

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

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Immigration and Asylum

Westminster Debates

Family Migration Rules

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130619/halltext/130619h0001.htm#13061971000001>

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Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Visas

Baroness Smith of Basildon: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the average time taken to assess and process an overseas visitor's application for a visa.

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): My Lords, in the financial year 2012-13, on average, visit visa applications were processed in under 10 working days—the exact figure is 9.17 working days. We measure this from the time that the customer submits their biometric information to when the application is ready for collection by the customer. ...

Lord Dholakia: My Lords, what arrangements are in hand to review the decisions of entry clearance officers? My noble friend will be aware that in the past immigration adjudicators overturned the decisions of entry clearance officers in many cases. How do we ensure that there is no bias in the way decisions are taken, particularly as regards family visits and visits to attend marriages and funerals, when people wish to be in the country for a very short period?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: ... Lady Hamwee, is presenting a report, which we will be debating shortly, on the whole question of family visas. We need to make sure that we have a proper balance between safeguarding our own position and our commitments within the wider communities here in the United Kingdom and, at the same time, facilitating visits to this country. ...

Lord Avebury: My Lords, since the Secretary of State rightly disbanded the UKBA, what steps has she taken to address the dysfunctionality, not only in terms of immigration visas for visitors but throughout the whole system, to ensure that the immigration service universally provides an adequate service to people entering the United Kingdom?

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: My right honourable friend the Home Secretary is in Liverpool today addressing former UK Border Agency staff, and I have given a pretty clear indication that we want to make sure that, in future, this service reflects the needs of the customer.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130617-0001.htm#13061712000470>

Entry Clearances

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many current applicants for Home Office travel documents have been waiting (a) less than three months, (b) three to six months, (c) six to nine months, (d) nine to 12 months and (e) more than 12 months from the date of application for their document to be issued. [159315]

Reply from Mark Harper: Since February 2012 all travel document applicants have been required to hold, or simultaneously apply, for a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) to confirm their immigration status in the UK. Where an applicant already holds a BRP they need not apply for another. Such applications for BRPs may experience delays if they are rejected, for instance if required information is missing or the wrong fee paid. Rejected in this context means that the application is kept open and the applicant asked to provide the missing information and then reconsidered.

The current service standard for travel document applications is 98% in 70 days from the date the applicant confirms their status by enrolling their biometrics, or from the date of travel document application where the applicant does not need to enrol their biometrics because they already have a valid Biometric Residence Permit. The information requested is shown in the following table.

<i>Length of time decision pending</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>
0 to 3 months	4,834
3 to 6 months	3,342
6 to 9 months	1,285

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

9 to 12 months	1,219
12+ months	121
Total	10,801

Notes: 1. The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to travel document applications raised (ie received) that are pending a decision and are being dealt with by specific travel document teams. 3. The age of cases is calculated based on the length of time between the application raised date and 10 June 2013, when the data was generated.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130618/text/130618w0001.htm#130618118000057>

Immigration

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many families were separated for the purposes of immigration control in 2012; what were the outcomes for the children separated; how many families were reunited; and how many children are currently in statutory care as a result of being separated from their parents. [HL637]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): For immigration controls at the border, Border Force will endeavour, where possible, to keep family groups together. However, family groups are occasionally separated in specific circumstances, as outlined below:

Where a family group includes adults who are judged to have a high risk of absconding staff will aim to detain the whole family group until their return flight. Where this is not possible one of the adults, usually the head of the family could be detained as an incentive for the rest of the family to comply with temporary admission. Unaccompanied children who arrive in the UK where there is no suitable family member to care for them are referred to Children's Services. This could include children where the person coming to collect them has not produced sufficient evidence that they are a family member as claimed or where there are doubts about the suitability of the family member to care for the child. These cases are referred to Children's Services so that they can make a professional assessment of the risks involved in allowing the child to be cared for by the adult. In addition a child may arrive accompanied by an adult who claims to be a family member but if there are doubts about the claimed relationship or suspicions that the child may be a victim of trafficking then the child will be separated from the adult pending further investigations by Children's Services and if appropriate the police.

We hold some local data on cases where families were separated at the border for the purposes of immigration control in 2012. However, the way in which cases are recorded varies between ports. To obtain an accurate record of how many families were separated at the border could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

For immigration control inland, information is not recorded in a reportable field on the Home Office's Case Information Database (CID). Obtaining such information would therefore require a manual search of records and could only be achieved at disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130617w0001.htm#13061714000717>

Asylum: Children

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance her Department issues on the handling of children seeking asylum in the UK whose age is disputed. [159901]

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Reply from Mark Harper: Guidance to Home Office staff is provided in the "Assessing Age" Asylum Instruction which is available on the Home Office website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/assessing-age?view=Binary>

In brief, the policy states that, in circumstances in which an asylum applicant claims to be a child but in which the Home Office has doubts about this, the Home Office will refer the individual to social services for a formal age assessment. While the outcome of the assessment is awaited, the individual is given the benefit of the doubt and treated as a child.

The position of the Home Office is that it is committed to safeguarding the welfare of unaccompanied children and must reach a careful decision on an applicant's age to protect those who are genuine children and prevent abuse of the asylum system and social services system by those who are not.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130617/text/130617w0002.htm#13061735000061>

Asylum: Children

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children seeking asylum in the UK have been subject to the use of physical force in the last six months. [159899]

Reply from Mark Harper: There have been no reports during the last six months of the use of physical force against a person seeking asylum in the UK who is under the age of 18.

