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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

UK Immigration White Paper

The Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop): In the last week before Christmas, the United Kingdom Government published its long-delayed plans for the immigration system after the UK leaves the European Union. I will provide Parliament with an assessment of the impact that those retrograde proposals will have on Scotland ...

When the Migration Advisory Committee reviewed the impact of migration on the UK labour market last year, it found no evidence that migration reduces employment or training opportunities or UK workers' wages. Furthermore, there is clear evidence that migrants contribute more through taxes than they receive in benefits or public services. The committee found that migration increases productivity, innovation and gross domestic product per capita, which helps to raise living standards for all of us. ...

The UK Government plans to end freedom of movement of people from the European Economic Area after the implementation period and to manage all economic migration to the UK through a single system. In effect, that will be the current tier 2 employer-sponsored route for most workers, with some adjustments. Tier 2 is widely held by business to be complex and costly; in the main, it is limited to highly paid graduate-level roles.

Once European migration comes into tier 2, the UK Government proposes to lower the skill requirement, so that skilled roles that are below graduate level are eligible for it. However, it intends to maintain a salary threshold, which is expected to be set at £30,000. That will price out many roles, even if the skill barrier is reduced, and it does nothing to address the fact that the administrative and financial cost of tier 2 means that many small and medium-sized enterprises cannot use it. ...

No route is proposed for what the UK Government terms lower-skilled roles, although such roles and the important skills for them—such as those in social care, tourism, hospitality and construction—make a vital contribution to our economy and society. The 12-month visa for such workers that has been announced as a transitional measure will be inadequate for business. Without a route to settlement, that will prevent people with the valued and valuable skills that we need from living, working and—importantly—raising their families here and helping to tackle demographic challenges.

We must remember that all our projected population growth is meant to come from migration in the next 25 years. The proposals will have a negative impact on the economy of the whole UK—the figures in the white paper show that clearly—and it is important that members understand that the changes will have a greater impact on Scotland than on the UK as a whole.

UK Government figures published in the white paper show that 80 per cent of projected long-term EEA worker inflows to the UK would be affected by these changes, rising to 85 per cent for Scotland.

That accords with Scottish Government economic modelling published earlier last year in our discussion paper, “Scotland’s Population Needs and Migration Policy”. Using official population projections from the Office for National Statistics and from the National Records of Scotland, the paper showed that the slow-down in migration as a result of the Brexit vote would result in reduced GDP growth in the UK of 3.7 per cent by 2040, but 4.5 per cent in Scotland. ...

It has never been clearer that keeping free movement of people would be in both Scotland’s and the UK’s best interests. Free movement is also a set of reciprocal rights that British people, as EU citizens themselves, can enjoy, allowing them to live, work and study across the continent.

We want our fellow EU citizens already in Scotland to stay. They are part of the fabric of our country. In December we announced that the Scottish Government will deliver an advice service for EU citizens in Scotland in partnership with Citizens Advice Scotland and their network of citizens’ advice bureaux. There is an urgent need for clear and trusted information on citizens’ rights and the existing network of Citizens Advice Scotland, together with their trusted status, will allow the service to be delivered quickly across Scotland.

Of course, the Scottish Parliament voted on 19 December, calling on the UK to scrap the settled status fee, but if it goes ahead, the Scottish Government has made the commitment to pay the fees for EU citizens working in our devolved public services. They include doctors, nurses and other public sector workers on whom we all rely. We will shortly provide further details of that process. ...

The minister, Ben Macpherson, last year commissioned an independent expert advisory group to review the policy options before the UK Government, and consider the impact of those choices on areas of devolved responsibility in Scotland. It will provide its initial report next month, and the minister will return to Parliament with its findings. ...

Scotland has a different experience and we want to forge a different society in which the

contribution of the nurse, the carer, the restaurant worker and the technician are all seen and valued as being core to our society and economy. The UK immigration white paper is not only wrong-headed but wrong-hearted. ...

Adam Tomkins (Conservative): ... All EU citizens lawfully residing in the United Kingdom at the end of the implementation period will be able to stay here in the United Kingdom, and it also makes extensive, detailed and welcome provision for family members, children and dependants. ...

... immigration experts and business groups ... have previously condemned the SNP's insistence that powers over migration be devolved to this Parliament. Does the fact that the cabinet secretary did not repeat her party's call for immigration powers to be devolved mean that the SNP has finally listened to the experts and dropped that unwanted and dangerous policy? ...

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: ... the problem with Theresa May's deal is that the proposal to end of freedom of movement makes it as bad as there being no deal. ... 85 per cent of the EU citizens who were previously able to come here would not be able to do so. That would affect our health service and so many businesses—it would be an economic disaster. ...

I would point out that CBI Scotland said: "The proposals outlined in the White Paper don't meet Scotland's needs or the needs of the UK as a whole, and would be a sucker punch for many firms right across the country." ...

Claire Baker (Labour): If we are exiting the EU under the proposed deal or the disastrous no deal, we will see the end of freedom of movement. In that case, how can we retain the benefits that freedom of movement has given to Scotland? Our demographic challenges demand that we do.

The white paper fails to address Scotland's needs. It will restrict population growth; the proposed £30,000 threshold is unworkable; the 12-month visa is derisory and undervalues people; and the commitment to immigration targets by the Prime Minister does not respond to the needs of key sectors in Scotland ...

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: ... The issue of population is as important as that of immigration. The white paper says that there might be a 12-month visa for people with certain skills. That does not encourage people to settle in Scotland and have families here. In some of our rural and remote areas, a third of local authorities will see their populations decrease. It is important to address the issue of depopulation. ...

In a paper that was produced in February last year, we set out what other countries have done in this regard. The proposal that we have put forward is doable and practical. Many things are wrong with the UK system as a whole—the hostile environment and all the rest of it—but, in terms of practical issues, there are steps that we can take together ...

To read the full statement and lengthy question and answer session see

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11875&i=107419#ScotParlOR>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

The Scottish Government discussion paper referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/yc73ljw3>

Information about the advice service for EU citizens referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/news/information-and-advice-for-eu-citizens/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Refugee Resettlement

S5W-20772 Tavish Scott (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what support it has offered to each local authority that has pledged to resettle refugees.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: The Scottish Government is proud that all 32 Scottish local authorities have engaged with the UK's Syrian Resettlement Programme. Asylum and refugee resettlement are matters reserved to the UK Government, and the Home Office provides funding to local authorities receiving refugees under the Syrian Resettlement Programme.

The Scottish Government's Refugee Taskforce, which met from 2015-16, brought together key stakeholders, including local government, to coordinate the initial response to the humanitarian crisis and ensure a warm welcome to Scotland. It also identified areas for funding, including English language learning, employability and mental health, which were used in the allocation of £1 million provided by the Scottish Government to support refugee resettlement and integration.

The Scottish Government has also worked with COSLA, Scottish Refugee Council and other partners, including local authorities, to develop the second New Scots refugee integration strategy, which runs from 2018-22. The strategy provides a clear framework for all those working to support refugees to settle in Scotland.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-20772>

Immigration Waivers

S5W-20564 Lewis Macdonald (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what recent discussions it has had with the UK Government regarding the effect on jobs for Scotland's workers of immigration waivers issued to employers in the offshore wind sector.

Reply from Paul Wheelhouse: We have had no recent discussions with the UK Government on this matter following its publication of the latest guidance in May 2018.

Scottish Ministers have written to the Home Secretary following publication of our further powers paper, Scotland's Population Needs and Migration Policy, seeking a meeting to discuss how the migration system could meet Scotland's distinct needs.

We remain very concerned of the importance of a cap on migration, which does not reflect Scotland's needs, as we are aware the Tier 2 cap is causing great difficulties to employers in meeting emerging skill gaps that cannot be met through local recruitment.

I have raised the issue of Brexit impacts on the labour market for workers of energy related services roles, and of the wider impact on the energy sector, including Oil and Gas and offshore wind subsections; most recently with UK Ministers via the Joint Ministers Council process on 3 December 2018.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-2056>

UK Parliament Ministerial Statement

Asylum

The Minister for Immigration (Caroline Nokes) [HCWS1237] The United Kingdom has a proud history of providing an asylum system that protects and respects the fundamental rights of individuals seeking refuge from persecution. This system includes supporting asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their asylum claim is assessed. ...

I have always been clear about this Government's commitment to ensuring service users are provided with safe, secure and suitable accommodation and are treated with dignity and respect. I have listened to the concerns of local authorities and have reinforced my commitment to working in partnership with them in this area. I am also mindful of this Government's commitment to provide value for money for the taxpayer. Today I am pleased to inform the House that we have procured contracts for asylum accommodation and support to deliver on each of these commitments.

New contractual arrangements will be put in place in September of this year.

Initial accommodation, dispersed accommodation, transport and associated support services will be managed as integrated services on a regional basis.

Clearsprings Ready Homes has been awarded the contracts in the south of England and Wales;

Mears Group has been awarded the contracts in Northern Ireland, Scotland and the north-east, Yorkshire and Humber region; and

Serco has been awarded the contracts in the north-west of England, and the midlands and east of England regions.

Advice, issue reporting and eligibility assistance services will be integrated into a single, nationally operated end-to-end service; the contract for these services has been awarded to Migrant Help.

The contracts were designed after extensive engagement with local government, non-governmental organisations and potential providers. The contracts offer a number of improvements on the current arrangements to make them more sustainable and include changes to improve the customer journey and conditions for service users, addressing many of the recommendations in the Home Affairs Committee's reports on asylum accommodation. In particular, the contracts will:

Provide assistance to asylum seekers to apply for support and throughout their time in the accommodation and support system.

Require accommodation providers to develop close working relationships with local authorities, liaise and consult with local authorities on the location of properties and share appropriate information with them.

Require providers to establish working relationships with the voluntary sector and local community-based support organisations and networks in order that they can signpost SUs to local services.

Set clear requirements for the standards of the accommodation that meet the standards used for social housing across the UK.

Require providers to have proactive maintenance plans and to regularly inspect and report on the findings of the inspections of their accommodation.

Provide service users with a single point of contact, independent from accommodation providers and the Home Office, to report issues with their accommodation and to provide advice in relation to their support throughout the whole process.

Set clear timescales within which repairs must be made, with a clear escalation process for service users.

Enhance the approach to safeguarding through a range of measures including improved health screening and support in registering with a GP, improved safeguarding training and awareness of staff, the provision of more adapted rooms for service users with specific needs, and the provision of face-to-face advice and support for those who need it.

Ensure that service users receive clear induction materials to help them settle into their initial accommodation and dispersed accommodation in local areas. This will seek to ensure a better understanding of the support that is being provided as well as how to navigate services in local communities.

Support service users into mainstream services if they are granted asylum or to return to their home country if are refused.

Gather feedback from service users about their experience of accommodation and support

to monitor provider performance and improve the services that are provided. Following the award of the contracts today, the Home Office will work closely with the providers to mobilise the contracts and transition services users to the new arrangements. We will communicate directly with our services users and stakeholders to ensure they are aware of the changes and how they will affect them. We will be working extremely closely with local authorities to ensure a smooth transition and will be involving them ever more closely in the operation of the new contracts as they go live.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-08/debates/19010863000010/Asylum>

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

Migrant Crossings

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sajid Javid): With permission, Mr. Speaker, I will make a statement on the number of migrants trying to cross the English channel in small boats and what the Government are doing in response. ...

Over recent weeks, we saw a sharp increase in the number of migrants attempting to cross the channel to the UK in small boats. Over 500 migrants, mostly Iranian, attempted to travel to the UK on small vessels in 2018; 80% of them attempted this in the last three months of the year. About 40% of those involved in these attempts were either disrupted by French law enforcement or returned to France via French agencies. Since 1 January, a further 25 have attempted to cross the channel, but they were disrupted. In addition, just this morning, a dinghy was discovered along the Kent coast. A number of individuals are now going through UK immigration procedures and one person has been arrested. ...

The English channel contains some of the busiest shipping lanes in the world, the weather conditions are often treacherous and the inflatable boats being used are woefully ill-equipped to make such dangerous journeys. The migrants who choose to make the trip are putting their lives in grave danger, and they can at times also create dangerous situations for our rescue services.

The reasons behind the increased crossings are diverse, and in many cases are outside our control. First, instability in regions such as the middle east and north Africa are driving people out of their homes in search of better lives in Europe. Secondly, organised crime groups are preying on and profiting from these vulnerable and often desperate people. They are falsely promising them safe crossings to the UK, even though the journey is one of the most hazardous and most dangerous possible. Thirdly, strengthened security at the French-UK border has meant that it has become increasingly difficult for stowaways illegally to enter the UK in trucks and cars, leading to more reckless attempts by boat.

I have been very clear that robust action is needed to protect people and our borders and to deter illegal migration. Over the festive period, I took the decision to declare the situation a major incident. I appointed a dedicated gold command, and I stepped up the UK's response.

As part of joint action agreed with the French, I have ordered two UK Border Force boats to be redeployed from overseas to patrol the channel. That is in addition to the two already undertaking enhanced patrols in these waters. That will mean four Border Force cutters in total. That is in addition to the two coastal patrol vessels currently operating and the aerial surveillance of the area. Last week, I also requested additional help from the Ministry of Defence while we await the return of the two boats currently overseas. I am grateful that the Royal Navy has kindly offered the use of HMS Mersey, which started patrols on Friday. I am continuing to discuss with the French what more they can do to stop people from attempting to make these crossings from France in the first place. I welcome the action plan that the French outlined just this Friday, which includes a commitment to increase surveillance and security in maritime areas, prevention campaigns in French coastal areas

to stop people from setting off in a boat in the first place and a reinforced fight against smuggling gangs. I am pleased to say that the National Crime Agency has also redoubled its efforts. Just last week, two men were arrested on suspicion of the illegal movement of migrants.

In addition, we are doing important work in the home countries of would be migrants to reduce the factors that compel them to make these dangerous journeys in the first place. For example, we are helping to create jobs and build infrastructure, tackling modern slavery, providing education and delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to conflicts and natural disasters. We are also doing important work to undermine organised crime groups, and we have committed £2.7 billion to the humanitarian response in Syria, making us the second biggest bilateral donor to the region. We are on track to resettle 20,000 refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria by 2020, as well as up to 3,000 of the most vulnerable people from the middle east and north Africa, including children at risk of exploitation and abuse. In 2017, the UK resettled more refugees under national resettlement schemes than any other EU state.

