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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Sarah Boyack (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government what resources it is allocating to address human trafficking and exploitation. (S5T-01840)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice (Humza Yousaf): The horrifying discovery in Essex last week underlines in the gravest terms the seriousness of the issue. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all members in passing on our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who so tragically lost their lives.

Migrant Help and the trafficking awareness raising alliance—which is known as TARA—are funded by the Scottish Government to support victims of human trafficking and exploitation. TARA supports women who have been trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and Migrant Help supports all other adult victims of human trafficking and exploitation. The organisations will share

more than £3 million across the financial years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. We are also providing funding of £120,000 this financial year to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, to provide a national psychological trauma support service to adult trafficking victims.

We are providing £300,000 to the Aberlour Child Care Trust and the Scottish Refugee Council to deliver the Scottish guardianship service in this financial year. A wide range of partners throughout Scotland also dedicate resources, under the framework of the collaborative approach that is set out in our human trafficking and exploitation strategy, which was published in May 2017.

Sarah Boyack: The support that is available is welcome, given the horrendous exploitation that people who have been trafficked have faced. Will the Scottish Government ensure that the figures on victims of trafficking are broken down by police division and area so that local authorities can deliver an adequately funded response and give people who have been trafficked the support that they need across the whole of the country?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: I will certainly consider that suggestion, which is very worth while. I have attended many a conference on the dangers of human trafficking, and the last couple that I have attended have been at the Scottish Police College at Tulliallan. As our partners, the police are heavily involved in the important work to tackle the issue. I will certainly look at Sarah Boyack's suggestion about providing a further breakdown of the trafficking figures—perhaps we can do that through the national referral mechanism—and will get back to her on the detail of what is possible in that regard. The more detail we can give in the figures, the better that will be for local action.

Sarah Boyack: I very much welcome that commitment. I understand that for people who have been trafficked, the absolute priority is to get somewhere safe and to get some support. For people who have been through the experience of being trafficked, particularly if the traffickers have employed them in this country and they are vulnerable, not just because of the journey but because of their new experience, access to affordable housing in another part of the country might be the first part of the way forward. Therefore, could the cabinet secretary look at the issue of policing by locality and the follow-on issue of safe housing, which would release people from a horrendous and miserable experience?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Again, I would not disagree with any of what Sarah Boyack has said. I have taken part in a number of conversations and round-table discussions on human trafficking. Migrant Help and TARA will work closely with local authorities on such issues. Although much of their support will be in and around dealing with the psychological trauma, which can be vast, they will also work closely with local authorities on housing. I will speak to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning, Kevin Stewart, on the housing issue. If there is more that we can do on the housing side with our local authority partners, in getting the victims of trafficking into a safe place, we will do all that we can.

Angus MacDonald (SNP): From guidance for health workers and businesses to help them to identify signs of human trafficking and a proposed legal duty on public authorities to notify the police about suspected human trafficking, to increased support for organisations that support victims and the imposition of serious crime prevention orders on individuals who are involved in such organised crime, does the cabinet secretary agree that the Government's message is clear: Scotland rejects the horrific crime of human trafficking and we must do everything to support the victims of this appalling abuse of their human rights?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: Yes, of course I agree with that. I am pleased that there is a strong cross-party consensus on tackling the abhorrent crime of human trafficking. Those of us who have talked to members of the public about modern-day slavery, as I have done, will know that they think that we are talking about countries on another continent. We are not. We know that such slavery and

exploitation, which includes commercial sexual exploitation and labour exploitation, happens right under our nose on our very doorstep. Therefore, we will continue with our initiatives.

The important point to make, which is clear from Angus MacDonald's question, is that there is no single measure or magic bullet that will be a panacea in tackling the problem, but we are taking a range of measures to address it. We are certainly not resting on our laurels. Last week's horrific tragedy has shown that the threat is all too real and that we must redouble our efforts to make sure that not a single person is exploited in that way.

Jenny Marra (Labour): We heard it reported on the news on Saturday that one Vietnamese woman or child victim was making her way to Glasgow to be met by friends. The cabinet secretary will know that I have been asking about the entitlement to guardianship for unaccompanied children who arrive in Scotland that exists under section 11 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015, which the Parliament passed four years ago. Can he commit to inclusive implementation of that by 1 April 2020? What consideration is the Scottish Government giving to a Scottish national referral mechanism, which would take identification and decision making out of the hands of the Home Office and its hostile environment?

Reply from Humza Yousaf: There are two parts of that question; I will take the last one first and come back to the first part. We are working closely with the United Kingdom Government on this. I cannot confirm whether those reports are true but certainly, going by the example that Jenny Marra gave, it is important that we continue co-operation with the UK Government and of course other Governments and police forces across the UK and internationally.

We are working with the UK Government to ensure that reforms to the national referral mechanism lead to an NRM that works for Scotland and reflects our distinct systems and, indeed, our distinct legislation.

If, from the resulting conversation, it appears that there should be a separate NRM and that that would make sense for the victims of this tragic and abhorrent crime, we will of course be open minded to that. In some respects, because of the nature of human trafficking, and with the example of the terrible tragedy that has unfolded in Essex, it may make sense to continue as part of the UK NRM. However, I do not dismiss what Jenny Marra says.

On the first part of the question, I pay credit to Jenny Marra for her work on human trafficking, in particular her support for the victims of child trafficking. She and I had a meeting on that issue, along with the Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd. Our timelines are absolutely the same as they were then—they have not shifted. In terms of the Scottish guardianship service, which I mentioned in my answer to Sarah Boyack, there is no gap in provision for young people who may be victims of child trafficking. If there is an update, I will provide that after the consultation has closed.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12327&i=111395#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statements and Q&A

Major Incident in Essex (House of Commons)

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): I would like to update the House on the investigation into the tragic deaths of the 39 migrants discovered last Wednesday in Essex. This morning, the Prime Minister and I visited Thurrock in Essex, to sign the book of condolence and pay our respects to the 39 individuals who died in the most appalling circumstances in trying to reach the United Kingdom. These were people's

sons and daughters, friends and family. As victims of brutal and unscrupulous criminal gangs, they have paid the ultimate price. We have been confronted with a stark reminder of the evils of people smuggling and human trafficking. This trade is a blight on the modern world. For the sake of these victims, and for millions like them, we must do all we can to stamp it out.

I would like to pay tribute once again to the outstanding professionalism shown by all our emergency services—in particular, the swift and professional response from the East of England ambulance service, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and Essex police, who are leading the ongoing criminal investigation—and our operational partners who are working round the clock to assist the investigation, including the National Crime Agency. The families of the victims, at this incredibly difficult time, are in all our thoughts and have my full sympathy. Nothing can ever undo the loss that they have suffered. We owe it to them to identify those responsible and ensure that they face the full force of the law. I want to work with those families to ensure that they can bring forward any evidence they have to help solve this appalling crime. With their help, we can bring the perpetrators to justice. I would like to remind colleagues that this will be a long and meticulous investigation. As I heard today and last week from Essex police, it will involve working with partners overseas and foreign law enforcement agencies and unravelling a threat of criminality that could stretch halfway across the world. We are already working with a range of operational partners to piece together information. The police themselves—Essex police—will need to be given the time and space to do just that, while respecting the dignity of those who have died and of course the privacy of their families. The process of identifying the victims is continuing, and I would like to stress that their nationalities have still not yet been confirmed at this stage.

On Friday, three further people were arrested in connection with the incident. A 38-year-old man and a 38-year-old woman from Warrington were arrested in Cheshire, while a 46-year-old man from Northern Ireland was arrested at Stansted airport. All three were questioned on suspicion of manslaughter and conspiracy to traffic people, and have now been released on bail.

The driver of the vehicle was 25-year-old Maurice Robinson from Northern Ireland. This morning, he appeared at Chelmsford magistrates court via video link, charged with 39 counts of manslaughter, conspiracy to traffic people, conspiracy to assist unlawful immigration and money laundering. He has been remanded in custody and is next due to appear at the Old Bailey on 25 November.

Following the devastating discovery of the lorry at Tilbury, the Home Office has set up a dedicated team to co-ordinate an immediate response and a long-term response to this tragedy. I can confirm that Border Force is increasing its presence in Purfleet. It is working alongside Essex police to gather further information regarding this incident. The Home Office will now accelerate our joint intelligence-led operation between the police, the National Crime Agency and immigration enforcement, which aims to disrupt and deter organised crime gangs using refrigerated and hard-sided lorries to smuggle clandestine migrants.

I would like to stress once again that the nationalities of the victims have not been confirmed at this stage, but work is under way to co-ordinate the international response to this incident. I have already spoken to my Belgian counterpart, Minister De Crem, to invigorate the work that is taking place across both countries. I can confirm to the House that, as of today, I have received agreement from the Belgian authorities to deploy extra UK immigration enforcement officers to Zeebrugge. I have also been in contact with other international partners to offer assistance to any foreign nationals who may have been affected by this tragedy.

Last week's tragedy was the culmination of a broad, more general rise in global migration, but also of organised criminality. This is one of the most pressing issues for the UK, as well as for all our international partners. Illegal migration fuels organised crime, erodes

public confidence and, most importantly, endangers the lives of desperate people. The perpetrators conduct their activities under a cloak of secrecy. The motivations that lead people to try to cross borders illegally are broad and complex. They are often among the most vulnerable, and then of course they are further exploited.

It is clear that we and all our partners must enhance our response. All areas of Government have a role to play—whether it is in strengthening our borders and eliminating the pull factors in this country, or in addressing many of the root causes to suppress demand for illegal migration. We already have an illegal migration strategy in place, but as the tragic events last week in Essex have shown, there is much more to do. I will be working across Government and Government Departments this week to plan how we can strengthen our response to the wider migration crisis that led these victims to try to enter the United Kingdom. The organised criminals who drive this practice are dynamic, unscrupulous and highly adaptable, but failing to confront them comes at a terrible human cost. We must be ruthless now in our response.

Diane Abbot (Labour): ... The events in Essex are a tragic loss of life. All death is regrettable, but this was a particularly gruesome and grotesque way to die, and an horrific experience for the first responders. Many of us in the House will have seen the images in our media over the weekend of desperate communities who are frightened that their young people may have been in that lorry. Many of us will have seen the messages from people to their families on the verge of their own suffocation. ...

As the Home Secretary said, people traffickers are particularly ruthless and simply do not care about human life. ...

I also want to ask the Home Secretary about the current co-operation with the European police, security and justice agencies in investigating this case. Specifically, how closely are our agencies, police forces and National Crime Agency working with Europol in this investigation? Will she also indicate the level of co-operation with the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, which is an agency of Europol? ...

