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Contents

Immigration and Asylum	Bills in Progress
Community Relations	Consultations
Equality	Job Opportunities
Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination	Funding Opportunities
Other Scottish Parliament and Government	Events, Conferences, and Training
Other UK Parliament and Government	Useful Links

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Syrian Refugees (Resettlement)

Ben Macpherson (SNP): To ask the First Minister how many Syrian refugees have been resettled in Scotland. (S5F-02247)

The First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): Scotland has welcomed around 2,150 people under the Syrian resettlement programme since October 2015. We remain committed to welcoming refugees seeking sanctuary from the conflict in Syria and because of that refugees continue to arrive. I hope that they all receive a warm welcome in Scotland.

The Syrian community in Scotland will be worried about the current situation in Syria and particularly worried about their family and friends who remain in the country. My thoughts are with them.

I emphasise that Scotland will continue to provide a home for people who are fleeing war and persecution. We are committed to welcoming as many as we can of those who arrive in the United Kingdom during 2018.

Ben Macpherson: As well as warmly welcoming those from Syria who have made

Scotland their home, I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to all those organisations that have supported those who are settling into communities across Scotland, including the services provided by Multi-Cultural Family Base in Leith, in my constituency.

Like many others, I think that we should celebrate the positive impact of the resettlement programme in Scotland, but I am also concerned about the welfare of asylum seekers from Syria who are living here outwith that programme and who therefore do not receive adequate support from the Home Office as regards both funding and assistance to settle into communities. Does the First Minister agree that the Home Office must look again at what support it provides to asylum seekers, improve the support that is provided and treat everyone equally?

Reply from the First Minister: Yes, I agree very strongly with that. First, I thank local authorities and all organisations that have played their part in welcoming those who have come under the Syrian resettlement programme. Just before Christmas, I attended an event at the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities at which we celebrated the work that had been done to make sure that that welcome was as warm as it has been.

However, that should apply not just to those who come through the resettlement programme but to everybody who seeks asylum in our country. We believe very strongly that integration begins from day 1 of arrival and not just when people have been granted refugee status. The support that the UK Government provides under the Syrian resettlement programme is very good and very welcome, but that also serves to highlight the gulf between it and the minimal support that is provided for asylum seekers. Indeed, it creates a two-tier system. I encourage the UK Government to extend the model of holistic support that we see as part of the resettlement programme and to fund the integration of asylum seekers to give them an equal chance to rebuild their lives here and fulfil the potential that they and their families have.

Ivan McKee (SNP): ... Does the First Minister agree that the UK Government needs to do far more to facilitate the arrival of refugees in this country than it has done so far?

Reply from the First Minister: That is important because, regardless of anybody's views on the air strikes that took place last weekend—and there will be differing views in the community at large and, indeed, the Syrian community in Scotland about the efficacy and the rights and wrongs of air strikes—they underline the importance of making sure that we welcome those who are fleeing the conflict in Syria. I have said before, and I will say again, that, for all that the UK Government does good work there, it could do much more. ...

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11468&i=104186#ScotParlOR>

Immigration

Fulton MacGregor (SNP): The First Minister will be aware of the case of Olya Merry, who was ordered to leave the United Kingdom by the Home Office, despite being married to a Scottish citizen and having a Scottish daughter. Olya and her family, who are in the gallery today, are delighted that interventions by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs and local politicians have led to the Home Office's decision being paused for review.

Will the First Minister confirm that the Scottish Government will continue to put pressure on the UK Government to ensure that Olya is permitted to remain permanently at her home in Coatbridge with her husband and daughter? Will she also confirm that the Scottish Government will continue to demand the devolution of immigration law, so that Scottish citizens are not affected in a similar way in the future?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): ... Fiona Hyslop raised the case with the Home Secretary last week. We will continue to make appropriate representations in order to give the Merry family the peace of mind that they require about the right of Mrs Merry to remain permanently in Coatbridge with her

husband and daughter.

This case, and the appalling treatment of the children of the Windrush generation that has come to light this week, demonstrate more clearly than has perhaps been the case previously that we urgently need a humane immigration system across the whole UK, and not the hostile environment that Theresa May has been so keen to put in place. We need a system that respects human dignity, that recognises individual circumstances and which does not focus on arbitrarily cutting numbers and unjustly forcing people to leave the country that they have come to call home. That is the sort of humane immigration policy that I want to see in place. We will continue to argue very loudly and clearly for that.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11468&i=104180#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-11662 Kenneth Gibson (SNP): Windrush Generation British Residents at Risk under New Immigration Laws – That the Parliament notes with concern reports that, at the April 2018 meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in London, before eventually submitting to public pressure, the UK Government initially rejected a formal diplomatic request from representatives of 12 Caribbean countries to discuss the immigration problems being experienced by some "Windrush generation" British residents; understands that some people have already been threatened with deportation to the countries that they left as children decades ago and have never returned to since, while others have been denied access to NHS services, lost jobs or have been made homeless because they do not have sufficient paperwork to prove that they have the right to be in the UK; notes that, on 13 April, the Home Office issued a guidance summary document to advise Commonwealth-born, long-term UK residents, of what they should do if they are concerned that they did not have the necessary papers to prove their right to remain; is concerned at reports however that the summary provided no updated information regarding the newly-tightened immigration regulations, which require people to supply documents that demonstrate their right to be in the UK in order to have access to benefits and services; notes one case, in which it has been reported that a man waiting for NHS treatment has been told that that he will not be eligible for this to be provided free unless he can prove that he is legally in the UK and that, if he cannot supply the necessary documents, the treatment could cost him several thousand pounds; expresses concern that this issue may affect thousands of people who came to the UK from Commonwealth countries as children, often travelling on their parents' passports, and who were never formally naturalised; takes heed of the petition that is calling for an amnesty for anyone who arrived in the UK as a child between 1948 and 1971 and for the UK Government to lower the level of documentary proof required from people who have lived in the country since they were children; understands that this was signed by at least 100,000 people within just six days, and calls on the UK Government to find a resolution for all of the Windrush generation residents that will allow them to continue to live and work in the UK and receive all of the benefits, healthcare, and social services, to which they are entitled.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-11662>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): I am deeply concerned about the recent experiences of people from the Windrush generation in terms of the appeal for their documentation and any confusion that has caused. This is a unique cohort of people who have automatic leave under our legislation and therefore

are entitled to reside here lawfully. The vast majority will already have documentation that proves their right to be here. For those who do not, I am today announcing a new dedicated team to help them evidence their right to be in this country and access services.

The team will be tasked with helping applicants to demonstrate that they are entitled to live in the UK, and with resolving cases within two weeks of the evidence being provided. The team will work across Government to help applicants to prove they have been living or working in the UK. Of course, no one should be left out of pocket as they go through this process. Given the uniqueness of the situation in which the group find themselves, I therefore intend to ensure that they will not pay for this documentation.

We have already set up a webpage and dedicated contact point for people with concerns, and I have been engaging with charities, community groups and high commissioners to reassure people. The Prime Minister will meet Heads of Government tomorrow, and I will be meeting high commissioners later this week.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-16/debates/916DE9B8-05AB-4140-B6D3-C2A1E50A4887/TopicalQuestions#contribution-FF2DE621-4A1A-4D63-BEF2-58B791E585E5>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush Children (Immigration Status)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Amber Rudd): ... I recognise the concerns of some people in the Windrush generation, and I would not want anyone who has made their life in the UK to feel unwelcome or to be in any doubt of their right to remain here. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has already made clear, there is absolutely no question about their right to remain, and I am very sorry for any confusion or anxiety felt.

While the vast majority of people who came here before 1973 will already have documentation that proves their right to be in the UK, I know that some do not. I know that there are those who have never applied for a passport in their own name or had their immigration status formalised. That is why today I am announcing that a new dedicated team will be set up to help those people to evidence their right to be here and to access the necessary services. The team will help the applicants to demonstrate that they are entitled to live in the UK, and it will be tasked with resolving cases within two weeks when the evidence has been provided.

Of course no one should be left out of pocket as they go through this process, so, given the uniqueness of the situation this group finds itself in, I intend to ensure that the group will not pay for this documentation. We have set up a webpage and we have been speaking to charities, community groups and high commissioners about providing advice and reassurance to those affected, and we will set up a dedicated contact point as well. Tomorrow, the Prime Minister will meet the Heads of Government, and I will be meeting high commissioners this week to discuss this issue as a matter of urgency. I hope that this will provide people with the reassurance that they need.

David Lammy (Labour): The relationship between this country and the West Indies and the Caribbean is inextricable. The first British ships arrived in the Caribbean in 1623, and despite slavery and colonisation, 25,000 Caribbeans served in the first and second world wars alongside British troops. When my parents and others of their generation arrived in this country under the British Nationality Act 1948, they arrived here as British citizens. It is inhumane and cruel for so many of that Windrush generation to have suffered for so long in this condition and for the Secretary of State to be making a statement on the issue only today.

Can the Secretary of State tell us how many people have been deported? She suggested earlier that she would ask the high commissioners, but it is her Department that has deported those people. She should know the number. Can she tell the House how many have been detained as prisoners in their own country? Can she tell us how many have

been denied healthcare under the national health service, how many have been denied pensions and how many have lost their jobs? This is a day of national shame, and it has come about because of a 'hostile environment' and a policy that was begun under her Prime Minister. Let us call it as it is: if you lay down with dogs, you get fleas, and that is what has happened with the far right rhetoric in this country. Will the Secretary of State apologise properly? Will she explain how quickly the team will act to ensure that the thousands of British men and women who have been denied their rights in this country on her watch in the Home Office are satisfied?

Reply from Amber Rudd: I share the right hon. Gentleman's admiration for the people who came here from the Caribbean and contributed so much to our society in many different ways, and that admiration remains in place. I am concerned that the Home Office has become too concerned with policy and strategy and sometimes loses sight of the individual. This is about individuals, and we have heard the individual stories, some of which have been terrible to hear. That is why I have acted. That is why I have put a clear limit on the amount of time it will take to correct the situation. That is why I am so committed to ensuring that there is no cost involved. That is why I am so committed to making sure that we can work across Departments. We hope to be able to get the necessary information ourselves in the same way that we are looking ahead to the EU settled status, when we will be able to engage with other Departments to look at national insurance numbers. We will share things and will take the responsibility for finding the evidence, so that we can get the documents for those who need them.

Finally, on one other point that the right hon. Gentleman raised, I am not aware of any specific cases of a person being removed in these circumstances. That is why I have asked the high commissioners if they know of any cases, and they should bring them to me. If anyone here knows of any such circumstances, they should bring them to the Home Office.

Damian Green (Conservative): The Home Secretary is right to have set up a special unit so that the necessary reassurance can be provided as soon as possible. With that in mind, will she tell the House what the minimum level of evidence that the new Home Office unit will accept is, so that people will be able to demonstrate quickly and easily that they are genuine Windrush-generation citizens of this country?

