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Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

[Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination](#)

[Other Scottish Parliament and Government](#)

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Brexit](#)

[Other Publications](#)

[Other News](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Scottish Visa

Stewart Stevenson (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government how a new Scottish visa could address depopulation and skills shortages. (S5T-01981)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs (Fiona Hyslop): Scotland has distinct demographic and geographical needs, and it is clear that the current immigration system is not meeting the needs of our communities and employers. Countries such as Canada and Australia have successfully used regional migration schemes to attract and retain people with the skills that are needed to benefit local communities. A Scottish visa would allow the Scottish ministers, who are accountable to the Scottish Parliament, to develop a tailored policy within the United Kingdom immigration system to meet the needs of

Scotland.

Our proposals for a tailored migration policy are supported by local authorities, employers and universities across Scotland. The UK Government should engage positively and work with us to develop a system that meets our distinct needs.

Stewart Stevenson: Is the cabinet secretary aware that some 70 per cent of people who are employed in the north-east of Scotland's fish processing industry are non-UK nationals? With the number of vacancies already rising, how would a Scotland-specific scheme assist that vital industry, which is worth some £650 million a year to the Scottish economy?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: Stewart Stevenson raises a critical point in relation to the future success of that sector. The policy proposals for a Scottish visa are designed to be inherently flexible, to meet Scotland's varied labour needs, and we want to consult the industry and employers in developing the Scottish visa to meet those needs.

Similarly, we have made the case for a place-based route for migration to rural areas and, today, the UK Migration Advisory Committee has again recommended a pilot of a visa that could cater for industries in rural areas, such as the fish-processing industry in the north-east. We will work with the committee, and we are planning to commission the independent expert advisory group on migration and population to research the specifics of rural pilots and the operation of a place-based immigration route.

Stewart Stevenson: Has the Scottish Government looked at the experience of the devolved Government in Alberta, Canada, which has, through its immigrant nominee programme, a local scheme that operates within the country-wide immigration scheme, which is delivering different immigration criteria, and the benefits that Alberta derives from having its own scheme?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: We have, indeed. People may not have had the opportunity to read the paper on migration that was launched yesterday by the Scottish Government, along with the proposal for the Scottish visa, but it contains analysis of a number of different countries that have such a scheme—Canada is one of them. Pages 78 to 80 set out the proposals and how they work in other countries.

It is interesting that, in Alberta, the retention rate is as high as 82 per cent after five to eight years of residence. The paper that we put forward provides international examples of how such a scheme works in other countries. It is perfectly possible, and it is perfectly reasonable—all that we are asking for is a reasonable response from the UK Government to take it forward. ...

Donald Cameron (Conservative): The Scottish Conservatives believe in a UK-wide immigration system that also works for Scotland, which is why we previously argued for a system that reflects the needs of places that need migration—in particular, remote and rural communities and sectors that are reliant on migrant labour in places where there is no domestic workforce available.

Does the cabinet secretary agree with the Scottish Government's 2014 white paper on independence that a points-based system is one of the best mechanisms to achieve that?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: The member might not have had the chance to read the paper that was launched yesterday, which is about how prosperity for Scotland can be achieved through migration, but, if he takes the opportunity to do so, he will see in it our proposal for a points-based system, which is internationally recognised as a way forward.

It is interesting that the MAC's proposals, which came out today, do not contradict at all what the Scottish Government is proposing. They also recognise the importance of having the flexibility of a regional approach.

We think that the issues for Scotland are not just sectoral but national. Our

population issues are quite different. If there is to be a 50 per cent reduction in the number of EU migrants coming to this country, as has been suggested by the UK Government in previous debates, that would see a working-age increase for the UK of 4.9 per cent over the next 25 years but a reduction for Scotland of 1.9 per cent. We want to support rural and remote areas. Fourteen of our local authorities are facing depopulation. Although we want to have pilots in distinct geographical areas in Scotland, this is an all-Scotland issue that needs an all-Scotland solution.

Claire Baker (Labour): I welcome the publication of the Scottish Government's report. I thought that the Conservative Government's response was very disappointing, because, although I support immigration being reserved, I believe that there is room for workable flexibility in the current system.

In its statement yesterday, the Scottish Government recognised the importance of reaching agreement with the UK Government "on the need for a tailored policy".

What future steps does the Scottish Government plan to take to reach that, and is there room for Parliament to have a greater involvement in those discussions?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: I am keen to continue the positive cross-party engagement that we have had in Parliament so far, and to continue the positive engagement with the wider sector. So many of our businesses are small businesses. Yesterday, Andrew McRae, the Scotland policy chair of the Federation of Small Businesses Scotland, said: "The new paper from the Scottish Government is a timely and evidence-based intervention. It sets out a pathway towards a UK system that can flex for Scotland's distinct demographic and economic needs, without creating additional burdens for smaller businesses ... The UK Government should acknowledge that it is possible and desirable to enable its immigration system to respond to different regions and nations, as well as maintain strict border controls and a user-friendly system."

I do not think that anybody in this chamber would disagree with that statement. The problem is that yesterday, in a knee-jerk response, the UK Government dismissed our proposals. I am urging it strongly to rethink that position. The response was that the immigration system "will remain a reserved matter."

The proposals in our paper would take place within a UK system. Ideally, we would retain freedom of movement, but this is a very practical proposal for an additional system that would allow flexibility in Scotland. We will persist, and the more cross-party support that we have in this chamber, perhaps through debates and motions, the more we can try to engage the UK Government.