This is a very tragic event. In some ways, it has humanised the issue of people trafficking for many people in this country. Of course we have to bear down on the people traffickers—they are ruthless and have no concern for human life—but we also have to look at issues such as how we make those eastern ports more secure and how we guarantee people the same level of co-operation with EU agencies that we currently have. ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... First, the right hon. Lady is absolutely right about the first responders. They cannot unsee what they have experienced and seen through this awful crime. Secondly, she is right to recognise the scale of trafficking and the inhumanity—there is no other word that can describe it—of the perpetrators behind not only this crime but modern slavery, people smuggling and human trafficking. ... The right hon. Lady asked about security and the drivers in terms of working in co-operation and in partnership with other agencies. Of course, that is exactly what we are doing right now. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... I associate myself with what the Home Secretary said about the gross immorality and inhumanity of people smuggling. I will speak about the specifics rather than this case, as it is an ongoing investigation. As the shadow Home Secretary said, an international trafficking and smuggling network can only be broken up through international co-operation. I know that the Home Secretary recognises that. She will also recognise that the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, which is a part of Europol, has been at the heart of this inquiry and of other inquiries into similar tragedies. A Europol source has been quoted as saying that the investigators at Europol are: “working around the clock trying to put together the pieces of the puzzle.” ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): The Home Secretary will be aware of the disturbing news that children were found in another refrigerated lorry yesterday, this time at Calais. They were

reportedly already suffering from mild hypothermia and were, luckily, found before it was too late. The refrigerated lorries are particularly dangerous and make this such an appalling crime. Will the Home Secretary say whether it is correct that hardly any checks of refrigerated lorries are taking place at the moment at Zeebrugge, and that at Purfleet 24/7 checks are still not taking place? ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... there are checks, and checks have been made when it comes to refrigerated lorries not just in the UK, but in other ports. She will appreciate, however, that, with the investigation that is taking place and the links with the Belgian authorities, there is much more information to come, specifically for the vehicle and the container that came through that particular port. There are checks that take place in Zeebrugge as well. I said in my statement that we will escalate our work. There is a plan, working with my Belgian counterpart, to address the specifics of security issues in Zeebrugge and how we can extend more checks if required, although that is an operational decision not just at the port but with the Belgian authorities. ...

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-28/debates/4B217694-62CB-4619-9A99-A810081808CD/MajorIncidentInEssex>

Essex: Major Incident (House of Lords)

Lord Bethell repeated the House of Commons statement from Priti Patel that has been copied above.

Lord Rosser (Labour): ... The callous, criminal people traffickers must be caught and brought to justice. I have two points to make. First, can the Government give a categorical assurance that departure from the EU will not lead to any weakening of our links with or our partnership and co-operation arrangements with the EU and any of its agencies which we now use and work with to combat people trafficking? Secondly, why do we apparently not have control of our borders at our recognised ports against illegal entry, whether trafficked or otherwise, as the Government have previously maintained is the case? How was a container with such a large number of people inside able to get into this country, apparently on a recognised shipping route through a recognised British port of entry, without being detected and stopped? Surely one way of putting pressure on the traffickers using recognised shipping routes would be the near certainty of detection. I note that the Government are now—belatedly, it seems—increasing the stretched Border Force presence in Purfleet. How many people do the Government think may have been trafficked into this country through a recognised British port of entry in the last 12 months for which figures are available, and how many people have been prevented from entering this country at the port of entry through which they were being trafficked over the same 12-month period?

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): ... In putting on record our thanks to the emergency services, we need to recognise how difficult it is for them to respond to such a situation. I trust that this—I do not like to use the word “incident”, because it seems to trivialise it—will not be a catalyst for statements about having tougher immigration arrangements. We want to see fair, compassionate and effective immigration rules. ...

Reply from Lord Bethell: My Lords, this is an incredibly moving incident to talk about at the Dispatch Box. It is also a very sensitive live investigation, so I hope that noble Lords will understand if I do not talk about the nature of it in detail. However, perhaps I may share with the House that one of the most impressive and interesting aspects of the briefing was the incredible amount of international collaboration that is clearly occurring to tackle this horrible crime. ...

Lord Sterling of Plaistow (Conservative): ... I remembered like yesterday the 58 Chinese people who died. Noble Lords might remember that at that time, in July, around

2000, the outside temperature was 96 degrees Fahrenheit. When these trailers come over—in this case, it was on a P&O ship coming from Zeebrugge—of course, they do not have any drivers at all. Let us think of that heat when the air conditioning broke down; I want to comment not only on what we are talking about now but on the fear factor. When the doors were opened, those people had been fighting; they had torn their clothes off in fighting to get to an area around 18 inches deep.

If you want to go back to an even earlier example of the fear factor, in the Nazi days they experimented on people's reactions. In Auschwitz and so forth, if you think that people just died in five minutes, they did not. That fear factor has been huge. When I saw everything that had happened the other day, I thought to myself, "For goodness' sake, these people froze to death, but not immediately".

I would like to ask the Minister to ask the Justice Secretary that we can be assured that whoever is caught for trafficking—instead of putting them up against the nearest wall and shooting them, to put it bluntly—is given the highest possible sentence?

Reply from Lord Bethell: My noble friend speaks very movingly about an incident that many in this House will remember, and the image that he describes is difficult to imagine. One does not like to think about the similar situation in Purfleet and the circumstances in which the victims of this horrible crime died. It is very moving indeed. One can only hope that there may be some kind of positive outcome and that the renewed focus and determination of the law enforcement bodies to track down the perpetrators of this crime will lead to an improvement in the circumstances for those seeking asylum and refuge in Britain. ...

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-28/debates/B502904A-7E50-433D-BCA2-FE8135736E3A/EssexMajorIncident>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

EU Settlement Scheme

Jamie Stone (Liberal Democrat): What recent assessment has [the Minister] made of the accessibility of the EU settlement scheme application process. [900162]

Alex Chalk (Conservative): What support is [the Minister] providing to EU citizens applying to the EU settlement scheme. [900168]

Reply from the Minister for Security (Brandon Lewis): The EU settlement scheme is designed to be simple and straightforward for people to apply to. The Government are also putting in grant support for a wide range of voluntary and community organisations, as well as digital and telephone support through the resolution centre.

Jamie Stone: As a remainder, I wish that the EU citizens in my constituency had not been put in this position. As the Minister has mentioned, applications can be made by phone or iPad, but connectivity in parts of my constituency is absolute mince, to use a Scottish expression. I have raised this time and again—we would be better off with two cans and a length of string. Cannot the Government see that this lack of connectivity militates against the EU citizens who want to remain in my constituency?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: People do not have to do things digitally. They can speak to people or they can send things in. We also have several hundred centres that people can go to. ...

Alex Chalk: I am delighted that the settlement scheme is progressing at pace, with 2 million or so people signing up. However, some individuals in my constituency really benefit from face-to-face contact, so what steps are being taken, through pop-up shops or whatever, to ensure that they can get the vital hands-on support they need? ...

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is undertaking a programme of work

through voluntary organisations, and the £3.75 million scheme includes working with people at pop-up events. I visited one in Great Yarmouth that is doing excellent work with communities so that people can see how simple the system is and are able to apply, and we encourage more people to do so. We have now reached 2.2 million applications, and I look forward to that number growing quickly. ...

Joanna Cherry (SNP): ... Introducing digital-only proof of status will cause many problems for EU citizens, and low digital users in particular. The Home Office's own assessment of creating a digital-only "prove your right to work" service said that there was "very strong evidence that this would cause low digital users a lot of issues", so does the Minister agree that the same will apply to the EU settlement scheme? Will he reconsider the provision of physical documents?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: People applying through the settlement scheme obviously get an email confirming that the application has been processed and dealt with. The process is being done digitally as we are moving to a digital system more generally. It is the right way, it works for employers, and the fact that 2.2 million people have already applied through the scheme in just a few months confirms that.

Joanna Cherry: In Scotland, the Scottish Government have taken a number of steps to reassure EU citizens, and the First Minister has launched a "Stay in Scotland" campaign, which provides practical advice and support to EU citizens during this uncertain time. The Scottish Government have also announced funding for a new programme in Scotland called Settled, which is designed to target vulnerable EU citizens and offer them help with applications to the scheme. Does the Minister welcome that initiative by the Scottish Government? Will he be doing anything similar in England?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The hon. and learned Lady should not be using that kind of language. There is no reason for anybody to have any concerns or be unsettled. We have been clear that we want EU citizens to stay, and that is why we introduced a scheme to ensure that we protect their rights and put £9 million into work with voluntary groups in addition to the £3.75 million to ensure that we get the message out. I am happy to work with anybody who wants to ensure that we are spreading the message positively and properly. Some 2.2 million people have already applied through the scheme, and I look forward to seeing all 3.5 million people processed as quickly as possible.

Stephen Crabb (Conservative): The money that the Minister has made available for voluntary groups is welcome, but does he recognise the specific concern around hard-to-reach groups, such as elderly people in care homes and people working in rural areas, in agriculture and in construction? Does he agree that there is a need for real outreach to ensure that all EU citizens have a chance to clarify their position in law?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: My right hon. Friend makes a good point. We are working with voluntary groups and through the EU settlement resolution centre to ensure that we reach all those vulnerable and harder-to-reach groups, particularly in rural areas. For example, we are working with local communities by holding pop-up events, such as the one that I saw in my constituency, to reach out to as many as possible. People have until December 2020 to apply to the scheme, and it would be good to get 3.5 million through as quickly as possible.

Diane Abbott (Labour): The Minister will be aware of the genuine concern among EU nationals, their families and their employers about the workings of the EU settlement scheme. He will also be aware, as will Members on both sides of the House, about the general problems with delays at the Home Office. For instance, the proportion of leave to remain applications taking more than six months doubled between 2014 and 2017. The Minister correctly said that more than 2 million applications to the EU settlement scheme have now been made, but 18% of them have not been resolved. The Minister caused concern recently when he said that EU nationals who fail to apply before 2020 could be deported. Will he give the House an assurance that every effort will be made to reach out

to those who have yet to apply and that applications will be processed promptly?

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The short answer is yes. Just to give a bit of flavour to that, there are no delays with the EU settlement scheme; the right hon. Lady conflated two completely different schemes in her question. People's status under the EU settlement scheme is decided very quickly, and 2.2 million people have now applied through that process. In the whole of the process, only two people out of the set of figures that she gave have been refused, on grounds of criminality, which is absolutely right.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-28/debates/3607E91D-EBB7-4DB2-B7A1-8F9D52381D68/EUSettlementScheme>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Leaving the EU: Unaccompanied Child Refugees in Europe

Jeff Smith (Labour): [Will the Minister] make it her policy to maintain the rights of unaccompanied child refugees in Europe to family reunion in the UK in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal. [900158]

Virendra Sharma (Labour): [Will the Minister] make it her policy to maintain the rights of unaccompanied child refugees in Europe to family reunion in the UK in the event that the UK leaves the EU without a deal. [900167]

Reply from the Secretary for the Home Department (Priti Patel): The UK has a long and proud tradition of offering protection to vulnerable people fleeing war and persecution, and the Government take the welfare of vulnerable children seriously. We support the principle of family unity wholeheartedly, and the Government are committed to meeting our obligation under section 17 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 to seek to negotiate an agreement with the EU on family reunion for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Jeff Smith: The House of Lords Home Affairs Committee recommendation is to temporarily maintain the current rights for family reunion in the event of a no-deal exit to avoid legal limbo. Will the Home Secretary assure this House that the Government will do that to protect vulnerable families in the event of a no deal?

Reply from Priti Patel: I would like to reiterate that the Government are committed to getting a deal and, with that, fulfilling our section 17 obligation to move forward in the right way. As I have already made clear, we are committed to ensuring that we protect those who are vulnerable and, importantly, that we continue to have high standards when it comes to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Virendra Sharma: I hope it is in order for me to wish everybody happy Diwali. [Hon. Members: "Hear, hear."]

At least one third of all unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in England are cared for in London, but London Councils has identified a £32 million funding shortfall. Will the Government commit to fully funding those unsustainable care costs and to reforming the national transfer scheme, so that local authorities can continue to provide the high quality care and support that vulnerable children need?

Reply from Priti Patel: I, too, would like to wish a very happy Diwali to all Hindus across the United Kingdom, and to the hon. Gentleman and others.

The hon. Gentleman recognises and highlights the fact that London authorities do indeed deal with a significant number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. I would like him to know that I have had representations directly from London Councils and London authorities. We are looking, as we always do, at the number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who come through the system, but also at the pressures that that puts on local authority budgets.

