

Minority Ethnic Matters Overview

*MEMO is produced by the **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities** in partnership with **BEMIS**.*

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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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month.

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and requests to be added to circulation to mail@bemis.org.uk

The UK Parliament will return from recess on 6 October.

Immigration and Asylum

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

David McLetchie (S3W-15757): To ask the Scottish Executive, further to the answer to question S3W-14928 by Linda Fabiani on 7 August 2008, when it intends to publish a further report on the Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme and whether the report will (a) assess the extent to which the recent growth in the population of Scotland is directly attributable to the measures in the scheme and (b) compare this growth with population growth in other parts of the United Kingdom to which these measures did not apply.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-01e.htm>

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-15791): To ask the Scottish Executive what funds it makes available to assist women asylum seekers fleeing domestic violence who do not otherwise have recourse to public funds.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-01e.htm>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-15792): To ask the Scottish Executive what emergency funding it makes available to assist women asylum seekers fleeing domestic violence who do not otherwise have recourse to public funds.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-01e.htm>

Patricia Ferguson (S3W-15793): To ask the Scottish Executive whether the needs of women asylum seekers fleeing domestic abuse will be addressed in the strategic framework on violence against women that it is currently considering.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-01e.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Damian Green [190144]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the granting of full citizenship would be delayed for those granted probationary citizenship should (a) a family member be found guilty of an offence and (b) the individual lose a case in the civil courts.

Reply to Liam Byrne: In the Government response to the consultation on the Green Paper 'the path to citizenship' we set out that we believe there is some value in supporting, and where necessary, challenging parents whose children offend. We recognise that there are sensitive issues which we need to consider carefully before proceeding and will establish a cross-Government working group to determine how to connect our proposals with other Government sanctions on youth crime.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0031.htm#08090233000013>

Damian Green [190182]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how her Department plans to verify claims of active citizenship on the part of migrants granted probationary citizenship; and what discussions officials in her Department have had with (a) representatives of the voluntary sector, (b) local authorities and (c) other bodies on their roles in the verification process.

Reply from Liam Byrne: At paragraph 178 of the Green Paper we have proposed that we will verify activities by written evidence from a referee. This would build on the current application process for citizenship, which requires applicants to submit details of two referees who have known the applicant personally for three years. Knowingly making a false declaration can lead to a penalty of up to three months' imprisonment or a fine not exceeding £5,000.

Migrants who have contributed to their community would be required to provide a third referee to confirm personally the evidence of active citizenship provided by the applicant, with the same potential penalties applying. We consider that this represents a cost effective and 'light touch' regime, which nonetheless provides a clear deterrent for anyone seeking to abuse the process.

We will continue to discuss these proposals with relevant bodies including representatives from local government and the third sector to help us identify the most effective and practical way of implementing this proposal.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0031.htm#08090233000016>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Jenny Willott [180227]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department of the Legacy Casework Programme questionnaires completed and returned, how many recipients (a) were granted leave to remain (b) were not granted leave to remain and (c) are awaiting a decision; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) cannot be determined as these would entail disproportionate cost. Applicants in the backlog of asylum claims are only sent a questionnaire if the UK Border Agency determines it needs more up-to-date information on the case, for example, where an applicant has not been in touch with the Agency for some period.

Lin Homer wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 July 2008 to update them on the progress of the work of the Case Resolution Directorate in line with the commitment she gave in her letter dated 17 December 2007 to provide updates every six months.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0027.htm#08090233000009>

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which benefits the Government considers to be mainstream benefits, as referred to in her Department's Green Paper, A Pathway to Citizenship. [190178]

Reply from Liam Byrne: In the Government response to the consultation on the Green Paper 'the path to citizenship', we set out that migrants in the temporary residence and probationary citizenship categories will have no access to non-contributory benefits, social assistance, local authority housing or homelessness assistance.

Limited exceptions to this will be where we are meeting our obligations under international agreements and international law. Temporary residents and probationary citizens will have access to a limited number of national insurance based benefits but only once they have paid for them.

Refugees will continue to have access to benefits at all stages of the process.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0031.htm#08090233000016>

James Clappison [177397]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many (a) student entry visas and (b) extensions to student visas were granted to non-EU students of each nationality in each year since 2001; and what proportion of applications for extensions to such visas were granted in respect of students of each nationality.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The available figures on non-EEA students given leave to enter the United Kingdom and those granted an extension of leave to remain can be found in the yearly Command Paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom" This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>.

