

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with the **Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland**. It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary Activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences and news reports.*

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Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-4279 Rob Gibson: Overseas Performers Don't Deserve Terrorist Treatment— That the Parliament notes with grave concern the ramifications of the Home Office's new immigration controls on non-EU artists who require a sponsor to allow them to enter the United Kingdom, as highlighted by the treatment of Canadian singer Allison Crowe and several band members who were held for 11 hours in Gatwick Airport before being barred from entering the UK to tour and visit friends in the north west Highlands; considers that Ms Crowe was treated as little better than a terrorist after enduring an 11-hour ordeal where she was locked up, questioned, had her fingerprints taken, her passport stamped "barred from entry" and was then deported; contends that this is no way to treat a legitimate and repeat visitor to the UK; urges the Home Office to rethink this draconian policy before it harms cultural links to Scotland and the wider UK; notes that Ms Crowe is allowed to perform in Germany, Austria and the Czech Republic and will do so; furthermore notes the German authorities' reported reaction to the situation that they were horrified at the British treatment and that Allison would be welcomed to perform in Germany, and asserts that visitors to Scotland during the Year of Homecoming deserve a civilised and warm welcome.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16731>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Immigration

Baroness Warsi [HL3653]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 20 April (WA 348), how many of the 3,829 persons refused entry at the United Kingdom border on grounds relating to the public good were from member states of the European Union.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: From 2006 to 2008, 1,026 EU citizens were refused entry to the UK on the grounds of public health, public safety or public policy.

A breakdown of each year's figures is provided in the following table:

Year	Total	EU	Non EU
2004	977		
2005	645		
2006	626	178	448
2007	828	423	405
2008	753	425	328
Total	3829	1026	2803

Prior to the introduction of the EEA Regulations in 2006, refusals of EU and non-EU nationals, on the grounds of public health, public safety or public policy, were recorded under the same code.

The data provided are based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Baroness Warsi [HL3655]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 29 April (WA 37), how many of the 3,530 people granted indefinite leave to remain under immigration rule 276B(i)(b) were in receipt of public funds; what was the total cost to the public purse of hearing their cases; whether any are currently in receipt of public funds; and what were their countries of origin.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Information on the number of people granted indefinite leave to remain under immigration rule 276B(i)(b) who were in receipt of public funds, either at the time of their application or currently, is not centrally recorded.

To read the country of origin table for those granted indefinite leave to remain see <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90601w0007.htm#09060113001258>

Baroness Warsi [HL3656]: To ask Her Majesty's Government further to the Written Answer by Lord West of Spithead on 29 April (WA 37), what is the current immigration status of the 15,965 people not granted indefinite leave to remain under immigration rule 276B(i)(b); how many have lodged an appeal; how many have been successfully removed; and how many are still resident in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The information requested is not held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government following the announcement by the Home Secretary on 5 May that 22 people were banned from coming to the United Kingdom between 28 October 2008 and 31 March 2009, when each individual applied to visit the United Kingdom; why each individual was barred from entering the United Kingdom; and what legislation was used in each case to prevent those individuals entering the United Kingdom. [HL3693]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: An individual does not have to have applied to come to the UK in order to be considered for exclusion. Any person whose presence in the UK is not considered conducive to the public good may be

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

excluded. The 22 individuals excluded by my right honourable friend the Home Secretary between 28 October 2008 and 31 March 2009 were all considered to be engaging in activities set out in the List of Unacceptable Behaviours, published by former Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, in August 2005.

The Home Secretary may personally decide that an individual should be excluded from the UK because she considers that their exclusion is justified. This personal power is normally exercised on the grounds of national security, unacceptable behaviours, public order or relations with a third country, but this is a matter of policy not statute. The power is in fact broad and can be used in any circumstances, provided it is exercised reasonably, proportionately and consistently. An individual excluded by the Home Secretary must be refused entry to the UK, in accordance with paragraph 320(6) of the immigration rules.

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their forecast of the numbers of European Union or European Economic Area citizens who will be banned from entering the United Kingdom under the policy announced by the Home Secretary on 5 May. [HL3694]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: As announced by my right honourable friend the Home Secretary on 5 May, amendments to the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006 which are expected to take effect from 1 June will enable her to make a personal decision to exclude a European Economic Area (EEA) national whom she considers presents a threat to public policy or public security.

We cannot provide a forecast of the numbers of people who might be excluded under the amended regulations. However, where it is in the public interest, the names of EEA nationals who are excluded on public policy or public security grounds as a result of their involvement in unacceptable behaviours will be disclosed on a quarterly basis, together with the names of non-EEA nationals excluded on unacceptable behaviour grounds.

Baroness Warsi: To ask Her Majesty's Government which European Union or European Economic Area citizens they intend to ban from entering the United Kingdom under the policy announced by the Home Secretary on 5 May. [HL3695]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Following an amendment to the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, which is expected to come into effect on 1 June 2009, my right honourable friend the Home Secretary will consider whether to exclude certain European Economic Area nationals who are considered a threat to public policy or public security. However, it is our policy not to discuss individual cases before a decision has been made.

Lady Saltoun of Abernethy: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take following the High Court judgment of 6 April in HSMP Forum (UK) Limited v the Secretary of State for the Home Department concerning the retrospective application of changes to the immigration rules for highly skilled migrants. [HL3718]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The court has given the UK Border Agency until May 2009 to implement the judgment handed down on 6 April 2009.

A policy will be published on the UK Border Agency website. This will give full details of how we will treat those affected by the judgment.

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what guidance they issue on age determination in connection with immigration control; and whether they will await the findings of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, which announced on 24 February that it had been asked to review the evidence and was considering how it would undertake this work, before issuing amended guidance. [HL3744]

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) has issued detailed guidance to outline the policy and processes that asylum case

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

owners apply when dealing with cases where the age of the person is in doubt. Consideration is being given to updating that guidance in light of recent developments, for example judicial proceedings in respect of age determination procedures. We will also take into account any revised advice on age determination issued by the Royal College.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Lords/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part050.html>

Asylum

Chris Huhne [242777]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of asylum cases were brought to a conclusion, including appeals, (a) within two months, (b) between two and six months, (c) between six and 12 months and (d) over 12 months in each of the last five years.

and

Nicholas Soames [274608] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time between an application for asylum and a final decision was in each of the last five years.