Reply from Amber Rudd: My right hon. Friend, who has some experience in this area, will be aware that we cannot have a situation in which anybody can perhaps falsely declare anything that would not assist the Windrush generation, whom we are trying to help. We are going to work with them in a cross-Government way, so if they come to us with their address and date of birth, we will start from that point and try to build a picture to evidence the circumstances and, within two weeks, get them the permits that they need to be able to access services.

Diane Abbott (Labour): In the week of the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, is the Home Secretary aware of how shameful it appears that we are treating the Windrush generation of Commonwealth citizens in this way? As my right hon. Friend the Member for Tottenham (Mr Lammy) said, they came here after the second world war to help rebuild this country, and they worked hard and paid their taxes. There are few more patriotic groups of British citizens than the generation from the West Indies that we are talking about.

The Home Secretary mentioned her special team. Is she aware that hundreds of these people have been trying to get their situations sorted out with their lawyers, presenting what information they have? Months later, however, things have not been resolved. How much confidence can people have in the special team when people with lawyers have been unable to resolve their situations? Why does she not simply issue an instruction to her officials today that no one in such a position can be deported until the case is clarified? There must also be an apology to any who were wrongfully deported, and the Government must consider compensation.

Is the Home Secretary aware that in 2014 the Government removed the immigration protection that existed for the Commonwealth citizens who had come here previously? ... I believe the Home Secretary could now simply table a statutory instrument restoring the protections, which were removed without debate in 2014; there would be no objection from this side of the House.

Finally, this policy and this scandal did not fall from the sky. It is a product of the bent of Government policy: the 'hostile environment' for migrants generally. We now hear warm words about the contribution of Commonwealth migrants who have given their lives to this country, but warm words are not enough. We have to establish the facts on the deportations; we have to make apologies where necessary; and as the Commonwealth Heads of Government are gathered in London, we have to acknowledge what a disgrace it is that this Government have treated Commonwealth migrants in this way.

Reply from Amber Rudd: Nobody disputes that the people who came here as part of the Windrush cohort are highly valued here and have the legal right to stay. In this week in which we celebrate the Commonwealth, I urge hon. Members on both sides of the House to acknowledge the changes that we as a Government are making today to ensure that this cannot happen again and so that the new processes in place will indeed reach out and protect all Commonwealth citizens who need additional help to get their documentation in place.

The right hon. Lady asks particularly about removals and detention, and I reassure her and the House that I have given an explicit instruction. In accordance with my wishes today, there will be no removals or detention as part of any assistance to help former Commonwealth citizens get their proper documentation in place.

To continue reading the very lengthy question and answer session see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-16/debates/7234878F-ACEE-48DD-A94C-9013B38FA465/WindrushChildren\(ImmigrationStatus\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-16/debates/7234878F-ACEE-48DD-A94C-9013B38FA465/WindrushChildren(ImmigrationStatus))

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions: Windrush generation

Neil O'Brien (Conservative): The whole House will be aware of the stories of people who came to this country from the Commonwealth more than 45 years ago—people who are facing the anxiety of being asked for documents they cannot provide to prove their right to reside in the country they call home. Will the Prime Minister update the House on what she and the Government are doing to provide reassurance in these cases?

Reply from the Prime Minister: ... People in the Windrush generation who came here from Commonwealth countries have built a life here; they have made a massive contribution to the country. These people are British. They are part of us. I want to be absolutely clear that we have no intention of asking anyone to leave who has the right to remain here. ... For those who have mistakenly received letters challenging them, I want to apologise to them. I want to say sorry to anyone who has felt confusion or anxiety as a result of this. ...

Let me update the House on how this has arisen. Those Commonwealth citizens who arrived before 1973 and were settled here have a right conferred by the Immigration Act 1971 to live in the UK. They were not required to take any action with the Home Office to document their status. The overwhelming majority already have the immigration documents they need, but there are some who, through no fault of their own, do not, and those are the people we are working hard to help now. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has made clear that a new dedicated team is being set up to help these people evidence their right to be here and access services, and it will aim to resolve cases within two weeks, once the evidence has been put together.

Jeremy Corbyn (Labour): Last month, I raised the case of Albert Thompson, a man who has lived and worked here for decades, paid his taxes, and yet been denied national

health service treatment. The Prime Minister brushed it off. Will she say what she will now do to ensure that Mr Thompson gets the cancer treatment he urgently needs and is entitled to?

Reply from the Prime Minister: The right hon. Gentleman did indeed raise the case of Albert Thompson. It was not brushed off—[Hon. Members: “It was!”] No, the Home Office has been in contact with Mr Thompson’s representatives. First of all, I want to make one point very clear: no urgent treatment should be withheld by the NHS, regardless of ability or willingness to pay—[Hon. Members: “It was!”] No, I also want to make clear that as it happens, Mr Thompson is not part of the Windrush generation that I have just spoken about in answer to the first question. And finally, clinicians have been looking at Mr Thompson’s case and he will be receiving the treatment he needs.

Jeremy Corbyn: On 20 March, the Prime Minister wrote to me stating, “while I sympathise with Mr Thompson...we encourage him to make the appropriate application” and provide evidence of “his settled status here.” Yesterday, we learnt that in 2010, the Home Office destroyed landing cards for a generation of Commonwealth citizens and so have told people, “We can’t find you in our system.” Did the Prime Minister, the then Home Secretary, sign off that decision?

Reply from the Prime Minister: No, the decision to destroy the landing cards was taken in 2009 under a Labour Government. ...

Jeremy Corbyn: I remind the Prime Minister that it was her Government who created “a really hostile environment” for immigrants and her Government who introduced the Immigration Act 2014.

We need absolute clarity on the question of the destruction of the landing cards. If she is trying to blame officials, I remind her that in 2004 she said she was “sick and tired of Government Ministers...who simply blame other people when things go wrong.”

Does she stand by that advice?

Reply from the Prime Minister: The right hon. Gentleman asked me if the decision to destroy the landing cards—the decision—had been taken in my time as Home Secretary. The decision to destroy the landing cards was taken in 2009 when, as I seem to recall, a Labour Home Secretary was in position.

Jeremy Corbyn: It was under a Tory Government, and she was Home Secretary at that time, and that is what is causing such pain and such stress to a whole generation. On Monday, the Home Secretary told the House: “I am concerned that the Home Office has become too concerned with policy and strategy and sometimes loses sight of the individual.”—[[Official Report, 16 April 2018; Vol. 639, c. 28.](#)]

Who does the Prime Minister think is to blame for that—the current Home Secretary or her predecessor?

Reply from the Prime Minister: The Home Office is a great Department of State that touches people’s lives every day in a whole variety of ways. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has been swift in responding to the unfortunate confusion and anxiety, for which we have apologised, that has arisen from the Windrush generation. The right hon. Gentleman referred earlier to action that we had taken as a Conservative Government to deal with illegal immigration. It is absolutely right that we ensure that people who access services that are paid for by taxpayers and relied on by people living in this country have the right to do so and that we take action against people here illegally. The Windrush generation are here legally—they have a right to be here; they are British. If the right hon. Gentleman wants to question the idea of taking action against illegal immigration, I suggest he has a conversation with the former shadow Home Secretary, the right hon. Member for Normanton, Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper), who in 2013 said: “we need much stronger action from Government to bring illegal immigration down”.

Jeremy Corbyn: This is not about illegal immigration; this is about Commonwealth citizens who had every right to be here. Cases such as Mr Thompson’s have occurred

because it was Home Office policy in 2012 to create “a really hostile environment” for migrants, and the right hon. Lady was the Home Secretary who sent Home Office vans around Brent telling migrants to go home. On Monday, the Immigration Minister said that some British citizens had been “deported in error”. The Home Secretary did not know, and then asked Commonwealth high commissioners if they knew of any cases. Does the Prime Minister know how many British citizens have been wrongly deported and where to, and what provision has she made to bring them back home to Britain?

Reply from the Prime Minister: As the Immigration Minister has made clear, we apologise unreservedly for the distress caused to anyone who has been told incorrectly that they do not have the right to be in the UK. We are not aware of any specific cases of a person being removed from the UK in these circumstances and we have absolutely no intention of asking anyone to leave who has the right to remain here, but the Home Office will work to reach out to those from the Windrush generation who do not have the necessary documentation to ensure that that is provided. There will be no cost to them; nobody will be out of pocket as a result. There is a difference between the Windrush generation, who are British, are part of us and have a right to here—we want to give them the reassurance of that right—and those other people who are here illegally. It is absolutely right that the Government make every effort to ensure that people who access our services have a right to do so and that we take action against people who are here illegally.

Jeremy Corbyn: I am informed that Mr Albert Thompson has still not been informed when he will be getting the treatment he obviously needs as a matter of urgency. Does the Home Office not keep records? It has been months since these occasions were first brought to the Government’s attention. We know of at least two British citizens languishing in detention centres in error, and this morning the Jamaican Prime Minister has said that he knows of people who are unable to return to Britain.

This is a shameful episode, and the responsibility for it lies firmly at the Prime Minister’s door. Her pandering to bogus immigration targets led to a hostile environment for people contributing to our country, and it led to British citizens being denied NHS treatment, losing their jobs, homes and pensions, and being thrown into detention centres like criminals and even deported, with vital historical records shredded and Ministers blaming officials. The Windrush generation came to our country after the war to rebuild our nation that had been so devastated by war. Is not the truth that, under her, the Home Office became heartless and hopeless, and does not she now run a Government who are both callous and incompetent?

Reply from the Prime Minister: As I have said, the Windrush generation did come here after the war, they did help to build this country, many of them worked in our public services and they contributed. They have a right to be here: they are British. That is why we are working with those who have no documentation to ensure that they have that provided for them. The decision was taken in 1971 not to require them to have documentation. That is what has led to the problem that we now see in relation to the anxiety of these people.

The right hon. Gentleman talks about being callous and having a disregard for people. I have to say to him that I am the Prime Minister who initiated the race disparity audit, which said: what are we doing in this country to ensure that people have equal opportunities in this country? The right hon. Gentleman talks about being callous. I say to him that I will not take that, following a debate last night where powerful contributions were made, particularly by the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent North (Ruth Smeeth), the right hon. Member for Barking (Dame Margaret Hodge) and the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger). I will not take an accusation of being callous from a man who allows anti-Semitism to run rife in his party.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-18/debates/7AC4C401-CE7F-4F4B-BD08-A9526818E2F3/Engagements#contribution-51C1AFBC-496E-4B7B-9A3F-EE3CA3E08FAE>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigrants: Employment

Gill Furniss (Labour) [135202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a business which did not use her Department's employer checking service when requested by a job applicant would be in breach of Home Office rules on recruitment and selection.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Immigration (Restrictions on Employment Order) 2007, as amended, specifies the steps employers should take in checking a job applicant's right to work in order to prevent illegal working. In the majority of cases, an employer establishes a statutory excuse against a civil penalty under the Immigration Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 by examining a document presented by the job applicant from a list specified in the Order.