Let me reassure the House that I am continuing to monitor the issue of channel crossings daily. Right hon. and hon. Members will know that these crossings have provoked a debate, but I am not afraid to say that I think that some legitimate questions need to be asked. Why, for instance, are so many people choosing to cross the channel from France to the UK when France itself is a safe country? The widely accepted international principle is that those seeking asylum should claim it in the first safe country that they reach, be that France or elsewhere. Indeed, many asylum seekers do just that. Domestic legislation from 2004 clearly states that, if an individual travels through a safe third country and fails to claim asylum, it will be taken into account in assessing the credibility of their claim. Following these recent events, I have instructed my officials to look at how we can tighten this still further and ensure that these provisions are working effectively.

Britain has a proud tradition of welcoming and protecting asylum seekers and we have a long history of accepting economic migrants too—people like my very own parents—but all these routes need to be safe and they need to be controlled, which getting in a rubber dinghy is not. That is why I will not accept these channel crossings as just a fact of life. Safeguarding lives and protecting the UK border are crucial Home Office priorities. While we have obligations to genuine asylum seekers, and we will uphold them, we will not stand by and allow reckless criminals to take advantage of vulnerable people. Encouraging people to cross the channel dangerously to come here is not an act of compassion, so I will continue to do all I can to stop these dangerous crossings. ...

Diane Abbott (Labour): ... Does the Home Secretary share my concern that we should be careful not to heighten a potentially toxic atmosphere on migration as the Brexit debate reaches its climax? However, the whole House agrees that the public deserve the assurance that our borders are secure. Nobody in this House believes that these crossings should be just a fact of life, not least because these desperate people are putting their lives in terrible danger. ...

The Home Secretary knows that a little over 200 people arrived here crossing the channel in the entire final three months of last year. One migrant making that dangerous crossing is one too many, but does he appreciate that some people might think that describing this as a major incident is an overstatement ...

The Home Secretary is correct to make the point about the risk to human life. We know that ruthless people smugglers put desperate people in unseaworthy craft, with no one on board who is any type of seaman, and they distribute fake lifejackets—and all this in the busiest shipping lanes in the world. These people smugglers are putting people's lives at risk for mere financial gain. However, does the Home Secretary accept that there can be no question of turning back asylum seekers who have reached British waters? That would be to put this country outside international law. ...

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... The right hon. Lady questioned whether this should have been designated a major incident. Let me make two brief points. First, there has been a significant increase in the number of crossings using small boats across the English channel. As I said, there were 543 attempts in 2018. Not all were successful, with roughly 40% being disrupted. Some 80% took place in the past three months, particularly in December. ...

The right hon. Lady may think—maybe it is suggested through her question—that 543 attempted crossings is not very much relative to the total number of asylum claims every year. The problem—this is the real issue—is that this is a very dangerous way to try to enter the UK. It is incredibly dangerous. This is one of the busiest sea lanes in the world. Often these people will travel at night with no lights and no lifejackets. They are taking an incredibly dangerous journey that puts at risk not just their lives but the lives of those who rescue them, such as the RNLi and others. It is the danger that that represents which requires us to take more action. ... The first safe country principle is well established and widely accepted in international law. The Prime Minister herself referred to it in her speech at the UN General Assembly last year. It is a principle indirectly supported through the new global compact for migration and the global compact for refugees. It is a principle legally accepted by the UNHCR ... Very importantly, it is a principle at the heart of the EU's own common European asylum system. In the 2005 procedures directive, it is explicitly stated that an asylum seeker should claim asylum in their first safe country, otherwise it can be declared inadmissible if it is claimed in another country. ...

Iain Duncan Smith (Conservative): ... Has the Home Secretary checked how long the people trying to cross the channel have spent in France without declaring themselves as asylum seekers?

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... It is not always possible to get a definitive answer. Many people are using France as a transit country: in many cases, they have entered through another EU country. The principle is very important. Those who encourage people not to claim asylum in the first safe country are encouraging them to take this dangerous journey and they should reflect on that. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): I would like the Home Secretary to clarify what he just said. Is he seriously saying that he wants to make all first claims of asylum in this country inadmissible if people travelled through another country first? He will know that people often travel because they have family in this country and existing family reunion provisions do not work effectively, and that we are bound by international law. Is he seriously saying he wants to rip up our obligations under the refugee convention and international law? Does he realise the shame that his doing so would bring on our country?

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... I am not saying that at all. ... Every claim of course will be assessed on its own merits, but the point I am making is about the first safe country principle, which is well established. ... The concept has now been accepted by the UNHCR, and it is even in European rules, which apply to us through the common European asylum system. ...

Kevan Jones (Labour): ... how many people have actually arrived here and claimed asylum in the three-month period? If he does not have those figures to hand, will he put them in the Library of the House, along with the numbers of people who came by other routes in the same period?

Reply from Sajid Javid: ... In 2018, 543 people made the attempt to cross the channel, and 42% of them—227 people—were intercepted, meaning that 316 arrived in the UK, most of them in the last three months of the year. ...

To read the full, very lengthy, question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-07/debates/FD3F5D45-F095-4ED7-A089-C347E93DD7B2/MigrantCrossings>

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

Migrant Crossings

Baroness Williams of Trafford read the statement made in the House of Commons by Sajid Javid. This has been included in full above.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): ... Can [the Minister] confirm that the UK is bound by the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and that all agencies of the state coming into contact with refugees have to act in accordance with its provisions? Does she accept that before anyone is deemed not to be a genuine refugee the facts surrounding their case must first be examined fully? On the deployment of the Royal Navy, can she set out for the House what orders are given to those deployed in the English Channel and can she explain how the various agencies are co-ordinating and working together? ...

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): ... This is an awful situation, but relatively small numbers are involved in the context of the international refugee position. I too wonder whether it is appropriate to focus on the recent Channel crossings or attempts to do so and whether, if we were not still in mid-Brexit mode, there would not have been a rather quieter and calmer reaction to the situation. ...

Of course one agrees with the Home Secretary that getting into a rubber dinghy is not safe, but we would much prefer the “safe and legal routes to sanctuary” formula, which is well known and widely used, rather than the “safe and controlled” formula, which seems to be a newly coined phrase. ... The UK has an obligation to consider all asylum claims properly and fairly and to grant asylum to those who are eligible, regardless of how they got here. ...

Lord Hylton (Crossbench): ... I am sure that the Minister will know already that millions of pounds have been spent on massive fences around Calais and probably Dunkirk, and on equipment to scan vehicles that are about to cross the channel. The effect of these measures has been to force people who want to come to this country to resort to the most dangerous crossings you can almost possibly imagine: namely, going in dinghies at right angles across the main shipping lanes, where they are likely not to be seen and to be run down. This brings us to the question ... of safe and legal routes for getting here. Is the Minister aware that the European Parliament recently passed a resolution calling for humanitarian visas along the lines of the former Nansen passport after the First World War? If they could be implemented, these would surely lead to fewer deaths ...

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I am a little concerned about some of the phrases used in the Statement. “People who choose to make the crossing” are words that appear more than once. I get the impression that the Government still believe that pull factors are the reason why people risk their lives to come to Britain. ... From where I sit, it seems to me that people would not choose to leave France in a rubber dinghy with their loved ones to cross the channel and pay smugglers for the privilege unless they felt that they had no choice.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I think it is important to pause for a moment to think about who benefits from smugglers taking people across the channel from a safe country. Those who benefit are organised criminals. If people choose to cross, they have chosen to cross from one safe country to another. The noble Baroness shakes her head, but she makes the point that people choose to travel from France to the UK. ...

To read the full, very lengthy, question and answer session see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-07/debates/DF334E00-B551-4877-95B6-C4633E0EF50F/MigrantCrossings>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Delegated Legislation Committee

Draft Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2018

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-10/debates/4e500181-07d8-40b8-9156-f814ca0139a0/DraftImmigration\(LeaveToEnterAndRemain\)\(Amendment\)Order2018](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-10/debates/4e500181-07d8-40b8-9156-f814ca0139a0/DraftImmigration(LeaveToEnterAndRemain)(Amendment)Order2018)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Andrea Jenkyns (Conservative) [204586] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what commitments the UK is legally bound by as a result of signing up to the UN Global compact on migration.

Reply from Alistair Burt: The UN Global Compact on Migration is not legally binding. It sets out a series of guidelines for improved international action and co-operation on migration, whilst importantly respecting a State's sovereign right to determine its own migration policy. The UK is not legally bound by any new commitments as a result of endorsing the Compact.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204586/>

The Global Compact referred to above can be read at

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

British Nationality

Ian Murray (Labour) [205253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent consideration has been given to allowing residents who are British by descent to gain citizenship.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The British Nationality Act 1981 defines who is a British citizen. A person who is of the first generation born outside the United Kingdom to a British citizen would usually be a British citizen by descent. There is no difference in the quality of citizenship between those who are British citizens by descent and those who acquire it by birth, registration or naturalisation in the UK. All have the same rights and access to services in the UK or consular services while overseas. A person who is a British citizen by descent cannot usually pass on that citizenship to a child born overseas unless they were in Crown service at the time of the child's birth. However, if children are born overseas to a British citizen by descent, the legislation contains provisions for a child to be registered where a continuing connection with the United Kingdom is demonstrated.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205253/>

Immigration

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [204530] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which countries his Department has identified as a high risk of abuse of the immigration system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We use our immigration system to help mitigate a wide range of threats to the UK. Risk is used and assessed at many places within the immigration system and the risk posed by different countries is determined by looking at the full range of threats to the UK, not just immigration abuse.

Those countries where such risks may be higher will usually be subject to our visa regime and will be visa nationals. All cases are decided on the individual merits of the application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204530/>

Immigration

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [204531] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, which countries his Department has identified as a low risk of abuse of the immigration system.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We use our immigration system to help mitigate a wide range of threats to the UK. Risk is used and assessed at many places within the immigration system and the risk posed by different countries is determined by looking at the full range of threats to the UK, not just immigration abuse. Those countries where such risks may be lower will not usually be subject to our visa regime and will be non-visa nationals. All cases are decided on the individual merits of the application.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204531/>

Immigration

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour) [203972] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to The UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper, published on 19 December 2018, how low-risk countries be determined.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: To determine low-risk countries as set out in the UK's Future Skills-Based Immigration System White Paper, the Home Office will consider a range of relevant factors such as returns agreements, reciprocal mobility agreements, cooperation on border security and prosperity. These measures will be reviewed regularly and further information will be provided in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203972/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration: Appeals

Tom Brake (Liberal Democrat) [203216] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what his Department's policy is on the timeframe for decisions to be issued following the consideration of an appeal based solely on human rights grounds in immigration cases.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: UK Visas and Immigration does not have a published service standard for processing appeals. Where the appeal has been allowed in favour of the appellant, the Home Office undertakes careful consideration of the judge's determination in order to conclude whether to submit an application for permission to appeal within the time limits set by the Tribunal Procedure Committee.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203216/>

Immigration: Health Services

Ian Murray (Labour) [204481] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date the immigration health surcharge will be increased from £200 to £400; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The immigration health surcharge will increase to £400 for each year of leave to be granted, on 8 January 2019. Students and Youth

Mobility Scheme applicants will pay a discounted rate of £300 for each year of leave to be granted.

The increased rate will apply to new applications made on or after this date.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204481/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrant Workers

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [204528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will define a (a) high-skilled, (b) medium-skilled and (c) low-skilled migrant in the context of The UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper.

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [204529] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what occupations would be considered (a) high-skilled, (b) medium-skilled and (c) low-skilled in the context of The UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As set out in the White Paper, 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system', we propose to define high, medium and lower skilled occupation by referring to the national Regulated Qualification Framework (RQF) levels. High-skilled roles require skills at degree level or above (RQF 6 and above); medium-skilled require skills between A-Level and Foundation Degree, or equivalent (RQF 3-5) and lower-skilled roles include those at GCSE level or below (below RQF 3).

Occupations falling into each of these skill levels will be set out in codes of practice. The existing codes of practice for our current main immigration work route under Tier 2 can be found at Appendix J of the published immigration rules, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-j-codes-of-practice-for-skilled-work>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204528/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204529/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Migrant Workers

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [205306] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment his Department made of the variations in national average salaries in advance of setting a £30,000 salary threshold for skilled workers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: In their report, EEA migration in the UK, the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) recommended "*maintaining the existing salary threshold for all migrants in Tier 2*". The Government will engage businesses and employers as to what salary threshold should be set.

In addition, Scotland already has a separate Shortage Occupation List (SOL) and we will invite the Migration Advisory Committee to compile such a list for Northern Ireland and consider whether the composition of the SOL needs to be different for Wales.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205306/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/741926/Final_EEA_report.PDF

Migrant Workers: Temporary Employment

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour) [203973] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to The UK's future skills-based immigration system White Paper, published on 19 December 2018, whether there will be a numerical cap on temporary short-term workers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As per the Government's White Paper: The UK's future skills based immigration system, we may impose a limit on the total number of people who could come under the route if evidence suggests that the route should be capped.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203973/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Migrant Workers: Wales

Jo Stevens (Labour) [203921] To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, with reference to the White Paper, The UK's future skills-based immigration system, published on 19 December 2018, what discussions his Department has had with the Home Secretary on the effect of the proposed minimum salary requirement of £30,000 for skilled migrants on the Welsh economy.

Reply from Alun Cairns: The independent Migration Advisory Committee recommended retaining the existing £30,000 salary threshold for skilled workers.

The Government agrees with the Migration Advisory Committee's view that the salary thresholds should ensure that migrants are raising the level of productivity in the UK, making a positive contribution to public finances and are not putting downward pressure on earnings. This salary threshold is an important control to ensure migration is managed at sustainable levels. However, before confirming the level of a future salary threshold the Government will engage extensively with businesses and employers, consider wider evidence of the impact on the economy, and take into account current pay levels in the UK economy.

The Government currently maintains a Shortage Occupation List which is used to give priority to individuals within the highly-skilled route cap, and to exempt migrants from minimum salary thresholds required for settlement if they are in a shortage occupation. The Home Secretary has asked the Migration Advisory Committee to review the current Shortage Occupation List.

The Migration Advisory Committee will be commissioned to provide an annual report on key aspects of the UK's immigration system, including to advise on whether detailed arrangements such as the levels of salary thresholds, and the Shortage Occupation List, need to be revised in light of economic and social circumstances, and any emerging or longer-term trends that may impact the labour market. The Government will also invite the Migration Advisory Committee to examine the case for a Wales specific Shortage Occupation List.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203921/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Migrant Workers: Veterinary Medicine

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [205157] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will include veterinary surgeons in his Department's proposals to remove

the cap on the number of non-UK skilled workers.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: On 19 December, the Government set out its proposals for future skills-based immigration system. Paragraph 6.13 of the White Paper indicates that the Government accepts the Migration Advisory Committee's recommendation that the skilled migration route in the future system, which will encompass veterinary surgeons, should not be subject to a cap.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205157/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Foreign Investment in UK

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [204622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the status is of Tier 1 (investor) visa applications.