Both of the above questions received the same response, the first from Jacqui Smith, and the second from Phil Woolas

Reply from Jacqui Smith/Phil Woolas: Data on conclusion performance by year of application are only available from the introduction of end-to-end processing of new asylum applications in April 2006. Prior to that date, performance targets were based on the length of time it took to reach an initial decision on an asylum application, rather than the length of time it took to conclude a case.

The PSA Delivery Agreement 3, Indicator 2 refers to the reduction in the time to conclusion of asylum application. The measure is to ensure a target percentage of cases should be resolved within six months as per the following:

- 35 per cent. by end of April 2007;
- 40 per cent. by end of December 2007;
- 60 per cent. by end of December 2008;
- 75 per cent. by end of December 2009;
- 90 per cent. by end of December 2011.

The method of reporting against the target is based on the performance of the specific monthly cohort of cases reaching six months. Hence all reporting is done against a six months timeframe. A cohort is specified as those new applications received between 1st and 31st of each month.

The conclusion measurement requires applications to be granted asylum or some form of leave to remain in the UK, allowed at appeal or removed within 182 days (six months) to be counted as concluded.

Performance against the targets has been published in National Statistics as follows:

- 38 per cent. of new applications received in September 2006 were concluded in six months by the end of April 2007;
- 46 per cent. of new applications received in June 2007 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2007;
- 62 per cent. of new applications received in June 2008 were concluded in six months by the end of December 2008.

Published information is not available in relation to conclusion of applications in timescales other than six months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090604/text/90604w0005.htm#0906044000029>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum

Damian Green [276562] : To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many paper cases are awaiting decision by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Reply from Bridget Prentice: At 18 May 2009, there were 31,441 paper cases with the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) awaiting consideration by an immigration judge. These are out of country cases arising from entry clearance officer (ECO), family visit visa (FVV) and managed migration (MM) applications. Of the 31,441 cases, 9,021 are waiting the receipt of the documents from UKBA (the bundle) and, therefore, cannot be progressed any further. 10,233 cases have received notification of hearing and are, therefore, moving through the system. This leaves 12,187 out of country cases still waiting to be listed for hearing. AIT have a clear plan in place to progress these cases through the system.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part014.html#heading001>

Asylum

Mrs. Ellman [274163] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are awaiting decisions as part of the legacy process; and how long on average those people have been waiting for a decision.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of 9 January the UK Border Agency had concluded 155,500 older asylum cases. The previous Home Secretary informed Parliament in July 2006 of "the Immigration and Nationality Directorate's case load of around 400,000 to 450,000 electronic and paper records".

These include duplicate cases, cases of individuals who have since died or left the country, or are now EU citizens therefore it is not possible to provide an accurate assessment of how many cases are awaiting decisions. The chief executive of the UK Border Agency will update the Home Affairs Select Committee on case conclusion progress in the summer.

To obtain the information requested about average waiting times of legacy cases would involve a detailed examination of individual case records which would incur a disproportionate cost.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading006>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Avebury [HL3572]: To ask Her Majesty's Government in how many asylum cases in (a) 2006, and (b) 2007, a consent order was made in the High Court where the claimant agreed to withdraw an application for judicial review and the Secretary of State agreed to reconsider the claimant's case; how many of those cases from each of those years remain to be reconsidered; and what was the average and the maximum number of days between the consent order and the Secretary of State's reconsidered decision in each of those years.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The High Court shows that 831 asylum judicial reviews were withdrawn in 2006 and 997 asylum judicial reviews were withdrawn in 2007. However the High Court does not record reasons why the JR was withdrawn and this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost by the examination of individual case files. The UK Border Agency does not record timescales for reconsidering cases following consent orders on our database and so this information is not available.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Lords/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part006.html>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Asylum: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on section 4 support in each of the last 10 years. [258002]

Reply from Phil Woolas The costs of this support have been as follows:

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>£ million</i>
2003-04	4
2004-05	17
2005-06	59
2006-07	71
2007-08	73

No separate records of expenditure under Section 4 were maintained prior to 2003-04.

Nicholas Soames [274413] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments the UK Border Agency makes to a single asylum seeker whose application is being processed in (a) the UK and (b) France; and what accommodation is provided for asylum seekers whose cases are under consideration in (i) the UK and (ii) France.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Not all asylum seekers in the United Kingdom are eligible for asylum support but those who do need support to avoid destitution may be provided with it under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 until their asylum claim is determined. Support takes the form of subsistence or accommodation or both, as necessary. Accommodation is provided on a “no-choice” basis in one of the designated areas in which there is a ready supply of accommodation.

Subsistence rates for single people per week are currently:

Single parent aged 18 or over—£42.16

Single person aged 25 or over—£42.16

Single person aged 18 or over, but under 25—£33.39

Single person aged 16 or over but under 18—£36.29 (paid to parent/guardian)

Single person under 16—£48.30 (Paid to parent/guardian)

A woman who is pregnant or who has children under the age of three, is entitled to extra payments.

The UK Border Agency does not make payments to support asylum seekers in France.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090601/text/90601w0033.htm#0906023000010>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno [HL3704]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many forced removals have there been since January to (a) the Democratic Republic of Congo, (b) Darfur, and (c) Zimbabwe.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The following table shows the number of removals and voluntary departures in quarter one 2009 to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Information for quarter two 2009 will be available after the publication of the next quarterly Control of Immigration bulletin to be published in August. Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Country of Destination	Enforced removals and voluntary departures					
	Enforced removals and voluntary departures ^{(3) (4)}	Assisted Voluntary Returns ⁽⁵⁾	Other Voluntary departures ⁽⁶⁾	Total	Non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed ⁽⁷⁾	Grand Total
Total removals and voluntary departures from the United Kingdom, by type and destination ⁽¹⁾ , 01 2009 ^{(2) (P)}						
Dem. Rep. of Congo	20	5	*	25	*	25
Sudan	5	5	5	15	*	15
Zimbabwe	15	50	10	70	5	75

(1) Destination as recorded on source database.