The following table shows the proportion of applications for extension of leave to remain that were granted in respect of non-EEA students in 2006. Tables for previous years can be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

To read the lengthy table see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0038.htm#08090233000050>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

James Clappison [162680]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to introduce a further English language requirement for (a) non-UK nationals who wish to become UK citizens and (b) work permit applicants seeking leave to enter the UK; and what level of proficiency will be required in any such requirements.

Reply from Liam Byrne: We set out in the Green Paper: 'The Path to Citizenship; Next Steps in Reforming the Immigration System' our proposals for migrants to earn citizenship, including the need to demonstrate a level of ability in English. We have also consulted on whether spouses seeking entry on marriage visas should demonstrate ability in English before coming to the UK. We will set out our response to these consultations shortly.

We published a statement of intent 'Skilled Workers under the Points Based System (Tier 2)' in May setting out our plans for skilled workers to demonstrate English.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0039.htm#08090233000051>

Damian Green [202572]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040, which constabularies have immigration crime partnerships; and what funding her Department has made available for them.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The following constabularies have partnership agreements in place with UKBA (85 per cent.):

Strathclyde, Grampian, Lothian and Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Greater Manchester Police, Cheshire, Lancashire, Gwent, South Wales, Dyfed Powys, North Wales, Avon and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, North Yorkshire, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, West Mercia, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Metropolitan, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Thames Valley Hampshire.

It is intended that, by the end of 2008, all regions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will have Immigration Crime Teams (ICT) in operation. It is also anticipated that Scottish police forces will also have a fully developed ICT in operation by the end of the year. UKBA has allocated £18 million to fund the partnership with the police service.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0040.htm#08090233000065>

Damian Green [199847]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many on-the-spot fines have been imposed on employers using illegal immigrant labour since February.

Reply from Liam Byrne: Since the introduction of the new legislation on 29 February 2008, the United Kingdom Border Agency had served 221 Notifications of Liability for a Civil Penalty on employers of illegal migrant workers. This figure represents all Notifications served as of 6 June 2008.

This information is derived from provisional local management information which may be subject to change.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0040.htm#08090233000066>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [180678]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Ashford of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 638, from which colleges and universities the Borders and Immigration Agency and its predecessor requested details of (a) non-attendance by overseas students and (b) the number of students not attending; and how many students (i) had their visas revoked and (ii) were deported from the United Kingdom as a result in each year since 2004.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The UK Border Agency requested attendance records from 153 colleges and 48 universities since limited mandatory reporting was introduced in April 2007. Information on the number of people who have had their visas revoked as a result of such inquiries and who were subsequently deported could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at a disproportionate cost.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0039.htm>

Mike Hancock [218153]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will liaise with the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills to ensure that data stored by higher education institutions is compliant with, and accessible by, those operating the UK Border Agency database on introduction of Tier 4 of the new immigration system.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The points-based system (PBS) requires all sponsors, including higher education institutions, to keep accurate, up-to-date and comprehensive data on the migrants they are sponsoring. To help sponsors meet this requirement, UK Border Agency (UKBA) is committed to working with key stakeholders to develop suitable IT and data capture arrangements.

We will involve representative higher education institutions and others in the elaboration of our IT requirements with our chosen supplier. This will ensure that the sector's existing systems and the exchange of data will be compatible with those of the UKBA.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0040.htm#08090233000069>

James Clappison [201157]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of migrants on the highly skilled migrant programme given the right to remain in the UK following the High Court decision of 8 April 2008; how many migrants were subject to the points requirements dealt with in that decision; how many of them had had their cases considered; how many failed the requirement; and if she will give a breakdown by nationality of (a) those subject to the requirement, (b) those whose cases have already been considered and (c) those who have failed.

Mr. Byrne: We estimate that the judgment will affect some 1,300 people.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0041.htm#08090233000074>

Immigration and Asylum Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Damian Green [218892]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many businesses had applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points-based system by 30 June 2008.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The number of businesses which have applied for licences to sponsor foreign migrants under the points-based system is 210. This figure is rounded to the nearest five.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0040.htm#08090233000070>

James Clappison [196027]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1279W, on asylum, how many asylum claimants who have received leave to remain as a result of grant of (a) asylum, (b) humanitarian protection and (c) discretionary leave there were of each nationality in the categories (i) Europe other (ii) Americas other, (iii) Africa other, (iv) Middle East other and (v) Asia other.