We are proposing something that has widespread support. We, in Scotland, would be best placed to implement pilots in some of these areas. The solution is one that we should pursue on a cross-party basis, and I thank Claire Baker for her interest to date.

Ruth Maguire (SNP): The UK Government's own Migration Advisory Committee acknowledged the need for regional variation with its recommendation for rural pilot schemes. Does the cabinet secretary agree that Scotland should host those pilots, to ensure that our rural areas can benefit from changes and not be further damaged by the Tories' hostile immigration environment?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: Yes, indeed. The Migration Advisory Committee took evidence from us and responded by saying that that should happen with those rural pilots. I have met a number of leaders of local authorities in Scotland who are keen, willing and able to take forward those pilots. I mentioned that we will commission the Scottish Government's independent expert advisory group on migration and population to look at the best examples of that, and we are taking that forward.

We need something very flexible to meet Scotland's needs, and that is what we will continue to pursue.

Kenneth Gibson (SNP): The Scottish Government's proposals have been welcomed

across the board by business organisations, universities and industry bodies. Even former Tory MP Stephen Kerr supports them, but the UK Government has dismissed them in record time. Does the cabinet secretary agree that that ill-informed response demonstrates that the UK Government is out of touch with the needs of the Scottish people and economy?

Reply from Fiona Hyslop: I thought that the response was deeply regrettable. It was a knee-jerk response that was given perhaps without reflection and certainly without consideration of the report's content. To be generous, I want to give the UK time to consider and study the actual proposals in the report and to continue to engage with it.

The UK Government's response represents a serious warning. If it cannot engage on something as reasonable as a flexible system that has support from different organisations, industries, universities, trade unions and other sectors in Scotland, how on earth can anybody think that its approach can ever be responsive to Scotland? We have set out the visa proposals in good faith. They are practical and doable, and they are supported in many respects by the previous conclusions of the Migration Advisory Committee.

The political writing is on the wall. Let us try to be as practical as possible in serving the people of Scotland. If the UK Government does not respond positively on this matter, the results will be of its own making.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12485&i=112854#ScotParlOR>

The proposals referred to above can be read at
<https://tinyurl.com/r44rdap>

Unaccompanied Child Refugees (Withdrawal Agreement)

Annabelle Ewing (SNP): To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on an amendment to the United Kingdom Government's withdrawal agreement that would allow unaccompanied child refugees to be reunited with their families in the UK. (S5O-04064)

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government (Aileen Campbell): I was shocked and saddened by—and totally disagree with—the UK Government's decision, backed by the Conservative party, to vote to defeat an amendment by Lord Dubs that would have reinstated a guarantee that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children could continue to join relatives in the UK after Brexit. Those children, many of whom have fled war and persecution, will either remain in migrant camps, where they are susceptible to further harm and exploitation, or take desperate measures to rejoin their families that are living in the UK, often taking dangerous routes that involve extreme risks to their lives.

Annabelle Ewing: I share the cabinet secretary's sadness at the regrettable fact that the Dubs amendment in the Lords was rejected by the UK Government. Given that that happened, what can the Scottish Government do to ensure that we in Scotland, unlike the callous UK Tory Government, do not turn our backs on vulnerable children who have families here?

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I heard some laughter from the Conservative benches at that serious question. It is sad that, following yesterday's consensual debate marking Holocaust memorial day, we are still seeing failures to step up and help those facing persecution.

Scotland has a long and proud history of welcoming asylum seekers and refugees from all over the world. We believe that that welcome should most obviously extend to unaccompanied children seeking asylum in Scotland. Those children are among the most vulnerable in the world. They have faced extraordinary levels of adversity to get here and they deserve to be supported and protected.

We will continue to press the UK Government to outline its plans for those most vulnerable children as soon as possible following the passing of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020. The UK Government made a commitment to rehome 480 children from migrant camps in Europe, but it seems to have turned its back on the world and those vulnerable children.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12488&i=112894#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Prime Minister's Questions

Carol Monaghan (SNP): Monday was Holocaust Memorial Day, when we remember those who suffered under Nazi persecution. During that dark time, Britain stood out as a beacon of hope, and 10,000 Jewish children came here with the Kindertransport. When the Prime Minister's Government rejected Lord Dubs' amendment on unaccompanied child refugees, Britain's beacon dimmed. Will the Prime Minister now devolve powers over immigration to Holyrood, to allow Scotland to be that beacon of hope?

The Prime Minister: The hon. Lady does a disservice to this country's reputation and record, because not only have we taken 41,000 unaccompanied children since 2010, but the whole country can be very proud of everything that we continue to do to commemorate the holocaust and what took place then.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-29/debates/821DAC2A-A644-40CF-86AE-5D8CB585640D/Engagements#contribution-3F8DB335-9CD3-4D3C-93A1-ACE537DDDAD4>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Afzal Khan (Labour) [7670] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 15 January 2020 to Question 1929 on Windrush Lessons Learned Review, what the timeframe is for her Department to receive the final report from Wendy Williams.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Windrush Lessons Learned Review is an independent review. The date on which the Department will receive the final report is a matter for the Independent Reviewer.

Once the report is received by the Home Secretary it will be published as soon as practicable.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-24/7670/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-10/1929/>

The following three question all received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Neil Coyle (Labour) [7217] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made to the Windrush Compensation Scheme to date.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [7218] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants to the Windrush Compensation Scheme (a) have received compensation, (b) have had their application declined and (c) are still awaiting a decision.