Jonathan Ashworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children seeking asylum in the UK have been strip-searched in the last six months. [159902]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Department is not aware of any instances where a person under the age of 18 has been strip searched in the course of Immigration or Border Force activity in the last six months, including those seeking asylum.

As a matter of policy, the Department and its agents do not strip search persons under the age of 18 in the course of Immigration or Border Force activity.

The Home Office has a duty under section 55 of the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to carry out its immigration, asylum, nationality and customs functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in the UK.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130619/text/130619w0001.htm#1306206000063>

Asylum: Homelessness

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers are currently homeless. [159903]

Reply from Mark Harper: The information requested is not known. However, any homeless asylum seeker can obtain support from the Home Office under section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 during the consideration of their claim.

The support is provided in the form of accommodation and a weekly allowance to meet essential living needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130617/text/130617w0002.htm#13061735000063>

Asylum: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she last

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assessed the performance of the Azure card. [160161]

Reply from Mark Harper: The card is provided to destitute failed asylum seekers who require support because they are temporarily unable to leave the United Kingdom and the performance of it is reviewed regularly. The Government is satisfied that the card is an effective way of ensuring the individuals are able to buy food and other items to cover their essential living needs.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130619/text/130619w0001.htm#1306206000064>

Asylum: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received about the Azure card. [159819]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Azure card is regularly discussed at meetings between Home Office officials and various organisations that have an interest in how failed asylum seekers who are temporarily unable to leave the United Kingdom are supported. The card has also been mentioned in the "Report of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Asylum Support for Children and Young People" published in January 2013 and in another report published at the same time by Maternity Action and the Refugee Council called "When Maternity doesn't matter: Dispersing pregnant women seeking asylum".

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harwich and North Essex of 15 May 2013, *Official Report*, column 210W, on inflation, what level of inflation index was used when determining the level of asylum support rates announced by her Department on 6 June 2013. [159938]

Reply from Mark Harper: The consumer prices index (CPI) was one of a range of comparators and objective data used to establish whether the rates of asylum support payments were sufficient.

Other evidence considered included: data from the Office for National Statistics on family expenditure and its composition; payments made by the Department for Work and Pensions; existing case-law on the destitution of asylum seekers, and the meaning of essential living needs; and asylum support arrangements in other EU member states.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130617/text/130617w0002.htm#13061735000062>

Asylum Seekers

Lord Avebury: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum claims, made on the basis of persecution on grounds of sexual orientation, by people from (1) Ghana, (2) Nigeria, (3) The Gambia, (4) Kenya, (5) Liberia, (6) Malawi, (7) Mali, and (8) Sierra Leone, have been rejected in 2013 so far. [HL682]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): The Home Office publishes immigration statistics annually and quarterly. These are available from the Library of the House and can also be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-january-to-march-2013>.

Published statistics are not disaggregated by the basis for the asylum claim. Consequently the requested information is not available through published statistics. However, since July 2011, the Home Office has flagged cases that include sexual orientation as part of their asylum claim on the Case Information Database (CID).

For the period January to March 2013, a total of 307 cases in respect of the

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specified nationalities were refused. The reasons for asylum being refused cannot be determined without undertaking a manual search of records. However, no cases refused asylum in 2013 in respect of the above nationalities were flagged as including sexual orientation as a part of their claim.

Please note the following:

- 1) All figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.
- 2) Figures relate to main applicants only.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure pregnant asylum applicants and their children receive continuity of maternal health care; and whether they issue guidance about the suitability of relocating, detaining or deporting those people.[HL716]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: All asylum seekers have access to the United Kingdom's health care system, including maternity services.

Guidance is available to decision makers about the detention and removal of pregnant asylum applicants.

Guidance is issued to cover procedures for providing accommodation to pregnant asylum seekers who become homeless and need to be relocated elsewhere. The guidance aims to ensure that treating clinicians and midwives are notified if it is not possible to accommodate the person in the same area where she has previously been living.

Pregnant women, including asylum seekers, are only detained for immigration reasons in very exceptional circumstances. If they are detained the healthcare teams present in Immigration Removal Centres are required to take all practical steps to obtain relevant health information from previous healthcare providers.

All removals of persons from the United Kingdom which involve a pregnant woman must follow the International Air Transport Association (IATA) guidelines for the carriage of pregnant women.