David Davis (Conservative): I am sure the whole House welcomes the generous

approach of the Government to child refugees in Europe. Will the Government apply the same generosity to child refugees who are British citizens in Syria?

Reply from Priti Patel: My right hon. Friend highlights a current and pressing issue: child refugees in Syria. I know that other colleagues in the House, including the Foreign Secretary, have spoken about this issue recently. We review on a case-by-case basis. I should just say for the benefit of the House that every case has to be looked at individually. They are difficult cases and we have to look at all the backgrounds behind all the children.

David TC Davies (Conservative): Does my right hon. Friend agree that whatever course of action we take, we must do everything possible to discourage people from sending vulnerable young children on unaccompanied journeys through Africa, Asia and Europe?

Reply from Priti Patel: My hon. Friend is absolutely right. All hon. Members will recognise that we see far too much tragedy in relation to children fleeing war-torn parts of the world. We need to do more in-country and we have to work upstream with our international partners.

Carol Monaghan (SNP): My constituent Helen Tekeste fled Ethiopia in 2015 and came to the UK. In the process, she was separated from her two children. Thankfully, her 11-year-old son was able to join her two years ago, but her 13-year-old daughter's application has twice been refused. Will the Home Secretary meet me to discuss the case?

Reply from Priti Patel: I will of course meet the hon. Lady. As she will recognise, everything is looked at from casework on a case-by-case basis, but I will be more than happy to discuss that case with her.

Afzal Khan (Labour): The Government have stated that they will seek to negotiate a future agreement with the EU on plans for family reunion, but that refers to separated children only. The Home Office's own statistics show that in 2018 over 1,000 adults and children were reunited with their family members in the UK under the Dublin regulations, but the majority of those would not be covered by the Government's commitment. What preparations, if any, have been made by the Government to ensure that safe and legal routes for refugee family reunion continue to operate to the same standards and provisions as under the EU law?

Reply from Priti Patel: As the hon. Gentleman will know, the Government are very clear that when we leave the EU we will leave the Dublin III regulation, but we will continue to participate during the transition period if we have a deal. The fact of the matter is that discussions are under way across Government. It is important for the House to recognise that this is not just from the Home Office's perspective, but that it is part of our ongoing negotiations with the European Union, which are, of course, led by the Department for Exiting the European Union.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-28/debates/C7D95C2D-6B92-4029-ADBB-026A8A95D367/LeavingTheEUUnaccompaniedChildRefugeesInEurope>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Stephen Metcalfe (Conservative) [900178] What plans [does the Minister have] for the UK's future immigration system.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Our vision is for a truly global nation – where we welcome the brightest and best.

We have been clear that we will introduce an Australian style points-based system, where it is the skills, talent and contribution people bring to the UK that matters – not where they come from.

That is why we have commissioned the independent Migration Advisory Committee as the first step in creating our new and fair immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/900178/>

Immigration: Fraud

Paul Beresford (Conservative) [4903] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many complaints her Department has received on immigration fraud in each year since 2009.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Information on the number of reports of immigration abuse received by the Home Office is published in our transparency data at:

www.gov.uk/government/collection/migration-transparency-data.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4903/>

Immigration: Fraud

Paul Beresford (Conservative) [4904] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many complaints on immigration fraud UK Visas and Immigration has investigated since 2009.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: All allegations of immigration abuse submitted by the public to the Home Office are carefully considered and are subjected to investigation. Cost restrictions prevent a detailed breakdown of specifically what action has been taken.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4904/>

British Nationality: Assessments

Alex Chalk (Conservative) [346] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the Life in the UK citizenship test questions are intelligible and accessible to applicants of all backgrounds and age groups.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Life in the UK test is based on the Life in the UK handbook, "Life in the UK: a guide for new residents". The test is administered by PSI on behalf of the Home Office. The questions were set with the assistance of linguistic experts and professional question writers.

The tests have a number of accessibility features which are available to all candidates. These include the ability to adjust settings and use audio. Additional tailored access arrangements can be provided by test centres.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/346/>

Immigration: Families

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [358] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to extend Family Immigration Rules for Dependent Relatives to include British Citizens intending to return to the UK with their dependent relative.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The family Immigration Rules set out the requirements to be met to allow any adult dependant relative of a British citizen to come to the UK. The applicant must be outside the UK and in most cases, the sponsor will be in the UK.

The adult dependant relative rules, together with the policy on exceptional circumstances, ensure that leave can be granted for those who demonstrate that, as a result of age, illness or disability, there is a level of long-term personal care required that can only be provided in the UK by their British relative who is here, or who is intending to return here with their dependant relative.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-14/358/>

British Nationality: Children

Rushanara Ali (Labour) [3833] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what use is made of the £1,012 fee when an application to register a child as British is rejected.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: Refunds are not provided when applications are refused. It is made clear that the fee paid is for the consideration of an application and is payable regardless of the decision made.

Fee income is retained by the Home Office and funds the direct and indirect costs associated with the provision of chargeable visa and immigration services, and also contributes towards the cost of the wider immigration system, as permitted under Section 68(9) of the 2014 Immigration Act.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3833/>

Immigration: Families

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [5431] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons non-dependent family members of people with Tier 1 (exceptional talent) visas can only apply for indefinite leave to remain after five years, given that the main applicant can apply on an accelerated route after three years.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: A number of economic routes offer accelerated settlement for main applicants, including Tier 1 (Exceptional Talent), Tier 1 Investor and the Innovator route. However in all cases the qualifying period for non-EEA family members remains five years, regardless of the time it takes for the main applicant to settle.

The current policy is intended to ensure that our provisions are in line with the qualifying period for non-EEA family members of a British Citizen.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5431/>

Immigration: Appeals

Richard Burgon (Labour) [5061] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what the average waiting time from the receipt of an appeal to the hearing was in first-tier tribunals in each year since 2010.

Reply from Chris Philp: Waiting times for First-tier Tribunals (Immigration and Asylum Chamber, Employment Tribunal and Social Security and Child Support) are published at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/tribunals-statistics

HM Courts & Tribunals Service does not hold this information centrally for all First-tier Tribunals and this could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/5061/>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [697] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions her Department has had with the office of Wendy Williams on a timetable for taking delivery of the final report of the Windrush lessons learned review.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Windrush Lessons Learned Review is an independent review, and all engagement must respect this independence. As expected for this type of review, the Department and the review team have engaged routinely and will continue to use this engagement to confirm the timetable for delivery of the final report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/697/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [4987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many full-time equivalent staff are employed to work on the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: There are currently 1,510 full time equivalent staff employed to work on the EU Settlement Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4987/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Patrick Grady (SNP) [1714] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what documentation officials at the border have been instructed to accept as proof of (a) settled status and (b) pre-settled status for EU nationals arriving in the UK after 31 October 2019.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Immediately after exit, EU citizens can continue to cross the border using their passport or national identity card. They will be able to use e-Gates if they are travelling on a biometric passport.

EU citizens will not be routinely asked to prove that they have been granted status under the EU Settlement Scheme after EU Exit in order to re-enter the UK but systems will be in place to allow border officials to make such checks where necessary. Once the new points based immigration system is fully introduced, Border Force will be able to identify those individuals granted status digitally without the need for the individual to provide evidence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-17/1714/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Caroline Lucas (Green) [6334] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU citizens living in the UK have (a) applied and (b) yet to apply for settled status; and if she will publish the data she holds on application conversions.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The latest published information on EU Settlement Scheme applications received can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-september-2019>

Figures in this publication refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and, as noted in the statistical report, cannot be directly compared with estimates of the resident population of European Economic Area nationals in the UK, which do not take account of people's migration intentions and will therefore include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

The Home Office publishes a range of statistics on the EU Settlement Scheme including on applications and their outcomes, but we are not yet able to publish statistics relating to those applicants with pre-settled status who subsequently apply for settled status. However, Home Office statisticians keep the content of the statistical reports under review and will take into account the views of statistics users as they continue to develop these statistics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6334/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Hywel Williams (Plaid Cymru) [511] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the number of elderly and vulnerable applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme; and what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of support provided to those applicants.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The number of applications to the EU Settled Status scheme are regularly monitored and reviewed against forecasts.

There is a range of direct and indirect support available for vulnerable EU citizens. This ranges from the telephone helpline available where citizens and their carers and helpers can discuss any aspect of the application with a trained caseworker at any point during the process.

For those who need assistance with IT, the Home Office has put in place an Assisted Digital solution which provides support over the phone, at one of around 300 local centres across the UK or at home with a trained tutor.

We have also provided up to £9 million of grant funding in this financial year to 57 voluntary and community sector organisations across the UK. These organisations are being funded and supported by the Home Office to deliver practical assistance to vulnerable or at-risk EU citizens in applying to the scheme. More than 40 of the organisations included the provision of support for older people in their bid for funding. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-community-support-for-vulnerable-citizens/list-of-organisations>

We have also provided a paper application form for those whose specific individual needs require it.

The Home Office is working with a range of other government departments and stakeholders to identify how we can best support vulnerable adults with significant care and support needs, including those in care homes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-15/511/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Sarah Wollaston (Liberal Democrat) [6360] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support is available for EU citizens with (a) dementia and (b) other similar health conditions when applying for settled status given the possibility that they may have lost the necessary paperwork.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The EU Settlement Scheme is designed to make it simple and straightforward for EU citizens and their family members to apply to stay in the UK after we leave the EU. We are looking for reasons to grant status, not reasons to refuse, and the scheme is performing well.

The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure that the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all, including those requiring someone to make an application on their behalf. We are also engaging with relevant stakeholders, such as the Department for Health and Social Care, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Devolved Administrations, to assess the needs of vulnerable groups and ensure they are met.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support for applicants, including

assisted digital support at around 300 locations across the UK and the EU Settlement Scheme Resolution Centre, open seven days a week, to provide help and information by telephone and e-mail. We have also provided up to £9 million of grant funding to 57 voluntary and community organisations across the UK to enable them to mobilise services targeted at vulnerable EU citizens.

Regarding specific support for (a) those with dementia and (b) other similar health conditions, such as those without mental capacity, the Home Office has designed a scheme that allows applicants to consent to an appropriate third party to apply on their behalf. This means that care givers, family members and friends can provide the necessary assistance to those who need it.

The Home Office is aware that a range of vulnerable applicants may face challenges in securing evidence to support their application. For this reason, we will in such circumstances accept a range of evidence of identity and residence on behalf of an applicant, working with the person making the application to establish the applicant's eligibility based on all the evidence available. Caseworkers are trained to exercise discretion in the applicant's favour where appropriate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6360/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Kate Green (Labour) [3629] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how much of the £9 million funding for voluntary organisations to support vulnerable EU nationals applying to the EU Settlement Scheme has been allocated; and how much funding has been allocated to each voluntary organisation.

Kate Green (Labour) [3630] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will extend beyond March 2020 the period of funding for voluntary organisations to support vulnerable EU nationals in applying for the EU Settlement Scheme.

Kate Green (Labour) [3632] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what equality impact assessment has been made of the extent to which each protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2009 has been allocated funding through voluntary organisations to support vulnerable EU nationals applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Kate Green (Labour) [3633] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans are in place to ensure that funding for voluntary organisations to support vulnerable EU nationals in applying to the EU Settlement Scheme is allocated adequately to geographical areas where individuals with certain protected characteristics are concentrated.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: Details of the grant funding and payment allocations remain commercial in confidence therefore the funding amount allocated, and the amounts to each voluntary organisation cannot be disclosed.

All grant funded organisations are required to submit quarterly returns, reporting on outcomes to the Home Office. The Home Office is currently evaluating the quarter two return. Consideration of the need and effectiveness of any further funding will be done thereafter.