Neil Coyle (Labour) [7219] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what

estimate her Department has made of (a) the amount of compensation awarded under the Windrush Compensation Scheme to date and (b) the average amount of compensation awarded per application under that scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We will publish information on the total number of claims submitted, claims paid and the overall amount paid out by the scheme shortly, as noted in the Home Secretary's report to the [Home Affairs Select Committee](#) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/update-to-the-hasc-on-windrush-22-october-2019>.

We do not intend to publish information on the time taken between a claim being submitted and a decision or a payment being made on that claim – all claims are different, and the time taken will depend on many factors, including its complexity. We also often resolve part of a claim ahead of the rest of it if that part can be resolved more quickly, thereby speeding up the provision of compensation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7217/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7218/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7219/>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Neil Coyle (Labour) [7259] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to promote the Windrush Compensation Scheme to potential applicants.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Evidence and feedback from stakeholders has found that face-to-face communication is the preferred way to engage with affected communities on this issue. We work with key partners, community groups (faith and non-faith) and local councils to identify opportunities to both deliver, and to promote engagement events for people who have been affected, through our own communication channels as well as their own. This includes publication of events on gov.uk, promotion through social media and where appropriate, press releases and local press advertisements. Communications toolkits have also been sent to over 70 stakeholders as well as local authorities. Over 30 local engagement events have taken place across the UK between April and December 2019 at which members of the Taskforce and the Compensation Scheme have been present to explain what help and support is available to those affected and how to make a compensation claim.

The Home Office has also worked with Member of Parliament to arrange events in their constituencies and would welcome further opportunities to do so.

Following extensive engagement with Home Office staff and the diversity network, a staff volunteer network was established in May 2018, which has become a significant channel for outreach into affected communities. This network now has around 130 staff volunteers who engage with their own communities to promote the scheme.

To further inform our activity, we have also set up a Windrush Stakeholder Advisory Group to bring together influential community leaders across the country and seek their advice on our communications and engagement strategy to promote the

Windrush Compensation Scheme. The group was launched by the Home Secretary at a roundtable on 26 September 2019 and met again on 9 December 2019. The group will work collaboratively with the aim of having constructive dialogue and achieving tangible outcomes for the benefit of those affected.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7259/>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-compensation-scheme>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [8254] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 5 November 2019 to Question 4998 on Immigration: EU Nationals, whether the Government plans to share information with an external organisation for any purpose other than verifying the authenticity of a document.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Home Office is the data controller for all data processed within the EU Settlement Scheme. This includes where organisations are contracted to act on behalf of the Home Office. No other organisations have access to the personal information of applicants to the EU Settlement Scheme. The Home Office may share information with other organisations, but only where the information needs to be shared and there is an appropriate legal basis for doing so.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8254/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-24/4998/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [8255] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister of State for Security and Deputy for EU Exit and No Deal Preparation of 7 January 2020, official report, column 320, whether the definition of a good reason to miss the deadline for applications to the EU Settlement Scheme will be the same as that set out in the guidance published by the Home Office on 5 August 2019 entitled Applications from overstayers, version 8.0.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [8256] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether a person who meets the criteria for the EU Settlement Scheme but missed the deadline without a good reason will be eligible for settled or pre-settled status.

Reply from Brandon Lewis: The Government has made clear that, where a person eligible for leave under the EU Settlement Scheme has reasonable grounds for missing the application deadline of 30 June 2021, they will be given a further opportunity to apply.

As this is over 17 months away, our focus is on encouraging all those who need to apply to do so before the deadline. EU citizens can apply to the scheme, free of charge, simply by completing three key steps: proving their identity, showing that they live in the UK and declaring any criminal convictions. There is support available for any who need help in applying, including through the EU Settlement Resolution Centre, which is open seven days a week. However, our compassionate and flexible approach will ensure that individuals who miss the deadline through no fault of their own can still obtain lawful status in the UK. We will publish clear guidance for caseworkers in due course to ensure consistency of approach.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8255/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8256/>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-07/debates/C5ADC5C3-0008-4CBB-81D6-717666FC7C4B/EuropeanUnion\(WithdrawalAgreement\)Bill#contribution-BE35CBA5-3A1D-492F-9A76-3C7B07AF6644](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-07/debates/C5ADC5C3-0008-4CBB-81D6-717666FC7C4B/EuropeanUnion(WithdrawalAgreement)Bill#contribution-BE35CBA5-3A1D-492F-9A76-3C7B07AF6644)

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/823299/applications-from-overstayers-v8.0.pdf

Elections: EU Nationals

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [1802] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether EU citizens (a) with pre-settled or settled status and (b) without it will be eligible to (i) stand as candidates in and (ii) vote in local government elections in England and Wales in 2020, including the London Assembly election.

Reply from Chloe Smith: The UK Government has been clear that the issue of local voting rights of EU citizens living in the UK needs to be considered alongside the rights and interests of British expats living abroad.

The rights of EU citizens to vote and stand in local elections will not immediately change on exit from the EU. We are seeking reciprocal bilateral agreements to maintain this right. The Government has already signed reciprocal bilateral agreements with Spain, Portugal and Luxembourg to guarantee local voting and candidacy rights for UK nationals in those states. Together these three voting rights treaties protect the rights of a third of UK nationals living in EU Member States.

In that context the Government can confirm that resident EU citizens will be able to vote and stand in the May 2020 local elections in England (including London Assembly elections) and the May 2020 Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales. Those elected to office will be able to serve their full term and this will also apply to those elected before 2020.

The National Assembly for Wales is responsible for the franchise in local elections in Wales and elections to the National Assembly for Wales. The UK Government is responsible for the franchise in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in England and Wales.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-09/1802/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

NHS: Migrant Workers

David Lammy (Labour) [7098] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many migrants from EU countries have been employed by the NHS in England in each year from 2015 to date.