Reply from Liam Byrne: The requested information is contained in the tables provided.

Information on asylum decisions is published quarterly and annually. Copies of asylum statistics publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html>.

To read the very lengthy table: "Grants of leave to remain made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, previously published under "other" category, April to December 2003" see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0027.htm#08090233000009>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0028.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0029.htm>

To read the lengthy table: "Grants of leave to remain made at initial decision on asylum applications, excluding dependants by nationality, as previously published under "other" category, 2006" see

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0029.htm>

and

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0030.htm>

Press Releases

Overseas Trained Teachers

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/overseastrainedteachers/>

Council of Europe calls for an integrated approach to migration issues

[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR611\(2008\)&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR611(2008)&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE)

Immigration and Asylum (continued)

New publications

Proposed New EU Border Control Systems

http://www.statewatch.org/news/2008/aug/pe408296_en1.pdf

Your Place or Mine? The local economics of migration

http://www.ippr.org.uk/members/download.asp?f=/ecomm/files/your_place_or_mine.pdf&a=skip

Red Cross Position Paper: European Commission Policy Plan on Asylum

http://www.redcross-eu.net/B/uploaded/1070_Position%20paper%20Policy%20Plan%20on%20Asylum.pdf

News

Call to devolve immigration issues to Scotland

<http://edinburghnews.scotsman.com/latestnews/Call-to-devolve-immigration-issues.4452068.jp>

MPs 'to call for cap on migrants'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7602526.stm>

Migrant cap plan divisive, MPs told

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Migrant-cap-plan-divisive-MPs.4466733.jp>

Rebel Frank Field leads calls for curbs on migrants

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/politics/article4692865.ece>

Member States are failing in their responsibilities towards asylum seekers, says report

<http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/20767>

Voters back immigration levels cut

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Voters-back-immigration-levels-cut.4467395.jp>

Call for immigration to be balanced with numbers leaving UK

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Call-for-immigration-to-be.4467083.jp>

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Race Relations

News

Police recruit equality advisors

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/7593899.stm

Race Relations

News (continued)

An understanding of Islam needs to be taught on common ground, not left to some ghetto

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/An-understanding-of-Islam-needs.4451037.jp>

Call for 'black schools'

<http://scotlandonsunday.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/Call-for-39black-schools39.4466403.jp>

Have faith in our schools

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/05/faithschools.religion>

Schooled to be neighbours

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/05/faithschools.religion1>

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Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions

Keith Vaz [218142]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces in England and Wales are expected to reach their 2008 targets for the number of police officers employed that are from an ethnic minority.

Reply from Tony McNulty: Around 20 forces are expected to reach their 2009 local targets. A 2008 target has not been set for forces.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0045.htm#08090233000097>

Keith Vaz [218146]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average percentage of applicants for the role of sergeant in police forces was from ethnic minority candidates in the latest period for which figures are available.

Reply from Tony McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally. Applicants to the police service have to start as constables, and then officers achieve the grade of sergeant via promotion.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0045.htm#08090233000097>

Keith Vaz [218147]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that police forces monitor the number of officers from ethnic minority backgrounds in their force.

Reply from Tony McNulty: As part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement, police forces are required to record data on the number of officers broken down by ethnicity. Numbers are published annually in the Home Office Statistical bulletin and Home Secretary's Race Equality Employment Targets Report.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0045.htm#08090233000097>

Equality

Westminster Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Keith Vaz [218148]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what records are kept by police forces in England and Wales on the (a) number, (b) distribution and (c) specialism of ethnic minority police officers; and what procedures are in place to ensure adequate records are kept.