(2) Figures rounded to the nearest 5 and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

(3) Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals performed by enforcement officers using poll powers of removal and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

(4) Since October 2006 figures include persons leaving under facilitated return schemes.

(5) Persons leaving under the Assisted Voluntary Return and the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some on entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.

(6) Persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

(7) Includes removals performed by immigration officers at ports using enforcement powers, cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls and a small number of cases who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

(p) Provisional figures. Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90603w0001.htm#09060366000347>

Female Genital Mutilation

Sarah Teather [276648]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of the risk of female genital mutilation in women's country of origin when assessing their asylum claims.

Reply from Phil Woolas: All asylum and human rights claims are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the UK's obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The consideration of a claim includes where relevant, any fear of genital mutilation that may be raised by the applicant.

When fear of genital mutilation forms part of the claim consideration is given to whether there is evidence that this practice is knowingly tolerated by the authorities in the country of origin, or whether they are unable to offer protection, and whether there is a reasonable possibility of the applicant avoiding the threat for example by moving elsewhere in the country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/text/90602w0020.htm#09060279000026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Employment: Migrant Workers

Baroness Hanham [HL3487]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what action they will take to implement the High Court judgments of April 2008 and April 2009 regarding the settlement criteria for highly skilled migrants.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The UK Border Agency formed a new policy in July 2008, in order to implement the High Court judgment of April 2008.

Following the subsequent High Court judgment concerning the change in the qualifying time period for settlement, which was handed down on 6 April 2009, the court has given the UK Border Agency until 20 May 2009 to form a further new policy. This new policy will be published on the UK Border Agency website.

Lord Hylton [HL3690]: To ask Her Majesty's Government what conclusions they draw for improving the protection of foreign domestic workers from the decisions of the Employment Tribunal in the cases of *Awan v Shariff* and *Salleh* (case No 3302759/2007, judgment on 1 August 2008) and *Asuquo v Gbaja* (case No. 3200383/ 2008, judgment on 2 January).

Reply from Lord Carter of Barnes: It is for the tribunals to decide whether UK employment protection legislation applies to foreign domestic workers in particular cases. It would be inappropriate to comment on their decisions, but we note that the applicants in the cases cited were successful in, for instance, asserting their right to the national minimum wage.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Lords/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part028.html>

Illegal Immigrants

Philip Hollobone [275896] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of measures to remove illegal immigrants from the UK.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency is continuing in its large-scale modernisation programme to improve the effectiveness of its border and immigration control. These include increasing the security of our borders through the e-Borders system; starting the roll-out of local immigration teams; and introducing a new system of civil penalties for those employing illegal migrant workers—changes which are designed to make the UK harder to enter illegally, harder to stay in illegally, and less attractive to potential illegal migrants in the first place.

The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed and departed voluntarily from the UK, on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

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In 2008, these published statistics show that 66,275 people were removed or departed voluntarily from the UK, an increase of 5 per cent. from 2007 (63,365). In addition, the UK Border Agency deported nearly 5,400 foreign criminals, a record performance.

This is evidence that the UK Border Agency is succeeding in its commitment to removing individuals with no right to be here—with a focus on targeting the most harmful first.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading043>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Selous [277069]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the factual basis is for the Minister for Borders and Immigration's statement in his answer on 18 May 2009, Official Report, column 1192, on illegal immigrants, that the trend of removals is significantly up.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the total number of removals and voluntary departures in each year between 2005 and 2008:

<i>Removals and voluntary departures^(1, 2) January 2005 to December 2008</i>				
<i>Number⁽³⁾</i>				
	2005	2006	2007 ⁽⁴⁾	2008 ⁽⁴⁾
Total removals and voluntary departures	58,215	63,865	63,365	66,275
Change compared to previous year (%)	—	10	-1	5

⁽¹⁾ Figures are rounded to the nearest 5. ⁽²⁾ Includes persons departing voluntarily after notifying the UK Border Agency of their intention to leave prior to their departure, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. Statistics from 2005 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years. ⁽³⁾ Removals and voluntary departures recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. Figures will under record due to data cleansing and data matching exercises that take place after the extracts are taken. ⁽⁴⁾ Provisional figures.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html>

John Hayes [277130]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were detained at their point of entry to the UK in the last month for which figures are available; and how many of them admitted they were entering the country illegally.

Reply from Phil Woolas: In April 2009, 767 people were recorded at ports as having illegally entered the UK. In such cases, passengers are initially detained at the Point of Entry.

The data provided are based on locally-collated management information, which may be subject to change and do not represent published National statistics. The UK Border Agency does not routinely record whether an illegal entrant admits they were attempting to enter the UK illegally.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/text/90602w0020.htm#09060279000031>

Immigration

Philip Hollobone [264934] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps are being taken to expedite the determination of immigration decisions.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency is committed to delivering an efficient service for all customers and claimants.

In terms of economic and family migration, the principle means by which the UK Border Agency is working to speed up the determination of immigration decisions is through the introduction of the points based system for all those applying to work or study in the UK.

The tiers relating to highly skilled migrants, skilled migrants and temporary workers are already operational, having been introduced in 2008. Tier 4, which applies to students, was introduced on 31 March 2009.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

In other economic and family migration categories there are performance improvement plans in place to speed up case processing times.

For asylum cases, the UK Border agency has published the milestones for the conclusion of cases it intends to fulfil on route to the ultimate objective of concluding 90 per cent. of cases within six months by December 2011. Most recently, UKBA successfully achieved the milestone of concluding 60 per cent. of cases in six months by the end of December 2008.

David Drew [276188] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what occupations in her Department's most recent shortage occupation lists relate to job titles in the software industry.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Government's latest shortage occupation list, which was announced on 13 May, contains roles within visual effects and 2D/3D animation for film, television or video games, R and D software and software engineer.

Anne Main [276371] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many outstanding applications for indefinite leave to remain are being processed by the UK Border Agency.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There were 43,090 outstanding applications for indefinite leave to remain being processed by the UK Border Agency as at 12:30 pm on 18 May 2009.