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [204623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Written Statement of 6 September 2018, HCWS1159, how the review of Tier 1 (investor) visas will be conducted; which bodies will be consulted as part of that review; and what the timescale is for that review to report.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Tier 1 (Investor) visa remains in operation and applications continue to be considered. The Home Office remains committed to reforming the route in the spring and will make a further announcement in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204622/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204623/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-12-06/HCWS1159/>

Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [202880] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will publish the evidential basis for the decision that an application for the Windrush Scheme: Support in urgent and exceptional circumstances should not cost more than £5000.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government has committed to setting up a compensation scheme that will redress what went wrong and to assist those affected in the Windrush generation as quickly and carefully as possible.

The policy on support in urgent and exceptional circumstances applies where a specific support requirement is identified which requires immediate funding ahead of the Windrush Compensation Scheme being established. The policy statement published on 17 December includes among the factors for consideration that the cost should normally be less than £5,000.

This sum is arrived at following a small number of cases in which this kind of exceptional support has been provided by the Windrush Taskforce to date. If the urgent requirement exceeds £5,000 the Home Office will consider such claims.

The Windrush update provided to the Home Affairs Committee on 17 December includes details of exceptional financial support to the end of October 2018.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-17/202880/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme - Support in Urgent and Exceptional Circumstances.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf)

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [203360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how (a) payments or assistance provided under the Windrush Scheme: support in urgent and exceptional circumstances policy may be taken into account in any subsequent claim under the Windrush Compensation Scheme and (b) applicants can anticipate how applying for urgent and exceptional support might affect their application to the compensation scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We will be announcing details of the Compensation Scheme and how to apply as soon as possible. It is right that any compensation payments may take into account funding or assistance already provided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203360/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [203361] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what form the review of the Windrush Scheme: Support in urgent and exceptional circumstances policy will take; how long it will take for those applying under the Windrush Compensation Scheme to receive payments; and whether there will be specific provision in the Windrush Compensation Scheme to ensure those in urgent need will receive funds rapidly.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Paragraphs 9-11 of the policy statement on urgent and exceptional payments sets out that the Home Office will advise the claimant whether their application has been successful within 10 working days and earlier if possible. A letter informing them of the outcome will be sent within a further 48 hours and if the offer is accepted, any payment will be made as soon as possible and no later than 14 days.

Claims assessed by the Taskforce to be particularly urgent will be prioritised. The policy for the Windrush Compensation Scheme is still being defined, but timing of payments will be dependent on when individuals submit their applications.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203361/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme - Support in Urgent and Exceptional Circumstances.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf)

Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [203362] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Annex A of the Windrush Scheme: Support in urgent and exceptional circumstances policy statement, published 17 December 2018, what effect having previously been denied entry to the UK will have on a claimant's application under the scheme.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Paragraph 4 of the policy statement on urgent and exceptional payments specifies that one of the factors to be considered in assessing whether a claim meets the policy intention is “whether the claimant has previously been denied entry to the UK”.

However, the list is not intended to be exhaustive and there may be other examples of exceptional and urgent situations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203362/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme - Support in Urgent and Exceptional Circumstances.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf)

Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [203456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Annex A of his Department's policy statement entitled Policy Statement: Windrush Scheme: Support in urgent and exceptional circumstances, published in December 2018, whether support will be offered under that annex to people who do not have the funds to return to the UK but are not deemed to have urgent circumstances.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The policy is designed to support people in urgent and exceptional circumstances. Where a situation is not urgent, claims will be considered through the Windrush Compensation Scheme, which will be launched as soon as possible.

Should a claimant's situation become urgent then they should contact the Taskforce on the freephone number or via email for assistance.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203456/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme - Support in Urgent and Exceptional Circumstances.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/765092/Windrush_Scheme_-_Support_in_Urgent_and_Exceptional_Circumstances.pdf)

*With very minor, non-substantive, differences,
the following seven questions all received the same answer*

Government Departments: EU Nationals

Alison McGovern (Labour) [200127] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what the cost to the public purse would be of not charging for applications for Settled Status from non-UK EU nationals employed directly by the Government.

Ministry of Defence: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203249] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Ministry of Justice: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203250] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203252] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU

nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Catherine West (Labour) [203966] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether his Department plans to cover the £65 application fee for the resettlement process for EU Nationals employed by his Department after March 2019.

Catherine West (Labour) [203967] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment has been made of the potential risk of the £65 application fee for the resettlement process to the retention of EU Nationals employed by his Department.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203341] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Oliver Dowden / Mark Lancaster / David Gauke / Richard Harrington / George Eustice: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status Fee for its non-UK EU citizen employees. The fee is set at an affordable rate (£65), less than the cost of an UK passport.

Outsourced workers are not employees of the Department and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

The number of non-UK EU citizens employed across the Civil Service is not consistently collected across Government. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying the settled status fee for non-UK EU nationals employed directly by the Department.

We value the significant contribution made by EU citizens working in the Civil Service and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees across the Civil Service, the important engagement with EU national networks across government will continue over the coming months.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-07/200127/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203249/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203250/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203252/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203966/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203967/>

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<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203341/>

Department for Exiting the European Union: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203248] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Robin Walker: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status Fee for its non-UK EU citizen employees. The fee is set at an affordable rate (£65), less than the cost of a UK passport. Outsourced workers are not employees of the Department and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

The number of non-UK EU citizens employed across the Civil Service is not consistently collected across Government. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying the settled status fee for non-UK EU nationals employed directly by the department.

We value the significant contribution made by EU citizens working in the Civil Service and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the Civil Service. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees across the Civil Service; the important engagement with EU national networks across government will continue over the coming months.

The Government has confirmed that, in a no deal scenario, the EU Settlement Scheme will continue to be implemented, enabling EU citizens and their family members living in the UK by 29 March 2019 to secure their status and continue to be able to work, study, and access benefits and services in the UK. The scheme will be fully open by 30 March 2019 as planned.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203248/>

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203345] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Margot James: The UK Government currently does not plan to pay the Settled Status Fee for its non-UK EU citizen employees. The fee is set at an affordable rate (£65), less than the cost of an UK passport.

Outsourced workers are not employees of the Department and therefore this would be a decision for their employers.

DCMS staff declare their national identity voluntarily so this may not be a true representation of the workforce as a whole. Therefore it wouldn't be appropriate to use this information to determine the cost to the department of paying these fees.

We value the significant contribution made by EU citizens working in the DCMS and we want these colleagues to continue to play a full role in the work of the department. We are committed to supporting our EU citizen employees across the department.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203345/>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Migrant Workers

Caroline Lucas (Green) [203247] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of his Department paying the £65 application fee for settled or pre-settled status for EU nationals (a) employed by and (b) working as an outsourced worker in his Department; what estimate he has made of the total cost to his Department of paying those fees; and what assessment he has made of the risks that the EU Settlement Scheme poses to the retention of EU nationals (i) employed by or (ii) working as an outsourced worker in his Department.

Reply from Alan Duncan: No assessment has been made. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employees must be British nationals so the Settlement Scheme does not apply. Outsourced workers are not FCO employees so this would be a decision for their employer.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203247/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [205360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of compatibility of the proposed settled status scheme for EU nationals with Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [205361] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether his Department taken legal advice on a potential challenge to the settled status scheme because of incompatibility with the the right to family life.

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [205363] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the Settled Status scheme with the rights of frontier workers set out in Article 24 of the Withdrawal Agreement.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The EU Settlement Scheme is based on the draft Withdrawal Agreement with the EU, published on 14 November 2018. As the Withdrawal Agreement is based on residence rights stemming from existing EU law, it is compliant with the UK's obligations as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights, which applies in all EU Member States and which includes the right to family life.

Frontier workers who are protected by Article 24 of the draft Withdrawal Agreement and who wish to continue to frontier work in the UK may apply to the EU Settlement Scheme should they wish for example, if they have been or expect to be resident in the UK for sufficient periods to be eligible for the scheme. Alternatively, they may be subject to a requirement to obtain a document to evidence their right to enter the UK and work as a frontier worker in line with Article 26 of the draft Withdrawal Agreement. Further details on this will be provided in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205360/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205361/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-04/205363/>

The draft Withdrawal Agreement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759019/25_November_Agreement_on_the_withdrawal_of_the_United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Northern_Ireland_from_the_European_Union_and_the_European_Atomic_Energy_Community.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Marion Fellows (SNP) [203927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 22 November 2018 to Question 192832, whether EU citizens with Leave to Land who do not apply for pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will maintain the same rights once the UK has left the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: A person granted leave to land under earlier (repealed) legislation is treated for the purposes of the Immigration Act 1971 as having been granted leave to enter the UK. Existing leave to enter is not affected by the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. EU citizens with limited or indefinite leave to enter do not need to apply for status under the EU Settlement Scheme, but they may do so if they wish.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203927/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-11-19/192832/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [204621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether resident EU citizens and their family members applying for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme will be required to show that they meet all the requirements of current free movement rules.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: As set out in the Statement of Intent published on 21 June 2018, EU citizens and their family members who apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme will not be required to show that they meet all the requirements of current free movement rules, such as any requirement to hold comprehensive sickness insurance or to have been undertaking specific permitted activities under EU law. Instead, the main requirement for eligibility under the scheme will be continuous residence in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-20/204621/>

Immigration: EEA Nationals

Rosie Duffield (Labour) [203974] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will seek to ensure children from EEA countries living in the UK will be able to secure settled status that on the same terms as children from EU countries after the UK leaves the EU.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Government announced on 20 December that the UK has reached a separation agreement with the European Economic Area (EEA) Economic Free Trade Area (EFTA) countries which covers citizens' rights and broadly mirrors in that respect the Withdrawal Agreement reached with the European Union. The separation agreement protects the rights of approximately 15,000 EEA EFTA nationals living in the UK and 17,000 UK nationals living in the EEA EFTA countries.

EEA EFTA nationals, including children, who want to stay beyond the end of the planned implementation period will be able to apply to the UK's Settlement Scheme in the same way as EU citizens from 30 March 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203974/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eea-efta-separation-agreement>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Thangam Debonnaire (Labour) [203324] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what support her Department provides to refugees granted asylum that have made an application for universal credit.

Reply from Alok Sharma: Asylum Support is available to newly recognised refugees through the Home Office whilst their status is under consideration. This support continues for 28 days after refugee status is granted. A claim to Universal Credit can be made immediately once refugee status is granted and Asylum Support is not deducted from their Universal Credit award during the 28 days run on period. Work coaches receive training to help them identify and support vulnerable claimants, including refugees, and build supportive relationships with claimants to encourage them to openly discuss any barriers, concerns or problems as they emerge.

Provided the eligibility criteria for Universal Credit is met, we will always offer an advance payment to a refugee when making a new claim, and staff have access to information on a range of services and support available in their local area for vulnerable claimants, including refugees. This includes Universal Support, which provides help with using online services and budgeting advice. We also have access to a range of translation services to assist, should a claimant need support to overcome any language barriers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203324/>

Undocumented Migrants: Boats

Afzal Khan (Labour) [206043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of migrants that attempted to enter the UK using small boats were intercepted by the French Authorities in (a) the last three months of 2017 (b) 2017, (c) 2016 and (d) 2015.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Border Force does not routinely publish this level of data however you will be aware the Home Secretary delivered a statement on the 7th January 2019 stating the below.

Over 500 migrants - mostly Iranian - attempted to travel to the UK on small vessels in 2018. 80% of them attempted this in the last three months of the year. Around 40% of the attempts were either disrupted by French law enforcement or returned to France via French agencies.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/206043/>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-01-07/debates/FD3F5D45-F095-4ED7-A089-C347E93DD7B2/MigrantCrossings>

Asylum: Applications

Stephen Doughty (Labour Co-op) [203899] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many occasions his Department has invited home-country officials to interview asylum seekers; and what the nationality of those officials was in each year since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: We have a proud history of providing protection to those who need it. All asylum claims are carefully considered on their individual merits by assessing all evidence provided by the claimant against published country information. In line with our legal duty of confidentiality, we do not disclose information about asylum claims to an individual's home country. We do not facilitate interviews with representatives from an asylum seeker's home country

whilst their claim is being considered.

Only after an individual's asylum claim is refused, may it become necessary, as with foreign national offenders and those without a legal basis for remaining in the UK, to confirm their identity and nationality with the receiving country and to obtain a travel document to facilitate a voluntary or enforced return.

It is a requirement of some foreign governments to interview such individuals to confirm identity/nationality and to agree to issue a travel document. These interviews are coordinated in a number of ways based on the circumstances of the person's case and the particular process for re-documentation stipulated by the receiving foreign government. These include ad-hoc interviews for individuals and regular interview exercises with UK based officials from diplomatic missions, and central government officials visiting the UK.

The number of occasions these activities took place is not held in a format that is reportable.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of countries whose officials have conducted interviews;

Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Liberia, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Tunisia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203899/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [203272] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the total annual cost to the public purse has been of compensation paid to people who have been inappropriately held in immigration detention centres since 2010.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The Home Office wrote to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 25 June 2018 detailing information relating to wrongful detention compensation claims. A copy of the response can be found here:

[https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180625 Permanent Secretary Immigration%20Enforcement.pdf](https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/home-affairs/Correspondence-17-19/180625%20Permanent%20Secretary%20Immigration%20Enforcement.pdf)

For FY17/18 figure, please refer to the HO Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18 page 97, link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/727179/6_4360_HO_Annual_report_WEB.PDF

For FYs 2010/11 and 2011/12, the Home Office does not hold the information in the format requested. Our ledger will not allow us to provide this level of detail for those Financial Years.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203272/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [203948] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many adults who have been detained for immigration purposes since they were under 18 years of age are still detained.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: The underlying datasets for the most recent published figures, show that of the adults detained as at 30 September 2018 none entered detention while under 18 years of age.

Information on people in detention, broken down by quarter, is available in the detention tables in the latest releases of 'Immigration Statistics, year ending September 2018', available from the Home Office website at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758249/detention-sep-2018-tables.ods

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203948/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Joan Ryan (Labour) [205807] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Detention Services Order 01/2016 on The Protection, Use and Sharing of Medical Information Relating to People Detained Under Immigration Powers, whether his Department has shared medical files of detained persons with foreign Governments since 2016.