David Lammy (Labour) [7099] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many migrants from EU countries have been employed by the NHS in London in each year from 2015 to date.

Reply from Edward Argar: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services workforce statistics for England. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups, but not staff working in primary care, local authorities or other providers.

The following table shows the number of non-United Kingdom European Union nationals employed in the National Health Service in England and London as at September 2019, latest available data and each year since 2015, headcount.

-	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19
England	52,808	59,796	61,974	63,484	65,992
London	17,732	19,567	20,395	20,782	21,464

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7098/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7099/>

Teachers: Migrant Workers

David Lammy (Labour) [7107] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of teachers employed by the state sector are non-UK EU nationals.

Reply from Nick Gibb: The Migration Advisory Committee's report, 'A full review of the Shortage Occupation List (May 2019)', estimated that around 4% of secondary school teachers and around 2% of primary and nursery school teachers were born in the EEA (excluding the UK).

The Department publishes data on the nationality of Initial Teacher Training (ITT) trainees. In 2019-20, there were 28,859 postgraduate new entrants to ITT whose nationality was known (98% of all postgraduate new entrants). Of these, 5% (1,484) were EEA nationals (excluding the UK). This is the same proportion as in academic years 2018-19, 2017-18, and 2016-17.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7107/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806331/28_05_2019_Full_Review_SOL_Final_Report_1159.pdf

Agriculture: Migrant Workers

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [8335] To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many non- UK EU nationals worked in the agricultural sector in each of the last three years, by county.

Reply from George Eustice: The information requested at this level of detail is not held by Defra. However, we can provide information taken from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey which shows the number of EU/European Economic Area (EEA) nationals working permanently in the agricultural sector for the whole of the UK. These figures will not include seasonal workers living in communal or temporary accommodation.

The ONS Annual Population Survey showed that the number of EEA nationals working permanently in UK agriculture in each of the last three years was approximately 33,000 in 2017, 19,000 in 2018 and 18,000 in 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8335/>

Refugees: Syria

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [8411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it remains the Government's policy to resettle 20,000 Syrian refugees in Syria by the end of 2020; and how many Syrian refugees have been successfully resettled to date.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government committed to resettle 20,000 vulnerable refugees who have fled the conflict in Syria under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. Thanks to the efforts of local authorities and civil society, the UK is on track to deliver this important humanitarian commitment in 2020.

The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. These can be found at

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

Latest statistics published on 28 November 2019 show that a total of 18,252 people had been resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme since it began, across 317 local authorities.

The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 27 February 2020 and will cover the period up to December 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8411/>

Refugees: Children

Bridget Phillipson (Labour) [8249] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to permit unaccompanied refugees the right to family reunion in the UK.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Government already provides a safe and legal route to bring refugee families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

Refugees can also sponsor adult dependent relatives living overseas to join them where, due to age, illness or disability, that person requires long-term personal care that can only be provided by relatives in the UK. Further, there is discretion to grant visas outside the Immigration Rules, which caters for extended family members in exceptional circumstances – including young adult sons or daughters who are dependent on family here and living in dangerous situations.

These routes will not be affected by the UK's departure from the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8249/>

Asylum: Applications

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [7250] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average wait time is for people awaiting an initial asylum decision; and what plans her Department has to reduce that time.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office does not publish data on the average time taken to make an initial decision on an asylum application.

However, the Home Office does publish data on the number asylum applications awaiting an initial decision, by duration for more or less than 6 months. This data can be found at Asy_04, of the published Immigration Statistics September 2019:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-september-2019/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

The Home Office are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted on appeal.

Whilst we take steps to increase capacity and focus on process improvements to deliver better quality decisions more efficiently, we have moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required. The intention is for this approach to bring balance back to the asylum system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7250/>

Asylum: Applications

Alex Norris (Labour Co-op) [7252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of (a) the adequacy of Section 95 support for those awaiting an asylum decision and (b) the potential merits of restoring the right to work for applicants who have waited for six months or more for a decision on an asylum claim.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free accommodation and a cash allowance to cover their other essential living needs. The level of the allowance, currently set at £37.75 per week for each person in the household, is reviewed regularly to ensure that it is adequate, taking account of various sources of information, including Office of National Statistics (ONS) data about spending by low income groups on food and other essential items. Fresh ONS data is expected to be published in the next few months and the allowances will be reviewed again at that point.

Asylum seekers can work in jobs on the Shortage Occupation List if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-23/7252/>

Asylum: Applications

Catherine West (Labour) [8419] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the time taken to process asylum and refugee claims.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: The Home Office is committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal.

Whilst we take steps to increase capacity and focus on process improvements to deliver better quality decisions more efficiently, we have moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-27/8419/>

Repatriation

Afzal Khan (Labour) [6800] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many voluntary removals were performed in each of the last five years; and how many of those voluntary removals were classified as (a) assisted returns, (b) controlled returns and (c) other verified returns.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office publishes data on returns from the UK in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>
Data on the number of voluntary returns, including type of voluntary return, are published in table Ret_D01 of the returns detailed datasets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets>
Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2019. Additionally,

the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-september-2019#returns>

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on returns. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&organisations%5B%5D=home-office&order=release-date-oldest

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6800/>

Human Trafficking: Children

Sarah Champion (Labour) [6690] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Answer of 5 November 2019 to Question 8260, when the Independent Child Trafficking Guardianship scheme will be rolled out nationally.