Notes: 1. Data relate to lead applicants only. 2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five. 3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Source: UKBA Case Information Database

Anne Main [276375] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individual representations (a) she and (b) Ministers in her Department have received from members of the public regarding their personal immigration case in each of the last six months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Information regarding letters received from members of the public to Ministers regarding personal immigration cases is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Terry Rooney [276818] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition her Department uses of a legacy case in respect of the work of the UK Border Agency.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Legacy cases are all unresolved asylum cases that were lodged with the UK Border Agency before March 2007 that are not being processed by the Regional Asylum Teams.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading044>

Immigration

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken by the UK Border Agency to process an application for indefinite leave to remain was in the latest period for which information is available. [276372]

Reply from Phil Woolas: The average time taken by the UK Border Agency to process an application for indefinite leave to remain for period 1 April-30 April 2009 was three months.

Data relate to lead applicants only.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. Source: UKBA Case Information Database.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Peter Bone [276938]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the letter of 14 January 2009 from the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency to the hon. Member for Wellingborough regarding Mr. Nicholas Mazordze, what steps were taken to resolve the case within 14 days of the date of that letter; and with reference to the letter of 5 May 2009 from the Minister of State to the hon. Member for Wellingborough also regarding Mr. Mazordze, what steps were taken to resolve the case within two weeks of the date of that letter.

Reply from Phil Woolas [holding answer 1 June 2009]: The Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency provides regularly updates on the progress taken in deporting foreign national criminals. However, she is unable to comment on individual cases raised in a parliamentary question.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/text/90602w0020.htm#09060279000032>

Immigration Controls

Chris Grayling [273026] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to develop joint threat assessment mechanisms between police forces and the UK Border Agency to underpin operational work at the UK border; and what timetable has been established for the work.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: Following on from the memorandum of understanding which was signed in 2008, the UK Border Agency and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) are continuing to work closely together to enhance their relationship at the UK Border. UKBA have senior officials in place at ports of entry to facilitate liaison with the police and other agencies. This collaboration is designed to increase opportunities for working together, including the capacity for joint threat assessments.

Chris Huhne [276310] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation was undertaken on the change to Tier One of the immigration points-based system requiring applicants to hold a Masters degree rather than a Bachelors degree.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The changes to the requirements for Tier 1 were discussed widely across Government Departments.

Chris Huhne [276311] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect on medical training of the recent change to Tier One immigration rules for highly skilled migrants; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: I and my Cabinet colleagues have regular discussions about changes to the immigration system. Officials continue to work together to ensure that changes to the immigration system do not have an adverse impact on this important sector.

Damian Green [276560] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sponsors for Tier 2 of the points-based immigration system are classified as (a) category A and (b) category B.

Reply from Phil Woolas: There are 9,168 registered Tier 2 sponsors of which, 8,841 are rated as category A and 327 as category B.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading045>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Immigration: Children

Fabian Hamilton [276127] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the detention of children subject to immigration control.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency would always prefer that those whose applications to stay in the United Kingdom have failed, leave the country voluntarily. This is particularly so of families with children. However, detention is regrettable where individuals fail to leave and where removal therefore has to be enforced.

Fabian Hamilton [276128] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's response is to the findings of the Children's Commissioner's report The Arrest and Detention of Children Subject to Immigration Control.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Children's Commissioner for England published his report on 27 April. The United Kingdom Border Agency is now considering his recommendations carefully and will respond to the commissioner within two months of publication.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading046>

Immigration: Children

Fabian Hamilton [276131]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department plans to develop community-based alternatives to detention for children subject to immigration control.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Government are exploring alternative options to detention of children to ensure the removal of those families who refuse to leave the country voluntarily when they no longer have a legal right to be here.

A new pilot project to encourage refused asylum seeker families in Glasgow to return voluntarily to their home country is to start at the beginning of June. The pilot is a partnership between Glasgow City Council, the UK Border Agency and the Scottish Government.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/text/90602w0020.htm#09060279000033>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mark Oaten [277884]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 May 2009, Official Report, column 1293W, on entry clearances: overseas students, whether in circumstances where overseas students pay accommodation and other fees in advance greater than the required monthly minimum, they are required to demonstrate additional funds.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Tier 4 applicants are required to demonstrate that they hold sufficient funds to cover both (1) their course fees for their first year of study and (2) to satisfy the maintenance test.

Where an applicant has paid money towards their course fees and/or accommodation before they submit their application, this money can be offset from the total amount of funds the applicant must demonstrate, provided that they submit the specified evidence.

Where a migrant has demonstrated that they have paid their full course fees before they submit their application, the applicant will not have to show any further funds for course fees. Equally should the moneys paid to the education provider for accommodation equal or exceed the amount the applicant is required to demonstrate for maintenance, the applicant will not be required to show any further funds for maintenance.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Where the payments made for either course fees or accommodation fall short of the full amount required, the applicant must demonstrate that they hold sufficient funds to cover the shortfall.

Damian Green [271369]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff of the UK Border Agency based in the UK are partly or wholly responsible for examining student visa applications

Reply from Phil Woolas: Applications from those outside the UK for student visas are considered by UKBA staff in visa sections at the relevant post abroad.

The only exception is for visa applications made in Algeria which are currently processed in London. This operation has six full time staff based in the UK whose work load includes student applications.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090603/text/90603w0018.htm#09060375000029>

Visas: Overseas Students

Mike Penning [258633]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are applied by the UK Border Agency to the grant of student visas to foreign medical students who require more than four years to complete their training.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Under the tier 4 immigration rules, a student such as a medical student, following a course of study at or above degree level for longer than 12 months, and who meets all of the requirements of the immigration rules, will be granted leave to cover the full duration of their course, plus an additional period of four months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090603/text/90603w0028.htm#09060375000046>

Immigration: Detainees

Nigel Evans [272194] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many adults currently held in immigration removal centres in the UK have been held there for (a) less than six, (b) between six and 12, (c) 12 to 24 and (d) longer than 24 months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The following table shows the number of adults detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at the end of December 2008 by length of detention.