Reply from Caroline Nokes: Detention Services Order (DSO) 01/2016 sets out the Home Office's policy on the protection, use and sharing of detainees' medical information. As set out in this DSO the medical record is a confidential document and is the property of the detainee.

In the case of an unescorted removal, the medical record is handed over to the detainee at the point of boarding the aircraft. During an escorted removal, the escort staff will hold the record until the end of the escort, when it is given over to the detainee before they are received by their own authorities. If the detainee does not want the record, the escort staff will return it to the UK where it will be securely stored.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/205807/>

The Order referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/524505/DSO_01-2016_Medical_Information_Sharing.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Migrants: Channel Crossings

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the government of France about ensuring that migrants crossing the English Channel are dealt with in a humane way.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford):

My Lords, the United Kingdom ensures that all migrants crossing the English Channel are dealt with in a humane way. We have deployed two additional Border Force cutters to the UK to help protect those being placed in life-threatening positions, as well as to further secure our border. The Home Secretary spoke to Interior Minister Castaner last week and has invited him to London for further discussions.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: Is the Minister concerned that, on 29 March, we will depart from the European Union and, when we do, we will also go out of the Dublin III agreement? That means that no country will be obliged to rehome those for whom this is the first country in Europe that they come to. In the United Kingdom, whether we have transitional arrangements or some sort of other deal, we alone will have to look after those who reach our shores, with no other recourse. Do we have any plan at all for what we will do on 30 March, which is 79 days away?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, I am not concerned that,

when we leave the European Union on 29 March, we will in any way resile from our obligations to give refuge in this country to people who need it.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno: That was not the question.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I am coming to the noble Lord's point about Dublin. We have resettlement schemes for people in the MENA region but, if we have a deal, Dublin III will apply during the transition period. If we leave without a deal, we will not be bound at all by the Dublin regulation. Nevertheless, this Government are committed to continuing the long history of giving asylum in this country to people who need it.

Lord Dubs (Labour): Will the Minister confirm that, in our discussion with the French authorities, we will set a high stake on the right of migrants who have reached Britain to claim asylum in this country, and those who have reached France to claim asylum in that country? That is a fundamental right under the Geneva convention, and it seems to be being weakened by some of the statements of the Home Secretary.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, there has been a long-established acceptance that people seeking asylum should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach. The noble Lord is shaking his head slightly but, if a migrant or asylum seeker arrives in France or Italy, they should seek asylum in that country. If they do not, and decide as some have to take the treacherous journey across the channel, they not only put their lives in danger but are going against the Dublin convention.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, does not the "first safe country" principle rather let this island nation on the west of Europe off the hook from its responsibilities to asylum seekers globally? Given this, and given the Government's proper concern with safety, should they not do much more to open up safe and legal routes for asylum seekers, as called for by the British Red Cross and others?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, when noble Lords make this point, I am never quite sure whether they feel that asylum seekers should claim in the first safe country or that they should then go on to other countries. However, claiming in the first safe country is the swiftest way for those fleeing torture and persecution to get protection.

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester: My Lords, children granted refugee status in the UK have no rights to family reunion. This sets the UK apart from all other European countries. What are the Government doing to ensure legal protection and mental health support for these children? Will they consider granting rights to family reunion?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the last thing that the Government want is for children to be sent across in order to bring their families across. We do not want children to act as a pull factor for people to make these unsafe journeys. We do not intend to change that principle.

Baroness Smith of Basildon (Labour): My Lords, I listened carefully to the Minister's answers and she seemed to imply that the Dublin regulation appeared to be the responsibility of those claiming asylum and refugees. Does she not understand that it is in fact burden-sharing between countries, which have an obligation—we have an obligation—to protect those who seek asylum? The House would find it helpful if she could give a more adequate answer than she has so far.

In the Minister's Statement yesterday, when my noble friend Lord Kennedy of Southwark raised this point with her, she spoke about the various agencies that were working together and co-ordinating, such as Border Force, Immigration Enforcement, the coastguard and the National Crime Agency. How many people smugglers, who bring people into the country and put them in danger, have been prevented from doing so? How many of those criminals have been detained, and how many have been prosecuted?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On the last question first, I will try to give the noble Baroness details. I am not sure that I will be able to obtain the figures,

but I will certainly try. She made a point about the Dublin regulation being an obligation or burden on the person claiming asylum. In fact, as she knows, it is an EU-wide agreement that asylum seekers will claim in the first safe country they reach. To suggest that they should do it any other way is dangerous to the lives of those people.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-08/debates/F0D11A17-DB12-43A5-A738-C8BFA98335D7/MigrantsChannelCrossings>

Migration: International Students

Lord Holmes of Richmond (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to remove international students from the net migration statistics. ...

The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, the independent Office for National Statistics, which follows best international practice, produces the migration statistics. The Government do not seek to influence that. The Migration Advisory Committee also recommended that students should not be taken out of the net migration statistics. There is no plan to limit the number of genuine international students who can come to the UK, and university-sponsored student visa application numbers are at a record high.

Lord Holmes of Richmond: My Lords, the United States, Australia, France and Germany have all achieved greater growth in the numbers of international students. In the light of that, does my noble friend believe that we have the right strategy? What is happening across Whitehall to ensure that we really grip this issue and make sure that, when it comes to international students, we are doing everything we can to ensure that the brightest and the best—the brightest and the best—choose Britain? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Well, my Lords, to keep abreast of the international growth figures, I think we should measure our success by the number of students applying for visas and coming here to study. There has been a 26% increase in visa applications since 2010-11, so we are certainly not deterring students from coming here to study; indeed, the UK is becoming an increasingly popular place to come to for study. Perhaps I may quote from the MAC report. It states: "Part of that joint action"—in terms of improving the country's image—"would be to talk less about students in the net migration target as it is possible that the repeated discussions of students in the target is itself contributing", to the perceived problem.

Lord Bilimoria (Crossbench): My Lords, the Minister mentioned the MAC report. That report says very clearly that the number one reason why international students do not choose Britain as their number one choice is the lack of post-study work opportunities. Does the Minister agree that we are losing out in growth rates? Should we not bring back the two-year post-graduation work visa so that we can compete with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States of America, let alone the EU countries?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord might like to know that the number of student visas granted to students from India, a country he often asks me about, has increased by 33%, so there are certainly no problems there. Indeed, we have gone further than the MAC recommended on post-study leave to remain and increased it to six months for graduates, and we will increase it to 12 months for postgraduate students.

Lord Kennedy of Southwark (Labour Co-op): My Lords, why are the Government having such difficulty getting people to believe their position on international students?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I have just explained that in my reply to my noble friend Lord Holmes: we whip this question up although the facts before us belie it. I simply do not believe that a 26% increase in the number of visa applications represents a country struggling.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister mentioned India. Did she

hear the fascinating series of programmes, “As Others See Us”, on Radio 4 last week? A speaker from India asked—it was a rhetorical question—how we expect India to strengthen its ties with Britain without relaxing visa restrictions. He cited the period allowed for post-study work as being too short. He said, “You cannot take from us a free trade agreement without lowering the immigration restrictions which keep us out”. Are the slight extensions to post-study leave adequate to answer that question?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To answer that question, look at the number of Indian students who are not just applying for but succeeding in getting student visas. How others see us, in terms of how Indian students see us, is as a country which they wish to learn from and study in. I know there is an issue about visa relaxation with India, because I was in Delhi last year, but the figures do not bear that out. Indian students are applying to universities in this country in droves.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): [Does not my noble friend accept that if we reflected on] the wisdom of the question of my noble friend Lord Holmes and the points made by the noble Lord, Lord Bilimoria, our vital statistics would certainly improve?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I made the point that our vital statistics have improved massively in the past eight to nine years. There is no cap on the number of students who can come to study here and, as the future immigration White Paper showed, have great prospects here.

Baroness Brown of Cambridge (Crossbench): My Lords, since 2011, the number of international students enrolled in UK universities has risen just 3%, compared to a 40% increase for the United States. It is the number of students, not just the visa applications, that is important. Given the immense economic and social benefit of international students, does not the Minister agree that the Government should take further steps to increase our global market share of international students?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, the fact that there is no cap on student numbers is all to the good. People want to come to this country to study, they are doing so in increasing numbers and, as I pointed out just before we broke up for the Christmas Recess, the increase in post-study leave is to be welcomed and will benefit students.

Lord Lansley (Conservative): My Lords, my noble friend is, I believe, saying that we want to encourage international students to come to this country. The confusion arises because they feel that our net migration objectives run counter to that. Would it not be simplest to identify the students coming to and leaving this country separately in national statistics?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, we are following the advice of the independent Migration Advisory Committee. Similarly, the ONS takes that view of migration statistics. Indeed, we are in line with many countries in the world which do the same. In fact, because there is no limit on the number of students who come here, there is no disbenefit to students being counted in those figures.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-07/debates/F7F43C0D-138C-4FA1-AFFD-1734F4A3123A/MigrationInternationalStudents>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Lord Vinson (Conservative) [HL12480] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 17 December (HL12096), whether the adoption of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration would not make any criticism of immigration a criminal offence; and if so, what plans they have to mitigate any such impact on freedom of speech.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK Government is supportive of the United Nations' Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, both as a step forward in

international co-operation to tackle irregular migration and as a framework to help us deliver our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary of State announced the UK's support for the Migration Compact at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018, and Minister Burt attended the intergovernmental launch event in Marrakesh in December 2018.

Well-managed migration is in everyone's interests. But uncontrolled migration erodes public confidence, damages economies, and places people on the move in situations of great vulnerability. The UK is taking significant steps to tackle uncontrolled migration both in our domestic policy work and in our ODA-funded programmes by:

- Addressing factors that may force people to migrate irregularly, through our targeted assistance for livelihoods, healthcare, and education and driving economic development;
- Tackling modern slavery and organised immigration crime;
- Supporting enhanced border management;
- Providing critical humanitarian support and protection for vulnerable migrants, as well as offering voluntary return and vital reintegration support to those wishing to return home; and
- Supporting refugees to stay in a first safe country through our humanitarian and development work in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The Global Compact for Migration supports delivery of these efforts within the international system and enhances cooperation between states without affecting the sovereignty of all countries to control their own borders. The Compact will not in any way create legal obligations for States, nor does it seek to establish international customary law or further interpret existing treaties or national obligations. It does not establish a 'human right to migrate' or create any new legal categories of migrant. The GCM emphasises that migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights as any human being and does not create any new 'rights' for migrants.

The Compact commits to protecting freedom of expression for the press and public. The freedom of the media to debate all issues of importance to society, including the issue of migration in all its aspects, is fundamental to a liberal society and the UK Government attaches the highest importance to this. The UK reiterated the importance of this when the UN adopted the Global Compact in December 2018. It also includes proposals which will help the UK make a strong contribution to the delivery of the global Sustainable Development Goals. This includes those relating to orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people; and those intended to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and child labour.

The final draft of the Compact is available online at:

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-19/HL12480/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-05/HL12096/>

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Lord Balfe (Conservative) [HL12487] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Bates on 20 December (HL12099), whether they will now answer the question put, whether, and if so when, they intend to sign the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Reply from Lord Bates: The UK Government is supportive of the United Nations' Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, both as a step forward in international co-operation to tackle irregular migration and as a framework to help us deliver our commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretary of State announced the UK's support for the Migration Compact at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018, and Minister Burt attended the intergovernmental launch event in Marrakesh in December 2018.

The UK voted in favour of the UN General Assembly Resolution to adopt the Compact on 19th December 2018 and issued an Explanation of Vote to set on the record its interpretation of the text. A summary of the Explanation can be found on the UN website at: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/ga12113.doc.htm>

Well-managed migration is in everyone's interests. But uncontrolled migration erodes public confidence, damages economies, and places people on the move in situations of great vulnerability. The UK is taking significant steps to tackle uncontrolled migration both in our domestic policy work and in our ODA-funded programmes by:

- Addressing factors that may force people to migrate irregularly, through our targeted assistance for livelihoods, healthcare, and education and driving economic development;
- Tackling modern slavery and organised immigration crime;
- Supporting enhanced border management;
- Providing critical humanitarian support and protection for vulnerable migrants, as well as offering voluntary return and vital reintegration support to those wishing to return home; and
- Supporting refugees to stay in a first safe country through our humanitarian and development work in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The Global Compact for Migration supports delivery of these efforts within the international system and enhances cooperation between states without affecting the sovereignty of all countries to control their own borders. The Compact will not in any way create legal obligations for States, nor does it seek to establish international customary law or further interpret existing treaties or national obligations. It does not establish a 'human right to migrate' or create any new legal categories of migrant. The GCM emphasises that migrants are entitled to the same universal human rights as any human being and does not create any new 'rights' for migrants.

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It also includes proposals which will help the UK make a strong contribution to the delivery of the global Sustainable Development Goals. This includes those relating to orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people; and those intended to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, and child labour.

The final draft of the Compact is available online at:

https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180711_final_draft_0.pdf

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-20/HL12487/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-06/HL12099/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL12408] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the period of time covered by Permitted Paid Engagement visas from one month to three months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has published its immigration White Paper setting out the vision of the Future Border and Immigration System. To support publication of the Government's proposals, an extensive engagement programme will be launched, which will contribute to the development of the new system.

Short-term business activity is crucial for the UK economy and we welcome a dialogue with private, public and voluntary sectors as well as industry representatives and international partners about the scope of permitted visitor activities and to better understand the needs of various sectors.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-18/HL12408/>

Agriculture: Migrant Workers

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative) [HL12363] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the interests of the UK's meat processing sector and other agriculture industries are accounted for in their immigration policy after Brexit.

Reply from Lord Gardiner of Kimble: It is a priority of this Government to enable an innovative, productive and competitive food supply chain, which invests in its people and skills. Defra is engaging actively with the Brexit Livestock Group, which was set up in early 2017 to provide a forum in which to discuss issues common to the livestock sector as a whole.

Defra understands the importance of labour in supporting a successful and effective meat processing sector, and is considering how best to support the needs of the sector both before and after the UK leaves the EU.

The UK Government has guaranteed that EU citizens resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 will be able to stay and we will take the necessary steps to protect their rights in a 'no deal' scenario. They will continue to be able to work, study, and access benefits and services in the UK on the same basis after we leave the EU as they do now.