In limited circumstances, where the job applicant has an outstanding immigration application, administrative review or appeal, the employer should confirm the person's right to work by contacting the Home Office Employer Checking Service in order to comply with the Order. In these cases, the job applicant is unlikely to have a current and valid immigration document because their case is pending, but they may have a right to work by virtue of having submitted an in-time application, administrative review or appeal and this can be confirmed by the Home Office Employer Checking service. The Home Office has recently launched a new Digital Checking Service which enables the holder of a biometric residence permit and, with their consent, their prospective employer to view the holder's current immigration status on-line. The digital service will provide employers with additional assurance when conducting right to work checks, but does not currently substitute the checks specified in the Order.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-13/135202/>

Visas

The following four questions all received the same answer

Harriet Harman (Labour) [134758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken to conclude a visa application was in each of the last seven years; and steps her Department is taking to reduce the time it takes to process such applications.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134921] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average length of time is for UK Visas and Immigration to process a visa.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unprocessed visa applications there are and what steps she is taking to reduce that number.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134923] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many family reunion visa applications were processed within service standards in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Performance against service standards for processing of visas is published in the Migration Transparency data at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-operations-transparency-data-february-2018> "

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134758/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134921/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134922/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134923/>

Visas: Families

Catherine McKinnell (Labour) [134988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many family reunion visa applications have been rejected in each of the last five years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The available information relates to outcomes (grants, refusals, withdrawn, lapsed) in the Family: Other category, the large majority of whom are family reunion cases, and is published in the quarterly Immigration Statistics, Visas volume 1, table vi_01_q, latest edition at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017>.

The "Family: Other" category consists of:

- Family reunion: pre-existing family members (partners, minor children) of a person with refugee leave or humanitarian protection, who has not yet obtained British citizenship;
- *From July 2012:* dependants who are not partners or children of those with refugee leave or humanitarian protection;
- *From July 2012:* parents with access rights to a child.

There are a small number of applications for family reunion where leave is granted in exceptional circumstances outside the Immigration Rules which are not included in the Family: Other category.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/134988/>

Visas: Skilled Workers

The following five questions all received the same answer

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [134800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier 2 visa applications for positions in Scotland were accepted, declined or deferred in each month from September 2016 to March 2018.

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [134801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier 2 visa applications for positions in Wales were accepted, declined or deferred in each month from September 2016 to March 2018.

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [134802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier 2 visa applications for positions in Northern Ireland were accepted, declined or deferred in each month from September 2016 to March 2018.

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [134803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier 2 visa applications for positions in England were accepted, declined or deferred in each month from September 2016 to March 2018.

Migrant Workers: Health Professions

Philippa Whitford (SNP) [134804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many tier 2 visa applications for positions in the NHS were accepted, declined or deferred in each month from September 2016 to March 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The information you have requested is not included in statistics published by the Home Office broken down into the UK Regions. The available information on allocations of Restricted Certificates of Sponsorship is published at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-sponsorship-restricted-certificate-allocations/allocations-of-restricted-certificates-of-sponsorship>.

Published statistics on the total number of Tier 2 refusals can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017/list-of-tables#visas>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134800/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134801/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134802/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134803/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134804/>

Visas: Migrant Workers

Stuart McDonald (SNP) [904763] What plans she has to change the operation of the Tier 2 work visa.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Tier 2, the main immigration route for non-EEA skilled workers, ensures employers can recruit from overseas where necessary while controlling migration and encouraging employers to look first to the domestic workforce before recruiting from overseas. We continue to monitor the operation of the route to ensure that it serves the national interest.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-16/904763/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134924] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many notifications that require no further action are sent on average to applicants for Tier 4 visas.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where a notification from a Tier 4 sponsor is received and requires no further action, no correspondence is issued to the Tier 4 visa holder.

Numbers of notifications that require no further action can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsorship-transparency-data-february-2018 on tab SN_01

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134924/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to simplify the process of applying for a tier 4 visa.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We continue to explore whether we could make our offer to international students even more attractive, without increasing the risk of immigration abuse, and we are committed to supporting UK universities in attracting international students and talent from around the world. The Tier 4 visa pilot reflects this ambition.

The pilot helps to streamline the visa process for international students looking to study on a Masters' course, in the UK, of 13 months or less. The pilot means that universities are responsible for eligibility checks, so that students applying for their visa can submit fewer documents alongside their visa applications. All students continue to be subject to Immigration Rules and must still undergo stringent Home Office security and identity checks.

The pilot also helps to support students who wish to switch into a work route and

take up a graduate role, by extending the leave period following the end of their study, to up to six months.

The Home Office will be rolling out the Tier 4 visa pilot more widely for international students in the 18/19 intake. A further 23 institutions have been selected, based on having the consistently lowest visa refusal rates for their region or country. The expansion of the pilot will allow us to consider the impact of the pilot on a more diverse group of sponsors.

Once evaluated, we will consider whether to introduce the offer being tested with the pilot into the Immigration Rules and make it policy. The evaluation will report interim findings with a final report in the spring of 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134925/>

Visas: Fraud

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps have been taken since the first quarter of 2016 to reduce fraud in the English language testing system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office closely monitors the provision of Secure English Language Testing, and has a series of robust monitoring mechanisms to ensure the integrity of the system. These mechanisms include regular audits of test centres by Home Office staff, ensuring that most centres are audited once every 12 months. There are also a series of steps that the providers are required to take, and the Home Office holds service review meeting with the providers to evaluate performance and examine any issues.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134927/>

Marriage: Fraud

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135082] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were charged with marriage fraud in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The number of people charged of involvement in marriage fraud is as follows:

2015: 41

2016: 15

2017: 14

Please note that there is no offence in UK law, of marriage fraud. Anyone suspected of being involved in a sham marriage would be charged under other offences. The numbers provided are individuals charged by IE Criminal & Financial Investigation teams in relation to organised immigration crime only.

This data has been derived from local management information and is therefore subject to change.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135082/>

Immigration: Appeals

Afzal Khan (Labour) [128803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 15 January 2018 to Question 121751, on immigration: appeals, how many initial decisions are (a) not appealed and (b) overturned on appeal; and what the cost of unsuccessful appeals has been to the public purse in each year since 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office published data on initial decisions can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017> while Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service data on appeals can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunals-and-gender-recognition-certificate-statistics-quarterly-july-to-september-2017>

Information on the cost to the Home Office of unsuccessful appeals in each year since 2015 is not centrally held and can only be provided at disproportionate cost through the examination of individual case records.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-02-21/128803/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-01-09/121751/>

Migrant Workers: Health Professions

Jo Stevens (Labour) [135099] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the effect of the qualification criteria for Tier 2 work visas on the ability of the NHS to recruit staff from non-EEA countries.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 2 (General) visa route is intended to fill gaps in the UK labour market and is designed to serve the national interest by ensuring that employers look first to the UK resident labour market before recruiting from overseas. The route is capped at 20,700 places a year and the criteria for entry to the route is set following advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee. Places are allocated on a monthly basis, with the highest priority being given to jobs in national shortage, followed by PhD-level occupations, graduate level jobs and then by salary from highest to lowest, in line with those that provide the greatest economic benefit to the UK. No visas have been refused for those seeking to come to the UK to undertake a post which the Migration Advisory Committee has determined should be on the shortage occupation list.

We continue to monitor the operation of the Tier 2 visa route to ensure that it balances enabling the brightest and best migrants to work in the UK with our commitment to reducing net migration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135099/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134920] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to establish a comprehensive register of non-UK EU citizens in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister announced last autumn that a system of registration would be introduced for EU citizens arriving during the post-EU exit implementation period (30 March 2019 to 31 December 2020). Work is well underway to build a system that will enable this.

This registration scheme will apply to those who wish to stay in the UK for longer than three months and will sit alongside the settlement scheme for all EU citizens and their family members resident in the UK before the end of the implementation period. The settlement scheme will open for voluntary applications in late 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134920/>

Immigrants

The following two questions both received the same answer

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [135900] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that non-UK EU citizens are aware that they will need to apply for settled status if they wish to remain in the UK.

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat)[135901] To ask the Secretary of State for the

Home Department, whether her Department plans to (a) write to all eligible non-UK EU citizens and (b) use advertising to inform such citizens that they must apply for settled status if they wish to remain in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Prime Minister has consistently made clear that protecting the status of EU citizens and their families living in the UK, and UK nationals living in the EU, was her top priority for negotiations. As agreed with the EU in March 2018, EU citizens resident in the UK will have until the end of the grace period in June 2021 to apply for the Settlement Scheme, which will enable them to continue living their lives broadly as now.

It is vital that the over three million non-UK EU citizens and their family members living in the UK understand how and when to apply to the settlement scheme. That is why the Home Office has already launched a national 'stay informed' awareness campaign to set out EU citizens' rights after the UK leaves the EU and to point towards reliable sources information, including official emails from the government. In addition, the Home Office will continue regular engagement with stakeholders as we design the Scheme and develop our communications plans, so we can ensure that the Scheme reflects the needs of users and we communicate it in the most effective way possible. A new user group with organisations that support vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children and families, victims of domestic violence and those with English as a second language, has also been established to ensure everyone has the right support.

EU citizens and their family members who would like to find out more about the Settlement Scheme and be informed when they can apply for it can sign up for email updates at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/status-of-eu-nationals-in-the-uk-what-you-need-to-know>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-16/135900/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-16/135901/>

Immigrants: Children and Young People

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [134641] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what step her Department is taking support (a) child and (b) young adult migrants on arrival in the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: If the migrant is an unaccompanied child they are supported by the local authority under the Children Act 1989 or equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

If the migrant is an asylum seeker and over the age of 18, or the dependant of an adult asylum seeker, they are supported by the Home Office if they would otherwise be destitute. The support usually consists of accommodation and a weekly cash allowance to cover their or their family's essential living needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134641/>

Immigrants: Children

The following two questions both received the same answer

Neil Coyle (Labour) [135745] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children born in the UK are ineligible to access public funds as a result of their parents having no recourse to public funds.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [135746] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children in the UK are ineligible to access public funds a result of their parents having no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Where recourse to public funds is not automatic, leave to remain in the UK is normally granted with a condition of No Recourse to

Public Funds unless to prevent destitution.