Lord Hylton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures are in place to ensure that unsuccessful asylum applicants receive appropriate and effective prophylaxis against malaria and other diseases endemic in their countries of origin before deportation.[HL717]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: When returning individuals to malaria risk countries, the Home Office provides free mosquito nets for children, pregnant women and vulnerable individuals who are unable to make their own provisions to access medication or mosquito nets. For those that may be particularly vulnerable to infection, consideration is given to providing other inoculations or prophylaxis.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130617w0001.htm#13061714000692>

Asylum

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the (a) performance of G4S in delivering its COMPASS contract for asylum seekers and (b) capacity of G4S to make provision for vulnerable asylum seekers under that contract. [159779]

Reply from Mark Harper: In July 2009, the UK Border Agency announced the launch of the Commercial and Operational Managers Procuring Asylum Support Services (COMPASS) Project to procure accommodation, transport and related services for asylum applicants. In 2012 G4S was awarded. COMPASS contracts in the North East, Yorkshire and Humber Region and the Midlands and East of England Region. The COMPASS procurement project was conducted in line with

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EU Procurement Regulations. Following extensive market engagement, options analysis and appraisal a range of potential suppliers were identified as being capable of delivering the services against a range of criteria including financial strength, experience in delivering services to Government, quality, cost, risks and benefits. The potential suppliers were invited to submit proposals. The proposals were extensively evaluated by a team of operational, financial and commercial experts who were aware of the statutory obligations of the Home Office and the complexities of providing these services. The evaluation and subsequent due diligence testing of the proposals confirmed that G4S to be a fit and proper organisation with the capacity and expertise to deliver integrated accommodation, transport and related services to asylum applicants.

COMPASS Contracts define the required performance standards expected of all providers and also contain prescribed performance and governance regimes.

Since mobilisation of COMPASS contracts in June 2012 G4S have attended monthly contract board meetings where they report on their performance. Every three months they have attended a strategic review to discuss past performance and future activity.

G4S performance is satisfactory. Where shortfalls in performance have been identified the performance regime has been applied and improvement plans developed and implemented.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many returned asylum seekers returned to their country of origin have since returned to the UK and have been accepted as victims of persecution in the last five years. [159894]

Reply from Mark Harper: The data requested is shown in the following table:

	<i>Grants</i>
2008	5
2009	15
2010	30
2011	35
2012	25
Total	110

Notes: 1. The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols. 2. Figures relate to main applicants only. 3. Figures relate to grants of asylum between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012 where the decision followed a removal linked to a previous asylum application. 4. Removals may include voluntary and third country removals. 5. Figures round to nearest five and may not come to total because of independent rounding.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130619/text/130619w0001.htm#1306206000062>

Asylum

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Gender Champion for asylum seekers. [159777]

Reply from Mark Harper: Within the current Home Office structure there is no specific role of Gender Champion for asylum seekers. However, there was a network of Diversity Champions within the former UK Border Agency that included a Gender Champion.

This role is currently being considered in light of the recent structural changes in the Home Office. No formal assessment of the effectiveness of these champion roles has been undertaken. However, the Home Office remains committed to

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improving gender sensitivity across all its strands of work.

Within the immigration system, we continue to ensure that appropriate guidance is followed by caseworkers, including in asylum. Certain actions were highlighted in the recent Government action plan “The Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls—the next chapter” and these have also been incorporated into the Home Office “Women’s Issues in the Asylum Claim” action plan.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from the UN on levels of proof used by the Government to ascertain torture when dealing with asylum seekers; and what steps she has taken in this area. [159824]

Reply from Mark Harper: In its publication, “Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of the United Kingdom, adopted by the Committee at its fiftieth session (6-31 May 2013)”, the United Nations Committee Against Torture recommended that the UK should “Take necessary measures to ensure that vulnerable people and torture survivors are not routed into the Detained Fast Track System, including by... lowering the evidential threshold for torture survivors.”

The Home Office is committed to the fair and effective operation of the Detained Fast Track, and the procedures and policies underpinning it are under constant review. The UN recommendations will be considered in this context.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from non-governmental organisations representing asylum seekers on the issue of asylum in the UK. [159825]

Reply from Mark Harper: A wide variety of representations are regularly received about asylum matters from non-government organisations. Some of the most recent include a report about the quality of decision making by Amnesty International and a report published by Maternity Action and the Refugee Council about procedures for accommodating destitute asylum seekers who are pregnant. The main means through which representations are received and discussed is the National Asylum Stakeholder Forum, which includes a wide range of organisations with an interest in asylum matters and meets regularly. There are also Strategic Migration Partnerships which cover particular regions of the United Kingdom and focus on issues in their area.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum seekers receive legal advice. [159891]

Reply from Mark Harper: There are no data available on the overall proportions of asylum seekers receiving legal advice. As a result it is not possible to provide definitive figures on applicants who have received, or are receiving, legal advice. It is considered that the costs that would be incurred to collect such data would be disproportionate.

All asylum seekers can seek legal advice and the Home Office provides information to assist applicants in finding such advice, but does not provide legal advice directly. For instance, at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/helpandadvice/legaladvice/>

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of asylum interviews are (a) audio taped and (b) video taped. [159892]

Reply from Mark Harper: All asylum interviews are recorded verbatim by the interviewer and every applicant receives a copy of the interview record. In addition, applicants without legal representation or whose legal representatives are not publicly-funded to attend the interview are allowed, on request, to have their asylum interviews electronically (audio) recorded, to ensure that they are not disadvantaged by the absence of a legal representative. Applicants and their

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representatives are not permitted to use their own recording equipment during an asylum interview.

No interviews are video recorded.

We are unable to provide data on the proportion of interviews that are audio recorded as the information is not held in a recordable format.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of (a) women and (b) men won their asylum appeal in each of the last 10 years. [159893]

Reply from Mark Harper: The tables show the total number of main applicants with an asylum appeal determined, for years which information is available, and what proportion of appeals were allowed for (a) women and (b) men.