Reply from Victoria Atkins: Independent Child Trafficking Guardians (ICTGs) are currently operational in one third of all local authorities in England and Wales. Ongoing considerations are underway into the recommendations made by the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 relating to the wider roll out of this service. The Government remains committed to the national roll out of ICTGs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6690/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-10-31/8260/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Hong Kong

Lord Goodlad (Conservative) [HL304] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received about offering eligible Hong Kong citizens full British citizenships; and what was their response to any such representations.

Lord Goodlad (Conservative) [HL305] To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have received about offering full hereditary British citizenship to Hong Kong British National (Overseas) status holders, including those so entitled who did not complete the requisite paperwork before the transfer of sovereignty in 1997; and what was their response to any such representations.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Her Majesty's Government has received a number of representations about offering Hong Kong citizens full British citizenship. The Government continues to believe that the best solution for Hong Kong and the people who live there, is full respect for the rights and freedoms set out in the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

The creation of BN(O) status was part of the delicate balance and negotiations of the Joint Declaration.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-13/HL304/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-13/HL305/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Syria

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL416] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards their commitment to accept 20,000 Syrian refugees by 2020.

Refugees: Housing

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL417] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many offers of accommodation by local authorities for refugees have been (1) made, and (2) accepted.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office is committed to publishing data in an orderly way as part of the regular quarterly Immigration Statistics, in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Latest statistics published on 28 November 2019 show that a total of 18,252 people had been resettled in the UK under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme since it began across 317 local authorities.

The statistics, which include a local authority breakdown of resettlements, are available at

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

We have received sufficient pledges from local authorities to meet the 20,000 commitment under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and we continue to work closely with local authorities to turn these offers of support into arrivals.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL416/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL417/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL279] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by Amnesty International, The Refugee Council and Save the Children Without my Family, published on 10 January, which calls for changes to Government policy on family separation of child refugees in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government provides safe and legal routes to bring families together through its family reunion policy. This allows a partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

Our current policy does not allow child refugees to sponsor their parents. The Government's view is that if children could sponsor parents, it would risk creating incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

Our policy is not designed to keep child refugees apart from their parents, but in considering any policy we must think carefully about the wider impact to avoid putting more people unnecessarily into harm's way.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-13/HL279/>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Without-my-family-report-AW-Jan2020-LoRes.pdf>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL418] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they are not continuing the EU policy of assisting child refugees to be reunited with their families in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government's policy has not changed and protecting vulnerable children will remain our priority after we leave the EU. The new Clause 37 in the Withdrawal Agreement Bill reaffirms this commitment while clarifying the role of Parliament and Government in negotiations. Additionally Clause 37 places an obligation on the Government to lay a statement before Parliament on the progress of negotiations.

The Government is clear that we remain committed to seeking an agreement with the EU on this issue, and the Home Secretary wrote to the European Commission on 22 October to begin negotiations. The UK will continue to be bound by the Dublin Regulation provisions during the implementation period, allowing us to continue to transfer family reunion cases to the UK throughout 2020.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL418/>

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL413] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many child refugees came to the UK to join family members in (1) 2015, (2) 2016, (3) 2017, and (4) 2018.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes a range of data on asylum seekers and refugees in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'

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

This data includes a range of topics relevant to the question above:

- The number of asylum applications received in the UK and initial decision on such applications, broken down by age and whether or not the application was lodged by an unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC), are published in tables Asy_D01 and Asy_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

The number of people resettled in the UK, broken down by age are published in table Asy_D02 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets>

The number of family reunion visas granted to family members of refugees in the UK, broken down by age are published in table Fam_D01 of the family reunion datasets.

The number of asylum seekers transferred into and out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by Dublin article are published in table Dub_D01 of the Dublin regulation datasets.

On overview of the Dublin articles, and the criteria for meeting each article can be found in the User Guide.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-home-office-immigration-statistics--9>

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2019 and covers the period requested for (2015 to 2018).

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'.

The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL413/>

The research and statistics calendar referred to above can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=upcoming_statistics&order=updated-newest

Refugees: Children

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL415] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports that more than 10,000 unaccompanied children have used dangerous means to enter the UK over the past decade; and what steps they are taking to provide safe routes for such children.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety. There are a number of safe and legal routes available to the UK which specifically enable us to provide protection for the most vulnerable refugees, including children.

Since 2010, the UK has granted protection to 41,000 vulnerable children and this will continue to be a priority after we leave the EU.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL415/>

Asylum: Children

Lord Judd (Labour) [HL327] To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with (1) the British Red Cross, (2) the Refugee Council, (3) the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and (4) any other relevant organisations, about how best to enhance the safety and wellbeing of (a) child refugees, and (b) asylum seekers; and whether any such discussions include consideration of the possible benefits of family reunion to such safety and wellbeing.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office engage with a range of external organisations to discuss the support and care provided to unaccompanied asylum-seeking and refugee children. This includes regular discussions with NGOs about a number of issues that affect unaccompanied children who are in the UK.

Our current refugee family reunion policy does not allow child refugees to sponsor their parents. The Government's view is that if children could sponsor parents, it would risk creating incentives for more children to be encouraged, or even forced, to leave their family and risk hazardous journeys to the UK. This plays into the hands of criminal gangs who exploit vulnerable people and goes against our safeguarding responsibilities.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-13/HL327/>

Immigrants: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of London [HL516] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that those placed in detention centres are not held indefinitely; and what plans, if any, they have to restrict detention in immigration centres to 28 days.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The law does not permit indefinite detention. For detention to be lawful there must be a realistic prospect of the

individual's removal from the UK within a reasonable timescale.