<i>Persons recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention as at 27 December 2008^(1,2)</i>			
<i>Number of persons</i>			
		<i>Of whom:</i>	
<i>Length of detention⁽³⁾</i>	<i>Total detainees</i>	<i>Adults</i>	<i>Children⁽⁴⁾</i>
Less than 6 months	⁽⁵⁾ 1,800	⁽⁵⁾ 1,760	40
6 months to less than 12 months	⁽⁵⁾ 295	⁽⁵⁾ 295	—
12 months to less than 24 months	⁽⁵⁾ 135	⁽⁵⁾ 135	—
24 months or more	⁽⁵⁾ 15	⁽⁵⁾ 15	—
Grand total	2,250	2,210	40

⁽¹⁾ Figures rounded to the nearest 5 ('—' = 0), may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells, Prison Service establishments and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.
⁽²⁾ Figures include dependants.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

(3) Relates to most recent period of sole detention.

(4) People recorded as being under 18 on 27 December 2008. These figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.

(5) Figures are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

National Statistics on how many detainees, including children, are detained on a quarterly snapshot basis by length of detention is available in table 11 of the Control of Immigration Quarterly Statistical Summary United Kingdom publication <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/immig408.pdf> and from the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090601/text/90601w0038.htm#0906023000050>

Immigration: EU Nationals

David Howarth [274814] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for European Economic Area residence cards were received by the UK Border Agency in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many such applications resulted in a residence card being issued within six months.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Based on the period 12 May 2008 to 12 May 2009, UKBA received a total of 26,930 EEA residence card applications. The number of issues during this period was 1,550. Of these 740 were issued within six months.

Please note these figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading048>

Immigration: Families

Kate Hoey [267839] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average processing time for residence card applications for family members of EEA nationals.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Based on the applications decided over the preceding 12 month period, the average processing time of applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals was eight months.

Kate Hoey [267840] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals took longer than six months to process in each of the last three years.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The number of applications for residence cards for family members of EEA that took over six months to process, in each of the last three years, are as follows:

	<i>Total of cases with a processing time of 6+ months</i>
2006 ⁽¹⁾	810
2007	4,480
2008	6,420
2009 ⁽²⁾	3,890
Total	15,600

⁽¹⁾ From 6 May 2006 ⁽²⁾ To 6 May 2009
Note: All figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Kate Hoey [267841] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals are being processed.

Reply from Phil Woolas: As of 6 May 2009 the number of applications for residence cards for family members of EEA nationals awaiting processing was 28,590.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading049>

Borders: Enforcement

Chris Huhne [271979]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enforcement visits the UK Border Agency made in each year since 2005; how many arrests were made in the course of such visits; and how many such visits resulted in no arrests being made.

Reply from Jacqui Smith: The records held by the UK Border Agency break down these figures by financial year rather than by calendar year and are provided in the following table.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

The UK Border Agency adopts an intelligence and target led approach to operations and our top priority has been to protect the public and remove from the UK the most harmful people first. Based on UK Border Agency management information 5,395 foreign national prisoners were removed in 2008—exceeding our target of 5,000.

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Number of enforcement visits	11,861	14,443	15,512	13,555
Number of arrests made	12,412	11,522	10,750	10,063
Visits with no arrests	6,976	8,793	9,975	8,362

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/text/90602w0019.htm#09060279000018>

Detention Centres: Internet

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of providing internet access to inmates of all immigration removal centres; and when she expects this work to be completed. [273272]

Jacqui Smith: Internet access is available to individuals detained at the eight Immigration Removal Centres which are operated by private sector contractors. Use of the internet is supervised by on-site staff, supported by software-based technology to prevent access to certain inappropriate sites.

The cost of internet access has been agreed with individual contractors operating each immigration removal centre. This information is commercially confidential and is not therefore available to be disclosed publicly.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading026>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Entry Clearances: Biometrics

Damian Green [273742] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which British embassies in Africa have the ability to collect biometric data.

Reply from Phil Woolas: A total of 31 UK diplomatic missions and UK visa application centres in Africa have the ability to collect biometric data. They are located in the countries listed as follows. Where there is more than one biometric collection point, the number is shown in brackets.

Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt (2), Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria (4), Rwanda, South Africa (4), Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading034>

Deportation

Damian Green [271363] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people have been deported to (a) Pakistan, (b) Afghanistan and (c) India in each of the last five years; and how many such persons were deported on the grounds of national security;

(2) [271364] how many people were deported to Pakistan on each ground for deportation in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas The UK Border Agency is committed to ensuring that we remove those foreign nationals who pose a risk of harm to our society. It has been made clear that all those who commit crimes within the United Kingdom and meet the published criteria will be considered for deportation action.

Over the past five years the UK Border Agency has deported or removed over 15,000 foreign criminals from the UK, including a record 5,395 in 2008. A detailed breakdown of where those individuals were removed to is not collated centrally and can be obtained only through the detailed examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

During the same period, nine people have been deported on grounds of national security. None of that group was deported to one of the three countries named.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide all of the most robust and accurate information available on the deportation of foreign criminals, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. She will continue to write to the Committee as required.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading023>

Deportation

Damian Green [276564]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many scheduled deportations were cancelled in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Internal management information, which is unaudited data and is subject to change, indicates that there were around 1,000 occasions in 2008 where there was a need to reschedule removal directions for those who were subject to deportation orders. These data are centrally collated and are not broken down to account for the number of individuals they refer to or the reasons as to why removal directions were rescheduled.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to provide robust and accurate information on the deportation of foreign national criminals. She has explained that there are several issues which may cause deportation to be rescheduled. For example,

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

there may be occasions when it is administratively cheaper or easier to reschedule a flight or last minute representations and judicial reviews launched by legal representatives or individual's behaviour becomes unmanageably obstructive, including use of 'dirty protests', and when there are last minute documentation issues.

Much progress has been made to minimise the impact of these issues which is demonstrated in the continued record performance of the agency in deporting or removing foreign national prisoners, where nearly 5,400 were removed in 2008. As confirmed in the UK Border Agency's 2009-10 business plan, it will continue to aim to deport or remove record numbers of foreign criminals in the forthcoming year.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090603/text/90603w0018.htm#09060375000027>

Immigration: Deportation

Baroness Neville-Jones [HL3569]: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many memoranda of understanding to facilitate the deportation of foreign nationals on grounds of national security and unacceptable behaviour are in place; with which countries; and in what years they were put in place.

[HL3570] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many memoranda of understanding to facilitate the deportation of foreign nationals on grounds of national security and unacceptable behaviour are being negotiated; and with which countries.