Reply from Tony McNulty: As part of the Home Office Annual Data Requirement, police forces record data on the number of officers broken down by ethnicity who are predominately involved in a particular function. These specialisms are based on the HMIC function list, which can be downloaded from: <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/finance-and-business-planning/FLPdefinition.pdf>

Procedures relating to the adequacy of record keeping are an operational matter for individual chief constables and police authorities.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0045.htm#08090233000097>

New publication

Equality News (Equality and Human Rights Commission)

<http://cecollect.com/ve/ZZSs8829O613185Yhc>

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Racism and Religious Hatred

Holyrood Parliamentary Questions

Patrick Harvie (S3W-16005) : To ask the Scottish Executive how many charges recorded as racially aggravated under section 96 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 have been (a) reported to procurators fiscal by police, (b) prosecuted, (c) marked for no proceedings and (d) disposed of in other ways in each year since 2003-04.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-05e.htm>

Patrick Harvie (S3W-160) : To ask the Scottish Executive how many charges recorded as aggravated by religious prejudice under section 74 of the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2003 have been (a) reported to procurators fiscal by police, (b) prosecuted, (c) marked for no proceedings and (d) disposed of in other ways in each year since 2003-04.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-05e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16055) : To ask the Scottish Executive how many anti-sectarianism projects it is supporting through its Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Fund.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-05e.htm>

Bill Butler S3W-16056: To ask the Scottish Executive how many anti-sectarianism projects it is funding in schools in the 2008-09 academic year, broken down by local authority area and amount awarded.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-05e.htm>

Racism and Religious Hatred Holyrood Parliamentary Questions (continued)

Bill Butler (S3W-16057): To ask the Scottish Executive how many anti-sectarianism projects it is funding in further education colleges in the 2008-09 academic year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-05e.htm>

Bill Butler (S3W-16058): To ask the Scottish Executive how many anti-sectarianism projects it is funding in universities in the 2008-09 academic year.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-08/bb-09-05e.htm>

Westminster Parliamentary Question

Ashok Kumar [219849]: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of religiously-motivated violence against (a) Muslims, (b) Jews, (c) Christians, (d) Sikhs, (e) Buddhists and (f) Hindus were recorded in each year since 1997.

Reply from Vernon Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office collects statistics on recorded racially or religiously aggravated offences for some specific categories of offence. However, it is not possible to determine (a) whether an offence was of a racial or religious nature or (b) the religion of the victim.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmhansrd/cm080901/text/80901w0046.htm#08090233000105>

News

Met chief accused on race report

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/london/7591133.stm>

'Death threats' to race row officer

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latest-national-news/39Death-threats39-to-race-row.4444285.jp>

McConnell blasts 'weak' Salmond over sectarianism

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2440234.0.McConnell_blasts_weak_Salmond_over_sectarianism.php

McConnell attacks Salmond for ending anti-bigotry summits

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/McConnell-attacks-Salmond-for-ending.4456540.jp>

Salmond accused of being complacent over sectarian attacks

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/820745>

Shopkeeper jailed for race row lie

<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2008/09/06/newsstory11922156t0.asp>

Muslim lawyer wins bin Laden remark payout

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2442095.0.Muslim_lawyer_wins_bin_Laden_remark_payout.php

Racism and Religious Hatred

News (continued)

Black Caribbean children held back by institutional racism in schools, says study

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2008/sep/05/raceineducation.raceinschools>

Racism in education: have we learned nothing?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/05/raceineducation.raceinschools>

Racism is not the problem

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/05/raceinschools.raceineducation>

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Other Holyrood

Statement by the First Minister

Scottish Government Programme

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0903-02.htm#Col10301>

Debate

Scottish Government Programme

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-08/sor0903-02.htm#Col10327>

Committee

Public Petitions Committee

The Committee will consider the following petition at their meeting on 9 September:

PE1118: Petition by Josey Rowan calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to bring forward legislation to ban the killing of animals through methods such as the shechitah and the dhabiha, and require the stunning of all animals before slaughter.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/petitions/docs/PE1118.htm>

To read the evidence before the Committee see

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/petitions submissions/sub-08/08-subIndexForPE1118.htm>

Press Release

Programme for Government

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/03100801>

Other Holyrood (continued) **New publication**

Moving Scotland Forward

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/236931/0065009.pdf>

News

Salmond confirms council tax plan

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7594469.stm>

Scottish legislation plans in full

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7595583.stm>

Video of the First Minister's statement: Plan to scrap council tax

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7595657.stm>

Video of the First Minister's statement: 'Frustration' over economy

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7595651.stm>

Video of the First Minister's statement: Scotland is 'confident nation'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7595564.stm>

Salmond puts local income tax at heart of agenda

http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/news/display.var.2440259.0.Salmond_puts_local_income_tax_at_heart_of_agenda.php