A policy equality statement has been completed for the EU Settlement Scheme ensuring the scheme is accessible to all and does not discriminate based on any protected characteristic. The grant fund was open to any voluntary and community sector organisations.

The fund concentrates on delivering a service based on supporting vulnerabilities such as, but not limited to, homelessness, disability, age, victims of domestic

violence and trafficking. The organisations that were successful in their bid for funding demonstrated their ability to provide practical support and outreach to the most vulnerable EEA citizens and family members of EEA citizens.

Funding was awarded based on expected numbers of vulnerable people that could be supported by the organisation, the geographical reach of the organisation and their ability to mobilise within the required timeframes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3629/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3630/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3632/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3633/>

Immigration: Colombia

Neil Coyle (Labour) [6394] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate he has made of the number of Colombian nationals currently living in (a) the UK, (b) London and (c) Southwark.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of the UK population by country of birth and nationality¹ derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS). The estimated number, with associated confidence intervals (CI), of the population with a Colombian nationality in the UK, London and Southwark in 2018 can be found in table 1.

Table 1: Population with a Columbian nationality, UK, London and Southwark, 2018²³⁴

Year (Jan-Dec)	Thousands	
	2018	CI (+/-)
UK	14	6
London	8	6
Southwark	2	3

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/ukpopulationbycountryofbirthandnationality/2018/relateddata>

² Estimates are based on the Annual Population Survey (APS) which is made up of wave 1 and wave 5 of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) plus annual sample boosts which are included primarily to enhance the geographical coverage. As some residents of communal establishments are excluded from the coverage of this survey the estimates in this table are different from the standard ONS mid-year population estimates, which cover all usual residents

³ It should be noted that the LFS :-

- excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
- excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc)
- is grossed to population estimates of those living in private households. An adjustment is made for those who live in some NHS accommodation and halls of residence whose parents live in the UK. For this reason, the sum of those born in the UK and outside the UK may not agree with the published population estimate.

⁴ If the confidence interval is higher than the estimate, the estimate is not considered reliable for practical purposes. Where the lower confidence limit is below zero users should assume the estimate is above zero.

Immigration: Venezuela

Neil Coyle (Labour) [6393] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, what estimate he has made of the number of Venezuelan nationals living in the UK in each year since 2015.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have therefore asked the Authority to respond. ...

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) publishes estimates of the UK population by country of birth and nationality¹ derived from the Annual Population Survey. The estimated number, with associated confidence intervals (CI), of the UK population with a Venezuelan nationality from 2015 to 2018 can be found in table 1.

Table 1, Population with a Venezuelan nationality, UK, 2015 to 2018²³⁴

								Thousands	
Year (Jan-Dec)	2018	CI (+/-)	2017	CI (+/-)	2016	CI (+/-)	2015	CI (+/-)	
	9	4	10	5	8	4	3	3	

Source: ONS, Population by Country of Birth and Nationality

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/ukpopulationbycountryofbirthandnationality/2018/relateddata>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6393/>

Asylum: Advisory Services

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [3802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time spent is (a) waiting to get through to and (b) on hold on a telephone call to Migrant Help.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: AIRE is the new Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility service for asylum seekers. Migrant Help are the provider for AIRE. AIRE was implemented on 1 September 2019.

As this is a new contract, internal operational data from Migrant Help is not yet ratified and cannot be shared at this point. We recognise that call waiting times are currently outside Service Level Standard and we are working with Migrant Help to support them in addressing this. Call volumes have exceeded forecasts for a variety of reasons and Migrant Help have introduced alternative forms of contact, which are already having a positive impact on reducing call waiting times.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-22/3802/>

Immigrants: Glasgow Central

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [1910] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people in Glasgow Central are designated as having no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition is applied to the leave to enter and remain of most migrants in the UK as a legitimate means of maintaining and protecting our economic resources.

Information about NRPF is held on individual case files and to provide this information would require a manual search and would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold. Wider population data, such as that requested in relation to Glasgow Central, is not held by the Home Office.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-18/1910/>

Asylum: Glasgow East

David Linden (SNP) [2927] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are resident in Glasgow East constituency.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office publishes quarterly figures on the number of asylum seekers housed in dispersed accommodation, including under Section 95 and Section 4, by local authority in the Immigration Statistics release, in table as_16q and 17q in volume 4 of the Asylum data tables. These are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2019/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

The figures can not be broken down into individual constituencies, however there were 3982 asylum seekers supported under section 95 accommodated in Glasgow in June 2019. There are additional asylum seekers housed in Glasgow and supported by section 4 support. Figures for section 4 support are only available for the United Kingdom (available in link above).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2927/>

Asylum: Children

Steve McCabe (Labour) [4256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure the protection of (a) unaccompanied and (b) separated (i) refugee and (ii) asylum seeker children whose age is disputed when they arrive in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Regardless of age, all asylum claims lodged in the UK are carefully considered on their individual merits, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention.

Where clear and credible documentary evidence of age is not available, criteria including physical appearance and demeanour are used as part of the process to assess whether a person is under 18. The Home Office will treat a person claiming to be a child as an adult only where their physical appearance and demeanour very strongly suggest they are 25 years of age or over. When there is doubt about an individual's claim to be a child, Home Office policy is to refer them to the relevant local authority to carry out a careful "Merton compliant" age assessment, which must be carried out by two social workers and must adhere to guidelines set out by the Courts. Whilst this assessment is ongoing, the individual will be treated as a child with full access to the safeguards available to any child in the system, and the local authority or Health and Social Care Trust looking after the individual remains responsible for their care arrangements and the safeguarding of other children in their care.

The Home Office keeps its policies and processes under review, and we remain committed to striking the right balance between ensuring that children who claim asylum are appropriately supported and maintaining the integrity of the asylum system by preventing adults being treated as children.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4256/>

Detention Centres

David Lammy (Labour) [4248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many sites have been identified in addition to operational immigration detention centres for the administrative detention of (a) foreign nationals under immigration powers and (b) British nationals under emergency powers as part of her Department's contingency plans for the UK leaving the EU without a deal; and what the (a) addresses are and (b) estimated capacity is of each site.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: The Department has no such plans.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4248/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Crispin Blunt (Conservative) [2635] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps are being taken to (a) collect, (b) monitor and (c) publish data on LGBTQI+ people that have been detained under immigration powers.

Reply from Seema Kennedy: On the 29th November 2018 the Government published additional information on those held within the Immigration Detention Estate in direct response to the statement made by the Home Secretary, in July of that year, and committed to a full review of our published data to further improve transparency. We are to commence the public consultation element of that review in the coming months.

In addition, the new Atlas case working system is in development. Atlas will improve how cases are recorded, managed and reported and will improve the recording of gender.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2635/>

The information referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760222/IE_Q3_2018_Published_.ods

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

British Nationality

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL155] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that British citizenship is granted to stateless persons who fulfil the conditions of paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the British Nationality Act 1981 but who may be unable to obtain sufficient evidence of that.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To register a child under paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 of the British Nationality Act 1981 the Home Office needs to be satisfied that the statutory requirements are met, and will make relevant enquiries to establish the facts in each case.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-16/HL155/>

Immigration: British National (Overseas)

Lord Pendry (Labour) [HL52] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to bring forward legislation to ensure that all holders of British National Overseas passports have the right to enter the United Kingdom to work or study.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Holders of British National (Overseas) passports are non-visa nationals and can apply for the right to work or study in the UK. This means that they can enter the UK for six months or less without the need to obtain a visit visa but would need to apply from outside the UK, and meet the criteria, for any work or study route. The UK continues to support the 'One Country, Two Systems' model underpinned by the Sino-British Joint Declaration; the immigration status of BN(O)s is part of this agreement.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-14/HL52/>

British Nationality: Hong Kong

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL157] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in responding to the request of ex-Hong Kong servicemen for British citizenship for service to the Crown, following their meeting with the Home Office on 30 November 2018 and their supply, in early 2019, of the information requested by the Home Office.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under the British Nationality Selection Scheme, that was introduced in 1990 and ran until 1 July 1997, a limited number of Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who were settled in Hong Kong could apply to register as a British citizen. We are giving careful consideration to representations made on behalf of those former Hong Kong Military Service Corps personnel who were unable to obtain citizenship through the selection scheme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-16/HL157/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

English Language: Education

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL90] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether any of the funds pledged to the Integration Areas Programme in the September spending round will be used for the provision of childcare services for English for Speakers of Other Languages participants.

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL91] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much of the funds pledged for the Integration Areas Programme will be used for English for Speakers of Other Languages provision.

Reply from Viscount Younger of Leckie: At the September Spending Round, it was announced that MHCLG will be provided with an additional £10 million to create a second wave of Integration Areas in 2020/21.

As the Chancellor stated, MHCLG shall ensure that English language provision is a major component of these new areas - helping to support thousands of the estimated 1 million adults in the UK who do not speak English well or at all.

We shall bring forward further details on this second wave of the Integration Area programme in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL90/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-15/HL91/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL149] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to protect the interests of children of European citizens who are resident in the UK in the event of Brexit taking place (1) with, and (2) without, a deal.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government has been clear that we will protect the rights of EEA citizens resident in the UK before Brexit and their family members, regardless of whether we leave the European Union on 31 October with or without a deal. This includes the rights of EEA citizen children and of non-EEA national children of EEA citizens.

The EU Settlement Scheme will continue to operate as now for those resident here before Brexit and they will have until at least 31 December 2020 to apply for UK immigration status under the scheme. That status will enable them to continue to live in the UK and enjoy the same access to benefits and services as now.

Applications under the EU Settlement Scheme can be made by children, or by a

parent or legal guardian applying on their behalf, and can be based on the child's own residence in the UK or in line with that of a parent applying under the scheme. We are paying particular attention to how we communicate the EU Settlement Scheme to children and are undertaking research in partnership with the University of Liverpool to develop age-appropriate communications materials. We are also working with a range of children's rights organisations to benefit from their insight and use their networks to ensure wide access to these materials.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-16/HL149/>

Information about the EU Settlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Asylum: Finance

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL154] To ask Her Majesty's Government what criteria they use to determine whether an applicant for section 4 asylum support should be considered particularly vulnerable; what is the target timescale for an asylum seeker who is deemed to be vulnerable to receive that support under Home Office guidelines; and what was the average time taken for a payment to be made after an application for support by an applicant that met that criteria in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Asylum Seekers (Reception Conditions) Regulations 2005 define a vulnerable person as:

- A minor
- A disabled person
- An elderly person
- A pregnant woman
- A person who has been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence;
- A person who has had an individual evaluation of his situation that confirms he/she has special needs.

Accommodation providers are also contractually required to take account of any particular circumstances and vulnerability of those that they accommodate. The definition of vulnerability in the contracts is the same as the one set out in the 2005 Regulations.

The particular circumstances of other supported asylum seekers and their dependants who may have other particular vulnerabilities are also carefully considered, for example because they have care needs or health problems that require a need for a specific type of accommodation or accommodation in a particular location. Further details regarding these policies can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asylum-accommodation-requests-policy>

We aim to decide most of these applications within 5 working days, or 2 days of the Home Office reviewing the application if the person is vulnerable, but some take longer because of the need to make further enquiries to establish that the person is eligible to receive the support.

The Home Office monitors closely the performance of asylum support application decision making and has a range of targets for processing support applications depending on the nature of the application being made. However information on processing times is not recorded in a format suitable for publication. We are currently in the process of embedding a new system and reporting tools and once this has been implemented we will review our reporting processes,.