Defra is working closely with other government departments, devolved administrations, partners, and businesses so that the food and farming industry is at the heart of EU exit preparations. We continue to work with industry partners to understand the challenges and opportunities in order to ensure a smooth transition. Defra is also working to ensure that the meat processing sector has access to a sufficient number of veterinary surgeons, meat hygiene inspectors, slaughterers and livestock drivers.

In the first phase of the withdrawal agreement we secured agreement on the continued recognition of professional qualifications, including Vets, where recognition decisions were received or were ongoing, before the withdrawal date.

After we leave the EU, we must have an immigration system which works in the best interests of the UK – controlling immigration whilst continuing to ensure we have access to the labour we need.

Defra is working closely with the Home Office to ensure that there is a long term strategy for the food and farming workforce, including the meat processing sector, as part of the future immigration policy.

A White Paper on the future border and immigration system was published on 19 December 2018. This paper sets out the Government's proposals for the UK's future immigration system after our exit from the EU.

For the longer term, Defra is working with industry to raise awareness of the career opportunities within the agriculture and food industry to attract domestic workers, and is exploring the potential for innovation and automation in meeting future labour demands.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12363/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Willoughby de Broke (Non-affiliated) [HL12427] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to charge citizens of EU member states for entry into the UK after the UK's departure from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In the White Paper 'The UK's future skills-based immigration system' (Cm9722) the Government has set out its plans for a secure and smooth UK border control.

This includes proposals for an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) scheme. It is our intention to require EU Citizens to obtain an ETA, but we intend to discuss this further in negotiations with the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-18/HL12427/>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766465/The-UKs-future-skills-based-immigration-system-print-ready.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12508] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether and how indefinite leave to remain granted to successful applications under the current voluntary settled status application scheme for EU citizens will be converted to a status under any new scheme in place under the withdrawal agreement following its ratification; and if there is a divergence between the rights granted under the current voluntary scheme and those granted under any scheme in place following the ratification of the withdrawal agreement, what will be the effect on the rights of persons who have been granted the right to remain under the current voluntary scheme.

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL12509] To ask Her Majesty's Government what will be the effect on the applicant of a refusal of leave to remain under the current voluntary settled status application scheme for EU citizens; and whether a person who has received such a refusal will have the right to make a new application under any settled status scheme in place following the ratification of the withdrawal agreement.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK immigration status granted under the EU Settlement Scheme to those participating in the test phases is legally secure and does not need to be converted to another status following the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement. There will be no divergence between the rights granted under the test phases of the scheme's implementation and those granted under the scheme following the ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement.

An applicant who is refused status under the scheme during the test phases can submit a new application at any point before the 30 June 2021 deadline for the scheme set out in the Withdrawal Agreement. They will also retain any right of residence they may have under EU law until the end of the planned implementation period on 31 December 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-20/HL12508/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-20/HL12509/>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL12360] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment has been made of the effectiveness and accessibility of the Universal Credit advance payment service for newly recognised refugees.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: We have made no specific assessment for newly recognised refugees. Provided the eligibility criteria for Universal Credit is met, we will always offer an advance payment to a refugee when making a new claim. DWP staff have access to information on a range of services and support available in their local area for vulnerable claimants including refugees. This includes Universal Support which provides help with using online services and budgeting advice. We also have access to a range of translation services to assist should the claimant need support to overcome any language barriers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12360/>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL12361] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the finding in the British Red Cross report Still an ordeal: The move-on period for new refugees, published on 6 December, that Universal Credit payments to newly recognised refugees are being delayed due to Habitual Residency Tests being inconsistently applied by job centres.

Reply from Baroness Buscombe: Habitual residence tests are being consistently applied to refugees when applying for Universal Credit. We provide comprehensive training and guidance for all of our work coaches to ensure that they can effectively apply the habitual residency test process. Refugees who are able to provide their biometric residence permit or evidence of their refugee status can be fast tracked through the habitual residency test process.

We are continuously reviewing and improving the service for vulnerable people who claim Universal Credit to ensure that it is accessible and responsive to their needs. Staff also have access to information on services and support available in their local area for vulnerable claimants, including refugees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-17/HL12361/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Deidre Brock (SNP) (1952) EU citizens' rights and the settled status scheme – That this House condemns the Settled Status scheme for non-UK EU citizens as discriminatory and unnecessary; believes that people who have chosen to make their lives here under the auspices of the EU's Freedom of Movement should be welcome to stay without any documentation or payment of a fee and should be entitled to retain the rights they currently have after the UK leaves the EU; and calls on the Government to amend the scheme accordingly without delay.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52432/eu-citizens-rights-and-the-settled-status-scheme>

Press Releases

Home Secretary visits channel operations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-visits-channel-operations>

Home Secretary bolsters Border Force fleet in the Channel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-bolsters-border-force-fleet-in-the-channel>

Navy vessel to be sent to the Channel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/navy-vessel-to-be-sent-to-the-channel>

New asylum accommodation contracts awarded

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-asylum-accommodation-contracts-awarded>

New Publication

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An inspection of the Home Office's approach to the identification and safeguarding of vulnerable adults

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770342/Formal_Response_Vulnerable_Adults.pdf

News: English Channel migrants

Sajid Javid says UK will do 'everything we can' to thwart asylum claims from people crossing Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-crossings-sajid-javid-english-channel-asylum-seekers-refugees-home-secretary-a8707646.html>

Sajid Javid to crack down on asylum claims by migrants crossing Channel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/08/javid-crack-asylum-claims-migrants-crossing-channel/>

Sajid Javid to promise tighter rules to deter migrants exploiting Britain's generosity

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/05/sajid-javid-promise-tighter-rules-deter-migrants-exploiting/>

Channel migrants: No easy answers to issue, says Javid

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46718366>

Channel migrants: UK and France to step up patrols

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46714553>

Migrant crossings: UK government funding drones to spot boats leaving French coast

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-boats-crossings-english-channel-france-coast-drones-security-plan-a8712251.html>

Royal Navy sent 'to prevent migrant crossings' in Channel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46753889>

Sajid Javid under fire over Channel migrant comments

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46738126>

Sajid Javid casts doubt on whether migrants crossing Channel are genuine asylum seekers

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/sajid-javid-casts-doubt-on-whether-migrants-crossing-channel-are-genuine-asylum-seekers-1-4851068>

Sajid Javid criticised for response to migrant crossings in Channel

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/sajid-javid-criticised-for-response-to-migrant-crossings-in-channel-1-4851200>

Javid under fire over 'illegal' cross-Channel asylum seekers claim

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/02/people-crossing-channel-not-genuine-asylum-seekers-javid>

Sajid Javid says 'no easy answers' to migrant problem as Conservative MPs ramp up pressure

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sajid-javid-migrant-crisis-home-office-conservative-mps-tory-immigration-a8705006.html>

Two Border Force cutters redeployed to English Channel, says Sajid Javid

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/31/two-border-force-cutters-redeployed-to-english-channel-says-sajid-javid>

Sajid Javid calls on Navy as two held over Channel migrant crossings

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/02/sajid-javid-calls-royal-navy-help-deal-english-channel-migrant/>

Javid: Migrants crossing English Channel are not 'genuine' asylum seekers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/02/former-immigration-chief-accuses-sajid-javid-politicising-channel/>

Channel migrants 'not genuine asylum seekers', says Sajid Javid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-02/news/sajid-javid-under-fire-for-claiming-channel-migrants-are-not-genuine-asylum-seekers-rmwxbx9pb>

UK and France 'action plan' to deal with migrants crossing Channel

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-and-france-action-plan-to-deal-with-migrants-crossing-channel-1-4850071>

Channel migrants: Home secretary declares major incident

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46705128>

Channel migrants: Minister defends handling of 'crisis'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46706381>

Channel migrants: Sajid Javid declares 'major incident' as he returns to work

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/uk/channel-migrants-sajid-javid-declares-major-incident-as-he-returns-to-work-1-4849829>

Sajid Javid sends extra boats to Channel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-01/news/sajid-javid-redeploys-border-force-cutters-to-channel-as-he-tackles-migrant-influx-5cf6ks2xj>

Sajid Javid told to 'get a grip' on English Channel migrant crisis

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17326156.sajid-javid-told-to-get-a-grip-on-english-channel-migrant-crisis/>

Minister to discuss migrant crisis with Channel border officers

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17325334.minister-to-discuss-migrant-crisis-with-channel-border-officers/>

Number of migrants crossing English Channel to reach UK 'deeply concerning', immigration minister says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/migrants-english-channel-kent-calais-refugees-iran-iraq-afghanistan-home-office-immigration-a8700996.html>

Sajid Javid: Channel migrant crossings 'a major incident'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/28/channel-migrant-crossings-a-major-incident-says-sajid-javid>

Sajid Javid cuts holiday short to tackle Channel migrant crossings

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/29/sajid-javid-cuts-holiday-short-to-tackle-channel-migrant-crossings>

Sajid Javid told 'get a grip' of migrant crisis in English Channel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/30/sajid-javid-told-get-grip-migrant-crisis-english-channel/>

Migrant crisis: Sajid Javid cuts short family holiday to deal with 'major incident'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/29/migrant-crisis-sajid-javid-cuts-short-family-holiday-amid-deal/>

Sajid Javid resists calls for more boats to tackle Channel migrants - as he declares a 'major incident'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/28/sajid-javid-resists-calls-boats-tackle-channel-migrants-declares/>

Return boat migrants to France or face a humanitarian crisis, says ex-Home Office chief

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/27/return-boat-migrants-france-face-humanitarian-crisis-says-ex/>

Sajid Javid abandons African safari to tackle Channel migrant crisis

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/sajid-javid-abandons-african-safari-to-tackle-channel-migrant-crisis-7xx05dmdt>

Two held over English Channel migrant crossings

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46743040>

Channel crossings: two arrested as suspected people smugglers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/03/channel-crossings-two-arrested-as-people-smugglers>

Channel migrants: French police stop 14 at port

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46731741>

Two more Border Force vessels return to patrol Channel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46725343>

Border force vessels redeployed in response to migrant crossings in Channel

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/border-force-vessels-redeployed-in-response-to-migrant-crossings-in-channel-1-4850522>

Channel migrants: Six Iranians detained on Kent beach

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-46715101>

UK border police on high alert after 40 refugees make Christmas Day Channel crossing

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrant-boats-english-channel-crossing-refugees-christmas-day-border-a8699351.html>

Five migrant boats rescued in English Channel

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-46679414>

Channel crossings: 'Every day you look for the smuggler and take a chance'

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/28/channel-crossings-every-day-you-look-for-the-smuggler-and-take-a-chance>

Nine people detained in Kent after crossing Channel in dinghy

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/27/nine-people-detained-in-kent-after-crossing-channel-in-dinghy>

Migrants sail dinghy into Dover before walking to police station to seek asylum

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/26/migrants-sail-dinghy-dover-walking-police-station-seek-asylum/>

Drama in the Channel: 30 more migrants picked up trying to get to Britain

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-27/news/drama-in-the-channel-30-more-migrants-picked-up-trying-to-get-to-britain-c6q5mxfqk>

Border alert as more migrants make it across Channel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-28/news/two-more-groups-of-migrants-cross-channel-2wjhwg9dp>

Channel migrants: 'Now we don't rush to help. No one's drowned yet'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/channel-migrants-now-we-don-t-rush-to-help-no-one-s-drowned-yet-nj8b3cmm6>

Migrant smugglers seeking boats for channel crossings

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/channel-migrants-smugglers-seeking-boats-c93vnm2xq>

'We would rather die at sea than go back to France,' say migrants in Calais

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/29/would-rather-die-sea-go-back-france-say-migrants-calais/>

Channel migrant: 'I'd rather die at sea than go back to Iran'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/channel-migrant-id-rather-die-at-sea-than-go-back-to-iran-rgk6mlmxf>

Traffickers have sent 56 migrants across Channel since Christmas Day

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-26/news/rescuers-pluck-three-more-iranians-from-sea-off-kent-ggvnf8gnr>

'This is the only way now': desperate Iranians attempt Channel crossing

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/31/this-is-the-only-way-now-desperate-iranians-attempt-channel-crossing>

Channel migrant numbers pale compared with other countries

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-01/news/channel-migrant-numbers-pale-compared-with-other-countries-370qwtg8h>

Who rescues migrants in the Channel?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46758600>

Sajid Javid fights them on the beaches

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/dani-garavelli-sajid-javid-fights-them-on-the-beaches-1-4852316>

Channel migrant crossings: who is coming and why?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/28/channel-migrant-crossings-who-is-coming-and-why>

Why the number of migrants travelling across the Channel has soared at Christmas

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/27/analysis-number-migrants-travelling-across-channel-has-soared/>

The Christmas Channel crossings show how cruelly Britain treats refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/28/christmas-channel-crossings-britain-refugees-migrants>

Church of England urges compassion for Channel migrants

<https://www.theguardian.com/global/2018/dec/29/church-of-england-urges-compassion-for-channel-migrants>

The situation on the English Channel is indeed a 'major incident' – but it's the UK government who's at fault, not the migrants

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/migrants-refugees-latest-english-channel-major-incident-sajid-javid-a8703551.html>

Sajid Javid is right to take urgent action against cross-Channel people-smuggling

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/migrants-channel-major-incident-sajid-javid-people-smuggling-english-channel-calais-a8703361.html>

'Don't Panic!' A Spanish Armada of migrants this isn't

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/kenny-macaskill-don-t-panic-a-spanish-armada-of-migrants-this-isn-t-1-4851043>

We will only empower criminal gangs if we fail to send Channel migrants back to France
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/31/will-empower-criminal-gangs-fail-send-channel-migrants-back/>

Why should Britain offer asylum to people who would rather not make their home in France?
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/31/should-britain-offer-asylum-people-would-rather-not-make-home/>

Politicians could ease refugee suffering, but instead they stoke fear
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/01/politicians-refugees-channel-crossings-sajid-javid>

The Channel migrant 'crisis' is really a tale of British hypocrisy
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/03/britain-migrant-crisis-sajid-javid-hypocrisy>

Rise in migrants crossing Channel 'blown out of proportion', campaigners say
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-channel-refugees-crossing-uk-boats-home-office-asylum-seekers-a8704351.html>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

SNP ups pressure on Whitehall to end 'cruel anti-family' visa rules
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17317476.snp-ups-pressure-on-whitehall-to-end-cruel-anti-family-visa-rules/>

SNP call for Home Office to end 'hostile immigration' crackdown
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-call-for-home-office-to-end-hostile-immigration-crackdown-1-4848266>