Children are normally granted the same conditions as their parent, however, data is not held on Home Office systems in a format that can be interrogated to report on the number of children born or currently living in the UK who have a no recourse to public funds condition applied to their grant of leave due to their parents.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-13/135745/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-13/135746/>

Immigrants: Children

Vicky Foxcroft (Labour) [136287] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has made any recent assessment of the adequacy of support available to the children of parents with no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Leave to remain in the UK is normally granted with a condition that prevents the person and their dependants from receiving welfare assistance from public funds. However, where the person qualifies for leave to remain on grounds related to their family or private life the condition is lifted if they or they or their dependent children would otherwise be destitute.

In addition, children with no recourse to public funds are not precluded from support from a local authority under section 17 of the Children Act 1989. Assessment of the level of support needed is built into these provisions and will vary according to circumstances. The level of support provided under section 17 depends on the local authority's assessment of the child's needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-04-17/136287/>

Undocumented Workers: Unpaid Fines

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135084] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many fines for the employment of illegal workers remain unpaid.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Since the commencement of the scheme in 2008, 6,348 separate illegal working civil penalties have some outstanding debt which is unpaid.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135084/>

Refugees: English Language

Kate Osamor (Labour) [134707] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if her Department will increase funding for accredited English language teaching for refugees.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has provided additional funding of £10m under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme for more English classes, childcare facilities, and local coordination of English language provision for refugees. English language tuition is also available to refugees under arrangements for adult learners.

The Department for Education (DfE) is responsible for the Adult Education Budget. The Home Office will work closely with DfE and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop the proposal for an English language Strategy for England that is set out in the Integrated Communities Strategy published on 14 March.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134707/>

English Language: Refugees

The following two questions both received the same answer

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [134844] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of providing funding for accredited English language teaching for all refugees.

Roger Godsiff (Labour) [134845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much funding the Government has provided for accredited English language teaching for refugees in each of the last 10 years.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: English language tuition is available to refugees under arrangements for adult learners and courses are fully funded for refugees who are unemployed and looking for work. The Department for Education (DfE) provides funding for adult education, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision, through the Adult Education Budget.

The Home Office has provided additional funding of £10m so that refugees resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme can benefit from more English classes, childcare facilities, and local coordination of English language provision.

The Home Office will work closely with DfE and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop the proposal for an English language Strategy for England that is set out in the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper published on 14 March.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134844/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134845/>

Refugees: Iraq

Helen Jones (Labour) [134492] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Iraqi citizens have been resettled under the (a) Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and (b) Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The statistics are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

A quarterly breakdown of resettlements by scheme and nationality is published in table as19q of the Asylum data tables volume 4.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-27/134492/>

Refugees: Syria

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees from Syria had their application for refugee status granted in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Syrian refugees can be granted protection as a result of an application for asylum, or through one of the UK's refugee resettlement schemes.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum grants made each year, broken down by nationality, in table as_01 (asylum, volume 1) of the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release.

The Home Office also publishes data on the number of Syrians resettled each year, under the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme, in table as_19 (asylum volume 4) of the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017-data-tables>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134934/>

Refugees: Syria

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134936] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government projects that the target of accepting 20,000 Syrian refugees will be met by 2020.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Work continues with local authorities and international partners to deliver the Government's commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) by 2020 and we are on-track to do this. Progress on resettlement is reported in the quarterly immigration statistics. The last set of statistics show that by the end of 2017, 10,538 refugees had been resettled under the VPRS since the scheme began in 2014.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134936/>

Refugees: Sexual Offences

The following two questions both received the same answer

Helen Jones (Labour) [134493] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the provision of specialist support for victims of sexual violence resettled under the (a) Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and (b) Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Helen Jones (Labour) [134570] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the level of availability of specialist support for victims of sexual violence resettled under the (a) Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and (b) Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Eligibility for the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (VPRS) is based on established vulnerability criteria used by the UNHCR, which includes those who have been victims of sexual violence and torture. The ability to plan for the arrival in the UK of these refugees has meant that we are able to provide appropriate support upon arrival. This involves planning for their accommodation and providing caseworker support to access public services, including access to health services.

Local authorities are notified of the reason for resettlement ahead of arrival to assist the provision of the appropriate support including referral to mental health services and specialist services for victims of torture. Local authorities are best placed to determine what is the appropriate intervention, which could include a referral to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARCs). SARCs provide health care, access to Independent Sexual Assault Advisor (ISVA) support, and therapeutic services to victims of rape or sexual assault. Victims are provided with onward referrals to other health and social care services according to the victims' needs. There are 47 SARCs across England.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-27/134493/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-27/134570/>

Asylum

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps have been taken to improve the speed at which outstanding asylum applications are completed.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office has plans to improve the speed at

which outstanding asylum claims are decided. These include a staff retention strategy to ensure it retains its highly skilled asylum decision makers, further expansion of digital processes to increase caseworking flexibility and the creation of a new team in Bootle which has been specifically established to tackle the older cases in the asylum system. This team has been designed to establish and roll out best practise in the management of older cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134930/>

Asylum

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134932] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what percentage of all new and outstanding asylum applications were completed in (a) 2015, (b) 2016 and (c) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum applications, initial decisions and pending for main applicants, by nationality in Asylum Tables, Volume 1 Table as_01_q of the *Immigration Statistics* release. The latest figures are available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017-data-tables>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134932/>

Asylum

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135066] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether welfare records are kept for asylum seekers that have been granted asylum.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold dedicated 'welfare records' for asylum seekers or refugees, however information concerning health conditions or safeguarding matters will be recorded on the applicant's case file as their asylum claim progresses and retained in accordance with data protection regulations, including following a grant of refugee status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135066/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135069] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum cases that commenced before 2010 remain outstanding.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135070] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum cases have remained outstanding for over five years in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017; and what steps her Department are taking to reduce those numbers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We are aware of the number of older cases in the system. These are more complex cases which generally have barriers preventing an initial asylum decision being made. Barriers are often varied and require time to clear. The Home Office has plans to reduce the number of outstanding undecided asylum claims and the speed at which they are processed. Plans include a staff retention strategy to ensure it retains its highly skilled asylum decision makers, further expansion of digital processes to increase caseworking flexibility and the creation of a new team in Bootle; specifically established to tackle older asylum cases. The new team has been designed to establish new ways of working and roll out best practise in the management of older cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135069/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135070/>

Asylum

The following two questions both received the same answer

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135073] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum cases that were sent to the Migration Refusal Pool were returned to the Home Department in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135074] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum cases sent to the Migration Refusal Pool were returned to the Home Department in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Asylum cases are not sent to the Migration Refusal Pool (MRP). The MRP consists of non-asylum cases, where records indicate that an individual has made an unsuccessful application to remain in the UK and is therefore awaiting return to their country of origin.

The cases of failed asylum seekers are not managed as part of the MRP, as these cases are managed separately by UK Visas and Immigration and Immigration Enforcement. The number of failed asylum seekers subject to removal action is published as part of the Home Office transparency arrangements and can be found at table ASY-03:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-transparency-data-february-2018>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135073/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135074/>

Asylum: Children

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134937] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many unaccompanied child asylum seekers have been resettled in the UK since the first quarter of 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office publishes data on the number of unaccompanied asylum seeking children granted UASC, or another form of protection, each quarter, in table as_09_q (asylum volume 3) of the quarterly *Immigration Statistics* release.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-october-to-december-2017-data-tables>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134937/>

Asylum: Children

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135065] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department are being taken to reunify unaccompanied child refugees in the UK with their direct relatives.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Our family reunion policy allows immediate family members of those granted protection here to reunite with them. The Immigration Rules also provide for relatives with protection in the UK to sponsor children in serious and compelling circumstances and the Mandate resettlement scheme allows those recognised by the UNCHR as refugees to join close family members here in the UK.

In addition, there is provision in the policy to grant visas outside the Rules in exceptional circumstances, which caters for family members who otherwise do not qualify under the Rules.

However, there is no provision in the Rules for children with refugee status in the UK to sponsor family members to join them. We believe this would create additional motives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family, and risk hazardous journeys hoping to sponsor relatives later. This

would play into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people, and goes against our wider safeguarding responsibilities. The best interests of children are reflected in remaining with their families, claiming asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety – and relying on resettlement schemes to travel safely.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135065/>

Asylum: Young People

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [134945] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the effect on the mental health of 18-year old asylum seekers of their transfer from social care to the National Asylum Support System.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: There are no plans to make such an assessment. Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England are supported by local authorities under the Children Act 1989 and usually remain supported under the same legislation as “care leavers” after they turn 18 years of age. The only circumstances in which they would transfer to the asylum support system administered by the Home Office is if they were supported by the local authority for less than 13 weeks before their 18th birthday and their asylum claim or appeal was still outstanding.

Similar arrangements are in place in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/134945/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Afzal Khan (Labour) [134809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what consultation her Department undertook on the definition of torture set out in The Detention Centre (Amendment) Rules 2018 and the Immigration Act 2016: Revised Guidance on adults at risk in immigration detention published on 21st March, S.I No. 411/2018, published on 21 March 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The new definition of torture and the revised statutory guidance on adults at risk in immigration detention give effect to a recent court judgment. Whilst there was no obligation to consult on these changes, officials have engaged with interested stakeholders. Officials will continue this engagement on the corresponding caseworker guidance and training. Additionally, the Detention Centre Rules 2001 will be reviewed later this year and will be the subject of consultation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134809/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Commonwealth-born citizens were detained by UK immigration services between January 2015 and January 2018.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office does not hold the information you have requested in a reportable format. The information requested could only be supplied at disproportionate cost.

Home Office data only holds current nationality, and not nationality at birth. The latest data, which goes back to 2009, is published in ‘Immigration Statistics, October to December 2017’, and available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/681703/detention-oct-dec-2017-tables.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134826/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Keith Vaz (Labour) [135075] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people subject to Rule 35 reports are currently detained.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The total number R35 reports made by medical practitioners for those detained within Immigration Removal Centres (IRC) are published quarterly as part of Transparency data under the category 'Reports made by a medical practitioner to the Home Office under Rule 35 on individuals in immigration detention. This can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135075/>

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Caroline Lucas (Green) [135034] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 26 March 2018 to Question 133714, on Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre, how many (a) local constituency MPs and (b) non-constituency MPs have (i) applied for and (ii) been granted permission to visit Yarl's Wood since 1 November 2016; and how many applications in each category remain under consideration.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: All requests for visits to immigration removal centres (IRC) by Honourable Members require the agreement of the Minister for Immigration, with local constituency MPs generally given priority over non-constituency MPs.