[Accommodation Requests policy](#)

UK Parliament Petition

Windrush [P002502]

The petition of Residents of the United Kingdom, Declares that the Prime Minister has spoken at great length recently about her legacy; further that if she leaves office before resolving the Windrush scandal and the many outstanding cases, then this will be her legacy; further that the Prime Minister should offer more than warm words and take action to solve the crisis she created; further that in 1948, individuals throughout the British Empire received citizenship under the British Nationality Act; further that these citizens, some from the Caribbean, came to the United Kingdom in order to help rebuild the country after the war; further that these citizens lived here, worked here and raised families here; further that the hostile environment policy accelerated during Mrs May's time as Home Secretary led to many of these citizens losing their rights and in some cases being deported back to the Caribbean; further that others lost jobs, were forced into debt and suffer from immense stress and fear because of the policy; further that the former Home Secretary Amber Rudd said in April 2018 that it would only take two weeks to resolve the Windrush cases, however over a year has passed and there is still a significant number of outstanding cases; further that what has been done to these British citizens is outrageous, unfair and must end; further that a change.org petition initiated by Dawn Butler MP on this matter has received over 9,600 signatures.

The petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Prime Minister Theresa May and the Government to resolve all outstanding Windrush cases by Wednesday 24th of July. ...

Observations from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Seema Kennedy): This Government have apologised for the harm suffered by the Windrush generation and have vowed to right the wrongs that had been done to them.

On 16 April 2018, the Home Office established the Windrush taskforce in order to give people the documents they need to demonstrate their status here. As part of this we gave an undertaking to complete applications within two weeks of receiving all the evidence being gathered. Usually this will be from the point that a person's biometrics are taken, although in some cases further evidence is supplied by the applicant or other sources after this point. The Home Office has always acknowledged that some decisions will fall outside these timescales due to their complexity.

In May 2018, we launched the Windrush scheme, giving a free route, with reduced requirements, to British citizenship. While we have reduced the requirements for individuals, the Home Office does make additional checks on citizenship applications than for applications for confirmation of status and, as a result, we have not stipulated a timescale for these decisions. We continue to process applications as quickly as possible with careful consideration being made to each application.

We have now granted status, including citizenship to over 8,100 people but applications continue to be made under the scheme, and that is why there is continued work in progress. However, the scheme has also invited some claims that are without merit and a number fall for refusal. None of the refusal decisions have been made lightly, and all decisions have had lengthy and detailed consideration. The decision to refuse in these cases has been checked and challenged extensively.

Further to the Windrush taskforce and the Windrush scheme, the Home Office launched the Windrush compensation scheme on 3 April 2019 which followed the launch of an

urgent and exceptional payment scheme on 17 December 2018.

On 26 September, the Home Secretary launched the Windrush advisory group, where community and faith leaders were brought together to advise on how the department can maximise the number of people applying to the Windrush compensation scheme. In September, we also launched the second phase of engagement and outreach to promote the compensation scheme and the wider work of the taskforce. Events are being held across the country, including in Lewisham, Liverpool, Sandwell, Leeds and Southwark. The Home Office is also attending some events in partnership with, and arranged by external partners. Full details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-compensation-scheme-and-taskforce-community-events>

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-31/debates/19103133000024/Windrush>

New Publications

Updated Guidance: Windrush Compensation Scheme

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842916/windrush-compensation-case-work-guidance-v.3.0ext.pdf

Updated Guidance: Moving to the UK after Brexit: EU citizens and their families

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-temporary-leave-to-remain-in-the-uk#history>

Letter from Brandon Lewis MP to Lord Morris of Aberavon KG QC regarding the EU Settlement Scheme

[http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0868/EU Settlement Scheme letter.pdf](http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2019-0868/EU_Settlement_Scheme_letter.pdf)

The Home Office response to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's report: An inspection of Border Force operations at Glasgow and Edinburgh airports January – March 2019

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840085/Government response to ICIBI inspection of Border Force operations at Glasgow Edinburgh Airports v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/840085/Government_response_to_ICIBI_inspection_of_Border_Force_operations_at_Glasgow_Edinburgh_Airports_v2.pdf)

News

EU citizens in Scotland not applying for settled status due to 'incredulity': Mike Russell

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/eu-citizens-in-scotland-not-applying-for-settled-status-due-to-incredulity-mike-russell-1-5036474>

Applying for settled status 'offensive' and 'wounding' for EU citizens, MSPs told

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18005974.applying-settled-status-offensive-wounding-eu-citizens-msps-told/>

Statement on Serco Lock Change Evictions

<https://www.paih.org/statement-on-serco-lock-change-evictions/>

Asylum seekers left with no heating in rat-infested homes due to 'failing' new Home Office contract, charities warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-home-office-accommodation-migrant-help-a9180896.html>

Lorry deaths: police face trust problem over appeal to Vietnamese migrants
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/31/modern-slavery-cannot-be-tackled-if-victims-treated-as-criminals>

Lorry deaths: Father demands justice for his daughter, 19, in tragedy
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-30/news/lorry-deaths-father-demands-justice-for-his-daughter-19-in-tragedy-ss3th2zrd>

Brothers Ronan and Christopher Hughes wanted in Essex lorry deaths investigation
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-30/news/brothers-ronan-and-christopher-hughes-wanted-in-essex-lorry-deaths-investigation-67j3smv5c>

Essex lorry deaths: We must do much more than catch the people-smugglers
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/essex-lorry-deaths-we-must-do-much-more-than-catch-the-people-smugglers-christine-jardine-1-5033298>

The 39 people who died in the lorry were victims. Why does the law treat them as criminals?
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/29/39-people-lorry-victims-law-criminals-immigration-slavery>

Vietnamese migrants are not 'lured' by traffickers. They just want a better future
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/30/vietnamese-migrants-traffickers-deaths-lorries-britain-immigration-policy>

Channel migrants refuse French navy rescue so they can come to the UK
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/10/28/channel-migrants-refuse-french-navy-rescue-can-come-uk/>

Human trafficking action partnership at Glasgow Airport suspended 'due to Brexit'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18006526.human-trafficking-action-partnership-glasgow-airport-suspended-due-brexit/>

'A dizzying maze': how the UK immigration system is geared to reject
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/nov/01/dizzying-maze-uk-immigration-system-hostile-environment>

AI system for granting UK visas is biased, rights groups claim
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/oct/29/ai-system-for-granting-uk-visas-is-biased-rights-groups-claim>

I was a child refugee rescued from the Jungle
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2019-10-29/news/i-was-a-child-refugee-rescued-from-the-jungle-but-traffickers-and-smugglers-still-prey-on-children-h3fb3h6gl>

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Community Relations

UK Parliament Debate

Gujarati Community in the UK

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-30/debates/A4600766-5134-4B74-9F88-3E80B92A9767/GujaratiCommunityInTheUK>

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Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equality

Caroline Lucas (Green) [5427] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to the Equality Act 2010, what assessment she has made of the effect of leaving the EU on people in the UK in respect of (a) age, (b) disability, (c) gender reassignment, (d) pregnancy and maternity, (e) race, (f) religion or belief (g) sex and (h) sexual orientation; and if she will make a statement.

Victoria Atkins: The Government is committed to retaining all the protections in the Equality Act 2010 and equivalent legislation in Northern Ireland, when we leave the EU, so our leaving will have no effect on protections against discrimination, harassment or victimisation in relation to any of the protected characteristics listed in the Question.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-25/5427/>

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Ethnic Groups

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [6482] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy what future plans she has to set targets to increase BAME representation on local enterprise partnership boards.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) must be accountable to their area and representative of the communities they serve. The 2018 Government Review – Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships – set out what LEPs should themselves do to improve the diversity of their Chairs and board members, in terms of protected characteristics, gender and also in drawing from a more diverse representation of sectors. Through the publication of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework (2019) and LEP Annual Performance Reviews we will hold LEPs to account for achieving that.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-28/6482/>

Young Offenders: Minority Groups

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [4968] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how much funding has been spent on projects aimed at (a) improving data on racial disparities within the justice system, (b) improving judicial diversity, (c) conducting academic research on methods for reducing racial disparities and (d) reducing racial disparities in the youth justice estate, in each year since the publication of the Lammy Review in September 2017.

Reply from Wendy Morton: Efforts to better understand and tackle racial disparity in the Criminal Justice system are typically resourced as part of the mainstream responsibilities for Ministry of Justice and partner organisations, without dedicated

budget(s). As such we have not been able to isolate the spend requested. Some additional commentary follows.

On a) per Government's response to David Lammy's review of the treatment of BAME people in the CJS, we remain committed to publishing more and better data to inform us on issues of racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

On b) Ministry of Justice is funding a three year programme, the Pre-Application Judicial Education programme, to support improving judicial diversity at a cost of £300,000 over financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21. The Judicial Appointments Commission also lead on initiatives to support diversity in the judiciary including outreach events.

On c) as a matter of course our work on tackling racial disparities engages with academics and their research.

On d) we have taken a range of steps to integrate activity to reduce racial disparities within the youth custodial estate in to the work of establishments and to drive improvements. This includes having dedicated equalities staff in Youth Offender Institutions and Secure Training Centres. We also have specific members of staff based at head-quarters, both within the Ministry of Justice and the Youth Custody Service, who consider the needs of BAME children, develop and implement improvement initiatives and feed into wider policy and delivery work. Examples include, the appointment of a Senior Policy Advisor: BAME Development lead to help address Recommendations 28 and 29 of the Lammy Review, on the recruitment of BAME staff; the YCS mandating the take-up of unconscious bias training for senior managers across public sector establishments, the commissioning and introduction of 'debiasing training' for key staff; and the inclusion of a problem-solving approach to complaints (Lammy Review Recommendation 27) in the new Youth Custody Service framework for behaviour support.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4968/>

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

Department of Health and Social Care: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2777] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Caroline Dinéage: As part of our commitment to achieving a workforce representative of the society we serve and providing equality of opportunity, we monitor representation of all protected characteristics across the department. Providing diversity information relies on employees voluntarily completing their diversity information on our electronic Human Resources system and we continue to encourage staff to complete their self-declaration.

The declaration rate for faith and belief within the Department is 58%, which is 937 members of Departmental staff as of 23 October 2019 and therefore, it should be noted that the information provided below refers only to staff who have completed their self-declaration. This information refers only to Departmental staff and does not include staff from our executive agencies or arm's length bodies.

The number of Departmental staff who have declared their faith and belief as Muslim, which we have grouped into grades to ensure that we do not disclose personally identifiable information, are:

- Administrative Officer – Grade 7 – 37; and
- Senior Civil Servant – less than five.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2777/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Cabinet Office: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2779] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Prime Minister: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2797] To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Simon Hart: As set out in the Civil Service Workforce Plan 2016-2020, the Civil Service is an inclusive employer. The Civil Service and the Cabinet Office are committed to becoming more inclusive and it is a key pillar of the Cabinet Office People Strategy.

The tables in Annex A show the number of CO employees declaring their religion as Islam as of September 30th 2019. The second table shows what ethnicities have been declared where people have identified their religion as Islam broken down by paygrade. The second table shows how people declaring Islam as their religion have recorded their ethnicity.

Please note that due to General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) we have not been able to disclose values less than 10. These have been shown as a grey square.

Please also refer to data from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES), which provides detail on the number of civil servants reporting their religion by department or grade but not by the two measures combined. It also provides detail on the number of civil servants from an ethnic minority background by department and grade. Latest figures are as at March 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/civil-service-statistics-2019>

[Annex A](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2779/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2797/>

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2780] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Jake Berry: As of 30 September 2019, 79 of the Department's employees identified themselves as Muslim and of Islamic faith

Table one illustrates the ethnic background of staff who have declared their religion as Muslim using the Department's employee self-service system. The overall declaration rate for religious identity was 66.4 per cent as of 30th September 2019. Staff who choose not to disclose their religion or are yet to review their diversity information are not included in the overall declaration rate.