Immigration rules being proposed by UK Government would be "economically disastrous" for Scotland
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17348346.immigration-rules-being-proposed-by-uk-government-would-be-economically-disastrous-for-scotland/>

Immigration curbs after Brexit will 'pull rug' from the Highlands
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/12/uk-immigration-plans-would-harm-highland-industry-warns-snp-kate-forbes>

Immigration cuts 'will be disastrous'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-10/scotland/immigration-cuts-will-be-disastrous-kl275bl6>

Regional migrant counts 'could be out by thousands'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-09/news/regional-migrant-counts-could-be-out-by-thousands-px2k28pmg>

Home Office to extend trial of post-Brexit registration system
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/10/home-office-extend-trial-post-brexit-registration-system-eu-citizens>

Brexit: Row over 'pay to stay' message to EU nationals

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-46701886>

SNP says £65 EU settlement fee makes Britain look mean and petty

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/snp-says-65-eu-settlement-13818599>

EU nationals deride 'cheery' Home Office UK settlement video

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/28/eu-nationals-deride-cheery-home-office-uk-settlement-video>

'Should I pay to continue living in my home?': EU nationals express dismay over Home Office Brexit settlement plan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-eu-nationals-brexit-settlement-scheme-remain-payments-a8701986.html>

Former MSP slams Brexit 'settlement Scheme' for EU citizens and says it is a second Windrush scandal

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/former-msp-slams-65-brexit-13791962>

EU immigrants are being humiliated to satisfy Brexit Britain's vanity

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/eu-immigrants-being-humiliated-satisfy-13792437>

Government 'promises' mean EU citizens must apply to stay in the UK

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/christine-jardine-government-promises-mean-eu-citizens-must-apply-to-stay-in-the-uk-1-4849542>

The Italians asked to apply to stay in post-Brexit UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leeds-46836957>

Right of 'durable partners' of UK nationals to enter the UK

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/right-of-durable-partners-of-uk-nationals-to-enter-the-uk-2s0thp0pb>

Asylum applications: Home Office urged to use lie detectors

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46830373>

Sajid Javid cannot end right of asylum

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/sajid-javid-cannot-end-right-of-asylum-brian-wilson-1-4852075>

Reality Check: How many people seek asylum in the UK?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46722157>

Making better use of 'surgeons flipping burgers'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46722037>

Edinburgh MP seeking change to law so asylum seekers can find work

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/edinburgh-mp-seeking-change-to-law-so-asylum-seekers-can-find-work-1-4852365>

Lib Dem bill would let asylum seekers work in UK after three months

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/10/new-bill-would-allow-uk-asylum-seekers-to-work-after-three-months>

Allowing asylum seekers to work would help integration

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/allowiing asylum seekers to work would help integration](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2019/allowiing_asylum_seekers_to_work_would_help_integration)

Asylum seeker given council tax bill but not allowed to work

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/29/gay-asylum-seeker-given-council-tax-bill-but-not-allowed-to-work>

Asylum seekers need the right to work – and this time of year shows why

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/28/asylum-seekers-right-to-work-awaiting-claims>

Serco loses asylum accommodation contract for Scotland

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-46801589>

Serco loses asylum housing contract in Scotland after lock change row

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/serco-loses-asylum-housing-contract-in-scotland-after-lock-change-row-1-4853479>

Serco stripped of Scottish contract after locking asylum seekers out their homes

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/serco-stripped-scottish-contract-after-13831089>

New asylum accommodation contracts announced

http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/news_and_events/news/3384_new_asylum_accommodation_contracts_announced

Half of failed asylum seekers remain in UK illegally, says ex-immigration chief

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/11/half-failed-asylum-seekers-remain-uk-illegally-says-ex-immigration/>

Home Office has failed to send back over 50,000 rejected asylum seekers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-11/news/home-office-has-failed-to-send-back-over-50-000-rejected-asylum-seekers-3scf5svzs>

SNP MPs call on UK to grant Asia Bibi and her family asylum

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/28/snp-mps-call-on-uk-to-grant-asia-bibi-and-her-family-asylum>

Migrant crisis: Illegal entries to EU at lowest level in five years

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46764500>

We should be ashamed of our response to this refugee ‘crisis’

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/29/we-should-be-ashamed-of-our-response-to-this-refugee-crisis>

It’s not just Windrush. Britain’s immigration scandal will grow in 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/03/windrush-britain-immigration-scandal-hostile-environment>

Syrian refugees: 1,258 given shelter in Northern Ireland

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-46697396>

Teachers use iPads to talk to foreign pupils

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-28/scotland/teachers-use-ipads-to-talk-to-foreign-pupils-s2g570thm>

Windrush: The biggest political scandal of the last 12 months had nothing to do with Brexit

<https://www.independent.co.uk/review-of-the-year/windrush-brexite-political-scandal-2018-review-year-a8654951.html>

Former NHS nurse born in UK with no criminal record deported to Ghana

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/nhs-nurse-deport-ghana-home-office-windrush-dean-ablakwa-a8711251.html>

Man with British wife told to move to Turkey despite facing imprisonment

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/man-british-wife-turkey-move-home-office-galip-bozkurt-amber-immigration-a8716936.html>

Single mother forced to travel nearly 100 miles with newborn baby to sign on with Home Office

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-reporting-single-mother-woman-asylum-seeker-baby-stoke-salford-train-a8717906.html>

UK frees asylum seeker facing deportation to DRC

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/11/uk-frees-asylum-seeker-otis-bolamu-facing-deportation-to-drc-congo>

'Go home' to Ghana. Well, why not?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/29/michaela-coel-go-home-ghana-black-earth-rising-identity>

Anti-racism campaigners hold vigil to 'welcome refugees to the UK'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17338137.anti-racism-campaigners-hold-vigil-to-welcome-refugees-to-the-uk/>

Anti-racism campaigners hold vigil to 'welcome refugees to the UK'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/06/anti-racism-campaigners-hold-vigil-welcome-refugees-uk/>

Ignoring the difference between legal and illegal immigration penalises migrants who play by the rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/01/05/ignoring-difference-legal-illegal-immigration-penalises-migrants/>

Britons are overwhelmingly swayed by myths about immigration – these are the five facts we often get wrong

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/immigration-britain-channel-crossing-migrants-asylum-seekers-refugees-aid-a8713986.html>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Schools: Religion

William Wragg (Conservative) [203925] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will take steps to ensure that all state-funded schools provide pupils with the opportunity to develop specific and age-appropriate knowledge and understanding of religions as part of promoting mutual respect and tolerance of people with different faiths and beliefs.

Reply from Nick Gibb: All schools are required to promote fundamental British values including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith, and this is inspected by Ofsted. The Department has issued guidance on how schools can promote fundamental British values as part of their requirement to teach spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. This guidance sets out that schools should enable students to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures. For many schools, religious education is likely to form part of their approach to promoting these values.

Religious education (RE) is compulsory at all key stages in all state-funded schools to age 18. Therefore schools should already be providing an age-appropriate RE curriculum.

Although the Department does not routinely monitor schools to ensure that they meet their statutory duties, my right Hon. Friend, the Secretary of State has a range of powers to ensure that schools comply where he investigates complaints and finds that they have not done so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-19/203925/>

The guidance referred to above for maintained schools in England can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/380595/SMSC_Guidance_Maintained_Schools.pdf

The equivalent guidance for independent schools, academies and free schools in England can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268826/dept_advice_template_smscadvicenov13.pdf

New Publication

Tolerant Scotland? Measuring views on inclusivity toward faith and belief

<https://www.humanism.scot/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Tolerant-Scotland-e2018.pdf>

News

Church welcomes its special Muslim visitors on Christmas Eve

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/24/church-welcomes-its-special-muslim-visitors-on-christmas-eve>

Muslims cross the religious divide to join Midnight Mass

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-24/news/muslims-cross-the-religious-divide-to-join-midnight-mass-2zg80lbmn>

Exploring Glasgow's links to the 18th century slave trade

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/exploring-glasgow-s-links-to-the-18th-century-slave-trade-1-4816945>

As a person of colour, this is why I want to put an end to the outdated and offensive British honours system

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/new-year-honours-list-queen-british-empire-bame-race-equality-a8703196.html>

I dislike the link to empire, but it felt wrong to turn down an OBE

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/06/i-dislike-the-link-to-empire-but-it-felt-wrong-to-reject-an-obe>

'I can be myself': the British Asian girls who found freedom in cricket

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/jan/03/i-can-be-myself-the-british-asian-girls-who-found-freedom-in-cricket>

Muslim charity aims to deliver 7000 meals to homeless by New Year's Day

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/muslim-charity-homeless-meals-homeless-ahmadiyya-new-years-day-a8705766.html>

Parents in Essex withdraw children from RE lessons over objections to Islam

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/essex-re-islam-children-religious-education-thurrock-a8717251.html>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ethnicity Evidence Workshop

S5W-20664 Jackie Baillie (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S5W-15902 by Angela Constance on 26 April 2018, for what reason the ethnicity evidence workshop with stakeholders did not take place in 2018 as stated; what plans it has to hold one in 2019, and how it will ensure that all relevant groups are included.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government held an evidence and analysis workshop entitled 'How do we measure/report success indicators for the framework and action plan' during Scotland's Race Equality Conference on 11 December 2018. The conference updated partner organisations and key stakeholders on progress on the actions set out in Scotland's Race Equality Action Plan. At the workshop, Scottish Government analysts presented the new Equality Evidence Finder web resource, which was launched earlier that day, and discussed the evidence base with stakeholders. Organisations in attendance at the workshop included CEMVO Scotland, CRER, ELREC, the African Council, Glasgow Caledonian University and Health Boards.

Further to this event, the Scottish Government intends to engage internally with its analysts and externally with its partner organisations in 2019 to take forward the Equality Evidence Strategy.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-20664>

The answer referred to above can be read at <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15902>

The Race Equality Action Plan referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/report/2017/12/fairer-scotland-race-equality-action-plan-2017-2021-highlight-report/documents/00528746-pdf/00528746-pdf/govscot%3Adocument>

The web resource referred to above can be viewed at <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sq-equality-evidence-finder/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Jim Shannon (DUP) [205930] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to tackle the ethnicity pay gap.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: In October 2018 my rt. hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a package of measures to make the workplace fairer for people from ethnic minorities, including a consultation on mandatory ethnicity pay reporting by employers with 250 or more employees. The consultation closed on 11th January and we will set out next steps in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/205930/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-series-of-measures-to-tackle-barriers-facing-ethnic-minorities-in-the-workplace>

Mental Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Jeff Smith (Labour) [203453] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the Royal College of Psychiatrists' statement on racism and mental health, published in March 2018 recommending the appointment of a new equalities champion to drive cross-Government action on race equality in the NHS.

Reply from Jackie Doyle-Price: The Government is committed to addressing inequalities across mental health. Plans to appoint a mental health equalities champion will be announced in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2018-12-18/203453/>

News

Britain's ethnic workers face £3.2bn 'pay penalty'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46690212>

£3.2bn UK pay gap for black, Asian and ethnic minority workers

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2018/dec/27/uk-black-and-ethnic-minorities-lose-32bn-a-year-in-pay-gap>

Ethnic pay gap: Black and Asian people lose out on £3.2bn compared to white colleagues, major study reveals

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/ethnic-pay-gap-difference-black-asian-white-study-theresa-may-uk-a8699531.html>

Ethnic minority academics speak out over unfair pay

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-46812493>

Universities must listen more closely to their BAME staff and students

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jan/08/universities-must-listen-more-closely-to-their-bame-staff-and-students>

Grammar schools send more ethnic minority students to Cambridge than all comprehensives combined

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2019/01/10/grammar-schools-send-ethnic-minority-students-cambridge-comprehensives/>

Women of colour fleeing violence need help – not penalties for who they are

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/04/bme-women-violence-help-report-underfunding>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Antisemitism

Jamie Greene (Conservative): To ask the First Minister what action the Scottish Government is taking to tackle antisemitism. (S5F-02933)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): The Scottish Government—hope in common with everybody across the chamber—is committed to tackling hate crime and prejudice, and I want to reassure Scotland’s Jewish communities that there is no place in Scotland for any form of antisemitism or religious hatred. We value our Jewish communities. We value the contribution that they make to Scotland, and that is a message that should go out strongly from this chamber. As well as our ambitious programme of work to tackle hate crime and build community cohesion, we have adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition of antisemitism. That sends a strong message that we believe antisemitism to be entirely unacceptable in Scotland.

Jamie Greene: The First Minister will be aware of recent press reports of comments made by Ephraim Borowski, director of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, in this very Parliament. He said: “Mostly the Jewish community used to feel that Scotland was a good place to be Jewish but for many that has reversed. Many Jews actively discuss leaving Scotland because they feel alienated, vulnerable and not at home.”

I hope that the First Minister is as worried and saddened by that assertion as members on these benches are.

What guidance has been issued specifically to Police Scotland to address the scourge of antisemitism in Scotland? Will the First Minister join me in calling for all political parties represented in this Parliament to do everything in their power to make sure that no one in the Jewish community feels vulnerable or unwelcome in Scotland?

Reply from the First Minister: I encourage all parties to do exactly what Jamie Greene has called for. As for the police, I believe that they have a good relationship and work very closely with the Jewish community to tackle antisemitism and address its concerns about security.

With regard to Ephraim Borowski’s comments, I have huge respect for him and the work that he does, and I have personally discussed this issue with him in the past.

He is more than capable of speaking for himself, but I do not think that there was any suggestion that the very legitimate concerns that he raised at the weekend were in any way unique to Scotland. I think that he was reflecting not only a feeling of the Jewish community across the whole of the United Kingdom, including Scotland, but an apparent rise in antisemitism not just across the UK but further afield. We all have to be very vigilant about that, and my responsibility is to make sure that that is the case, particularly in Scotland. As I have said, I have had and will continue to have discussions with the Jewish community about exactly that.