Since 1 November 2016 four Honourable Members (1 constituency and 3 non-constituency) have made requests and received Ministerial approval to visit Yarl's Wood IRC. One request, from the Honourable Member for Brighton, Pavilion, is still under consideration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135034/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-21/133714/>

Asylum: Repatriation

Keith Vaz (Labour) [134933] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were repatriated to countries her Department considered to be unsafe at the time of their repatriation in 2017.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The answer is none. Where a person can show they have a well-founded fear of persecution or serious harm, they are usually granted asylum or humanitarian protection. All claims are considered on their individual facts and merits, against the background of the available country information and relevant caselaw, and in line with our international obligations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134933/>

Deportation

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [134359] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential (a) merits and (b) savings to the public purse of alternatives to the use of detention in monitoring people facing removal from the UK.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office uses a number of tools to ensure that the vast majority of individuals who are liable to removal from the UK are managed in the community. These include reporting mechanisms, a new simplified immigration bail, and electronic monitoring for some foreign national offenders.

We regularly review our practices, taking account of external research into alternatives to detention. Following a recent meeting between officials and representatives of the UNHCR and from Canada and Sweden, to discuss best practice, opportunities for further work are being explored with a range of faith and community groups and other non-governmental organisations. The merits and associated costs will be an integral part of this ongoing work.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-27/134359/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Sarah Champion (Labour) [134566] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to ensure the identification of victims of human trafficking among (a) migrant and (b) asylum seeking children.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government takes the issue of safeguarding all children, including unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and migrant children, extremely seriously and we remain committed to working with all partners to safeguard vulnerable children. Last year the Home Office worked with the Department for Education in the development of the *Safeguarding Strategy for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children*. The strategy, which was published in November 2017, sets out a range of actions the Government will undertake to safeguard and promote the welfare of unaccompanied asylum seeking and refugee children to ensure they have access to the care, services and support they require. A link to the strategy is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-and-refugee-children>

The Home Office also contributed to the revised *Care of Unaccompanied Migrant Children and Child Victims of Modern Slavery Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities*. The guidance sets out the steps local authorities should take to plan for the provision of support for looked after children who are unaccompanied asylum seeking children, unaccompanied migrant children or child victims of modern slavery including trafficking. A link to the guidance is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-of-unaccompanied-and-trafficked-children>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-27/134566/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Windrush Generation: Immigration Status

The Earl of Courtown repeated the statement made by the Home Secretary (see “House of Commons Ministerial Statement and Q&A” section above).

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): While I am pleased that the Government are taking action today, we are in a shameful situation. Immigrants from the Caribbean who came here after the Second World War, some of whom fought with British forces in the Second World War, are now elderly people who have worked and paid their taxes in the United Kingdom and have been treated in a shabby way by the Home Office. Can the noble Earl outline what action he and his department are taking to ensure that no one in this group will be denied NHS treatment, that none of them will lose their pensions and that none will be detained, held prisoner or deported from the UK? If anyone has had their rights infringed in any of the ways that I have highlighted, they should urgently have that reversed and receive a full personal apology for this shabby and shameful treatment. Will he also commit to updating Parliament on the number of people who have had any of their rights abused in any of the ways that I have outlined, without the need for noble Lords to table Questions to get that information from the Government?

Reply from the Earl of Courtown: My Lords, I quite understand the noble Lord's feelings on this subject. My right honourable friend the Home Secretary made it very clear in her Statement that this was not in an area that we wanted to be in and that she was very sorry for any of the confusion or anxiety felt. She also said that there will be no removal or detention. The most important thing that we can do at the department now is to process these claims as quickly as possible. It has been made clear in the Statement that these claims will be processed within two weeks, and it is up to all noble Lords, if they are aware of any individuals who have found themselves in this situation, to make the department, through myself or the Minister, aware of who they are. The noble Lord also asked for updates on numbers. I cannot answer at this point, because it is not clear what the numbers are. However, I understand that the vast majority of the Windrush generation will already have their documents. If any information relating to numbers comes forward I will place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, it is good to hear the Government's positive response to this distressing, inconsiderate and heartless situation. I came to Britain in 1960 as a British citizen; a Windrush generation child who was told that I was part of the motherland and would be welcomed. Luckily for me, I had my own passport as I travelled without my parents, otherwise I too would be having to prove my status. Many who travelled on their parents' passports are now—due to unbelievable incompetence and lack of common sense and compassion by the Home Office—being treated as criminals and asked to provide evidence of their immigration status. Who in this House can provide school reports and payslips from 50 years ago? In this 70th anniversary year, we are meant to be commemorating Windrush, but these recent events threaten to sour the celebrations. There is a feeling of resentment, rejection and mistrust. Will the Government make amends by creating a Windrush day to celebrate every 22 June, to honour the pioneers and their descendants and to prove that we are valued?

Reply from the Earl of Courtown: My Lords, the noble Baroness made a number of points. We have to build up a picture from individuals. This is not done by asking for a payslip for a certain month 30 years ago. We need to know national insurance numbers, if they have them; where they work; where they were at school—we are not looking for school reports. We want to build up a picture with that information and other data held across government which will enable these individuals to be here. These cases must be processed as quickly as possible, so that people are not put under undue pressure. This is why my right honourable friend the Home Secretary made it quite clear that we want to clear all these applications within a two-week period.

I also repeat what my right honourable friend the Prime Minister said. She deeply values the contribution made by these, and all, Commonwealth citizens who have made a life in the United Kingdom. She is making sure that the Home Office is offering the correct solution for individual situations. ...

To continue reading the lengthy question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-16/debates/00386A14-6822-44E3-88EF-A3FB5AF0BAB9/WindrushGenerationImmigrationStatus>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Refugees: Housing

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6832] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugee families they have helped to find accommodation in each of the past three years.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL6833] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that accommodation for refugee families is of an acceptable standard.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Local authorities play a vital role in sourcing suitable accommodation for refugees that is affordable, sustainable, meets the complex needs of the families and meets local authority standards. In the last three years, the UK has welcomed over 10,000 refugees through its resettlement schemes and we are grateful to local authorities for sourcing properties suitable for these vulnerable families, enabling them to begin to rebuild their lives.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-29/HL6832/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-29/HL6833/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Lord Scriven (Liberal Democrat) [HL6835] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the maximum length of time that an asylum seeker seeking refugee status on grounds of their sexual orientation can be held in an immigration detention centre.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: There is no general maximum length of time for which someone can be detained for immigration purposes. This applies irrespective of the basis of the individual's detention.

Published Home Office policy, available via the link below, is clear, however, that detention is only ever used for the shortest period necessary, and there must be a realistic prospect of removal within a reasonable timescale. During this time, decisions to maintain detention are reviewed regularly and whenever there is new evidence of removability or vulnerability. Whilst in detention, any health and welfare needs of a detained person are met through the provision of appropriate services.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offender-management>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-03-29/HL6835/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Caroline Lucas (Green) (1192) Independent review of Home Office immigration policy and practice – That this House notes the Home Office's long track record of delay, maladministration and poor quality decision-making while implementing increasingly harsh anti-immigrant policies; deplores the cruel and grossly unfair treatment of Commonwealth citizens legally resident in the UK, including denial of NHS health care, dismissal from employment, arbitrary detention under Immigration Act powers, threat of removal from the UK and destitution; believes that such mistreatment is a direct result of deliberate policies, and in particular the then Home Secretary's creation of a hostile environment under the Immigration Act 2014, which places an unreasonable onus on individuals to produce often long lost evidence of residence; deeply regrets the failure of the then Home Secretary to act upon policy recommendations set out in the October 2014 Legal Action Group report Chasing Status, which included establishing a specialist unit within the Home Office to deal with Windrush Generation cases; commends the work of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, Praxis Community Projects, the Refugee and Migrant Centre and others in supporting individuals stripped of their legal rights; welcomes the current Home Secretary's belated acknowledgement that the Home Office has become too concerned with policy and strategy and sometimes loses sight of the individual; and calls on the Government to establish an independent commission to review Home Office policies and practice, their impact on black and minority ethnic communities and how they might be reformed to improve fairness and efficiency.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1182>

Helen Hayes (Labour) (1187) Windrush 70th anniversary – That this House notes that 22 June 2018 will be the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the HMT Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks carrying passengers from the Caribbean; further notes with gratitude that many Windrush passengers had previously served in the UK armed forces during the Second World War; recognises the important role that those passengers played in the post-war reconstruction of the UK and in the establishment of the newly created NHS; further recognises the enormous social, political and cultural contribution that Windrush passengers and ensuing generations have made to British society and to the establishment of modern, multi-cultural Britain; and calls on the Government to designate 22 June Windrush Day in recognition and celebration of the Windrush Generation.
<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1187>

Press Releases

Scotland's population continues to increase

<https://news.gov.scot/news/scotlands-population-continues-to-increase>

New team to help Commonwealth citizens confirm their status in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-team-to-help-commonwealth-citizens-confirm-their-status-in-the-uk>

Commonwealth countries unite to stamp out human trafficking and child exploitation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-countries-unite-to-stamp-out-human-trafficking-and-child-exploitation>

EU Member States granted protection to more than half a million asylum seekers in 2017

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/8817675/3-19042018-AP-EN.pdf/748e8fae-2cfb-4e75-a388-f06f6ce8ff58>

New Publications

Annual Report of the Independent Monitoring Board at Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre for reporting year January to December 2017

<https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-1ocod6bqky0vo/uploads/2018/04/Heathrow-IRC-2017-AR.pdf>

Systemic delays in the processing of the claims for asylum made in the UK by unaccompanied asylum seeking children

http://www.elderrahimi.co.uk/UserFiles/Files/p_nS4kT4.pdf

News: Windrush generation

Windrush generation peers attack 'incompetent' Home Office

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-parliaments-43791047>

Amber Rudd: Windrush generation treatment 'appalling'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43780621>

Home Secretary apologises for 'appalling' treatment of Windrush generation

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16162828.Home_Secretary_apologises_for_appalling_treatment_of_Windrush_generation/

Windrush deportation controversy forces Amber Rudd to apologise for 'appalling' treatment of immigrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-generation-deportation-home-secretary-apology-national-shame-a8307731.html>

Amber Rudd 'sorry' for appalling treatment of Windrush-era citizens

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/16/theresa-may-caribbean-representatives-windrush-immigration>

Amber Rudd apologises for 'appalling' treatment of Windrush generation as row threatens to overshadow Commonwealth meeting

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/16/amber-rudd-apologises-appalling-treatment-windrush-generation/>

Amber Rudd admits she was unaware Windrush migrants were deported

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-16/news/amber-rudd-admits-she-was-unaware-windrush-migrants-were-deported-zt3bzqw9r>

May says sorry as she rushes to defuse Windrush row

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/may-says-sorry-as-she-rushes-to-defuse-windrush-row-1-4725908>

Theresa May apologises to Windrush children and Caribbean leaders over deportation scandal

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/theresa-may-windrush-apology-immigration-home-office-deportation-caribbean-leaders-a8308426.html>

Windrush generation: May to meet Caribbean leaders after apology

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43792411>

Windrush: Labour calls for answers on destroyed landing cards

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43806710>

Windrush: More than just coincidental errors

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43804308>

Windrush generation: 'A nightmare, and it's not over yet'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43794366>