Most of those people detained for immigration purposes spend only short periods in detention. In the year ending September 2019, 96% left detention within 4 months and 73% in no longer than 28 days.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-16/HL516/>

Deportation

Baroness Randerson (Liberal Democrat) [HL342] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the errors made by the Home Office in the case of Saiful Islam, originally from Bangladesh and now living in Cardiff; whether they still intend to deport him; and what steps they intend to take to ensure that such errors do not occur in future in relation to other cases.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: All applications are considered on their individual merits, on the basis of the evidence provided and in accordance with the immigration rules. Since Mr Islam's case came to light, we have apologised to him for the errors made in relation to criminality checks, and rolled-out a new training package for all staff entitled 'Data Protection in the Home Office.

Although not in direct response to Mr Islam's case in particular, this training course aims to enhance data protection awareness and understanding throughout the Home Office workforce.

Mr Islam is not subject to removal action at present.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-13/HL342/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Barry Sheerman (Labour) (108) Protection for unaccompanied child refugees – That this House notes that there are thousands of unaccompanied child refugees throughout Europe living in desperate circumstances; welcomes the Government's statement that it will ensure unaccompanied children will continue to be able to come to the UK to join a relative; notes with concern the removal of that protection from the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill 2019-20; further notes that the removal of legal protections for separated child refugees may lead to more children undertaking dangerous journeys in order to be reunited with their families; and calls on the Government to enshrine its commitment in law to ensure the ongoing protection of those vulnerable children and their right to reunification with their families.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/54564/protection-for-unaccompanied-child-refugees>

Press Releases

Plan for Scottish Visa

<https://www.gov.scot/news/plan-for-scottish-visa/>

Plan for Scottish visa: First Minister's speech

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/plan-scottish-visa/>

EU citizens encouraged to stay in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/news/eu-citizens-encouraged-to-stay-in-scotland/>

Combating human trafficking and disappearances of refugee children

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/combating-human-trafficking-and-disappearances-of-refugee-children>

New Publications

EU Settlement Scheme: factsheet

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862457/EU Settlement Scheme factsheet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862457/EU_Settlement_Scheme_factsheet.pdf)

EU Settlement Scheme: leaflet

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862459/EU Settlement Scheme leaflet.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862459/EU_Settlement_Scheme_leaflet.pdf)

EU Settlement Scheme: presentation

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862447/EU Settlement Scheme presentation.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862447/EU_Settlement_Scheme_presentation.pdf)

Stay in the UK ('settled status'): step by step

<https://www.gov.uk/eusettledstatus>

EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for employers

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862419/EU Settlement Scheme introduction for employers.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862419/EU_Settlement_Scheme_introduction_for_employers.pdf)

EU Settlement Scheme: employer toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-employer-toolkit>

EU Settlement Scheme: template letter to EU citizen staff

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-template-letter-to-eu-citizen-staff>

EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for local authorities

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862433/EU Settlement Scheme introduction for local authorities.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862433/EU_Settlement_Scheme_introduction_for_local_authorities.pdf)

EU Settlement Scheme: local authorities toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-local-authorities-toolkit>

EU Settlement Scheme: introduction for community groups

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862420/EU Settlement Scheme introduction for community groups.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862420/EU_Settlement_Scheme_introduction_for_community_groups.pdf)

EU Settlement Scheme: community groups toolkit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-community-groups-toolkit>

Migration Helping Scotland Prosper

<https://tinyurl.com/r44rdap>

Points-based system and salary thresholds for immigration: letter from the MAC

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860780/Letter to the Home Secretary.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860780/Letter_to_the_Home_Secretary.pdf)

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) report: A Points-Based System and Salary Thresholds for Immigration

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860669/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_Report_MAC.pdf

Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) report: A Points-Based System and Salary Thresholds for Immigration: Annexes

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/860765/PBS_and_Salary_Thresholds_for_Immigration_Annexes_v.1.pdf

The Fiscal Contribution of EU Migrants

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/861246/Oxford_Economics_-_Fiscal_Contribution_of_EU_Migrants.pdf

News

Sturgeon calls for powers to set up 'Scottish visa' system

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-51264179>

Migrant visa plan for rural Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18193754.rural-businesses-scotland-attract-migrant-labour-easily-special-visa-scheme-say-experts/>

UK Government immediately rejects Nicola Sturgeon's plan for 'Scottish visa'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18190065.uk-government-immediately-rejects-nicola-sturgeons-plan-scottish-visa/>

Nicola Sturgeon's Scottish immigration visa plan refused by UK government

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-s-scottish-immigration-visa-plan-refused-by-uk-government-1-5081181>

Home Office rejects Nicola Sturgeon plan for Scottish visa after Brexit

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/01/27/home-office-rejects-nicola-sturgeon-plan-scottish-visa-brexite/>

Ex-Tory MP Stephen Kerr urges UK ministers to reconsider Scottish visa

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ex-tory-mp-stephen-kerr-urges-uk-ministers-to-reconsider-scottish-visa-hpw0gplwj>

A Scottish visa could be answer to 'birthquake'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/a-scottish-visa-could-be-answer-to-birthquake-qk6bqmggw>

Immigration salary threshold should drop by £4,400, says committee

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-51278298>

Migrant salary threshold fall 'would boost public sector'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51278298>

Migrant salary threshold 'should be the same across UK'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-51280747>

Migration committee rejects full points-based system for UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jan/28/migration-committee-advises-against-full-points-based-system-for-uk>

Boris Johnson's points-based immigration plan could have 'zero impact' on creating more jobs for UK workers, says report