Table 1 - Ethnicity	Muslim
Ethnic Minority	73
White	0
Not Known	6
Grand Total	79

Table two illustrates those who identify as Muslim by Civil Service equivalent grade. Numbers of five or less have been hidden and replaced with ‘***’ in the interest of compliance with data protection legislation.

Grade	Muslim
Administrative Officers	**
Executive Officers	22
Higher Executive Officers	32
Senior Executive Officers	9
Grade 7	9
Grade 6	**
Senior Civil Service	**
Grand Total	79

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2780/>

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2781] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many staff in her Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Nigel Adams: The attached table refers to the Core Department only and does not include non-ministerial departments. The declaration rate for religion is 68% so this does not reflect the department as a whole. The breakdown of staff who have reported their religion as Islam by grade and ethnicity declaration is as follows (figures have been suppressed when fewer than 5 individuals are part of a group).

The Civil Service Workforce Plan 2016-2020 set out the ambition to be the UK’s most inclusive employer. To deliver this objective the Government published “A Brilliant Civil Service: becoming the UK’s most inclusive employer” in October 2017, which committed to focusing on faith and belief as part of our wider approach to inclusion.

[Table of Ethnicity](#)

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2781/>

The Workforce Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/536961/civil_service_workforce_strategy_final.pdf

Treasury: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2783] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Simon Clarke: As at the 30th September 2019, 54 civil servants employed by HM Treasury were recorded with Muslim as their self-declared religious group.

The ethnicity breakdown is:

- Asian - Bangladeshi 18
- Asian - Indian Fewer than 10
- Asian - Pakistani 15
- Black - African Fewer than 10
- Mixed - Asian and White Fewer than 10
- Other Arab Fewer than 10
- Other Asian background Fewer than 10
- Other Black background Fewer than 10
- Other ethnic background Fewer than 10
- Other Mixed ethnic background Fewer than 10
- Not Known Fewer than 10

The grade breakdown is:

- Range B Fewer than 10
- Range C 15
- Range D 25
- Range E Fewer than 10
- Range E2 Fewer than 10

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2783/>

Home Office: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many staff in her Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Home Office staff have the option to identify as “Muslim” on our HR system rather than identifying their religion as “Islam”. Our records show at 30 September that 2070 Home Office staff identify as Muslim. They identified according to the following ethnicities:

Ethnicity	Headcount
Asian or Asian British	1,756
Black or Black British	101
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	67
Mixed	44
Prefer not to say	43
White	59
Total	2,070

Additionally, the 2070 Muslim staff are broken down into the following Civil Service grades:

Grade	Headcount
AA	57
AO	614
EO	891
HEO	280
SEO	146
G7	68
G6	9
SCS	5
Total	2,070

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2785/>

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2786] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Christopher Pincher: The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) employs around 13,000 staff, around 5,000 of whom are UK-based and 8,000 local staff. The FCO only holds diversity data centrally for UK-based staff. According to March 2019 data from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (ACSES), available publicly online, 4.5 per cent of UK-based FCO staff identified as Muslim, excluding Wilton Park and FCO Services staff. This 4.5 per cent figure does not include 'do not wish to declare' responses. According to the ACSES survey, the FCO's reporting rate for religion or belief was 65.3 per cent in March 2019, excluding both blank and 'do not wish to declare' responses.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2786/>

Department for Exiting the European Union: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2787] To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from James Duddridge: DExEU is committed to being a diverse and inclusive organisation. We welcome staff from all backgrounds and religions. We are committed to ensuring that staff from all religions find DExEU to be a supportive and inclusive place to work which is evidenced by the work from our Religious Diversity network and Diversity & Inclusion Strategy.

Based on self-declaration rates on the Department for Exiting the European Union's HR systems the number of staff in DExEU who declared their religion as Islam is 24. Of these 24 staff, 16 have declared their ethnicity as Asian/Asian British. Fewer than five have declared their ethnicity in any other group.

Of the 24 staff declaring their religion as Islam, the grade breakdown is:

7 B1 (EO Equivalent)

12 B2 (HEO/ SEO Equivalent)

Fewer than five have declared their religion as Islam in any other grade.

These figures are based entirely on staff voluntarily declaring their religion and ethnicity on the Department's HR systems.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2787/>

Ministry of Defence: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2788] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) publishes biannual statistics on diversity declarations for Armed Forces personnel and MOD civilian staff. The latest editions can be found at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-armed-forces-biannual-diversity-statistics-2019>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/mod-diversity-dashboard-2019>
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2788/>

Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Islam

Naz Sha (Labour) [2789] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, how many staff in her Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Nadhim Zahawi: BEIS is proud of our diversity and Inclusion policy and has a good record of employing staff from various religious background. The number of staff in BEIS who reported their religion as Islam is 90. This total is a mixture of all staff whose background is from Indian subcontinent (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan), African and European origin (English and other White background). The breakdown by grade is shown below:

Grade Breakdown of staff who declared Islam as Religion	No. of employees
Administrative Officer (AO)	3
Executive Office (EO)	26
Higher Executive Officer (HEO)	26
Senior Executive Officer (SEO)	11
Grade 7 Officer (G7)	17
Grade 6 Officer (G6)	2
Senior Civil Servant – (SCS1)	5
Grand Total	90

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2789/>

Department for International Trade: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2790] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, how many staff in her Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Conor Burns: There are 76 members of staff in the Department for International Trade (including UK Export Finance (UKEF) as at 30 September 2019 who have self-reported their religion as Muslim on departmental systems. The ethnicity and grades of those 76 people are shown below.

Ethnicity	Headcount
Asian	52
Any other ethnic group	10
Mixed	7
Black	Less than 5
Not Reported	Less than 5
Prefer not to say	Less than 5
White	Less than 5

Grade	Headcount
AA/AO	Less than 5
EO	18
HEO/SEO	36
G6/7	18
SCS	Less than 5

The tables above include civil servants working in the UK and paid via the DIT or UKEF payroll and UK based civil servants working overseas and paid via the Foreign and Commonwealth Office payroll and working on DIT objectives.

Where the number of people in any category is too small to be reported it has been redacted in order to prevent identification of individual and their protected characteristics.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2790/>

Department for Transport: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2791] To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Chris Heaton-Harris: The information has been provided for the Department and its Executive Agencies.

Information provided is self-reported and only includes those members of staff who have voluntarily provided information on their religion and ethnicity, which is not mandatory.

Where staff numbers are reporting less than 10, we have not released the exact figures in order to maintain anonymity.

Total No. Staff with reported religion as Muslim	210
Total No. Staff with reported religion as Muslim within each of the following ethnic groups:	
Bangladeshi	62
Indian	16
Pakistani	78
Any Other Asian Group	13
African	
Caribbean	
Any Other Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	
Chinese	
White and Asian	
Any Other White Group	
Any Other Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group	
Any Arab Group	
Other - Any Other Ethnic Group	
White-English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	
Prefer Not To Say	12
Total No. Staff with reported religion as Muslim within each of the following grades:	
AA	
AO	41
EO	52
HEO	47
SEO	42
G7	19
G6	
SCS	0

Department for Work and Pensions: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2792] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff in her Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Mims Davies: The [Civil Service Workforce Plan 2016-2020](#) set out the ambition for the Civil Service to become the most inclusive employer in the UK. We are already working towards this ambition and are embedding the commitments within [Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy: A Brilliant Civil Service: becoming the UK's most inclusive employer](#), within our day-to-day working practices with all our customers, colleagues and partners. This includes a commitment to focus on faith and belief as part of our wider approach to inclusion. DWP encourages all of its employees to provide details of their personal diversity information, however this action is voluntary and therefore we do not hold a complete picture of our workforce representation.

As at 30 September 2019, 46.2% of our workforce have positively shared their religious belief information, and 83.7% have shared information on their ethnicity. Due to the different reporting levels caution should be taken when drawing conclusions from this data.

Information has been provided using the 2011 Census in England and Wales 5 broad categories commonly referred to as ONS 5+1 (2011)

Number of Muslims by Ethnicity Category and Grade as at 30 September 2019									
Ethnicity Category	Grade								Grand Total
	A/AA	B/AO	C/EO	D/HEO	E/SEO	F/G7	G/G6	SCS	
Asian/Asian British	6	583	685	79	25	11	*	*	1395
Black African/ Caribbean/Black British		15	27	*	*				45
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group		13	18	*	*				36
Other Ethnic Group		9	14	5	*		*		32
Prefer not to say	*	14	28	*					44
White		8	19	*	*	*			34
Not Recorded		35	41	*					78
Grand Total	*	677	832	96	33	*	5	*	1664

* in line with Office of National Statistics guidance, the data has been suppressed where less than 5 people have contributed a response.

Department for International Development: Islam

Naz Shah (Labour) [2796] To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how many staff in his Department reported their religion as Islam in the latest period for which figures are available; what the reported ethnicity of those staff was; and how many of those staff were employed at each grade.

Reply from Andrew Murrison: The Department for International Development (DFID) employs around 3,500 staff, around 2,800 of whom are home civil servants. According to March 2019 data from the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

(ACSES), available publicly online, 1490 home civil service DFID staff have a known religion. Of these, 40 have identified as Muslim. This figure does not include 'do not wish to declare' responses. According to the ACSES survey, DFID's reporting rate for religion or belief was 52.6% in March 2019.

The ACSES provides published detail on the number of civil servants reporting their religion and ethnicity by department and by grade but not by the measures combined. We are therefore unable to provide published detail on the ethnicity of staff who declared as Muslim, or how many of these staff are employed at each grade.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2796/>

New Publications

Scottish Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2018–19

http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/media/1924/shrc_annual_report_2019_final_webaccessible.pdf

Civil Service proportion disabled and ethnic minority by organisation and grade

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/842555/Civil-Service-proportion-disabled-and-ethnic-minority-by-org-and-grade_1.xlsx

News

Black students more likely to engage in studies – but still attain lower degrees, study finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/black-students-degrees-universities-advance-he-study-a9179226.html>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-19662 Fulton MacGregor (SNP): Tackling Racial Harassment: Universities Challenged – That the Parliament notes the inquiry into racial harassment in publicly-funded universities by the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) conducted in 2019; welcomes the publication of the inquiry findings in the report, *Tackling Racial Harassment: Universities Challenged*; understands that 11% of students from an ethnic minority background studying at Scottish universities reported having experienced racial harassment; considers with regret that a disconnect exists between how victims and universities feel incidents of racial harassment are reported; supports the response by Universities Scotland, which has committed to tackling racial harassment with a series of actions, and considers that Scotland aspires to be a global destination of choice for people to live, study and work.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-19662>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/y6m3emb7>

Scottish Government Freedom of Information Release

Various questions surrounding Scottish Government antisemitism policy

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-201900004948/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Hate Crime

Chris Ruane (Labour) [4283] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2019 to Question 433, on Hate Crime, what assessment she has made of the reasons for the increase in hate crimes recorded by the police on the grounds of (a) race, (b) religion, (c) sexual orientation, (d) disability and (e) transgender identity from 2011-12 to 2018-19; and if she will make a statement.

Chris Ruane (Labour) [4284] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to reduce hate crime.

Chris Ruane (Labour) [4285] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of rates of hate crime recorded by each territorial police force in each year for which data is available.