Whistleblowers contradict No 10 over destroyed Windrush landing cards

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/18/whistleblowers-contradict-no-10-over-destroyed-windrush-landing-cards>

Windrush: Investigation urged over landing cards

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43818860>

Theresa May says decision to destroy landing cards of Windrush migrants was taken under Labour

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/16168497.May_says_decision_to_destroy_landing_cards_of_Windrush_migrants_was_taken_under_Labour/

Row continues over responsibility for 'Windrush' generation scandal

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/row-continues-over-responsibility-for-windrush-generation-scandal-1-4726623>

Windrush crisis: Home Office 'destroyed thousands of migrant landing cards'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-17/news/ministers-scramble-to-find-out-whether-windrush-immigrants-were-deported-m6kvzkd10>

Windrush landing card destruction angers historian

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/landing-card-destruction-angers-historian-02m3klb2f>

Windrush: Alan Johnson says landing cards decision was made in 2009

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43835664>

Archived records of ships' landing lists could provide vital evidence in support of Windrush migrants

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/21/shipping-landing-lists-back-windrush-migrants-case/>

Windrush generation could be offered immigration status lifeline by records in National Archives

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-generation-migrants-landing-cards-hostile-home-office-records-archives-a8315516.html>

UK removed legal protection for Windrush immigrants in 2014

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/16/immigration-law-key-clause-protecting-windrush-immigrants-removed-in-2014>

Michael Gove insists UK is liberal and welcoming as Windrush anger grows

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/michael-gove-insists-uk-is-liberal-and-welcoming-as-windrush-anger-grows-1-4726858>

Theresa May: Compensation for Windrush generation

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43846047>

Theresa May says Windrush victims will be paid compensation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/20/theresa-may-says-windrush-victims-will-be-paid-compensation>

Home Secretary's position 'untenable' after Windrush failure, says SNP MP

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/home-secretary-s-position-untenable-after-windrush-failure-says-snp-mp-1-4728385>

Theresa May ignored Windrush warning for four years

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/theresa-may-ignored-windrush-warning-for-four-years-qf23q2wg6>

Windrush scandal being used to undermine fight against illegal immigration, says Amber Rudd

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/20/amber-rudd-vowed-ruthlessly-prioritise-illegal-migrants-memo/>

Windrush generation problems likely to be 'unforeseen consequence' of 'hostile immigration' policy, former Home Office official says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/problems-experienced-by-windrush-generation-likely-to-be-unforeseen-consequence-of-hostile-a8313556.html>

Windrush: How do you prove you've been living in the UK?

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43795077>

Windrush apology: overdue and inadequate

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/17/the-guardian-view-on-the-windrush-apology-overdue-and-inadequate>

Windrush scandal: Victims still waiting for apology

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-21/news/windrush-scandal-victims-still-waiting-for-apology-2tnpd5td2>

Windrush U-turn is welcome, but May's policy was just cruel

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/16/windrush-u-turn-welcome-but-theresa-may-policy-cruel>

I'll fight for the Windrush generation – their treatment has been shameful

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/16/windrush-generation-shameful-treatment-racism>

Windrush scandal: 'My parents came here to help rebuild this country and we need to be treated right'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/04/21/windrush-scandal-parents-came-help-rebuild-country-need-treated/>

British residents deported to Jamaica told to 'put on accent'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/17/outrage-over-guide-for-british-residents-being-deported-to-jamaica>

Act Jamaican,' they said when they deported me. But I'm British

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/18/act-jamaica-deported-british-england-home-office>

Son of Windrush-generation immigrant 'facing deportation tomorrow', says David Lammy MP

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/windrush-deportation-home-office-uk-david-lammy-caribbean-british-resident-a8308436.html>

Scot caught up in Windrush scandal has been left a 'broken man' after three-year fight

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scot-caught-up-windrush-scandal-12387558>

Man who lost job over immigration status has right to be in UK confirmed

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/18/michael-braithwaite-man-who-lost-job-over-immigration-status-has-right-to-be-in-uk-confirmed>

Mother of Windrush citizen blames passport battle for son's death as Home Office deals with 113 cases

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-generation-dexter-bristol-dead-theresa-may-landing-passport-home-office-a8311341.html>

Mother of Windrush citizen blames passport problems for his death

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/18/mother-of-windrush-citizen-blames-passport-problems-for-his-death>

DWP sent Windrush pensioner £33,000 bill for disability benefits

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/20/dwp-sent-windrush-pensioner-33000-bill-for-disability-benefits>

Immigration official in fear of deportation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/immigration-official-in-fear-of-deportation-wfsvk6jj2>

'I thought I would die': Windrush man left homeless after brain surgery

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/20/i-thought-i-would-die-windrush-man-left-homeless-after-brain-surgery>

Windrush scandal stirs bitter memories for Sir Geoff Palmer

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/windrush-scandal-stirs-bitter-memories-for-sir-geoff-palmer-1-4728351>

They threatened to deport my mother, says professor Sir Geoff Palmer

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-18/scotland/they-threatened-to-deport-my-mother-says-professor-sir-geoff-palmer-md5lgmt6m>

Windrush generation: Bungling led to missed funeral, lost jobs and deportation threats

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/windrush-generation-bungling-led-to-missed-funeral-lost-jobs-and-deportation-threats-fjrpj650>

Windrush generation tell of holidays that led to exile and heartbreak

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/19/windrush-generation-tell-of-holidays-that-led-to-exile-and-heartbreak>

The human impact of Theresa May's hostile environment policies

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/hostile-environment-policy-theresa-may-migrants-windrush-a8315806.html>

'It's inhumane': the Windrush victims who have lost jobs, homes and loved ones

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/20/its-inhumane-the-windrush-victims-who-have-lost-jobs-homes-and-loved-ones>

The Windrush story was not a rosy one even before the ship arrived

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/22/windrush-story-not-a-rosy-one-even-before-ship-arrived>

News: Other immigration and asylum

Government accused of overcharging for citizenship

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/government-accused-of-overcharging-for-citizenship-9x2dl7wkq>

Brexit fears as migration into Scotland falls after EU vote

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/brexit-fears-as-migration-into-scotland-falls-after-eu-vote-1-4727430>

Delayed Brexit immigration plans 'due in months'

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43840895>

Brexit: 'Windrush warning' over right-to-remain process

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43807961>

Windrush generation case fuels fears over EU citizens' fate post-Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/17/windrush-generation-case-fuels-fears-over-eu-citizens-fate-post-brexit>

Windrush scandal echoes Scots' slave trade shame

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/brian-wilson-windrush-scandal-echoes-scots-slave-trade-shame-1-4727312>

7,600 deported to Commonwealth nations on 'charter flights' since 2010

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/7-600-deported-to-commonwealth-nations-on-charter-flights-since-2010-1-4726625>

Commonwealth youth forced to pay thousands or risk 'illegal' status

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/apr/18/commonwealth-youth-forced-to-pay-thousands-or-risk-illegal-status>

The college cleaner no-one knew was a slave

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-43743579>

Secret world: The women in the UK who cannot report sexual abuse

<http://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-43499374>

Let's replace suspicion of migrants with compassion

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/let-s-replace-suspicion-of-migrants-with-compassion-jpkpkngfv>

The Home Office's appalling treatment of innocent people is endemic

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-home-office-s-appalling-treatment-of-innocent-people-is-endemic-2grzqwt07>

Deportation is not a dirty word – it's a necessary part of any sensible immigration system

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/04/20/deportation-not-dirty-word-necessary-part-sensible-immigration/>

'Hostile environment' prevents migrants accessing NHS and delays detection of infectious diseases, experts warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/hostile-environment-windrush-hiv-tuberculosis-immigrant-home-office-a8315051.html>

Lied to, tied up and locked in: Woman who arrived in Britain as a child exposes reality of UK deportation system

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/deportation-opelo-kgari-home-office-yarls-wood-a8303431.html>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) (1165) National Sikh awareness and history month

– That this House extends congratulations to Sikhs celebrating Vaisakhi in the UK and around the world; notes that 14 April marks Vaisakhi and the founding of Khalsa in 1699 by the 10th Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh; further notes that Gurdwaras across the UK have organised Nagar Kirtan processions in the UK's towns and cities, helping to share the teachings and values of Sikhs; notes the assistance provided by Sikhs to the homeless and others in our communities and across the world through Langar and other

Sewa, selfless service, including humanitarian relief; recognises the shared history of the Sikhs and the UK, particularly in the armed forces where Sikhs proudly fought alongside allied forces during the World Wars; further recognises the achievements of Sikhs across the UK in commerce, the professions and in civic life; abhors the attack on a turban wearing Sikh visitor outside of the House of Commons; notes that Sikhs have faced and increase in hate crime attacks and notes the lack of specific recording of these by the authorities; recognises the work of organisations, including the Sikh Council UK and its members in building, understanding and contributing to public policy; recognises the importance of education in tackling ignorance and hate crime; notes the success of Sikh Awareness Month in California, US and Ontario, Canada; and calls on the Government to mark the significance of April in our calendar through recognising it as Sikh Awareness and History Month in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2017-19/1165>

News

Religious leaders back initiative celebrating diversity in the Commonwealth

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16161221.Religious_leaders_back_initiative_celebrating_diversity_in_the_Commonwealth/

Rivers of love: school defies Enoch Powell's race war prophecy

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/rivers-of-love-school-defies-enoch-powells-race-war-prophecy-lwclsmcn8>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Race Equality Plan

S5W-15587 Annie Wells (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will publish an update on year one of its Race Equality Action Plan.

Reply from Angela Constance: In the Race Equality Action Plan we committed to provide a progress report to Parliament in early 2021, setting out achievements and early thinking about the focus for the next Action Plan, which will cover the period 2021-2026. In line with the Independent Race Equality Advisor's recommendations for enhancing policy co-ordination around race equality, we will also establish a Programme Board including senior officials from across the Scottish Government to drive implementation of the Action Plan. The minutes of the Programme Board will be published online to provide transparency and regular public reporting on progress, building up to the 2021 report.

In addition we will hold an annual Race Equality Summit to be attended by key organisations and individuals, which will provide a further important opportunity to discuss progress on the actions.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15587>

The Race Equality Plan referred to above can be read at

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0052/00528746.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Health Professions: Ethnic Groups

The following three questions all received the same answer

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [135007] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of NHS medical practitioners identified as (i) white British and (ii) from any other ethnic group in the most recent data available.

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [135008] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of staff in clinical leadership positions in the NHS identified as (i) white British and (ii) from any other ethnic group in the most recent data available.

NHS: Staff

Jonathan Ashworth (Labour Co-op) [135009] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, (a) how many and (b) what proportion of NHS staff in administrative leadership roles identified as (i) white British and (ii) from any other ethnic group in the most recent data available.