The data presented above, are published in table as—14 (Asylum data tables Volume 2) of Immigration Statistics: January to March 2013, available from the Library of the House and as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

<i>Table: Asylum appeal determined and allowed, by gender</i>						
<i>Year of application</i>	<i>Total appeals determined</i>	<i>Total appeals allowed</i>	<i>Appeals allowed as a % of appeals determined: total</i>	<i>Appeals determined: males</i>	<i>Appeals allowed: males</i>	<i>Appeals allowed as a % of total appeals determined: males</i>
2007	12,395	2,784	22	8,282	1,677	20
2008	9,209	2,124	23	5,805	1,196	21
2009	12,813	3,712	29	8,159	1,997	24
2010	14,723	4,029	27	9,668	2,397	25
2011(1)	10,597	2,779	26	7,487	1,860	25
2012(1)	8,229	2,192	27	5,808	1,465	25
<i>Year of application</i>	<i>Appeals determined: females</i>	<i>Appeals allowed: females</i>	<i>Appeals allowed as a % of total appeals determined: females</i>	<i>Appeals determined: sex unknown</i>	<i>Appeals allowed: sex unknown</i>	<i>Appeals allowed as a % of total appeals determined: unknown</i>
2007	4,111	1,106	27	2	1	50
2008	3,403	928	27	1	0	0
2009	4,650	1,715	37	4	0	0
2010	5,045	1,631	32	10	1	10
2011(1)	3,104	919	30	6	0	0
2012(1)	2,419	726	30	2	1	50

(1) Provisional data. Notes: 1. HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) (formerly the Tribunals Service Immigration and Asylum (TSIA)), consists of the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTIAC and UTIAC). This replaced the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) on 15 February 2010. 2. Appeals determined includes appeals allowed, appeals dismissed and appeals withdrawn (by the Home Office or by the appellant).

	2010	2011(4)	2012(4)
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Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints she has received about (a) country of origin reports, (b) operational guidance notes and (c) country policy bulletins in dealing with asylum seekers in the last six months. [159895]

Reply from Mark Harper: In the last six months no complaints have been

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received about country of origin reports, operational guidance notes and country policy bulletins.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where the asylum screening centres serving (a) England, (b) Scotland, (c) Wales and (d) Northern Ireland are based. [159896]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office considers that anyone who intends to claim asylum should do so at the first available opportunity—this usually means on arrival, at a port of entry.

Those who have failed to claim asylum at a port, who believe that they have become refugee sur place (in other words, that they may qualify for refugee status because of a change of situation in their country of origin), or who have otherwise entered the country illegally, are required to register their application in person at the Asylum Screening Unit (ASU) in Croydon, either on a walk-in basis or by appointment. If someone wishes to claim asylum in Northern Ireland, they can make an appointment to attend the Belfast Public Enquiry Office to register.

In exceptional circumstances, for instance in the case of unaccompanied asylum seeking children or those who are unfit to travel, individuals may approach a regional immigration office to make their application.

Those who claim asylum only after being encountered through enforcement activity or police call-outs will usually be screened locally at the time of that encounter, or shortly afterwards if detained.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether persecution because of gender is grounds for claiming asylum in the UK. [159897]

Reply from Mark Harper: Persecution because of gender can amount to grounds for being granted asylum in the UK. The gender of an applicant may inform an assessment of whether one or more of the five UN refugee convention grounds is applicable. Gender cases often fall under the convention ground of 'Particular Social Group'.

The assessment of an asylum claim should be carried out on an individual, objective and impartial basis in order to assess whether the acts to which the person has been or could be exposed would amount to persecution or serious harm.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what specialist training her Department gives to doctors to assist in identifying asylum cases involving torture. [159920]

Reply from Mark Harper: The Home Office does not provide specialist training to doctors to assist in identifying asylum cases involving torture.

Rule 35(3) of the Detention Centre Rules 2001, however, requires doctors working in immigration removal centres to submit a report on any detainee whom they are concerned may have been a victim of torture in order that the appropriateness of continued detention may be reviewed. Doctors working in this capacity are expected to make such reports in light of their professional knowledge and training.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130617/text/130617w0001.htm#13061735000059>

Asylum

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what performance management systems her Department has for monitoring the administration of asylum decision making. [159831]

Reply from Mark Harper: Asylum casework performance is published every year against 15 key performance indicators (KPIs)—see following link. These cover a

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wide variety of factors, including asylum decision making. Specifically:

- Asylum intake
- Work in Progress (WiP) cases
- Intake
- Asylum support costs
- Productivity
- Asylum unit cost
- Initial decisions in 30 days
- Cases concluded in six months
- Cases concluded in 12 months
- Cases concluded in 35 months
- Cases removed in 12 months
- Decision quality
- Appeal representation rate
- Appeal win rate
- Asylum grant rate

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/further-key-data/>

Overall, the published statistics show a system in good health, with the majority of KPIs either exceeding or matching the previous year's figures. In terms of decision making:

Initial decision quality rose from 88% in 2010-11 to 89% in 2011-12.

30 day initial decision rates decreased from 59% in 2010-11 to 47% in 2011-12. However, this was largely due to a focus on removals and longer term conclusions (both 12 and 26 month conclusion rates rose considerably) and we are confident this trend will be reversed when the 2012-13 figures are published in August 2013.