Victoria Atkins: Police recorded hate crime has increased since these figures were first collected by the Home Office in 2011-12. This is largely due to improvements in police recording practices and more victims coming forward to report, but also recognising spikes following incidents like terrorist attacks. Increased reporting is a key theme of the Hate Crime Action Plan, to help ensure that victims receive the support they need, and offenders are brought to justice.

Information on hate crime offences recorded by the police forces in England and Wales can be found in Appendix Table 1 of the Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2018/19 statistical bulletin available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2018-to-2019>

In contrast, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (published last year) shows a downward trend in hate crime, which has fallen by 40% over the past decade.

We do however recognise that this might not be the experience within some communities, and that is why this Government remains committed to tackling all forms of hate crime.

The cross-Government Hate Crime Action Plan (Action Against Hate: The UK Government's plan for tackling hate crime) was published in 2016 and refreshed in October last year. This plan has improved the response to all forms of hate crime and the refreshed publication ensures a renewed commitment that victims remain at the heart of our work.

Some commitments within the Action Plan include just over £1.5 million for projects to tackle racially and religiously motivated hatred, launch of a public awareness campaign and asking the Law Commission to review hate crime legislation, among other important initiatives.

Following the attacks in Christchurch, the former Home Secretary increased the funding for the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme to £1.6m for 2019/20, double the amount awarded last year, announced a new £5m security training scheme for places of worship and committed to a public consultation to understand what more could be done to protect faith institutions. In September, the Chancellor announced a further £3.2m for the fifth year of the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme for 2020/21.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4283/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4284/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4285/>

The Action Plans referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543679/Action_Against_Hate_-_UK_Government_s_Plan_to_Tackle_Hate_Crime_2016.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Universities: Racial Discrimination

Steve McCabe (Labour) [4255] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps the Government is taking to protect university staff from racial abuse.

Paul Farrelly (Labour) [4286] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's report entitled, Tackling harassment: universities challenged; and what steps he is taking to ensure that university staff receive adequate training to deal effectively with racial harassment.

Chris Skidmore: Racial harassment is unacceptable, and we cannot tolerate staff and students being victims of it at our world-leading universities. There is no place in our society - including within higher education - for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism. Universities have clear responsibilities in this regard.

Higher education providers are independent and autonomous organisations. Like all employers, higher education providers have responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) in relation to their staff. We expect them discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, and to investigate and swiftly address all hate crime.

We encourage providers to make use of tools such as the Race Equality Charter and the Race at Work Charter to identify and address institutional and cultural barriers that affect minority ethnic staff and students.

The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers recognises the need to create and develop positive environments and cultures in which all researchers can flourish and achieve their full potential. This includes having effective policies and practice for tackling discrimination, bullying and harassment and providing appropriate support for those reporting issues.

By improving the representation, progression and success of minority ethnic staff within higher education we can ensure that everyone who has the potential to thrive at university, both as a student and as a member of staff, does so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4255/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4286/>

The Charters referred to above can be read at
<https://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/race-equality-charter/>
and

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747522/Race at Work Charter.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747522/Race_at_Work_Charter.pdf)

The Concordat referred to above can be read at

[https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat/Download Concordat Print-Ready/@@download/file/Researcher-Development-Concordat PrintReady.pdf](https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat/Download_Concordat_Print-Ready/@@download/file/Researcher-Development-Concordat_PrintReady.pdf)

Universities: Racial Discrimination

Jim Cunningham (Labour) [4262] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to ensure that universities investigate all complaints made by students and staff about racism at universities.

Reply from Chris Skidmore: Racial harassment is unacceptable and we cannot tolerate staff and students being victims of it at our world-leading universities. There is no place in our society - including within higher education (HE) – for hatred or any form of harassment, discrimination or racism. Universities have clear responsibilities in this regard.

HE providers in England are independent and autonomous. They are responsible for addressing student complaints and for meeting their responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010. The government expects providers to discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to handle student complaints, comply with the law and to investigate and swiftly address incidents reported to them.

Where a student complaint cannot be resolved through the institution's complaint processes, the student can ask for their complaint to be reviewed by the Office for the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) for HE in England. As a result of the government's recent HE reforms, all HE providers on the HE Regulator's register, the Office for Students (OfS), are required to join the OIA.

The government will continue to work closely with partners, including Universities UK and the OfS, to drive progress on matters of racial harassment in HE.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-23/4262/>

Armed Forces: Racial Harassment

Jim Shannon (DUP) [2722] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to tackle incidences of racial abuse in the armed forces.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: The Armed Forces do not tolerate racist behaviour in any form. All allegations of illegal or inappropriate behaviour are taken extremely seriously and investigated thoroughly. We have a range of initiatives to stamp out this kind of behaviour, including stepping up education programmes including diversity and inclusion training, reviewing our internal disciplinary procedures and raising awareness about available support. However, we recognise we need to do more; earlier this year we adopted the recommendations of Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Michael Wigston's report on inappropriate behaviours, including recommendations on immersive culture and behaviour training at the start of service and at regular intervals throughout, and more training on 'bystanders' so that people have the skills and confidence to intervene when they see inappropriate behaviour. We have established a new team in Defence which will oversee the implementation of ACM Wigston's recommendations.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-21/2722/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/817838/20190607_Defence_Report_Inappropriate_Behaviours_Final_ZKL.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Racial Discrimination: Football

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour) [HL180] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many football-related racist incidents were recorded in each year since 2009.

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour) [HL181] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to investigate the possibility of increasing the penalties for football-related racist attacks and incidents.

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour) [HL182] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the Football (Disorder) Act 2000 with a view to increasing penalties for racist incidents.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: We abhor racism, which has no place in football and must not be tolerated. Racist chanting or abuse may be an offence under section 3 of the Football (Offences) Act 1991 or sections 4, 4A or 5 of the Public Order Act 1986. Offences under sections 4 and 4A of the 1986 Act carry a maximum penalty of six months' imprisonment and are capable of being charged as a racially or religiously aggravated offence. In addition, the court must impose a preventative Football Banning Order following conviction for these offences if making an order would help to prevent football-related violence or disorder. Football Banning Orders prohibit the subject from attending regulated football matches for between three and ten years and can impose additional conditions if necessary.

Data on police reported football-related racist incidents for football seasons 2012/13 to 2018/19 is shown in the table below. No earlier data is available. During the 2017/18 football season, the Home Office's UK Football Policing Unit commenced a new working arrangement with the Football Association and Kick It Out to ensure police are aware of football-related racist incidents that otherwise would not have been reported.

Season	Number of police reported football-related racist incidents
2012/13	94
2013/14	99
2014/15	78
2015/15	68
2016/17	70
2017/18	94
2018/19	152

We have a strong legal framework in place to deal with the perpetrators of racism and other hate crime. The Law Commission is carrying out a full review of the coverage and approach of current hate crime legislative provisions, including in the context of football.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-17/HL180/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-17/HL181/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-17/HL182/>

Muslims: Discrimination

Yasmin Qureshi (Labour) [4975] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, with reference to the Integrated Communities Action Plan published in February 2019, whether his Department has facilitated meetings between the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group and the Independent Press Standards Organisation to help them to develop guidance for editors and journalists to tackle unnecessary negative portrayals of Muslims in the media.

Reply from Jake Berry: Members of the Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group continue to engage with the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) on the development of guidance for editors and journalists on the reporting of Muslims in the media. Members are currently working with IPSO to develop and refine the guidance. This work is an important contribution towards commitments set out in the Integrated Communities Action Plan and Government's Hate Crime Action Plan refresh.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4975/>

The Integrated Communities Action Plan, referred to above can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778045/Integrated_Communities_Strategy_Govt_Action_Plan.pdf

The Hate Crime Action Plan refresh, referred to above, can be read at
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL176] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to encourage the reporting of hate crime, and (2) to achieve successful prosecutions for hate crime.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Police recorded hate crime has more than doubled over the period 2012/13 to 2018/19, with 103,379 hate crimes being recorded in 2018/19- an increase of 10 per cent compared with 2017/2018 (94,121 offences). This increase is thought to be driven largely by improvements in police recording practices, as well as better identification of hate crimes, willingness of victims to come forward, and a genuine increase in these offences around certain events. Better recording is an important part of how to tackle hate crime and support victims.

However, this Government recognises that there is no room for complacency given the impact of hate crimes on victims, their families and wider communities. The Hate Crime Action Plan refresh published in October 2018 sets out a comprehensive plan for tackling the issue. This includes work under 5 key themes: preventing hate crime by challenging beliefs and attitudes; responding to hate crime within our communities; increasing the reporting of hate crime; improving support for victims of hate crime; and building our understanding of hate crime.

A number of steps have been taken to improve the effectiveness of prosecutions. The CPS has delivered mandatory face to face training for prosecutors and conducts assurance checks on hate crime cases to ensure they are dealt with effectively. The CPS Hate Crime Annual Report shows that the conviction rate for hate crime prosecutions remains steady at 84.3% and the proportion of cases where the CPS was successful in achieving uplifted sentences increased from 67.1% in 2017-18, to 73.6% in 2018-19.

Work includes supporting reporting mechanisms such as the police reporting portal TrueVision, the online hate crime hub and third party reporting centres like Tell MAMA as well as improving general understanding of hate crime through activities like the public awareness campaign.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-17/HL176/>

The Action Plan refresh referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748175/Hate_crime_refresh_2018_FINAL_WEB.PDF

The CPS report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/CPS-Hate-Crime-Annual-Report-2018-2019.PDF>

Universities: Racial Harassment

Lord Boateng (Labour) [HL347] To ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they will make in response to the report of the Equality and Human Rights Commission Tackling Racial Harassment: Universities Challenged, published on 23 October.

Reply from Baroneess Berridge: Racial harassment is unacceptable and we cannot tolerate staff and students being victims of it at our world-leading universities.

Higher education providers have clear responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and should discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, to investigate and swiftly address incidents reported to them.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) inquiry has made an important contribution to our knowledge of the extent of racism in higher education. The government will look closely at EHRC's recommendations. Although some progress has been made, it is clear there is still more to do. Universities have clear responsibilities in this regard and I expect them to take these seriously.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL347/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/tackling-racial-harassment-universities-challenged.pdf>

Universities: Racial Harassment

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL370] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with Universities UK about the steps it is taking to reduce racial abuse on campuses.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: Racial harassment is unacceptable and we cannot tolerate staff and students being victims of it at our world-leading universities. Higher education providers have clear responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and should discharge their responsibilities fully and have robust policies and procedures in place to comply with the law, to investigate and swiftly address incidents reported to them.