Reply from Stephen Barclay: Equality and diversity information is held by NHS Digital in the Electronic Staff Record, and is published on a six monthly basis. The most recent data from September 2017 is provided below.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS) workforce statistics: Ethnicity in National Health Service trusts and clinical commissioning groups in England by staff group, September 2017, percentage of ethnicity

	Total number	White	Other Ethnic Groups	Unknown	Not stated
Doctors	116,427	53.10%	38.50%	2.40%	6.00%
Nurses & Health Visitors	320,024	75.20%	20.80%	0.60%	3.30%
Midwives	26,001	85.40%	11.10%	0.50%	3.00%
Very Senior Managers	2,085	85.30%	5.80%	2.40%	6.50%

Note: percentages do not sum due to rounding.

We do not currently collect data on the professional background of leaders in the NHS. The Government published the Race Disparity Audit in October 2017. Detailed NHS workforce statistics have been published on the Ethnicity Facts and Figures website, which can be found at the link:

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/work-pay-and-benefits/public-sector-workforce/nhs-workforce/latest>

Additionally, the Workforce Race Equality Standard (WRES), which has measured the experience of BAME staff in the NHS since 2016, has shown that the number of very senior managers from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds increased by 18% from 2016 to 2017. There has also been a steady increase in the number of NHS trusts which have more than one BAME board member. There are now a total of 25 NHS trusts with three or more BAME members of the board; an increase of nine trusts since 2016. The December 2017 WRES publication can be found at the link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/workforce-race-equality-standard-data-reporting-december-2017/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135007/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135008/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135009/>

Counter-terrorism

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [135163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the Prevent strategy and Prevent duty directives do not unfairly target racial and religious minorities.

Reply from Ben Wallace: Prevent does not target a specific faith or ethnic group. The Prevent Programme is fundamentally about safeguarding and supporting vulnerable individuals to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent is implemented in a proportionate manner that takes into account the level of risk in any given area or institution.

The introduction of the Prevent Duty has embedded consideration of the risk of radicalisation in the day-to-day work of frontline statutory partners. We are equipping frontline professionals through Prevent training with the skills and knowledge to help them understand better the role that they can play in countering radicalisation and refer individuals they are concerned about.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-29/135163/>

New Publication

Animation: Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsjhqqCubfw&feature=youtu.be>

News

Tories in new race row over identity checks for elections

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/21/identity-checks-election-disenfranchise-ethnic-minorities>

Voter identity checks may discriminate against ethnic minority communities, watchdog says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/voting-uk-identification-needed-theresa-may-tories-racism-disabilities-a8316511.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Tackling racism, discrimination and inequality in the workplace

S5W-15592 Elaine Smith (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration it is giving to encouraging employers to provide facility time for trade union equality representatives as a means to tackling racism, discrimination and inequality in the workplace.

Reply from Keith Brown: While Equality Reps are not statutory under UK Employment Law, it is a role which the Scottish Government fully supports. Although we have no power over employment law we would encourage employers to provide Equality Reps with time-off, training and facilities for Equality Rep duties.

The Scottish Government views trades unions as key social partners and believes that Facility Time adds value to organisations by providing a framework for constructive consultation and negotiation with employers, ensuring the effective

voice of workers and improving workplace relations. However, the UK Government's approach to trade unions, demonstrated through the Trade Union Act and Facility Time regulations, is to undermine our progressive approach to industrial relations.

The Scottish Government is working with the STUC to develop Facility Time Reporting guidance for Scottish public bodies to ensure that the value of Facility Time is recognised.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15592>

UK Parliament Debate

Anti-Semitism

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-17/debates/9D70B2B4-39D7-4241-ACF8-13F7DFD8AEB2/Anti-Semitism>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister's Questions: Anti-Semitism

Ian Duncan Smith (Conservative): ... I sat in the Chamber and listened to [yesterday's] debate [on Anti-Semitism], including the two appalling testimonies from the hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Luciana Berger) and particularly from the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent North (Ruth Smeeth), which were deeply moving. They were horrifying in the sense of the abuse that those hon. Members have faced, but also uplifting in the sense of the bravery that they have shown in tackling their abusers. Does my right hon. Friend agree that what came out of yesterday's debate was that there should be absolutely no place in any political party for anyone who is an anti-Semite and that, just as importantly, any apologists for anti-Semites should be kicked out of their party as well?

Reply from the Prime Minister: I absolutely agree with my right hon. Friend. It is incredibly important for us and for the political parties in this country to show a clear signal that we will not accept or tolerate anti-Semitism in any form. I have made reference to a number of the speeches that were made yesterday, and I also join my right hon. Friend in commending those Members, particularly the hon. Members for Stoke-on-Trent North and for Liverpool, Wavertree, who have suffered incredible abuse as a result of this anti-Semitism but who have also shown incredible bravery in being willing to stand up and set that out to the House. Theirs was a fine example of the best of this House of Commons and the best of Members of Parliament.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-18/debates/7AC4C401-CE7F-4F4B-BD08-A9526818E2F3/Engagements#contribution-CE220388-1196-4BC3-B289-3DB1728E3C14>

News

Stephen Lawrence anniversary: 25 years later, less than half of ethnic minority Britons think progress made on racial prejudice

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/stephen-lawrence-anniversary-25-poll-ethnic-minorities-racial-prejudice-a8315961.html>

Scotland's football sectarianism act scrapped from midnight

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16171620.Scotland_s_football_sectarianism_act_s_crapped_from_midnight/?ref=mr&lp=9

Anti-Semitism row: Labour MPs applauded after Commons speeches

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-43795854>

Labour MPs share stories of abuse as they demand action against anti-Semitism

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/16166419.Labour_MPs_share_stories_of_abuse_as_they_demand_action_against_anti_Semitism/?ref=mr&lp=3

Labour candidate Leah Levane in new antisemitism row

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-18/news/labour-candidate-leah-levane-in-new-antisemitism-row-3r6vbtqkb>

Labour Party broadcast star Lassaad Laouini called Jews ‘evil’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-20/news/labour-party-broadcast-star-called-jews-evil-csl2r6wct>

Good people are failing to tackle antisemitism, ex-chief rabbi says

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/apr/20/lord-jonathan-sacks-former-chief-rabbi-antisemitism-radio-4-thought-for-the-day>

Threats sent to architect Elsie Owusu after she said Riba was racist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-04-17/news/threats-sent-to-architect-elsie-owusu-after-she-said-riba-was-racist-t0twq2w0f>

After Enoch

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/after_enoch_powell

Judah Adunbi charged with racially aggravated offence

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-43849453>

Former police race relations adviser charged with racially-aggravated offence

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/judah-adunbi-charged-police-race-relations-tasered-betting-shop-a8316491.html>

Dear Prince Charles, do you think my brown skin makes me unBritish?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/commentisfree/2018/apr/19/prince-charles-brown-skin-british-people-head-of-commonwealth>

Prince Charles in race row after telling woman she ‘doesn’t look like she is from Manchester’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/prince-charles-race-row-woman-from-manchester-anita-sethi-a8315187.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Continuity Bill: Comment on referral to Supreme Court

<https://news.gov.scot/news/continuity-bill>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Leaving the EU: Scotland and Wales Continuity Bills

Joanna Cherry (SNP): To ask the Attorney General if he will make a statement on the Government's position on the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill and the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill.

Reply from the Attorney General (Jeremy Wright): The continuity Bills—that is, the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Legal Continuity) (Scotland) Bill and the Law Derived from the European Union (Wales) Bill—passed, as the hon. and learned Lady knows, through the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly on 21 March. As she also knows, the Scotland Act 1998 and the Government of Wales Act 2006 provide the Law Officers with the power to refer to the Supreme Court the question of whether devolved legislation falls within legislative competence. That power enables us to fulfil our constitutional roles in upholding the rule of law and monitoring the boundaries of the devolved settlements in the interests of legal certainty.

The continuity Bills raise serious questions about legislative competence which need to be explored. That is apparent from the view of the Scottish Presiding Officer at introduction that the Scottish Bill was not within the legal scope of the Parliament, and the recognition of the Presiding Officer of the Welsh Assembly that the assessment of competence in relation to the Welsh Bill was not a “straightforward” decision,

“as it was recognised that there are significant arguments both for and against legislative competence existing for this Bill.”

The key purpose of the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill before this Parliament is to provide certainty across the UK on day one after exit from the EU, and the Scottish and Welsh continuity Bills would frustrate that objective. If the continuity Bills were to become law, there would be impacts not just on the Governments and legislatures but on the widespread understanding of and confidence in UK law after exit. The UK Government and the Scottish and Welsh Governments therefore agree that the best place for the provisions to ensure legal certainty after exiting the EU is in the EU (Withdrawal) Bill, and we are working hard across Governments to reach an agreement on how that might best be achieved.

However, the four-week statutory limit for making a reference closed yesterday, and an agreement is yet to be struck, so the Law Officers have made references to the Supreme Court in relation to both Bills, as a protective step in the public interest towards upholding legal certainty. This is therefore now a matter for the Supreme Court to determine. However, I remain hopeful that the ongoing negotiations with the devolved Administrations will result in an agreement. It is clear that that would be the best outcome for all involved. Should an acceptable agreement be reached and should the Scottish and Welsh continuity Bills consequently not take effect, the UK Government would seek to withdraw the references.

Joanna Cherry: I thank the Attorney General for his answer. These combined challenges are unprecedented in the 20-year history of devolution. Indeed, it is the first time that the UK Government have challenged legislation passed by the Scottish Parliament.

The Scottish Parliament's Bill was passed by an overwhelming majority of 95 votes to 32. Only the Tories and one Lib Dem did not support the Bill. The rest of the Parliament—the Scottish National party, the Labour party, the Greens and the rest of the Lib Dems—supported the Bill. Scottish Ministers are satisfied that the Bill is within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament. In that view, they have the support of Scotland's most senior Law Officer, the Lord Advocate.

The purpose of the Bill passed by the Scottish Parliament is to prepare for the consequences for devolved powers of UK withdrawal, and it is designed to work with the Westminster EU (Withdrawal) Bill. Can the Attorney General tell the House why this Tory Government are seeking to defeat a Bill in the courts which they could not defeat by democratic means in the Scottish Parliament? Does he agree that working with the Scottish Government and Parliament to resolve those political differences is preferable to resorting to law? Does he appreciate that this will widely be seen as an attack on the Scottish Parliament and the democratic legitimacy of the devolved settlement? Finally, how much will this cost and who will meet the legal costs?

Reply from the Attorney General: I agree with the hon. and learned Lady that the situation is unprecedented. She is right that no reference to the Supreme Court about Scottish legislation has previously been brought. However, she will recognise that that is not the only unprecedented factor here. As she knows, it is also the first time the Scottish Parliament has been prepared to proceed in the face of the advice of its Presiding Officer that the Bill is not within its competence. History is being made in more than one way.