I made this point when I spoke earlier this week at the reception in Parliament for the Holocaust Educational Trust, and I will say it again here: the Jewish community is a valuable and vital part of our society in Scotland, and if one member of that community feels unsafe here, all of us have a duty to respond to that and do everything possible to change it. It is a responsibility that I take very seriously for the Jewish community and for any other minority community living in our diverse country, and I hope that all members will agree with and echo that. *[Applause.]*

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11875&i=107414#ScotParlOR>

The media report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17338180.jews-are-actively-considering-leaving-scotland-over-anti-semitism-warns-community-leader/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-15264 Richard Lyle (SNP): Remembering the Holocaust – That the Parliament recognises that 27 January 2019 is Holocaust Memorial Day; believes that the day is an important opportunity to reflect on the tragedy of the Holocaust and the atrocities committed during the times of Nazi rule in Germany; remembers that approximately 17 million people lost their lives during this dark time with 6 million of those being Jews; considers that the pain, suffering and sorrow that was caused comes from views rooted in hatred and prejudice and perpetrated by those with dangerous thoughts of superiority; acknowledges that it has almost been 70 years since the Holocaust; reiterates its condemnation of the actions of those involved, and supports the victims of this and other genocides throughout recent history; commends all service personnel who fought in defence of liberty, freedom and justice, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and reiterates its commitment to condemning any antisemitic action or language present today and defending all ethnic groups that are oppressed and persecuted throughout the world.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-15264>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Religious Hatred

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL12517] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth on 5 and 19 December (HL11727 and HL12195), whether they will now answer the question put, namely what support they will give to Nissar Hussein and his family and others who have left the Islamic faith and are facing persecution in the UK.

Reply from Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth: Britain has a strong legal framework and police provisions in place to support its values of tolerance, freedom of worship, and the rule of law, and to protect individuals or groups who may be vulnerable. It

is therefore only left for the Government to yet again reiterate that anyone facing crime, the threat of crime, or any sort of harassment, for any reason, should report to the police. The Government is committed to ensuring that victims of all crimes have access to the support services they need to help them cope with and, as far as possible, recover from the effects of crime. In 2017/18 roughly £200 million from multiple pots across government was used to fund a range of both local and national commissioning of support services for victims of crime.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-20/HL12517/>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-11-22/HL11727/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-11/HL12195/>

Crime

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL12519] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proportion of government time spent addressing (1) Islamophobia and (2) grooming gangs in the last 12 months.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is committed to tackling all forms of child sexual abuse and hate crime. It is not possible to disaggregate the time spent on Islamophobia and child sexual exploitation as perpetrated by groups from wider work on hate crime and tackling child sexual abuse respectively.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-20/HL12519/>

Press Releases

Tell MAMA and GMB launch an Anti-discrimination Self-Help Guide For the Workplace

<https://tellmamauk.org/tell-mama-and-gmb-launch-an-anti-discrimination-self-help-guide-for-the-workplace/>

Hidden Hate: what Google searches tell us about antisemitism today

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2019/01/11/hidden-hate-what-google-searches-tell-us-about-antisemitism-today>

New Publications

Anti-discrimination Tool Kit: A Guide for the Workplace

<https://tellmamauk.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/Tell%20MAMA%20Anti-Discrimination%20Toolkit%20-%20A%20guide%20for%20the%20Workplace%20in%20Partnership%20with%20GMB.pdf>

Hidden Hate: What Google searches tell us about antisemitism today

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/0/7/APT%20Google%20Report%202019.pdf>

News

One in 10 Scots would reject MSPs from different religions

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17322603.one-in-10-scots-would-reject-msps-from-different-religions/>

We must face up to Scottish intolerance

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/17323371.herald-view-we-must-face-up-to-scottish-intolerance/>

Scots 'guilty of hidden intolerance'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-28/scotland/scots-guilty-of-hidden-intolerance-nslc2pddx>

Scotland mustn't kid itself about racism – Kezia Dugdale

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/scotland-mustn-t-kid-itself-about-racism-kezia-dugdale-1-4850330>

Labour attacked over 'shameful' delays in resolving racism allegation cases

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17354363.labour-attacked-over-shameful-delays-in-resolving-racism-allegation-cases/>

Less than 25% of hate crime reports on UK railways lead to charges

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/dec/25/hate-crime-reports-uk-railways-charges-british-transport-police-figures>

Jeremy Corbyn's handling of anti-Semitism crisis ranked in top 10 worst cases of hatred against Jews

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2018/12/27/jeremy-corbyns-handling-anti-semitism-crisis-ranked-top-10-worst/>

Jeremy Corbyn and Labour on Simon Wiesenthal Centre's 'antisemitism' list

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-28/news/jeremy-corbyn-and-labour-on-simon-wiesenthal-centres-antisemitism-list-820lv57kn>

SNP failed me, says activist defamed as racist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-25/scotland/snp-failed-me-says-activist-defamed-as-racist-k9ckn7jcs>

NHS Lothian union official sacked for making 'antisemitic' posts

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/nhs-lothian-union-official-sacked-for-making-antisemitic-posts-ggdq7gmf0>

Anti-semitic hate murdered Anne Frank and now it is returning

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/anti-semitic-hate-murdered-anne-frank-and-now-it-is-returning-christine-jardine-1-4855434>

Racism against teachers in Scottish schools 'not being reported'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17337090.racism-against-teachers-in-scottish-schools-not-being-reported/?ref=mr&lp=5>

Two thirds of priests are verbally abused

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/two-thirds-of-priests-are-verbally-abused-rqh9t8v39>

One in ten members of clergy victims of violence as anti-Christian hate crimes rises
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/28/one-ten-members-clergy-victims-violence-anti-christian-hate/>

The Met's Gangs Matrix is racist policing in its purest form
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/12/metropolitan-police-gangs-matrix-racist-policing>

Britons make 170,000 antisemitic Google searches a year, study finds
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2019/jan/11/uk-thousands-antisemitic-google-searches-per-year-research>

Tech firms have a duty to face down antisemitism
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/11/uk-antisemitic-google-searches-tech-companies>

'Get real, this term for Chinese people is not our culture, it's racist'
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/get-real-this-term-for-chinese-people-is-not-our-culture-it-s-racist-1-4848726>

Chinese in Scotland 'one of most racially abused groups'
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/chinese-in-scotland-one-of-most-rationally-abused-groups-1-4855726>

Scottish universities targeted by anti-Islamic group
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17342898.scottish-universities-targeted-by-anti-islamic-group/>

Far-right group accused of being neo-Nazi front try to recruit Scots students
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/far-right-group-accused-being-13791800>

British Army spies root out neo-Nazis in ranks
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/british-army-spies-root-out-neo-nazis-in-ranks-3brb3jqkh>

Pro-Brexit activist said all Muslims should be removed from UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/jan/09/top-pro-brexit-yellow-vest-activist-said-all-muslims-should-be-removed-from-uk>

Jews are 'actively considering' leaving Scotland over anti-semitism, warns community leader
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17338180.jews-are-actively-considering-leaving-scotland-over-anti-semitism-warns-community-leader/>

Jackson Carlaw: Scotland's Jews are entitled to feel safe and valued
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17338081.jackson-carlaw-scotlands-jews-are-entitled-to-feel-safe-and-valued/>

Facebook takes down Britain First ads
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-46746601>

Nazi teen vandal caged for race-hate messages on MSP's office
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/nazi-teen-vandal-caged-race-13809495>

Teenager imprisoned for neo-Nazi graffiti on Rona Mackay's window

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/teenager-imprisoned-for-neo-nazi-graffiti-on-rona-mackay-s-window-zf5djcg66>

Road rage motorist captured yelling 'f* off back to your own country' at minicab driver on dashcam footage**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/racist-road-rage-video-dashcam-footage-taxi-driver-croydon-london-a8709491.html>

Pro-Nazi, racist, and Islamophobic graffiti spotted in Birmingham

<https://tellmamauk.org/pro-nazi-racist-and-islamophobic-graffiti-spotted-in-birmingham/>

'It has always been there': darts star Deta Hedman reveals racist abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2019/jan/10/it-has-always-been-there-darts-star-deta-hedman-reveals-racist-abuse>

Man arrested over racist abuse at Edinburgh derby

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/17326081.man-arrested-over-racist-abuse-at-edinburgh-derby/>

Chelsea will eject racist fans at Tottenham

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/chelsea-will-eject-racist-fans-at-tottenham-q25fdlfr>

Tottenham Hotspur fans urged to stop chants

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tottenham-hotspur-fans-urged-to-stop-chants-w2xf6zdmk>

Tottenham must take 'long overdue' stand against fans using word 'Yid', say leading Jewish organisations

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2019/01/04/tottenham-must-take-long-overdue-stand-against-fans-using-word/>

Tottenham Hotspur facing fresh calls to clamp down on 'Yids' nickname

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news-and-comment/tottenham-hotspur-yids-antisemitism-army-jewish-fans-song-chant-racism-latest-news-a8715561.html>

Police arrest youth over alleged racist incident before Spurs v Chelsea

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2019/jan/08/police-arrest-youth-alleged-racist-incident-spurs-chelsea>

Racism row overshadows 90th birthday edition of Tintin's Congo adventure

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/world/racism-row-overshadow-s-90th-birthday-edition-of-tintin-s-congo-adventure-2j2jbqplv>

Mum sickened by 'racist' toy in Kinder Surprise Egg featuring 'KKK' balloons

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/uk-world-news/mum-sickened-racist-toy-kinder-13848819>

DNA pioneer James Watson has final honours stripped amid racism row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/james-watson-racism-honours-dna-double-helix-cold-spring-harbor-laboratory-a8724896.html>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Year-long programme to mark 20 years of the Scottish Parliament

<http://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/110648.aspx>

Alex Salmond wins sexual harassment inquiry case against Scottish government

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-46428570>

Q&A: Alex Salmond's legal victory

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-46801338>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationals Abroad: Forced Marriage

Jo Stevens (Labour) [205966] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of its emergency loan policy on economically vulnerable British citizens seeking to leave forced marriages abroad; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to tackle out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit which leads efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. This joint unit was established in 2005 because the Government of the day recognised that British citizens who are forced into marriage constituted a category of exceptionally vulnerable people in need of specific help. After careful consideration, the Foreign Secretary and I have decided that victims of forced marriage who are helped to return to the UK by the Forced Marriage Unit will no longer be asked to take out a loan for their repatriation costs. From now on, none of those who are assisted by the Forced Marriage Unit - and would previously have been offered a loan - will have to cover the costs of their repatriation. Where possible, the Government will continue to seek to ensure the costs fall on the perpetrators by means of Forced Marriage Protection Orders (FMPOs).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-07/205966/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Forced Marriage

Priti Patel (Conservative) [206334] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what estimate he has made of the number of victims of forced marriages who have signed emergency loan agreements in each of the last 10 years; and of those people how many have (a) not repaid within six months and (b) been charged the additional 10 per cent surcharge; and what the total value of those surcharges is.

British Nationals Abroad: Forced Marriage

Priti Patel (Conservative) [206338] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if he will publish the Government policy on assistance available to

repatriate British nationals who have been the victims of forced marriages; on what date it was decided that those people should enter into emergency loan agreements if they do not have the resources to fund travel themselves; and if he will change the policy to ensure that victims of forced marriage are exempt from reliance on emergency loan agreements.

Reply from Harriett Baldwin: The UK is a world-leader in the fight to tackle out the brutal practice of forced marriage, with our joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) which leads efforts to combat it both at home and abroad. After careful consideration, the Foreign Secretary has decided that victims of forced marriage who are helped to return to the UK by the FMU will no longer be asked to take out a loan for their repatriation costs.

From now on, none of those who are assisted by the FMU - and would previously have been offered a loan - will have to cover the costs of their repatriation. Where possible, the Government will continue to seek to ensure the costs fall on the perpetrators by means of Forced Marriage Protection Orders.

The Government has also agreed to ensure that those victims who have outstanding loans will have no further cost fall to them. Their passports will also be unblocked.

The FMU provides support and advice for victims, those at risk, and professionals, through its public helpline. The support offered ranges from providing information and guidance to organising rescue and repatriation to the UK for victims overseas. Between 2012-2017, the FMU supported almost 1,500 victims of forced marriage who were overseas, of whom 52 took loans. There were nine cases where surcharges were added. The total value of the surcharges was £588.26.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206334/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-01-08/206338/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Forced Marriages: Repatriation Charges

Baroness Hayman (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will reverse the policy of charging the victims of forced marriages the cost of their return to the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon): My Lords, today my right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary has announced that victims of forced marriage who are helped to return to the United Kingdom by the Forced Marriage Unit will no longer be asked to take out a loan for their repatriation costs. Furthermore, no individual assisted by the Forced Marriage Unit who would previously have been offered a loan will have to cover the costs of their repatriation.

Baroness Hayman: My Lords, I am extremely grateful for that Answer. I am very glad that I do not have to berate the Minister—for whom I have the greatest respect—on an issue which, frankly, was a disgrace, and which the *Times* did us all a service by highlighting. I am also glad to understand that the debts that are still around the necks of some of these very vulnerable women who have been repatriated to this country will be wiped out. Will the Minister reassure me that their passports, which were confiscated, will also be returned to them? Will he look very carefully at whether other such practices go on when British citizens abroad need consular help in order to come home after a crime has been committed against them?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, I reassure the noble Baroness

and your Lordships' House that we are not just waiting in respect of those with outstanding loans but are proactively reaching out to anyone who has been impacted. Those loans will no longer apply, and those who have had passports blocked will have them returned; I can provide those reassurances. On the third point, I think the noble Baroness may well have been listening in to my briefing with officials earlier today because I raised that exact point, particularly with regard to FGM, to ensure that no one who suffers as a victim of this crime abroad has to bear the cost of repatriation.

Baroness Newlove (Conservative): My Lords, I welcome the commitment the Minister has given today on behalf of the Government. Will the FCO look at getting compensation out of the perpetrators who force the victims to return with no money? As part of this review, will the Government consider that families who have lost a loved one to homicide abroad should not have to refund the Government for the cost of returning the body to the UK? There are victims' families who are crowdfunding, and I do not think it right in the 21st century for the FCO to suggest to them that it is cheaper to cremate the body and collect the ashes.

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, in any of these cases, our embassies, the FCO and indeed any government department should display empathy towards the victim and their family and ensure that we minimise any distress that has been caused. Perhaps I may suggest that she, in her role as victims' commissioner, and I could meet to discuss her proposal further. I dealt with the issue of forced marriage when I was at the Home Office—I am glad to see the noble Baronesses, Lady Smith and Lady Thornton, in their places—and I remember that when the Government made this a criminal offence, we worked across the House to ensure that we made the legislation as strong as possible. I recognise the great work that has been done in this House to improve the legislation, but where there is a weakness or more to be done, we need to step up to the mark and do just that.