Going forward, the Asylum Casework Directorate is implementing several changes to simplify and standardise the asylum system—allowing for better, earlier identification of the claimant, including the most vulnerable, and enabling appropriate consideration by the correct team who specialise in their case type. This specialisation will then enable the development of country and subject expertise by decision-makers, and result in faster, higher quality decisions.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130618/text/130618w0001.htm#130618118000050>

Asylum

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many settlement applications were made by asylum seekers between 1 October and 31 December 2012; and how many such applications were outstanding on 31 December 2012. [160684]

Reply from Mark Harper: Between 1 October and 31 December 2012, a total of 2,277 applications for settlement were received by individuals who have been granted asylum. Of these 2,221 applications were pending on 31 December 2012.

Notes:

1. The figures quoted have been derived from management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.
2. Figures relate to asylum main applicants.
3. Figures relate to applications made for settlement by individuals that have made an application for asylum.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130620/text/130620w0001.htm#13062069000055>

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Deportation: Children

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children have been deported by the UK Border Agency in each of the last three years. [160197]

Reply from Mark Harper: The following table provides the total number of enforced removals of children under 18 in each of the last three years from the UK.

Enforced removals of children under 18 from the UK	352	180	208
Under 14	296	140	176
14-15	26	9	14
16-17	30	31	18

(1) Enforced removals are where it has been established that a person has breached UK immigration laws and has no valid leave to remain within the United Kingdom. UKBA/Home Office enforces their departure to ensure they leave the UK. (2) Removals are recorded on the system as at the dates on which the data extracts were taken. (3) Age recorded at the time of departure from the UK. (4) Provisional figures. Figures may under record due to data cleansing that take place after the extracts are taken.

Deportations are included in published enforced removals statistics which are either following a criminal conviction (foreign national offenders) or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good; the deportation order prohibits the person returning to the UK until such time as it may be revoked. It is not possible to separately identify deportations from enforced removals.

The Home Office publishes quarterly and annual statistics on the number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK within Immigration Statistics. The data on removals and voluntary departures by type, age at departure date and sex is available in the latest release, Immigration Statistics: January-March 2013, table rv_02 (volume 1) web pages at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release> and also available from the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130619/text/130619w0001.htm#1306206000069>

Human Trafficking

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to combat human organ-trafficking; and if he will make a statement. [159303]

Reply from Hugo Swire: The Government fully supports action to combat the commercialisation of organs and the trafficking of people for organ harvesting. In the UK, we have a robust legal framework and regulatory oversight to combat any trafficking in this area. We have signed and ratified the major anti-trafficking instruments such as the UN Palermo Protocol and the Council of Europe convention against trafficking, which taken together represent a comprehensive response to all forms of trafficking, including organ harvesting.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) fully support the Declaration of Istanbul, which encourages all countries to draw up legal and professional frameworks to govern organ donation and transplantation activities. We have participated in a number of recent relevant initiatives, such as the development of World Health Organisation Guiding Principles, to ensure that human material

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

removed from deceased and living donors for the purpose of transplantation only takes place according to agreed principles.

The FCO lobbies the governments of those countries we judge to be a priority to sign and implement the international anti-trafficking instruments.

The FCO also supports awareness arising among potential future victims of trafficking in order to prevent them falling into exploitative situations, including situations in which organ harvesting may occur.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130617/text/130617w0002.htm#13061743000004>

Human Trafficking

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) children, (b) adult males and (c) adult females identified as having undergone human trafficking have been subsequently re-trafficked in each of the last five years. [156946]

Reply from Mark Harper: The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) does not specifically record whether an individual may have been a victim of re-trafficking.

As of 23 May 2013, less than five individuals have been referred into the NRM, with the same name and date of birth, who received a positive reasonable grounds decision in a first case and a positive reasonable grounds decision in a second case. This may indicate re-trafficking.

In order to maintain the anonymity of those individuals, the precise figure is not given in this response.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2013, *Official Report*, column 904W, on human trafficking, what measures are in place to check the (a) identity and (b) status of passengers leaving the UK on outbound flights. [159295]

Reply from Mark Harper: Persons leaving the United Kingdom are not required routinely to pass through an immigration control on embarkation. Since March 1998, controls have been conducted on a targeted, intelligence-led basis.

Our programme for government sets out our support for e-Borders and our intention to reintroduce exit checks and we are committed to do this by 2015.

e-Borders supports our ability to undertake effective exit checks as passengers leave the UK and we are committed to further enhancing its capabilities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130617/text/130617w0002.htm#13061735000069>

Human Trafficking

Baroness Doocey: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Taylor of Holbeach on 22 April (WA 387) which stated that 27.5 per cent of Nigerian children referred to the National Referral Mechanism have received a positive conclusive grounds decision, what is the main reason for a refusal of a conclusive grounds decision; and whether the percentage of Nigerian children receiving a positive conclusive grounds decision is consistent with that of other nationality groups referred to the National Referral Mechanism. [HL509]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Taylor of Holbeach): As of 23 May 2013 data from the National Referral Mechanism records 171 potential child victims of trafficking with a declared country of origin of Nigeria referred since April 2009. Of these, 28.7 per cent have received a positive conclusive ground decision. 11.7 per cent have received a negative conclusive grounds decision and 23.4 per cent are awaiting a conclusive grounds decision. One case was withdrawn and in five cases there has been a suspension of consideration.