[HL3571] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many deportation actions on grounds of (a) national security, and (b) unacceptable behaviour, to countries with which the United Kingdom has a memorandum of understanding have been successful since September 2001; and how many have been unsuccessful.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: Memoranda of understanding on deportation with assurances have been signed with Jordan, Libya and Lebanon (all in 2005) and with Ethiopia (in 2008). Separate arrangements, set out in an exchange of letters in July 2006, apply in respect of Algeria.

The Government are pursuing agreements regarding deportation with assurances with a number of countries. However, as I explained in my previous reply (22 July 2008, WA 243), identification of the parties would prejudice these negotiations. Copies of any further agreements concluded will be placed in the Library in due course.

No one has been deported to Jordan, Libya, Lebanon or Ethiopia on grounds of national security during the period for which information is sought. Over the same period, eight men have been deported to Algeria on national security grounds.

There are 14 cases where a proposed deportation to one of these five countries on national security grounds has been discontinued.

Twelve cases are at various stages in the appeal process, including one where the person concerned has applied to the European Court of Human Rights.

To date, we have not sought to deport anyone to any of these five countries on grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

Baroness Stern [HL3736]: To ask Her Majesty's Government on how many occasions in the past 12 months people due to be removed from the country have been taken under escort to the airport of departure and their removal plan has then been cancelled because airline tickets have not been purchased.

[HL3737] To ask Her Majesty's Government which agency is responsible for purchasing the airline tickets for persons due to be removed from the United Kingdom.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: In the past 12 months (1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009), the removal directions for 19 people have been cancelled after the individual had been taken under escort to the port of departure because of problems relating to the purchase of airline tickets.

These figures do not constitute part of National Statistics as they are based on internal management information. The information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, should be treated as provisional and is subject to change.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Lords/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part051.html>

Deportation: Offenders

Dominic Grieve [276232] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners repatriated to their country of origin under the reintegration scheme have since been returned to the UK following reconviction.

Reply from Phil Woolas: Those foreign national prisoners who are removed under the Facilitated Returns Scheme are issued with an exclusion order preventing them from re-entering the UK. Those who are subject to a deportation order and have not benefited from the scheme are also prevented from re-entering the UK. There is no basis upon which a foreign government may return one of their nationals to the UK if that individual re-offends in their country.

The UK Border Agency deported or removed a record 5,400 foreign national prisoners in 2008, exceeding the Government set target. As confirmed in its 2008-09 Business Plan the Agency will continue to deport or remove even more.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading024>

Deportation: Private Sector

Damian Green [276558] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has with private contractors for escorted deportations.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The UK Border Agency has three contracts with private suppliers to escort individuals removed from the United Kingdom.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading025>

International Organisation for Migration: Finance

Damian Green [271370] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department allocated to the International Organisation for Migration in 2008.

Reply from Phil Woolas: The Home Office has allocated approximately £19.9 million to the International Organisation for Migration for the financial year 2008-09. This figure is subject to audit.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading051>

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

British Overseas Territories: Human Trafficking

Andrew Rosindell [276811]: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to counter human trafficking in the UK Overseas Territories.

Reply from Gillian Merron: Some of the UK assisted projects relating to border controls and enforcement would also assist the Overseas Territories' efforts to counter human trafficking. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) organised and funded a training course for Overseas Territory and FCO immigration staff held in the British Virgin Islands in February 2009. The aim of the course was to enhance the officials' immigration knowledge and experience, and it included training about human trafficking.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part023.html#heading008>

People Trafficking

Lord Hylton [HL3827]: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they were represented at the recent conference in London for the chairmen of parliamentary committees in Europe concerned with human trafficking; and whether they will work to ensure that best practice is shared throughout Europe.

Reply from Lord West of Spithead: The conference organised by the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee to launch that Committee's report in to human trafficking was addressed by my right honourable friend the Home Secretary and was attended by officials from the Home Office.

It has always been the stated intention of the Government to ensure that best practice on combating this horrendous crime should be shared with our international partners. In respect of this we have an excellent relationship with other European countries and international agencies dealing with law enforcement.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Lords/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part069.html>

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre

Anthony Steen [272050] : To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas visits UK Human Trafficking Centre staff have undertaken in each of the last three years; what the destination was of each such visit; and what the total cost of such visits was.

Reply from Alan Campbell: Figures for the past three years are not available . However, since 18 March 2008 UKHTC staff have undertaken 45 trips abroad that have incurred a total expense of £23,760.67.

These trips have been predominantly to European destinations, with other trips to the USA, Saudi Arabia. The purpose of these visits has been to take forward work to progress co-operation on human trafficking with our European and international partners.

This has included operational matters, joint training with the International Organisation of Migration and the Irish police, the launch of the Irish Blue Blindfold campaign and the signature of an intelligence sharing MoU with the US Human Smuggling and Trafficking Centre.

<http://services.parliament.uk/hansard/Commons/bydate/20090601/writtenanswers/part020.html#heading071>

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

Diane Abbott (1596) Human Trafficking – That this House welcomes the entry into force of the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking; notes that the Convention obliges signatories to 'protect victims of trafficking and safeguard their rights'; notes that at present the Government only provides specialised accommodation for 54 victims of trafficking and then that they must be female, over 18 years old, and victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation or domestic work; is concerned that victims of all types of human trafficking need protection and support; is further concerned that the Government continues to remove vulnerable people who have been victims of trafficking from the country; and calls on the Government to widen its range of specialised support for victims of trafficking and to give special consideration to the immigration claims of victims of trafficking.