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18192836.boris-johnsons-points-based-immigration-plan-zero-impact-creating-jobs-uk-workers-says-report/>

Low skilled migrants to be restricted to time-limited job offers in shortage areas under new points system

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/01/27/low-skilled-migrants-restricted-time-limited-job-offers-shortage/>

Ousted adviser dismissed Australian points-based immigration as 'soundbite'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/01/28/boris-johnson-should-reduce-salary-threshold-25600-migrants/>

Boris Johnson proposal for new 'Australian-style' immigration rules after Brexit rejected

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-brexit-news-immigration-rules-migrants-latest-a9305386.html>

What a points-based immigration system might mean for the UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jan/28/what-a-points-based-immigration-system-might-mean-for-the-uk>

Brexit: Europeans look to uncertain future as UK leaves EU

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51279686>

One-third of EU nationals in Scotland yet to apply for settled status

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/one-third-of-eu-nationals-in-scotland-yet-to-apply-for-settled-status-1-5081381>

Welcome to Brexit Britain: thousands of EU nationals face being criminalised

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/welcome-to-brexit-britain-thousands-of-eu-nationals-face-being-criminalised-christine-jardine-1-5080523>

'It's clear we're not welcome': EU nationals living in Edinburgh speak out on Brexit day

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/it-s-clear-we-re-not-welcome-eu-nationals-living-in-edinburgh-speak-out-on-brexit-day-1-5083490>

'Happy Brexit Day' signs at Norwich flats say 'only speak English'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-norfolk-51341735>

'Happy Brexit Day' sign in block of flats says 'only speak English'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/happy-brexit-day-sign-in-block-of-flats-says-only-speak-english-1-5084487>

North Yorkshire refugees 'struggle to access pharmacy interpreters'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-51283566>

Never again

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/never-again/>

The real lives behind 'shocking' migrant children's stories

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-50669517>

'I was a homeless asylum seeker; now I work and save £1,000 a month'

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/2020/feb/01/i-was-a-homeless-asylum-seeker-now-i-work-and-save-1000-a-month>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Ethnicity and Disability: Modern Apprenticeships

S5W-27037 Mary Fee (Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how many modern apprenticeship starts there were in 2018-19 in each sector/occupational grouping, also broken down by (a) ethnicity and (b) disability.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Statistics on the breakdown of Modern Apprenticeship starts within each sector, broken down by ethnicity and disability are detailed in the following tables. Additional information is available within the Apprenticeship Equality Action Plan Annual report 2019([EAP Annual report 2019](#)) which outlines Skills Development Scotland's priorities for improving diversity and equality of opportunity in apprenticeships.

Skills Development Scotland Modern Apprenticeships 2018-19: MA Starts

Breakdown by occupational grouping and ethnicity				
Occupational Grouping	Self-identified Ethnicity status			Total
	Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or Black; and Other ethnic group	White	Prefer not to say	
Administration & Related	60	1,760	6	1,826
Animal Care, Land & Water Based	*	*	5	290
Automotive	20	1,161	6	1,187
Chemicals & Biotechnology Related	0	23	0	23
Construction & Related	40	6,038	33	6,111
Creative & Cultural Skills	8	125	1	134
Engineering & Energy Related	20	1,490	5	1,515
Financial Services	45	811	6	862
Food & Drink	11	1,203	7	1,221
Hospitality & Tourism	90	2,470	14	2,574
Management	21	828	6	855
Other Manufacture	*	*	0	177

Other Services	81	2,222	28	2,331
Personal Services	9	834	5	848
Retail & Customer Service	66	2,002	6	2,074
Sport, Health & Social Care	128	3,855	36	4,019
Transport & Logistics	16	1,187	20	1,223
Total	621	26,465	184	27,270

Note: Disclosure control has been applied where figures are less than 5 or where such small numbers can be identified through differencing.

Skills Development Scotland Modern Apprenticeships 2018-19: MA Starts

Breakdown by occupational grouping and disability				
Occupational Grouping	Self-identified disability status			Total
	Impairment, health condition or learning difficulty	No impairment, health condition or learning difficulty	Prefer not to say	
Administration & Related	255	1,535	36	1,826
Animal Care, Land & Water Based	54	222	14	290
Automotive	169	1,005	13	1,187
Chemicals & Biotechnology Related	*	*	1	23
Construction & Related	436	5,579	96	6,111
Creative & Cultural Skills	11	119	4	134
Engineering & Energy Related	114	1,387	14	1,515
Financial Services	109	719	34	862
Food & Drink	104	1,107	10	1,221
Hospitality & Tourism	638	1,869	67	2,574
Management	98	713	44	855
Other Manufacture	*	*	1	177
Other Services	291	1,958	82	2,331
Personal Services	165	678	5	848
Retail & Customer Service	483	1,570	21	2,074
Sport, Health & Social Care	722	3,222	75	4,019
Transport & Logistics	105	1,086	32	1,223
Total	3,771	22,950	549	27,270

Note: Disclosure control has been applied where figures are less than 5 or where such small numbers can be identified through differencing.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-27037>

UK Parliament Debate

Planning System: Gypsies and Travellers

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-29/debates/6C426CC1-F880-4415-ADFA-2393F47A5AE8/PlanningSystemGypsiesAndTravellers>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Voluntary Work: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [7668] To ask the Minister of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, how many young people participated in the National Citizen Service in each of the last 10 years, by classified ethnic group.