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

989 potential child victims of trafficking (excluding those with a declared country of origin of Nigeria) have been referred to the National Referral Mechanism since April 2009. Of these, 35.5 per cent have received a positive conclusive ground decision, 12.4 per cent have received a negative conclusive grounds decision and 15.6 per cent are awaiting a conclusive grounds decision.

Refusal of a conclusive grounds decision, in any case of potential trafficking, is because the facts of the case do not, on the balance of probabilities, meet the criteria set out in competent authority guidance. Competent authority guidance for UK Visas and Immigration staff is available online at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/competent-guidance?view=Binary>

Baroness Docey: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities are asked to pay for specialist care and safe accommodation for 16- and 17-year old child victims of trafficking out of the £71 per child per day grant currently given by the UK Border Agency to reimburse care arrangements for asylum-seeking children.[HL556]

To ask Her Majesty's Government whether local authorities are asked to pay for specialist care and safe accommodation for 18-year old victims of trafficking in the leaving care system out of the £150 per child per week grant for formerly relevant children currently given by the UK Border Agency to reimburse care arrangements for asylum-seeking young people.[HL557]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Home Office provides funding to local authorities to assist with their costs in supporting unaccompanied children who have claimed asylum, including the proportion who have been trafficked. The funding is used to cover the costs of providing foster parents or other accommodation arrangements, as well as the costs of the social workers who provide appropriate care.

Currently, £95 per day is provided for each supported child aged under 16 and £71 per day for each child aged 16 or 17. Extra funding is also provided to those local authorities that support high numbers of cases, generally because of their proximity to our major ports or asylum screening offices.

Local authorities usually have a duty to continue to provide support ("leaving care support") to the persons after they reach 18 years of age provided they are legally entitled to remain in the United Kingdom, for example because they have been granted refugee status. £150 per week is provided to the local authority for each person supported in this way. This funding is additional to the mainstream benefits and housing assistance available to the majority of cases.

Local authorities only have a duty to provide leaving care support to persons aged over 18 who have been refused asylum and remain unlawfully present in the United Kingdom if the provision of support is necessary for human rights reasons.

For this reason, Home Office funding ceases three months after the person's asylum claim and any appeals are finally determined as refused.

Lord McColl of Dulwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government, in relation to European Union Directive 2011/36 on combating human trafficking, why the notification made to the European Commission on 25 April 2013 was of only partial transposition of the Directive; and when they expect to be able to notify the Commission of full transposition.[HL798]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: The Government notified the Commission of full compliance in April, subject to the Criminal Justice Act Northern Ireland receiving Royal Assent. This was received on 25 April 2013 with the human trafficking provisions commencing on 26 April. I expect the Commission to reflect our full position shortly.

Lord McColl of Dulwich: To ask Her Majesty's Government what documents have been submitted to the European Commission in support of the notification of transposition of

Immigration and Asylum Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

European Union Directive 2011/36 on combating human trafficking; and whether they will place copies of those documents in the Library of the House. [HL799]

Reply from Lord Taylor of Holbeach: A transposition table, including details of those documents that transpose the Directive, was submitted to the Commission by the deadline. I have placed a copy in the Library of the House.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130617w0001.htm#13061714000716>

Press Releases

Tier 4 Student online application pilot

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2013/june/52-tier-4-online>

Foreign Secretary marks World Refugee Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-marks-world-refugee-day>

Commission report calls for forward-looking policies on migration

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-552_en.htm?locale=en

Asylum decisions in the EU27 EU Member States granted protection to more than 100,000 asylum seekers in 2012

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STAT-13-96_en.htm?locale=en

Joint Statement on World Refugee Day

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-583_en.htm?locale=en

Q/A: The European Commission's work to help refugees

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-13-594_en.htm?locale=en

New Publications

International Migration Outlook 2013

http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2013_migr_outlook-2013-en

Moving on: Migration trends in later life

http://www.ippr.org/images/media/files/publication/2013/06/moving-on-older-people_June2013_10898.pdf

News

Asylum seekers are valuable members of the community

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2013/jun/18/asylum-seekers-valuable-members-community>

An important lesson for Polish migrants in the Before You Go film

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jun/19/before-you-go-film-polish-migrants>

Asians and Africans must pay £3,000 to enter Britain

http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/news/uk_news/National/article1277753.ece

Immigration and Asylum

News (continued)

MSP warns against 'soft touch' after hoax diverts jet

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/scotland/article3793719.ece>

Prestwick landing: Five passengers seek UK asylum

<http://www.scotsman.com/scotland-on-sunday/scotland/prestwick-landing-five-passengers-seek-uk-asylum-1-2968562>

More than seven million refugees displaced in 2012 - UN

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-22963060>

Call on detention of mums-to-be

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/health/call-on-detention-of-mums-to-be.21345016>

Vietnamese trafficking victims win appeal against convictions

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-22999230>

The Best and the Brightest

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/leaders/article3797805.ece>

Asylum seekers: nowhere boys

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2013/jun/22/asylum-seekers-nowhere-boys>

Women fleeing persecution must receive the protection they deserve this World Refugee Day

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2121_women_fleeing_persecution_must_receive_the_protection_they_deserve_this_world_refugee_day