Balancing act between ambition and risk of defeat

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2440229.0.A_delicate_balancing_act_between_ambition_and_the_risk_of_defeat.php

Scotland-only tax system would be impractical, says LibDem MP

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2440236.0.Scotlandonly_tax_system_would_be_impractical_says_LibDem_MP.php

Alex Salmond: My plans for a safer, stronger, greener, wealthier Scotland

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/opinion/Alex-Salmond-My-plans-for.4456529.jp>

Defiant Salmond ignores barrage of flak over tax

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/latestnews/Defiant-Salmond-ignores-barrage-of.4456569.jp>

MSPs vote against Alexander ban

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7596764.stm>

Alexander reacts to sanction vote

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/7598905.stm>

New leader of Scottish LibDems names his team

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2437271.0.New_leader_of_Scottish_LibDems_names_his_team.php

Other Holyrood

News (continued)

Summer Cabinets here to stay

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2008/09/01113849>

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Other Westminster

Press Releases

Stop rogue Hajj firms spoiling pilgrimage

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/environment/fullDetail.asp?ReleaseID=378299&NewsAreaID=2&NavigatedFromDepartment=False>

Prime Minister's Ramadan message

<http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16728>

Ramadan greeting from Hazel Blears

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/statements/corporate/ramadan2008>

Foreign Secretary's Ramadan message

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=5735798>

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Other News

Are you a Somali, Tamil or Kurd in the UK?

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/7591834.stm

Scotland's charity watchdog calls for law change

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2441168.0.Scotlands_charity_watchdog_calls_for_law_change.php

Unveiling for slave-trade abolition memorial

<http://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/Article.aspx/819054>

Holyrood hands out ethnic youth awards

http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.2442073.0.Holyrood_hands_out_ethnic_youth_awards.php

Not philistine, just practical

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/sep/06/education.immigrationpolicy>

Other News (continued)

Prisoner bosses spend £25,000 on lunchboxes for Ramadan

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2680265/Prisoner-bosses-spend-25000-on-lunchboxes-for-Ramadan.html>

Religious circumcision needs child consent, charity says

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/sep/04/circumcision.religion>

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Bills in Progress

** New or updated this week

Holyrood

Health Boards (Membership and Elections) Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/13-HealthBoards/index.htm>

Judiciary and Courts Bill

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/06-JudiciaryCourts/index.htm>

Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) Bill

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

Sexual Offences Bill

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

Bills in Progress Westminster

Counter-Terrorism Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/counterterrorism.html>

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/humanfertilisationandembryology.html>

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Consultations (closing date)

** New or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Scottish Government consultation about Islamophobia (12 September 2008)

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08ix_islamophobia_consultation.pdf

Consultations (continued)

The Duty to Promote Community Cohesion in Schools Survey 2008 (short online questionnaire – no closing date specified)

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=DuLrl_2bXuA9e2GClqeKbcwA_3d_3d

Inquiry into the Scottish Parliament public petitions process (26 September 2008)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/petitions/inquiries/petitionsProcess/InquiryintothePublicPetitionsProcess.htm>

Election Day: Weekend Voting (26 September 2008)

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/cp1308.pdf>

**** Local Authority Performance Targets for Under Achieving Pupil Groups**

(concerns schools in England and Wales) (6 October 2008)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/conSection.cfm?consultationId=1574&dId=913&sId=5504&numbering=1&itemNumber=1>

Forced Marriage Statutory Guidance (15 October 2008)

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/forcedmarriage-consultation>

Immigration appeals: Fair decisions, faster justice (16 October 2008)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/immigrationappeals/immigrationappealsconsultation?view=Binary>

Strengthening the Common Travel Area (16 October 2008)

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/consultations/strengtheningthecommontravelarea/travelareaconsultation?view=Binary>

No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility (22 October 2008)

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/noonewrittenoff/noonewrittenoff-complete.pdf>

Religious and Moral Education (November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_and_moral_education_outcomes_codes_tcm4-482454.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiousandmoraleducation.asp>

Religious Education in Roman Catholic Schools (November 2008)

http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/Images/religious_education_roman_catholic_outcomes_codes_tcm4-486155.pdf

Online questionnaire

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/curriculumforexcellence/onlinesurveys/religiouseducationinroman Catholicschools.asp>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