I recognise that, as the hon. and learned Lady said, the Lord Advocate is of the view that the Bill is within competence, and I am heartened by her confidence in the unassailable wisdom of Law Officers, but she will recognise that his is not the only view and that legitimate questions have arisen about the Scottish Parliament's competence to pass the legislation. Law Officers in the United Kingdom, in accordance with our powers under the devolution settlement, are seeking to refer those questions.

The hon. and learned Lady says that the continuity Bills mirror the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill, but she will recognise that there are significant differences between them. Those differences create the difficulty about legal certainty. We cannot have two versions of rules operating at the same time. That needs to be resolved.

Finally, the hon. and learned Lady said that we are seeking to defeat a Bill in the courts that we could not defeat in the Scottish Parliament. I gently point out that a substantial part of the Bill that was certainly passed in the Scottish Parliament was a rerun of amendments that she sought and failed to get passed in this House. As I said, there is more than one way of looking at the position. I hope that she and her colleagues would accept that there is a legitimate dispute, at least about competence, and that it is in accordance with the devolution settlement that the Supreme Court resolves it, unless we can do so by negotiation. I fervently hope that that is the case, because I agree with her that that would be a far better way forward.

To continue reading the very long question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-04-18/debates/7EBC6648-C6E8-4E91-929F-D9A06222CDAF/LeavingTheEUScotlandAndWalesContinuityBills>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Female Genital Mutilation

The following three questions all received the same answer

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [134817] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on the decision to disband its specialist team focused on combating female genital mutilation.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [134820] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on ensuring NHS staff are appropriately trained in how to detect and report female genital mutilation (FGM) and support patients who have been subjected to FGM after the decision was taken to disband the specialist FGM team.

NHS Trusts: Police

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [134819] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on ensuring that there is co-ordination between local (a) NHS trusts, (b) police forces and (c) police and crime commissioners as a result of the decision to disband the specialist team in NHS England focused on such co-ordination.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme funded by the Department and partnered with NHS England concluded on 31 March 2018 – it was always the intention that the Programme would conclude at this point.

Since its launch, the Programme has worked closely with regional safeguarding teams across England, and these teams will be carrying on the work across the National Health Service in England to tackle FGM. Discussions, coordination and multi-agency work between the NHS and various partner agencies including the police and PPCs will therefore continue as part of this.

Governance and monitoring and planning was built into the FGM Prevention Programme framework since its launch in 2014, including plans to conclude the Programme and arrangements for the work to be taken forward after April 2018.

To support staff in their FGM prevention work, the FGM Prevention Programme developed a package of health-specific FGM materials providing guidance on safeguarding, commissioning of services, and guidance around the mandatory reporting duty. It also held national awareness raising roadshows for over 6,000 professionals and commissioned comprehensive FGM e-learning with Health Education England, free to all NHS staff which has been completed by over 11,000 people on the e-learning for health website between January 2016 and February 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134817/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134820/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134819/>

Female Genital Mutilation

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [134818] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with NHS England on how strategic planning to combat female genital mutilation will take place after the decision was taken to disband the specialist team focused on that issue.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prevention Programme funded by the Department and partnered with NHS England concluded on 31 March 2018 – it was always the intention that the Programme would conclude at this point.

Governance, monitoring and planning was built into the FGM Prevention Programme framework since its launch in 2014, including plans to conclude the Programme and arrangements for the work to be taken forward after April 2018. Since its launch, the Programme has worked closely with regional safeguarding teams across England, and these teams will be carrying on the work to tackle FGM across the National Health Service in England. Discussions, coordination and multi-agency work between the NHS and various partner agencies will also continue, now that the Programme has ended.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-03-28/134818/>

Press Release

Devolved Brexit legislation referred to the Supreme Court

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devolved-brexite-legislation-referred-to-the-supreme-court>

TOP

Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

UK Parliament

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/immigrationcontrolgrosshumanrightsabuses.html>

Children Act 1989 (Amendment) (Female Genital Mutilation) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/childrenact1989amendmentfemalegenitalmutilation.html>

EEA Nationals (Indefinite Leave to Remain) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/eeanationalsindefiniteleavetoremain.html>

**** European Union (Withdrawal) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/europeanunionwithdrawal.html>

Report Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-18/debates/D572CBF6-A85C-4208-B426-843747A766FA/EuropeanUnion\(Withdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-04-18/debates/D572CBF6-A85C-4208-B426-843747A766FA/EuropeanUnion(Withdrawal)Bill)

Notice of amendments

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-R-l\(a\).pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-R-l(a).pdf)

and

[https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-R-l\(b\).pdf](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/2017-2019/0079/18079-R-l(b).pdf)

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/humantraffickingchildprotection.html>

Modern Slavery (Transparency in Supply Chains) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/modernslaveryvictimsupport.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionbill.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) (No. 2) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/refugeesfamilyreunionno2.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

A Connected Scotland: Tackling social isolation and loneliness and building stronger communities (closing date 27 April 2018)

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0053/00530204.pdf>

Police and Fire Reform Act (closing date 24 May 2018)

http://www.parliament.scot/2012_Act_call_for_evidence.pdf

Integrated Communities Strategy green paper (closing date 5 June 2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/integrated-communities-strategy-green-paper>

Welsh Government: Nation of Sanctuary – Refugee and asylum seeker plan

(closing date 25 June 2018)

<https://beta.gov.wales/nation-sanctuary-refugee-and-asylum-seeker-plan>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/decision-making/public-consultation/local-policing-consultation>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

[Click here](#) to find out about Graduate, Modern, and Foundation Apprenticeship opportunities.

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Volunteering Support Fund

closing date for applications: 4 May 2018

Scottish Government grants between £7,500 and £10,000 per annum for organisations, who will be expected to recruit at least 15 additional volunteers, including, 10 who experience disadvantage or would traditionally experience barriers to volunteering; and

provide opportunities for both current and new volunteers to benefit from a meaningful volunteering experience, eg through training, learning new skills, and increased participation in their local community. For information and to apply for a grant see <https://www.voluntaryactionfund.org.uk/funding-and-support/volunteering-development-grants/>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence

27 April 2018 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's aid training to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic (BME) women experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information contact 0131 226 6606 or see <http://womensaid.scot/training-event/bme-womens-experiences-of-gender-based-violence/>

'Engaging with LGBT and Migrant Equalities' toolkits: Dissemination and discussion

30 April 2018 in Glasgow (12.30-4.15)

Glasgow University event to share ideas and experiences of how to use the resource, and to discuss good practice in engaging with equality and diversity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8vgzzxs>

Unaccompanied Refugee Children

2 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

Scottish Refugee Council Course to better understand where unaccompanied refugee children are, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Tackling Hate Speech in a Youth Setting

8 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

21 June 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-4.30)

17 July 2018 in Edinburgh (9.30-4.30)

Interfaith Scotland training to equip those working in a youth setting with appropriate tools for tackling hate speech, explore issues relating to cultural and religious diversity, learn how to recognise hate speech, and how to manage the situation when it occurs. For information contact Jamie Spurway Jamie@interfaithscotland.org / 07921 439 952

Equalities & Human Rights Focus Groups

11 May 2018 in Clydebank (12.30-2.30)

14 May 2018 in Galashiels (12.30-2.30)

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee focus groups to explore what more the Scottish Parliament can do to promote and protect human rights. For information contact 0131 348 6040 / Equalities.HumanRights@parliament.scot

**** Meet the Scottish Charity Regulator**

15 May 2018 in Perth (1.15-4.00)

30 May 2018 in Peterhead (1.15-4.00)

13 June 2018 in Stirling (1.15-4.00)

28 August 2018 in Edinburgh (1.15-4.00)

25 September 2018 in Motherwell (1.15-4.00)

3 October 2018 in Oban (9.45-12.30)

Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) events to give charity trustees and staff the opportunity to hear about latest developments, meet OSCR staff and ask questions. Topics will include the role of the charity trustee, and guidance on safeguarding. For information and to book see <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/meet-the-scottish-charity-regulator>

Culture - Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training

15-16 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.00-4.30)

12-13 September 2018 in Glasgow (9.00-4.30)

Two day training to address diversity and discrimination issues related to religion and belief and increase skills in order to help create a more inclusive diverse environment For information contact Farkhanda Chaudhry 0141 577 8454 / 07950 008 859 / Farkhanda.Chaudhry@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

New Scots: Refugees and the Asylum Process

17 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK and what opportunities they have for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

First World Congress on Migration, Ethnicity, and Health

17-19 May 2018 in Edinburgh

The aims of the Congress include improved research, population health and health care for migrants and other discriminated-against populations, and considering the health effects of social, environmental and demographic change associated with population migration, and the effects on diseases and their causes. For information see <http://www.merhcongress.com/> (full programme now available on the conference website) or contact merh@in-conference.org.uk / 0131 336 4203.

**** Scottish Parliament and Officeholders British Sign Language Plans**

18 May 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (2.00-5.00)

19 May 2018 at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

Events to help the Scottish Parliament prepare their British Sign Language Plan and gather the views of BSL users. Tours of the Scottish Parliament debating chamber and garden lobby will be available in BSL on both days. For information see <http://www.parliament.scot/help/108210.aspx> or contact 0131 348 5000 / [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](mailto:contactSCOTLAND-BSL@parliament.scot) / info@parliament.scot

Working with Interpreters

22 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the process of using an interpreter, where the responsibility lies for the success of the interpreted session, examines the pitfalls and their consequences, and sets out best practice for using interpreters. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information see <http://tinyurl.com/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Refugee Community Sponsorship

24 May 2018 in Glasgow (9.15-4.30pm)

Scottish Refugee Council course. Reduced rates available for small voluntary organisations. For information contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Black History Month**

October 2018

Call for submissions to the programme: deadline 16 July 2018

Black History Month aims to raise awareness of the positive role that Black / Minority Ethnic men and women have played in shaping both Glasgow and Scotland's history. To submit an event for the 2018 programme complete the form at https://www.scojec.org/memo/files/18_black_history_month.doc and return it to zandra@crer.org.uk

TOP

Useful Links

Scottish Parliament <http://www.parliament.scot/>

Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/>

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

GovUK (links to UK Government Departments) <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

UK Government Honours system <https://www.gov.uk/honours/overview>

European Parliament <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/>

One Scotland <http://onescotland.org/>

Scottish Refugee Council <http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk>

Interfaith Scotland <http://www.interfaithscotland.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/>

Volunteer Development Scotland <http://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel <https://www.goodfundraising.scot/>

Central Registered Body for Scotland (CRBS) www.volunteerscotland.net/disclosure-services

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/working-jobs/finding-a-job/disclosure/>

BBC News <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

TOP



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. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



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.gov.scot/>

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