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=38774&SESSION=899>

Press Releases

Points-based system: New application forms for students and for PBS dependants

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/pbs-new-forms-for-students>

Home Affairs Committee evidence session on 'bogus colleges': UK Border Agency response

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/hac-bogus-colleges-response>

New publication

Irregular Migrants: the urgent need for a new approach

http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/downloads/policy_reports/irregularmigrants_fullbooklet.pdf

News

Charity loses funding to help child refugees wrongly classified as adults

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/01/child-refugee-charity-fund-cut>

Asylum seekers wrongly refused legal aid

<http://www.irr.org.uk/2009/june/bw000014.html>

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Race Relations

Holyrood Parliamentary Motion

S3M-4288 Sarah Boyack: The Edinburgh Diversity Cup 2009—That the Parliament welcomes the third annual Edinburgh Diversity Cup, a five-a-side charity football competition to be held on Saturday 20 June 2009 at the Edinburgh Corn Exchange; notes that the proceeds from this event will go towards the Hope into Homes project in Malawi, an Edinburgh-based project operating with the assistance of the Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association in partnership with Habitat for Humanity to fund a multi-faith and multi-cultural team from Edinburgh to travel to Malawi to work in partnership with local families to build new homes; further notes that the 2008 event involved 19 teams and 130 players representing diverse backgrounds, beliefs and professions from across Edinburgh, raising £770 in the process, and lauds the event for its core aims of bringing people from different cultures and faiths together through sport, building friendship and cooperation, promoting respect and equality and celebrating diversity.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/Default.aspx?motionid=16740>

News

Put the boot into intolerance and pitch in for our diversity

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Put-the-boot-into-intolerance.5328427.jp>

British Council work to build bridges celebrated by Muslim body

http://www.theasiannews.co.uk/news/s/1119160_british_council_work_to_build_bridges_celebrated_by_muslim_body

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Equality

New publication

Equality in Action (European Commission newsletter)

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=2791&langId=en>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Sectarianism

Bill Butler (S3W-24088): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-23453 by Keith Brown on 15 May 2009, how much of the £23 billion is to be spent on anti-sectarianism projects in schools in the period 2008 to 2010, broken down by local authority.

Reply from Keith Brown: This is a matter for local authorities. The information requested is not held centrally.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-24088>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bill Butler (S3W-24089): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-23453 by Keith Brown on 15 May 2009, whether it will reinstate funding for anti-sectarianism projects in schools in the 2009-10 academic year.

Reply from Keith Brown: The Scottish Government is investing record levels of funding in local government, £23 billion for the period 2008-10, to enable education authorities to respond appropriately to their own local needs and priorities. Within the context of the new working relationship between Scottish and local government, future funding of anti-sectarianism projects in schools will be a matter for local authorities to determine.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-24089>

Bill Butler: (S3W-24090) To ask the Scottish Executive how it plans to encourage twinning of denominational and non-denominational schools in the 2009-10 academic year.

Reply from Keith Brown: The Scottish Government has published guidance promoting twinning arrangements between such schools and encouraging the resultant links between pupils and communities. Examples of good practice in twinning are shared through the anti-sectarian website, Don't Give It, Don't Take It at: <http://tscotland.org.uk/antisectarian>.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/default.aspx?pg=S3W-24090>

Press Releases

Police Encourage On-line Reporting of Hate Crimes

<http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/index.asp?docID=6853>

Online form to report non-urgent hate crime in Strathclyde. Police will only receive this form during normal office hours. It can be used by the victim of a hate crime, by a witness to a hate crime, or to report a hate crime on behalf of someone else (known as a third party report).

<https://www.strathclyde.police.uk/hatecrimeform/>

New publication

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance: Annual Report

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/annual%20report%202008.pdf>

News

Man beaten in race attack at flat

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8079841.stm

Man tells of race attack 'horror'

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/edinburgh_and_east/8080917.stm

Ex-Hibs hero Kenny back in class to tackle sectarianism

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/ExHibs-hero-Kenny-back-in.5333719.jp>

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

MP demands urgent action as new data reveals race-bully exclusions are soaring
<http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=6014497>

Black immigration worker who suffered racial discrimination at refugee charity wins £65,000
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1190321/Man-sacked-black-wins-65-000-refugee-charity.html?ITO=1490>

£4,000 payout for drinker over beer garden racism
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jun/07/racism-belfast-northernireland-beer>

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Other Westminster

Parliamentary Questions

Justice: Sharia Law

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they support the implementation of Sharia Law in the United Kingdom.

Reply from Lord Bach: My Lords, Sharia law is not part of the law of the United Kingdom and the Government have no intention of making any change to that position.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch: My Lords, I thank the noble Lord for that reply which, however, suggests that the Government may be disturbingly complacent about the fact that Sharia law is incompatible with the values and law of this country, as it denies not only equality before the law between men and women, Muslim and non-Muslim, but also freedom of religion. So, first, will the noble Lord give your Lordships a clear assurance that Sharia law will never be allowed to take precedence over British law? Secondly, and for instance, will Her Majesty's Government take steps to ensure that resident Muslim men will no longer be allowed to commit bigamy by bringing in their second, third and fourth wives and all their children to enjoy the benefits of our welfare state?

Reply from Lord Bach: My Lords, I shall repeat myself: Sharia law has no jurisdiction in England and Wales. We do not intend to change that position. Regardless of religious belief, we are all equal before the law. We cannot prevent individuals seeking to regulate their lives through religious beliefs or cultural tradition. Communities and other groups have the option to use religious councils or any other system of alternative dispute resolution and agree to abide by their decisions. Nothing in the law in England and Wales prevents people abiding by Sharia principles if they wish, provided that their actions do not conflict with the law in England and Wales. If they do, the law in England and Wales prevails.

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200809/ldhansrd/text/90604-0001.htm#09060438000837>

Press Release

Full list of Cabinet members
<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page19517>

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New Publication

Religion and Identity: Divided loyalties?

<http://campaigndirector.moodia.com/Client/Theos/Files/TheosFaithandIdentity.pdf>

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Other News

European Parliament and Local Council election results

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/bsp/hi/elections/euro/09/flash/html/eu.stm>

Lord Tebbit compares Sharia law with Kray twins' arbitration system

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/politics/5446211/Lord-Tebbit-compares-Sharia-law-with-Kray-twins-arbitration-system.html>

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Bills in Progress ** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Arbitration Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/19-Arbitration/index.htm>

Education (Additional Support for Learning) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/index.htm>

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/16-EdAddSup/b16bs3-aspassed.pdf>

**** Criminal Justice and Licensing Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/24-CrimJustLc/index.htm>

Justice Committee: Stage 1 evidence from Lothian and Borders Police, ACPOS, the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, Victim Support Scotland, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Children 1st, and Children in Scotland