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour): My Lords, I wonder whether the Minister has considered the damage done to our reputation internationally with those countries that are not as caring about human rights and addressing forced marriage as this country is. What are the Government going to do to repair that damage, so that this is not seen as a green light by other countries to continue bad practices?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, let us be clear: forced marriage is a crime. We need to ensure that we stand up for the rights of any individual—it is mainly girls, but young boys also have to endure this crime—and provide dignity and a safe return home in instances where they need to do so. The noble Lady asks about reputation. It is important to recognise, as I hope she does, that when this issue arose in the last few days, my colleagues in the Foreign Office, including my right honourable friend the Foreign Secretary, acted decisively and promptly to address a wrong—which we have put right.

Baroness Hussein-Ece (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I am also very grateful to the Minister for this good outcome today. However, there have been reports of women being sold into slavery, or who cannot come back because of the charges. Have any attempts been made to contact and repatriate those who have been unable to pay and found themselves destitute and trapped in those countries?

Reply from Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: My Lords, the issue of data is an important one. As I said in an answer to an earlier question, the Foreign Office has been proactively reaching out to those for whom we do have a record to ensure that they are aware of the situation and the change that has been effected. The noble Lady raises an important point about modern slavery and human trafficking. As she will know, my right honourable friend the Prime Minister has made this a particular priority on the global stage, and we are working with international partners to ensure

that anyone caught up in modern slavery or human trafficking can also be repatriated to the country to which they belong.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-01-09/debates/AC4DC8CE-0933-45C7-A5A2-EF09FDDA0CBE/ForcedMarriagesRepatriationCharges>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Ritual Slaughter

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (UKIP) [HL12297] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Vere of Norbiton on 12 December (HL Deb, cols 1337–1340), what is the average time it takes for unstunned (1) lambs, and (2) cattle to die after their throats have been cut under the Halal method of slaughter; and how many lambs and cattle are so slaughtered each year in the UK.

Lord Gardiner of Kimble: Legislation on the welfare of animals at slaughter is based on scientific data for time to unconsciousness after the neck cut, rather than time to death, as the period between the neck cut and loss of consciousness has more welfare significance. The time to unconsciousness and time to death will vary amongst animals, influenced by a number of factors including the quality of the neck cut, restraint and occlusion of blood vessels. No data is collected on average time to death for animals subject to religious slaughter or to other slaughter methods, although various research projects have commented upon the time to unconsciousness, such as the EU Dialrel project.

The Department does not hold data on animals killed by Halal slaughter methods each year. The data we hold on this is based on surveys carried out by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The latest FSA survey, carried out earlier this year over a one week period, indicates that 214 cattle and 60,748 sheep were subject to non-stun Halal slaughter that week.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2018-12-13/HL12297/>

The answer referred to above, which is Oral not Written, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2018-12-12/debates/80E34825-4745-4A90-A9F5-E1A1CC86EC70/AnimalWelfareStandards>

News: Forced Marriage

Forced marriage: Victims will no longer have to take out loans

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46816507>

Women rescued from forced marriages will no longer have to repay government loans, foreign secretary pledges

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/forced-marriage-women-abroad-rescue-government-loans-plane-ticket-costs-a8720131.html>

Forced marriage victims asked to pay rescue costs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46733028>

Jeremy Hunt scraps repatriation fees for forced marriage victims after Times report

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-10/news/jeremy-hunt-scraps-repatriation-fees-for-forced-marriage-victims-after-times-report-zjl6f78>

Ministers must do more than scrap shameful fees for forced marriage victims

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-10/news/ministers-must-do-more-than-scrap-their-shameful-fees-for-forced-marriage-victims-h0db8v7c>

Forced marriage fees U-turn: Jeremy Hunt is to be congratulated

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-10/comment/the-times-view-on-forced-marriage-fees-u-turn-jeremy-hunt-is-to-be-congratulated-kldxq8kkm>

Whitehall urged to end 'immoral' policy of charging women for rescue from forced marriages

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17330562.whitehall-urged-to-end-immoral-policy-of-charging-women-for-rescue-from-forced-marriages/>

Anger as UK women forced into marriage must pay for rescue

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/family/anger-as-uk-women-forced-into-marriage-must-pay-for-rescue-1-4851206>

British women forced into marriage abroad 'left destitute' after being made to pay rescue costs

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/british-women-forced-marriage-abroad-13804016>

Young women sent abroad for forced marriages having to pay Foreign Office for their rescue as critics label practice 'immoral'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/02/young-women-sent-abroad-forced-marriages-having-pay-foreign/>

Jeremy Hunt wants to 'get to the bottom' of reports forced marriage victims charged for their rescue

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/01/02/jeremy-hunt-wants-get-bottom-reports-forced-marriage-victims/>

The Government is treating forced marriage victims like drunk holidaymakers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/politics/government-treating-forced-marriage-victims-like-drunk-holidaymakers/>

Women rescued from forced marriages made to pay for repatriation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/forced-marriages-victims-rescue-women-repatriation-cost-payment-uk-foreign-office-a8707411.html>

Forced marriage victims charged fee to be rescued

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-02/news/forced-marriage-victims-charged-fee-to-be-rescued-jmnx88hxg>

Forced marriage victims: Profits from trapped women 'are covered up'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-02/news/profits-from-trapped-women-are-covered-up-d2gb8dhs9>

Forced marriage: Police failed women sent to Somalia

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/forced-marriage-police-failed-women-sent-to-somalia-cnb27jfz7>

Jeremy Hunt vows action on forced marriage fees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/jeremy-hunt-vows-action-on-forced-marriage-fees-kd9dkg2c6>

Forced marriage: Charging victims to bring them home is all the more shocking

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/forced-marriage-charging-victims-to-bring-them-home-is-all-the-more-shocking-s2n9d93w3>

Forced marriage: Rule change needed to help vulnerable women

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-02/news/forced-marriage-rule-change-needed-to-help-victims-dz0t5dvft>

Foreign Office policy for repatriation: Paying for Release

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-01-02/comment/the-times-view-on-foreign-office-policy-for-repatriation-paying-for-release-gh7wrvbmw>

News: Grooming Gangs

'Wrong to ignore' ethnicity of grooming gangs - Javid

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-46684638>

Sajid Javid defends deportation of grooming gang members

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/dec/26/sajid-javid-defends-deportation-of-grooming-gang-members>

Sajid Javid suggests there could be 'cultural reasons' for Pakistani grooming gangs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sajid-javid-pakistan-culture-reasons-grooming-gangs-home-secretary-a8699391.html>

I take scandal of Asian sex gangs personally, says Sajid Javid

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2018-12-27/news/i-take-scandal-of-asian-sex-gangs-personally-says-sajid-javid-k99sv6x7p>

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Other News

Need for all-black cast has Porgy and Bess struggling to recruit a chorus

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/need-for-all-black-cast-has-porgy-and-bess-struggling-to-recruit-a-chorus-lfvwn2hdw>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

**** Vulnerable Witnesses (Criminal Evidence) (Scotland) Bill**

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108702.aspx>

Stage 1 evidence session, Justice Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=11874&i=107374#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament

Border Control Bill

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

Gypsy and Traveller Communities (Housing, Planning and Education)

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

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 and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Time Limit on Detention) Bill

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

Online Forums Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** consultation deadline extended to 14 January! closes this week!**

Shortage occupation list review 2018 (closing date 14 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754865/SOL_call_for_evidence_Final_Version_for_publication.pdf

**** closes this week!**

The Macpherson Report: Twenty Years On (closing date 16 January 2019)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/home-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/macpherson-report-twenty-years-on-inquiry-17-19/>

Preventing and tackling forced marriage (closing date 23 January 2019)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/756200/Forced_Marriage_Consultation.pdf

Racial harassment in higher education (closing date 15 February 2019)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/inquiries-and-investigations/racial-harassment-higher-education-our-inquiry>

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here (closing date 24 February 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/hate-crime/consultation-on-scottish-hate-crime-legislation/>

**** Scottish charity law** (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

**** Proposed Post-Mortem Examinations (Defence Time-Limit) (Scotland) Bill**

(closing date 4 April 2019)

https://www.parliament.scot/S5MembersBills/20190108_Gil_Paterson_Consultation_document.pdf

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/amina-islamophobia>

Social inclusion, loneliness and belonging in society (closing date not stated)

<http://app.surveymethods.com/EndUser.aspx?B397FBE3BAF0E3E2B3>

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R8SDYN>

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

15 January 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

22 January 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to provide information on fundamental issues of housing, employment and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and explore how service users might prepare themselves to avoid possible threats of Brexit. For information see

<http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier2>

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

15 January 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

22 January 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

12 March 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-12.30)

19 March 2019 in Edinburgh (1.30-4.30)

PAiH course to provide information about rights of refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum, and explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services.

For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier3>

**** this week!**

Equalities and Hate Crime Public Awareness

15 January 2019 in Glenrothes (6.00-8.00)

24 January 2019 in Rosyth (6.00-8-00)

Fife Centre for Equalities event to provide information about the Equality Act 2010 and how it applies to all of us, to learn about how to report hate crime and how to get advice and support, and to share any concerns you may have about something that has happened to

you or someone you know. For information about the Glenrothes event see <https://tinyurl.com/y9oys32u> and the Rosyth event see <https://tinyurl.com/y9nvaczg>

**** this week!**

One Scotland: Hate Has No Home Here

16 January 2019 in Glasgow (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y7aqqavn>

17 January 2019 in Stornaway (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yczkv4gm>

22 January 2019 in Dundee (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y93w7aq4>

24 January 2019 in Galashiels (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9jlfzds>

31 January 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rygo77>

6 February 2019 in Aberdeen (12.00-3.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9a9x6h8>

7 February 2019 in Shetland (10.00-1.00)

<https://tinyurl.com/yahlmwvm>

Scottish Government Hate Crime consultation meetings to provide information about the proposals, and enable individuals and communities to give their views. For information and to book a place, please click on the relevant link above.

Discrimination Law in 2019

21 January 2019 in Edinburgh (9.00-4.00)

Equality and Human rights Commission conference to provide authoritative guidance on important recent and proposed changes to discrimination legislation. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/y775nbkz>

Working with refugees and the asylum process

22 January 2019 in Glasgow

28 February 2019 in Glasgow

15 May 2019 in Glasgow

18 September 2019 in Glasgow

31 October 2019 in Glasgow

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 exist for rebuilding their lives here in Scotland. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/z68a5k8> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

BME Recruitment Event

22 January 2019 in Glasgow (3.00-4.30)

Glasgow City Council event to increase the number of people from underrepresented communities in their catering and home care workforce. For information contact Thom Hughes 0141 287 0284 / thom.hughes@glasgow.gov.uk

**** Hate Crime Reporting Roadshow**

24 January 2019 in Camelon (10.00-12.00)

Disability Equality Scotland and Central Scotland Regional Equality Council Hate Crime Roadshow Event to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it as well as discussing some of the potential barriers to reporting hate crime. For information and to book see <https://hate-crime-reporting-roadshow.eventbrite.co.uk>

Pass the mic: Muslim women making their voices heard

26 January 2019 in Glasgow (10.30-1.30)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre workshop to support Muslim women to be leading voices by providing training on dealing with media and public speaking. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ychgaguz>

Working with Interpreters

29 January 2019 in Glasgow

7 March 2019 in Glasgow

24 April 2019 in Glasgow

8 October 2019 in Glasgow

28 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to train service providers in the processes of using an interpreter, examine the pitfalls – and consequences – of this aspect of service provision, looking at confidentiality, professional boundaries, including appropriate behaviour and standards, and evaluation processes. Reduced fees available for relevant organisations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jt93fog> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

5 February 2019 in Glasgow

23 May 2019 in Glasgow

2 October 2019 in Glasgow

21 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to examine the issues facing Syrian refugees as they move from countries around Syria to the UK, and highlight the challenges and opportunities they face as they build new lives in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/zy436gr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** Introduction to Policing Programme**

10, 17, and 24 February 2019 (three-day course) in Glasgow, Tulliallan, and Jackton

Police Scotland course to encourage people from minority ethnic communities to consider a career in policing. For information see www.scojec.org/memo/files/19ii_ps.pdf , contact recruitmentpositiveactionteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk or request to join the closed facebook group 'Police Scotland Positive Action'

Disability Benefits for Migrants

12 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to cover presence and residence tests and strategies for supporting tenants and service users through the application process for disability benefits. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier5>

Overcoming Unconscious Bias

12 February 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities training to help those in positions of leadership to understand hidden factors that contribute to the success or failure of organisational policy and strategy. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y87rbupl>

Working with unaccompanied refugee children

14 February 2019 in Glasgow

1 May 2019 in Glasgow

26 September 2019 in Glasgow

6 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to enable service providers to better understand separated children, and how you can help them in their journey. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7mz5uuv> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

**** BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence**

15 February 2019 in Edinburgh (10.00-4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid session to raise awareness and broaden understanding of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic (BME) women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/training-event/bme-womens-experiences-of-gender-based-violence/> or contact 01312266606

Age assessment awareness

20 February 2019 in Glasgow

9 May 2019 in Glasgow

13 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course to give social workers and other relevant staff an awareness of the components that are used to build a picture of a person's age. It draws on a variety of existing Age Assessment practice guidelines and demonstrates how these apply in Scotland. Reduced fees available. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8f2z7p4> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

No Recourse to Public Funds

26 February 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-12.30)

PAiH course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support to maintain tenancies where difficulties arise. For information see

<http://www.paih.org/training/#unique-identifier5>

Working with People from Diverse Religion & Belief Backgrounds

5 March 2019 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to increase confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of others at work, learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9bkt6e2>

Three Mottos for Excellence in Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

14 March 2018 in Glasgow (9.30-1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to consider three models that help guide our thinking, as we seek to tackle discrimination, communicate across difference and understand the relationship between our identities, our experiences and our worldview. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yd8uhfeq>

Refugee rights to housing

22 March 2019 in Glasgow

7 November 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course identifying the different groups of asylum seekers and refugees most likely to seek housing in Scotland, their legal rights, and the duties and obligations on local authorities and other housing organisations towards them. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvpl5r> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging with seldom heard voices

27 March 2019 in Glasgow

5 December 2019 in Glasgow

Scottish Refugee Council course looking at the various approaches, tools and techniques

we can adopt to reach out to people who are seldom heard. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y8tg2x4k> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Inclusion Cultivation

16 April 2019 in Kirkcaldy (9.30-4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities workshop to help those aspire to be equality trainers to learn the techniques in designing and conducting a programme of activities, approaches you can adopt in your promotional strategy, and confidence to lead discussions on fairness and equality. For more information see <https://tinyurl.com/yb6anztx>

Refugee community sponsorship

21 May 2019 in Glasgow

11 December 2019 in Glasgow

For information see http://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what_we_do/training or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

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

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

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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