Community Chest

Community Chest is a small grant programme providing grants of up to £1,000 designed to help small community groups in Scotland fund their activities. This could include making a contribution towards the running costs of the group, holding an event or helping to buy an essential piece of equipment. Applications can be made throughout the year, and will be assessed within 4-6 weeks. For information see

http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/assets/Community_Chest_Application_Pack_PDF.pdf

Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme

Deadline for applications: 30 September 2008

The Volunteering Scotland Grant Scheme can provide grants for up to three years for projects that attract harder to reach volunteers to enable organisations to develop and sustain high quality volunteering opportunities for people who need more support to get involved, and enrich their services with an extra resource of volunteers. Substantial grants for one or two years are available, as well as one-off small grants of £5,000 to smaller organisations. For information and application form see

<http://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/grant-schemes/vsgs>

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Events/Conferences/Training

** New or updated this week

OSCR Meet the Regulator Roadshow

[23 September 2008 in Edinburgh](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

[1 October 2008 in Edinburgh](#) (9.15 – 2.00)

[2 October 2008 in Kelso](#) (9.15 – 1.30)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator training events aimed at charity trustees and administrators of smaller charities with an income less than £100,000. For information contact the OSCR communications@oscr.org.uk or follow above weblinks.

**** Civil Society and freedom of information – a missed opportunity?**

30 September 2008 in Glasgow (10.00 – 4.00)

Seminar by the **Scottish Information Commissioner** and the **Campaign for Freedom of Information** to mark the launch of a new research project which aims to explore the ways in which Scottish civil society engages with freedom of information. The research follows evidence suggesting that the FOI 'right to information' is not being used to its full potential by Scotland's voluntary groups and campaign organisations, with only 4% of the appeals received by the Scottish Information Commissioner coming from the sector. For information contact Paul Mutch 01334 464610 / pmutch@itspublicknowledge.info

Events/Conferences/Training (continued)

Sharing Experience – Sharing Concern

2 October 2008 in Perth (10.00 – 3.00)

National Commission for Pastoral and Social Care conference for faith communities on the theme of raising awareness on domestic abuse. For information contact 0141 847 6137 / nacosoca.admin@btconnect.com or see

http://www.scojec.org/memo/files/08vii_national_commission.doc

Volunteer Recruitment Fair

2 October 2008 in Edinburgh (11.00 – 7.00)

Recruitment and networking event organised by volunteer Centre Edinburgh to promote volunteering. For information, or to book a stall contact Ellis Ciruello ellis.ciruello@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk or see

<http://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/news/pressreleases/BookingForm2008comp.doc>

Migrant Rights and Information Day

3 October in Edinburgh (10.00 – 6.00)

Positive Action in Housing information day to provide an opportunity for new migrants in Edinburgh to meet representatives from a range of different organisations and get information and advice on their employment rights, housing rights and options, welfare benefits entitlements, healthcare rights, education rights and on a wide range of other topics. For information contact Seonad Forbes 0141 353 2220 or see

<http://www.paih.org/NMAPFILES/Edinburghmigrantinfoeventagencyinvitation.pdf>

Scottish Churches and Contemporary Migration

8 October 2008 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.15)

Conference organised by ACTS and the Scottish Churches to explore issues around migration, and to identify key themes and challenges to which the Churches in Scotland can make a positive contribution. For information contact Nelu Balaj 01259 216980 / ecumenical@acts-scotland.org or see

<http://www.acts-scotland.org/events/2008events/migrationconferenece.shtml>

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator Annual Conference

3 November 2008 in Carnoustie (9.15 – 2.30)

OSCR will report on its work over the past 12 months and its strategic and operational priorities for 2009. For information see

<http://www.oscr.org.uk/NewsItem.aspx?ID=f0d64243-9ef7-4354-a89a-4e756d2680c2>

**** PAiH AGM**

7 November 2008 in Glasgow (11.00 -)

For more information contact home@paih.org / 0141 353 2220

Leadership Development Day

12 November 2008 in Glasgow

Radar Disability Network training day designed to help disabled people and those with long-term health conditions realise their leadership potential and thus increase the number of disabled people in positions of leadership and influence around the UK. For information contact Judith Simpson Judith.Simpson@radar.org.uk

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

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

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** 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. <http://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS 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/>