Refugees from across the world unite to launch Refugee Week Scotland 2013

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/latest_news/2114_refugees_from_across_the_world_unite_to_launch_refugee_week_scotland_2013

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Race Relations

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Communities: Community Tensions

Baroness Tonge: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of civilian deaths, including those of children, in Palestine and Muslim countries on community tensions in the United Kingdom.[HL620]

Reply from the Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi):

The Government regularly discusses a range of issues with diaspora communities and others with an interest in Muslim countries, including the impact of events in those countries on communities in the UK. In terms of assessing impact on community tensions relating to events and incidents abroad, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Home Office also funds the National Community Tension Team (NCTT), part of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO). The NCTT collates and assesses local police community tension reporting, which includes tension generated by events abroad.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/130619w0001.htm#13061996000335>

Race Relations (continued)

Westminster Early Day Motion

Stephen Lloyd (272) Religious Education and Tolerance – That this House notes that Religious Education (RE) is a rigorous academic subject that allows young people to increase their knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious beliefs; further notes the importance of mutual understanding and the community cohesion it engenders, particularly at this time of heightened tension; recognises the contribution the subject RE plays in fostering mutual understanding and respect between people with different religious and non-religious beliefs; supports the efforts of schools and local authorities who give RE the attention and status it merits in the curriculum; and urges that measures to ensure that all children explore and discuss religious and non-religious beliefs at school be pursued by the Government.

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/272>

Press Release

OSCE/ODIHR renews work of its advisory panel on freedom of religion or belief

<http://www.osce.org/odihr/102854>

New Publication

Making multiculturalism work: enabling practical action across deep difference

<http://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/files/files/Reports/Making%20Multiculturalism%20Work%20combined.pdf>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Senior Public Sector Positions: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what steps she is taking to increase the representation of black, Asian and minority ethnic people in senior positions in the public sector. [160639]

Reply from Helen Grant: This Government is committed to increasing the diversity of the senior civil service, including ethnic minority representation at these levels. Current programmes which support diversity in the senior civil service or the grades that flow into it include the recently launched Positive Action Pathway, the “Growing Talent” programme and the “Summer Diversity Internship Programme”. In the senior civil service, 4% are from a BME background, up from 2.4% in 2003.

In the public sector more generally, the positive action provisions within the Equality Act 2010 are designed to be used by public bodies to increase the numbers of black and minority ethnic employees in areas where the numbers are disproportionately low.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130620/text/130620w0003.htm#13062097000068>

Equality (continued) News

More calls for books about non-white children

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2013/jun/19/writing-stories-children-white-black-asian>

If minority ethnic people do better at school, why are they paid less in work?

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/2013/06/minority-ethnic-education-poverty>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Motions

S4M-07041 John Mason: Scottish Government Publication of Hate Crime Figures—

That the Parliament notes the publication on 14 June 2013 of Scottish Government statistics concerning offences involving hate crimes; warmly welcomes the overall reduction in racist and religiously aggravated crimes; notes with particular interest what it considers to be the effectiveness of the Offensive Behaviour at Football and Threatening Communications (Scotland) Act 2012, which led to 268 charges in the last financial year; notes from the statistics that the majority of the charges related to incidents at football stadia and that the conviction rate for the first 13 months of the Act was 68%; notes with extreme concern the increased number of convictions related to homophobia and Islamophobia, and desires that Scotland be a pluralistic society in which people from all walks of life, regardless of sexual orientation, religion, creed or colour can live together in harmony.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-07041&ResultsPerPage=10>

S4M-07022 Anne McTaggart: West of Scotland Regional Equality Council Secures £108,000 to Challenge Sectarianism—

That the Parliament congratulates the West of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WSREC) on securing an award of £108,000 from the Scottish Government Community Safety Unit; believes that this will help the charity develop its project, Challenging Sectarianism Across Generations, which studies the effects of intra-Christian sectarianism on families and the community; understands that WSREC will work with young people in schools and youth groups to illustrate the harm inflicted by sectarianism; commends its ambition to eliminate intra-Christian bigotry altogether, and wishes WSREC's staff and volunteers every success in combating prejudice, intolerance and racism across the west of Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4M-07022&ResultsPerPage=10>

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Other Holyrood

Press Releases

Recorded crime at 39-year low

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/06/recorded-crime-at-39-year-low18062013>

Other Holyrood Press Releases (continued)

Recorded crime in Scotland, 2012-13

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/06/recorded-crime-in-scotland18062013>

More effort needed to engage and enable voters in local authority elections

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/64800.aspx>

Criminal Justice Bill published

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2013/06/criminaljusticebill21062013>

New national strategy to tackle teenage pregnancy needed

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/64978.aspx>

New Publications

Recorded crime in Scotland, 2012-13

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00425198.pdf>

Local Government and Regeneration Committee: Report on the 2012 Scottish Local Government Elections

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_LocalGovernmentandRegenerationCommittee/Reports/lgR-13-08w.pdf

Reforming Scots Criminal Law and Practice: Additional Safeguards Following the Removal of the Requirement for Corroboration: Analysis of Consultation Responses

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00425488.pdf>

Health and Sport Committee: Report on Inquiry into Teenage Pregnancy

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_HealthandSportCommittee/Reports/heR-13-05w.pdf