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-1602.htm#Col1902>

and

from the Law Society of Scotland, the Faculty of Advocates, the Centre for Forensic Science, University of Strathclyde, the Scottish Police Services Authority, the Rt Hon Lord Coulsfield, the Centre for Sentencing Research, University of Strathclyde, the School of Law, University of Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Law, Business and Social Sciences, University of Glasgow

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/justice/or-09/ju09-1702.htm#Col1976>

**** Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/index.htm>

Stage 3 debate

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-09/sor0603-02.htm#Col18098>

Bill as passed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/09-AggPrej/b9s3-introd.pdf>

Bills in Progress Holyrood (continued)

Scottish Local Government (Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/21-SLGelections/index.htm>

**** Sexual Offences Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/11-sexualOffences/index.htm>

Briefing

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/research/briefings-09/SB09-39.pdf>

Bills in Progress Westminster

**** Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/borderscitizenshipandimmigration.html>

House of Commons: Second Reading

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm090602/debtext/90602-0004.htm#09060257000002>

amendment paper

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/086/amend/psc0860306a.1-4.html>

**** Equality Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/equality.html>

amendment papers

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/psc0852905a.17-23.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/psc0850206m.27-33.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/psc0850306a.37-42.html>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/amend/psc0850406a.43-49.html>

Public Bill Committee Proceedings

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmbills/085/psc0850602p.1-4.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** new or updated this week

Working together to protect crowded places (10 July 2009)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/working-together-crowded-places?view=Binary>

and

Safer Places: a counter-terrorism supplement

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/cons-2009-crowded-places/safer-places?view=Binary>

UK Consultation on the European Commission Proposal for an Equal Treatment Directive (28 July 2009)

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/international/eu_directive.aspx

Oversight of the Immigration Advice Sector consultation (6 August 2009)

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/221878/oversight_of_the_immigration_adv/oversight_immigration_advice/immigration_advice_consultation?view=Binary

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities advertised in MEMO+ Recruitment

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Events/Conferences/Training ** New or updated this week

** *this week!*

Protecting Vulnerable Groups: Check to Protect

10 June 2009 in Glasgow (9.30-1.30)

16 June 2009 in Aberdeen (9.30-1.30)

17 June 2009 in Dundee (9.30-1.30)

24 June 2009 in Inverness (9.30-1.30)

25 June 2009 in Perth (9.30-1.30)

Scottish Government events to inform organisations about the new Protecting Vulnerable Groups Scheme. This new membership scheme for people who work with children and protected adults will replace current disclosure arrangements for people whose post requires an enhanced disclosure. For information see <http://www.protectingvulnerablegroups.com/> or contact Holyrood Events 0131 272 2136

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

**** this week!**

Introduction to Working with Asylum Seekers & Refugees

9 June 2009 in Glasgow

20 August 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to identify the issues and concerns participants have in relation to working with asylum seekers and refugees, provide information on legal, political, economic and historical factors in relation to people seeking asylum, share ideas for developing good practice, and to identify strategies and resources for work with refugees. For information contact Jamie Spurway 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=73>

Refugee Week Scotland: Home is where the heart is

15-21 June 2009

What does Home mean to you? Is it about family and loved ones, the landscape, or the language? Does it represent a sense of security, of belonging, or of freedom? This year's programme is about welcoming all Scots, both old and new, and celebrating this wonderful wee country that we call Home - an opportunity for all of us – no matter what our backgrounds – to embrace both the things we have in common and those that set us apart. For information see www.refugeeweek.org.uk/scotland and

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/Programme_of_events

Ethnic Minority Women and Politics

24 June 2009 in Glasgow (10.30 – 1.30)

BEMIS and Fawcett Society event to bring politics directly to disengaged ethnic minority women in Scotland in order to get their voices heard and engage ethnic minority women in politics. For information contact Tanveer Parnez Tanveer.parniez@bemis.org.uk or Ashay Ghai Ashay.ghai@bemis.org.uk / 0141 548 8047

New Scrutiny Bodies 2011

26 June 2009 in Glasgow (9.30-2.00)

(Applications must be received by 5 June)

Scottish Government Conference for equality groups and people who use services on how health, care and social work services will be inspected from April 2011. For information see <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Scrutiny/PublicEvent>

Hate crime and community safety (event for Muslim Women)

1 July 2009 in Falkirk (10.00-1.30)

Event organised by AMINA women's resource centre, and Central Police with speakers from the Crown Office, Police, Victim Support, and AMINA, and including round table discussions on issues affecting Muslim Women in relation to policing. For information contact Samina or Gabrielle 0141 585 8026 / info@mwrc.org.uk or Fiach 01786826012 / fiach.obroin-molloy@centralscotland.pnn.police.uk

UKBA (formerly NASS) Asylum Support - The Essentials

3 September 2009 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course covering the asylum process and the legal framework, support arrangements available to asylum seekers from the beginning to the end of the asylum process, and entitlements for refugees and unaccompanied or separated asylum-seeking children. For information contact SRC 0141 248 9799 / train@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk or see

<http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/training/forms/Notes?formID=60>

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Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/home.htm>

Scottish Government <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Home>

Westminster Parliament <http://www.parliament.uk/>

Directgov (links to UK Government Departments)

http://www.direct.gov.uk/DI1/Directories/AToZOfCentralGovernment/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=10013528&chk=8b2gQw

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.eu.int/parliament/public.do?language=en>

One Scotland Many Cultures <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>

Scottish Refugee Council www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Scottish Inter Faith Council <http://www.scottishinterfaithcouncil.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Scotland Helpline 0845 604 5510

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

SCVO <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo/Home/Home.aspx>

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

Social Economy Scotland <http://www.socialeconomyscotland.info/content/index.asp>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <http://www.oscr.org.uk/Index.stm>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) <http://www.crbs.org.uk/>

Disclosure Scotland <http://www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/>

BBC News24 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/default.stm>

BBC Parliament online

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/bbc_parliament/default.stm

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The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charity SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS (the Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland) is the umbrella body for ethnic minority organisations in Scotland. It aims to strengthen the capacity of the ethnic minority voluntary sector; raise the profile and coordinate the voice of this sector; and take a lead on policy issues to ensure that issues of concern are raised with government and other relevant bodies. <http://www.bemis.org.uk/index.html>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.scotlandagainstracism.com/>