing. But we cannot, obviously, take into ownership all of those buildings and repair all of those buildings, so we have to work in partnership with the denominations, with the churches themselves, to find a range of partners where we can look at sustainable futures for those precious buildings and restore them to their former glory. ...

353 **Darren Millar (Conservative):** ... there are some very unique faith heritage buildings

that have been at risk over the years—I can think of one in your own constituency, for example, which, I'm delighted, now has its future safeguarded, the synagogue in Merthyr Tydfil. There are many others, of course, across Wales and no doubt desperate pleas could be made in respect of many of them. I'm also a member of Capel, which is the Welsh chapels heritage society, which works closely with Addoldai Cymru and other organisations to try and identify the very best examples of faith architecture, if you like, across Wales to make sure that we don't lose them for future generations. I wonder whether the Welsh Government would consider having a summit of all those organisations that are interested in faith heritage, bringing people together so that we can have a round-table, commonsense discussion on how we can identify those buildings across Wales that are very important and are really unique in all corners of the country, to make sure that the limited resources that we do have can be focused, if you like, on the very best examples of those buildings. ...

357 Dawn Bowden: In terms of the faith heritage, again, I think if we can have a conversation about how we can promote faith heritage more effectively than we do now, then I would, again, be more than happy to do that. ...

358 You referenced the synagogue in Merthyr Tydfil, which is going to be absolutely amazing, but what has happened is somebody has got hold of that building and they have worked tirelessly to get funding for it, so Welsh Government have contributed, but there are private investors, Cadw is involved and we will end up with a national Jewish heritage centre on that site for the whole of Wales. It will be absolutely fantastic. ...

To read the full transcript see

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13487#C525616>

Welsh Senedd Written Answer

Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan

Andrew RT Davies (Conservative) [WQ89038] Will the Minister outline the aims of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan and the amount of funding allocated to it?

Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip [Jane Hutt] The aim is to tackle structural, systemic and institutionalised racism in all its guises and draws on lived experiences of our ethnic minority people. Our vision is to be an Anti-racist nation by 2030, actively identifying and eradicating the systems, structures and processes that produce radically differential outcomes for ethnic minority people.

We established an Implementation team and a budget of £613k for ARWAP out of a total of £2.8m allocated to all the Race, Faith and GRT activities for 2023/24.

- The Welsh Government's commitment to ending racism is demonstrated through our Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, which aims to build an anti-racist Wales by 2030.
- We are working towards a Wales where the voices and lived experiences of our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people are not only seen and heard, but also acted upon.
- Racism and all forms of hate and bigotry have no place in Wales – either direct or indirect.
- Our Anti-racist Action Plan for Wales was developed collaboratively with our Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people.
- The Plan is a practical document, outlining specific actions to be taken across all the key policy areas which emerged from this co-construction work.
- These include health to housing, education to economy, culture to crime and

- justice, leadership to local authorities, and many more.
- Being Anti-racist means actively identifying and eradicating systems, structures and processes that produce radically differential outcomes for ethnic minority groups.
 - Successful implementation of our Plan will see a fairer employment market, a fairer education and training system, an equalising of racial opportunities and outcomes in health and other social services, plus promote active citizenship.
 - Tackling racism is part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru.

<https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/89038>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/anti-racist-wales-action-plan_0.pdf

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Holocaust

House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

National Holocaust Memorial Centre and Learning Service

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL10220] To ask His Majesty's Government what are the planned contents of each exhibition room in the proposed Holocaust Memorial Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.

Baroness Deech (Crossbench) [HL10221] To ask His Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of excavation in Victoria Tower Gardens to create space for the proposed Learning Centre associated with the Holocaust Memorial; and what savings in costs would be made if the Learning Centre were located in an existing building in the area.

Baroness Swinburne: Cost estimates for excavation at the chosen site are commercially sensitive and not suitable for publication at this time. No estimates have been made for locating the Learning Centre at a hypothetical site.

Information about the Learning Centre's content was presented at the public inquiry and is available on the Westminster City Council website:

www.westminster.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cd_8.9_proof_of_evidence_of_stephen_greenberg_1.pdf

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10220>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-09-18/hl10221>

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Israel

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palestine must strengthen torture prevention measures, UN body finds

The State of Palestine needs to improve the effectiveness of the fundamental legal

safeguards against torture and ill-treatment, especially from the first moments of detention, experts from the UN [Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture](#) (SPT) concluded after their first visit.

“The delegation received full cooperation from the Palestinian authority to visit places of deprivation of liberty in the West Bank, but we regret that, despite all efforts, we were unable to visit detention facilities in Gaza,” said Daniel Fink, head of the delegation.

During its visit, from 10 to 21 September, the delegation visited 18 detention places in different locations in the West Bank, including prisons, police stations, facilities of the security forces, a psychiatric hospital and a military detention centre.

The delegation met with high-level officials, notably the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Interior, who coordinates the National Team for Monitoring the State's Commitments. The experts also had meetings with various authorities, including security agencies, the Supreme Judicial Council, the Attorney General, the Judicial Council of the Security Forces, the Independent Commission on Human Rights, involving its Gaza branch, the Bar association, civil society organisations, including those from Gaza, as well as other UN bodies.

The State of Palestine has been a party to the [Convention against Torture](#) and its [Optional Protocol](#) since 2014 and 2017, respectively. The Government has done much since then, including recently positive relevant amendments to the penal code. However, the delegation stated that its concerns remained, such as the implementation of legal safeguards during detention and the effective establishment of a monitoring body, officially called the national preventive mechanism (NPM).

The delegation also engaged, at the technical level, with entities working on drafting legislation related to the long overdue national preventive mechanism.

“We hope that our visit will lead to the effective establishment of the preventive mechanism within a short period of time,” said the head of the delegation. “In particular, we look forward to seeing an independent body that can carry out its mandate in accordance with the State’s legal international obligations, including unannounced visits to any places of deprivation of liberty,” he added. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/09/palestine-must-strengthen-torture-prevention-measures-un-body-finds>

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

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

Holocaust Memorial Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

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

Online Safety Bill

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

Nakba Commemoration Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

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

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

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

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438>

Schools Bill

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

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/terrorism-protection-of-premises-draft-bill-overarching-documents>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

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

Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454>

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 in 8 days**

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/equality-and-human-rights/a-human-rights-bill-for-scotland-consultation/>

The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales (closing date 26 October 2023)

<https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/>

Management of burial grounds, application for burial, exhumation, private burial and restoration of lairs: regulation in Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/regulation-burial-scotland/>

Statutory inspection of burial authorities, cremation authorities and funeral directors
(closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/statutory-inspection-burial-authorities/>

Funeral director licensing scheme for Scotland (closing date 17 November 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/licensing-funeral-directors-scotland/>

Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) [Northern Ireland] (closing date 24 November 2023)

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/relationships-and-sexuality-education-rse-consultation>

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