Scotland's Balance Sheet

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0042/00425599.pdf>

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Other Westminster

Debate

Education Act 1996 (Travelling Families)

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm130618/debtext/130618-0004.htm#130618115000002>

Ministerial Speech

Foreign Secretary's speech: The United Kingdom: Stronger together

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/foreign-secretarys-speech-the-united-kingdom-stronger-together>

Other Westminster (continued) Press Releases

Over 12,000 charities register to claim gift aid online

... From 30 September, HMRC will stop accepting Gift Aid repayment claims on R68i forms and users will be required to use the Charities Online service to make claims. ... Online claims are usually paid within three working days, as opposed to 26 days using the old R68i paper claim form. ... Charities can get information on how to use the system from the HMRC website <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/online/index.htm> Those that do not have access to the internet will have to use the ChR1 paper form to make claims, available by calling HMRC Charities Helpline on 0845 302 0203. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-12000-charities-register-to-claim-gift-aid-online>

UK Public bodies that operate in Scotland

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/208120/Public_organisations_list_Scotland_web_version.pdf

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Other News

New lifeline offered to girls at risk of FGM

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/new-lifeline-offered-to-girls-at-risk-of-fgm-8669794.html>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Holyrood

** Children and Young People Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/62233.aspx>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre briefing

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefingsAndFactsheets/S4/SB_13-38.pdf

** Criminal Justice Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/65155.aspx>

Bill as introduced

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b35s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b35s4-introd.pdf)

Explanatory Notes

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b35s4-introd-en.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b35s4-introd-en.pdf)

Policy Memorandum

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b35s4-introd-pm.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal%20Justice%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b35s4-introd-pm.pdf)

Delegated Powers Memorandum

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Criminal_Justice_Bill_-_DPM.pdf

Bills in Progress

Holyrood (continued)

Scottish Independence Referendum Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/61076.aspx>

**** Post-16 Education Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/56717.aspx>

Proposed amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Post-16%20Education%20Bill/b18as4-stage3-ml.pdf

**** Scottish Independence Referendum (Franchise) Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/60464.aspx>

Proposed amendments

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Scottish%20Independence%20Referendum%20Franchise%20Bill/websiteamendmentss21june.pdf

**** Victims and Witnesses Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/59133.aspx>

Stage 1 debate

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=8231&mode=html#iob_74648

Bills in Progress

Westminster

Immigration Act 1971 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/immigrationact1971amendment.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

See Hear: A strategic framework for meeting the needs of people with a sensory impairment in Scotland (closing date 28 June 2013)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00417992.pdf>

Interests of the Members of the Scottish Parliament Bill (closing date 22 July 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_StandardsProceduresandPublicAppointmentsCommittee/Inquiries/FINAL_consultation_document.pdf

Children and Young People Bill (closing date 26 July 2013)

http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_EducationandCultureCommittee/General%20Documents/Call_for_written_evidence.pdf

Review of the Balance of Competences: Asylum and Immigration

(closing date 5 August 2013)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/199891/asylum-immigration-call-for-evidence.pdf

Our Communities, Your Duties (no closing date given)

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KN9FT6N>

Consultations (continued)

**** Tried and Trusted? The Role of NGOs in Asylum Seeker and Irregular Migrant Voluntary Return** (no closing date given)

<https://www.isurvey.soton.ac.uk/7654>

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Job Opportunities

[Click here](#) to find out about job opportunities

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Events/Conferences/Training

**** new or updated this week**

**** this week!**

Womens Interfaith Dialogue

24 June 2013 in Inverness (2.00 – 4.00)

Interfaith Scotland event to discuss “Values and Visions for the future of Scotland”. For information contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

**** this week!**

The Public Sector Equality Duty

26 June 2013 in Glasgow (5.30 to 7.00)

Murray Stable and Westwater Advocates in association with the Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland seminar to examine how the Public Sector Equality Duty has worked during the last two years. For information contact EqualityTalk@Advocates.org.uk.

**** this week!**

BEMIS & Scottish FA Football Equity Project Launch

26 June 2013 in Glasgow (10.00 – 11.00)

The event will include presentations on the future plans of the Equity Project and the progress made since its inception, and information on how the Scottish FA can benefit Ethnic Minority communities across the country who are interested in developing participation in the grassroots game. For information contact Ashley Rodden Ashley.Rodden@scottishfa.co.uk or see <http://bemis.org.uk/events/scottish-fa-equity-launch-event-invite.pdf>

**** Connecting Equalities in Glasgow**

10 July 2013 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector conference about the Public Sector Equality Duty. For information contact Brian McNee 0141 332 2444 / brian.mcnee@gcvs.org.uk or see http://www.gcvs.org.uk/assets/0000/2874/Connecting_Equalities_in_Glasgow.pdf

Mental Health and Ethnicity

30 October 2013 in Glasgow (9.30 – 4.00)

West of Scotland Health and Ethnicity Conference to present an evidence based approach to influence the development of a healthier minority ethnic community in Scotland. Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2013. For information contact Sidra Shirjeel sidra.shirjeel@cc3.org.uk or see <http://tinyurl.com/bmvj354>

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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.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

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/>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS www.acas.org.uk

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

Volunteer Development Scotland www.vds.org.uk

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

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 Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <http://www.scojec.org/>*



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. <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/>

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