The government will continue to work closely with partners, including Universities UK (UUK) and the Office for Students (OfS), to drive progress on matters of racial harassment and hatred in higher education. Department for Education officials meet with UUK and OfS at least quarterly to discuss progress on this area, drive momentum and communicate the government's priorities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-23/HL370/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Keith Vaz (Labour) (67) Racist abuse on social media against Hamza Choudhry – That this House condemns the online abuse on social media directed at Leicester City Football Club's midfielder Hamza Choudhry during the Premier League match against Liverpool FC on 5th October 2019; expresses its solidarity with Mr Choudhry and applauds the decision of Liverpool FC's management to report the shocking posts to the Police and to Twitter; notes that earlier this season football players including Paul Pogba, Marcus Rashford and Tammy Abraham have received similar outrageous treatment; observes that there were 442 cases of discrimination in professional and grassroots football in 2018/2019, 65% of which were racist; agrees that discriminatory behaviour has no place in football and society; and calls on the Football Association, the Government and the directors of social-media platforms to take the strongest possible course of action to clamp down on the horror of racism.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/53415/racist-abuse-on-social-media-against-hamza-choudhry>

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: Hate Crime Statistics

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8537/CBP-8537.pdf>

Appendices

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8537/Hate-Crime-Appendices.xlsx>

News

Scotland is not this anti-racist utopia that we pretend it is

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17997473.scotland-not-anti-racist-utopia-pretend/>

Racism in schools: 'Get back to Africa' among racist abuse revealed by Scots pupils

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18011281.racism-schools-get-back-africa-among-racist-abuse-revealed-scots-pupils/>

Birmingham mosque attacks: Man admits religiously aggravated damage

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-50252158>

Black History Month: 'I had to defend myself against racists'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-nottinghamshire-50209134/black-history-month-i-had-to-defend-myself-against-racists>

Halloween fancy dress shop slammed for selling "offensive" Nazi uniform

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/halloween-fancy-dress-shop-slammed-for-selling-offensive-nazi-uniform-1-5034214>

Fife man who uttered 'religious offending phrases' is banned from football matches

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/fife-man-who-uttered-religious-offending-phrases-is-banned-from-football-matches-1-5034191>

Do not shut down the debate on racism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/17999300.stuart-waiton-not-shut-debate-racism/>

Talk of 'anti-white sentiment' distracts from the fight against institutional racism
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/oct/28/agree-racism-anti-white-racial-harassment-ehrc>

'Little White Town' in Devon changes signposts over claims of racism
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/11/01/little-white-town-devon-changes-signposts-claims-racism/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

House of Commons Delegated Legislation Committee

Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England and Northern Ireland) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

The Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Zac Goldsmith): ... This statutory instrument, which was laid before the House on 7 October, makes simple and technical amendments to domestic legislation so that we meet our obligations under the UK-Ireland common travel area with regards to certificates of competence for slaughterers upon exit.

After exit day, a slaughterer will have to hold a certificate of competence issued by a UK-competent authority in order to work in the UK. This will ensure that any future changes we make will apply equally to all slaughterers operating in the UK. It will also ensure that we can take effective enforcement action, as currently only the member state that issued a certificate of competence can suspend or revoke it. ...

Animal welfare is a devolved issue. Each devolved Administration is responsible for its own regulations in this area, but I can inform the Committee that the Scottish and Welsh Governments have made similar amendments. ...

David Drew (Labour Co-op): ... It is important to bear in mind that this is part of a wider debate ... The British Veterinary Association, in which I declare an interest as an associate, is very clear about the need to introduce stunning of all animals killed at slaughter. It would be worth while exploring where we are on this whole issue. We had a petition debate, and it is something that some of us feel very strongly about. I know about halal and shechita religious exemptions, but it important that we have some way of knowing that the Government have in hand the direction of travel that the general public want us to take, which is that only animals that are stunned are slaughtered, and that they are willing to talk to the Jewish community and the Muslim community to see if there is at least some compromise. ...

The most difficult bit of the meat trade is that animals are slaughtered, and we would hope they are slaughtered as humanely as possible. ...

Zac Goldsmith: ... The hon. Gentleman mentioned the quality of animal welfare standards applied within slaughterhouses. He is right about that. We have done several things, including mandating the use of CCTV in all slaughterhouses. It is hard to imagine that that has not had a significant impact on the behaviour of slaughtermen in those establishments. ...

The hon. Gentleman mentioned the more complicated issue of stunning pre-slaughter. He finished by saying that we should try to find a mechanism to bring the stakeholders together to see if we can find a solution that respects religious freedom and has an eye to animal welfare. The previous Secretary of State initiated a series of roundtables with stakeholders from across the board. Those discussions continue and I am now involved

in them. I have had some very good meetings with stakeholders in the last month. It is not the right time to pre-empt what we will deliver as a consequence of that, but we will deliver steps that I think will satisfy the stakeholders' concerns and improve animal welfare at the point of slaughter. I hope the hon. Gentleman will bear with me on that and I hope to talk more about it should I still be in this place in a few weeks' time ... but we are making progress. ...

To read the full transcript see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-29/debates/a0255034-6340-41e2-b3f2-5df2ae404b25/WelfareOfAnimalsAtTheTimeOfKilling\(EnglandAndNorthernIreland\)\(Amendment\)\(EUExit\)Regulations2019](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-10-29/debates/a0255034-6340-41e2-b3f2-5df2ae404b25/WelfareOfAnimalsAtTheTimeOfKilling(EnglandAndNorthernIreland)(Amendment)(EUExit)Regulations2019)

House of Lords Grand Committee

Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (England and Northern Ireland) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019

col 56GC Baroness Flather (Crossbench): ... There is a lot of ritual slaughter in this country, and I have no idea whether those who perform it are in any way regulated. Those who know anything about slaughter for halal meat will know that it is not the way animals should be treated—a prayer has to be said while the neck is being separated from the body. It is just going on, and we do nothing about it.

The other thing is that some halal meat—the majority, some say—is, I cannot remember the word—

Lord De Mauley (Conservative): Pre-stunned.

Baroness Flather: I thank the noble Lord. I said to the last Secretary of State that meat that is available as halal or pre-stunned should be labelled. He said that that might reflect badly on Muslims. But they too want it to be labelled because the very conservative Muslims will not eat pre-stunned halal. They will eat only halal meat where the neck was cut off while prayers were being said. It is time we looked at that, as it certainly goes against animal welfare.

Really, everything should be labelled. We have always labelled everything in this country; why do we not label halal? Everyone says that all the takeaways now serve halal because they want Muslims to buy it. That is fine, but we should know. Everybody should know what they are eating. People like me who will not buy halal because of the ritual slaughter should also know whether we are eating halal. I would very much like the Minister to look at this issue, which has just been brushed under the carpet: “Oh, we do not want to upset the Muslims”. Why not? They are living in this country; they should conform to our standards.

The Earl of Cathness (Conservative): My Lords, I support the point made by the noble Baroness about stunning animals before slaughter ...

col 60GC Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen (Conservative): ... The Government will not accept labelling changes that could put up the cost of food for religious communities. We expect industry to provide consumers with the information to enable them to make informed choices about the food they eat. The Government are aware that there is public concern about meat from animals being slaughtered in accordance with religious beliefs being sold to consumers who do not require their meat to be prepared in that way. My right honourable friend the Minister, Zac Goldsmith, was asked a similar question when this SI went through in the House of Commons. He said:

“The previous Secretary of State initiated a series of roundtables with stakeholders from across the board. Those discussions continue and I am now involved in them. I have had some very good meetings with stakeholders in the last month. It is not the right time to pre-empt what we will deliver as a consequence of that, but we will deliver steps that I think

will satisfy the stakeholders' concerns and improve animal welfare at the point of slaughter". ...

Baroness Flather: Will we be able to know what we are eating? I want to know what I am eating. We have always had that in this country. We always tell people what they are eating. There are many countries where horses are normally eaten, but here there was a big hoo-hah about it. Why should it bother the people for whom the ritual slaughter is done? They should be happy that they know what they are eating.

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: The Government are aware that there is public concern about that. I think that that is part of the round table discussions going on at the moment with my right honourable friend.

Lord Rooker (Labour): Are some of the round table discussions about the fact that all New Zealand lamb imported into the UK is halal, and it is all pre-stunned? Is it a fact that the meat used in the National Health Service is all halal and patients are never told and that the meat in prisons is all halal and prisoners are never told? Should they not be?

Baroness Flather: There is meat in schools as well.

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: I hear what the noble Baroness and the noble Lord say, and I will certainly take it back to the department. As I said earlier, it is being looked into. ...

col 61CG Baroness Flather: There is still the question of whether there is anything to look at the people who practise these ritual killings. Do we know anything about them, such as whether they are in any way competent?

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: Everybody who works in an abattoir is registered.

Baroness Flather: I am not talking just about people. Is there something for abattoirs? I do not know.

Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen: All abattoirs are registered. There certainly are some illegal ones, but they should not be allowed to practise. ...

Motion agreed.

To read the full transcript see

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-30/debates/D5A01CCA-BF95-476E-8981-692C690459A1/WelfareOfAnimalsAtTheTimeOfKilling\(EnglandAndNorthernIreland\)\(Amendment\)\(EUExit\)Regulations2019](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-10-30/debates/D5A01CCA-BF95-476E-8981-692C690459A1/WelfareOfAnimalsAtTheTimeOfKilling(EnglandAndNorthernIreland)(Amendment)(EUExit)Regulations2019)

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General Election

News

UK set for 12 December general election after MPs' vote

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-50229318>

General election 2019: A really simple guide

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-49826655>

Election 2019: Election words and phrases explained

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-50236141>

December election: What difference does winter make?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-50182015>

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Other News

'I was treated like a leper' - Asian cancer patient

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-50155143>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112632.aspx>

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111895.aspx>

**** Female Genital Mutilation (Protection and Guidance) (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/111850.aspx>

Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee Report on the Bill at Stage 1

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdneq.azureedge.net/published/DPLR/2019/10/31/Female-Genital-Mutilation--Protection-and-Guidance---Scotland--Bill--Stage-1/DPLRS052019R54.pdf>

UK Parliament

Immigration Detention Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigrationdetention.html>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompaniedasylumseekingchildrenlegaladviceandappeals.html>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Children (Scotland) Bill (closing date 15 November 2019)

<https://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/112981.aspx>

Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (closing date 17 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/looked-after-children-unit/independent-child-trafficking-guardians/>

Freedom of Information extension of coverage (closing date 22 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/freedom-of-information-extension-of-coverage/>

Widening the scope of the current victim statement scheme (closing date 24 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/justice/current-victim-statement-scheme/>

Financial Redress for Historical Child Abuse in Care (closing date 25 November 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/redress-survivor-relations/financial-redress-historical-child-abuse-in-care/>

Use of interpreters in the asylum process (closing date not stated)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-use-of-interpreters-in-the-asylum-process>

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

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

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

**** closing date for applications this week!**

St Andrew's Multi-Cultural Cup

1 December 2019 in Glasgow

Closing date for applications 4 November 2019

A 7v7 football tournament hosted by the Scottish FA and BEMIS that will see teams from across Scotland compete for the St. Andrew's Multi-Cultural Cup.

This year's event is themed around [St. Andrews Fair Saturday](#). After Black Friday, thousands of artists and cultural organisations around the world get together in a unique festival and support social causes through their show. Scotland is joining the celebration of Fair Saturday as part of the wider celebration of St Andrew's Day and everyone is invited to take part in St Andrew's Fair Saturday. St Andrew's Fair Saturday is a Scottish Government initiative which is being delivered by the Fair Saturday Foundation. Application form available from <https://bemis.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/sa-mcc-application.docx>

**** this week!**

Refugee rights to housing

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

**** this week!**

Scottish Interfaith Week: Eat Share Love

10-17 November 2019

Scottish Interfaith Week connects communities through a series of events encouraging dialogue, understanding, and co-operation between Scotland's religious communities. Get involved either by organising or attending an event and sharing your experience online using #SIFW19 For information see <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Age assessment awareness

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

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

20 November 2019 in Stirling (9.30-12.30)

PAiH training to explore fundamental issues of settled and pre-settled status, welfare and housing entitlements of EEA nationals. For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

20 November 2019 in Stirling (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training to explore how the asylum system works, the process involved in making a claim for asylum, 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>

Working with refugees and VPRS resettlement

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/zy436qr> or contact Martha Harding 0141 248 9799 / martha.harding@scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk

Engaging with seldom heard voices

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

Refugee community sponsorship

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

No Recourse to Public Funds

11 December 2019 in Glasgow (1.30-4.30)

PAiH training 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 where difficulties arise.

For information see <http://www.paih.org/training>

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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>

Refugee Survival Trust <https://www.rst.org.uk/>

Freedom from Torture <https://www.freedomfromtorture.org/>

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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