Reply from Helen Whately: Please see a breakdown of participation in National Citizen Service Trust for the period 2015-2017, classified by ethnic group:

	2015	2016	2017
Total	75,605	92,996	98,808
Ethnic Group	2015	2016	2017
White	70.70%	70.70%	67.90%
Asian	13.50%	14.00%	15.80%
Black	7.80%	7.90%	7.90%
Mixed	5.10%	4.70%	5.00%
Other	1.50%	1.60%	1.90%
NA	1.40%	1.20%	1.60%
BAME	27.90%	28.20%	30.50%

NCS attracts young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and participation by those who classify themselves as BAME has been consistent since 2015.

In 2017, more than a quarter (30.5%) of NCS participants classified themselves as BAME. This compares to 26% of the state secondary school population.

The NCS annual report for financial year 2018/19 has not yet been published and therefore the data for 2018 and 2019 has not been shared here.

NCS used a different data management system prior to 2015. As a result, the data is not consistent over the ten year period. I will write with further clarification once I have received further information from NCS.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-24/7668/>

Voluntary Work: Ethnic Groups

Afzal Khan (Labour) [7669] To ask the Minister of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps she is taking to raise awareness of the National Citizen Service among young people from each of the classified ethnic groups.

Reply from Helen Whately: NCS Trust's contracts with their local partners include a requirement that young people participating in NCS match, as closely as possible, to the local demographics. For example in areas where there are mixed ethnic groups our partners are required to reflect this in the makeup of NCS participants. This is tracked by the NCS Trust as part of their overall contract management of partners.

In addition marketing campaigns and materials have been developed to appeal to a wide and diverse mix of young people with many featuring local participants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-24/7669/>

News

Court of Appeal upholds the right to roam of Romany and Travellers

<https://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2020/01/27/court-of-appeal-upholds-the-right-to-roam-of-romany-and-travellers/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Holocaust Memorial Day

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12485&i=112859#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-20603 Aileen Campbell (SNP): Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 – 75th Anniversary

– That the Parliament recognises that 2020's Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January marked the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau; remembers everyone affected by the Holocaust, including the execution of 17 million people, six million of whom were Jewish; acknowledges the importance of learning the lessons from the Holocaust and subsequent genocides, including the value of the Holocaust Education Trust's Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which gives students from schools in Scotland the opportunity to visit Auschwitz; notes this year's theme, Stand together, which highlights the importance of building safe, resilient and inclusive communities in order to tackle hatred and prejudice; commends the incredible courage of those who stood up in support of justice, equality and humanity, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice, and recommits to stand together, united against hate, in order to build a society where hatred and prejudice are not tolerated.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-20603>

S5M-20609 Neil Findlay (Labour): Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 – That the Parliament joins together in commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day 2020, which this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau; notes that the theme is Stand Together, which encourages everyone to come together in remembrance of the victims of the Holocaust and the genocides that have subsequently taken place, including in Bosnia, Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur; thanks West Lothian Council and the school pupils, teachers and members of the community who came together in a remembrance event in Livingston; notes the importance of such events in reminding the world of past atrocities so that people can try to ensure they can never again be repeated, and recognises that everyone should stand together on Holocaust Memorial Day, and throughout the year, to promote tolerance and respect in society in order to ensure that all can contribute to creating a better and prosperous future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-20609>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Hate Crime

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [6674] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what meetings have taken place between Ministers in his Department and the Law Commission on the review of hate crime legislation.

Reply from Chris Philp: There have been no meetings between current Ministers in the Ministry of Justice and the Law Commission on the review of hate crime legislation.

The Law Commission were invited to independently review the law relating to hate crime and to make recommendations to the Government for its reform. That review began in March 2019.

The Law Commission are considering the current range of offences and aggravating factors in sentencing, and will make recommendations to the Government on the most appropriate models to ensure that the criminal law provides consistent and effective protection from conduct motivated by hatred towards protected groups or characteristics. The review will also take account of the existing range of protected characteristics, identifying any gaps in the scope of protection currently offered under the law and making recommendations to promote a consistent approach.

The Law Commission plan to issue a consultation on this matter in early 2020. Further information on the review can be found on the Law Commission webpage at: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-22/6674/>

Hate Crime: Social Media

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [4726] To ask the Attorney General, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the CPS has adequate resources to tackle hate crime on social media.

Reply from Michael Ellis: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is committed to robustly prosecuting online hate crime cases, including offline offences with online elements. The CPS works closely with partners across Government under the hate crime action plan.

On 12 August 2019, the Prime Minister announced an investment of an additional £85 million for the CPS. The work carried out by the CPS is changing, and this new funding will provide the increased capacity to enable the CPS to respond effectively to challenging trends, such as an increase in online crime and the volume of digital evidence.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-17/4726/>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-sentencing-review-to-look-at-most-dangerous-and-prolific-offenders>

Sports: Racial Discrimination

Catherine West (Labour) [6185] To ask the Minister of State, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to tackle racism in sport.

Reply from Nigel Adams: The government is clear that racism has no place in sport or society at large. The sport and physical activity strategy 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation' has diversity and inclusion at its heart. Government remains supportive of a number of anti-racism initiatives that work with sports bodies from grassroots to the elite, including Show Racism the Red Card

and Kick it Out.

Over the past year the government has led debates in the House of Commons on tackling racism in sport (on 22nd May 2019 and 12th July 2019), and hosted an Anti-Racism Summit in February 2019. This led to the three main English football organisations making clear commitments to tackle racism in football stadia from July 2019. The Sports Minister met with the FA last week and discussed their progress in delivering against these commitments, and will be calling in all the footballing authorities for a further update about their work on this important issue. Further to these commitments, ministers and officials continue to speak to the FA and relevant football bodies to explore what more can be done.

Grassroots sport clubs receive support in tackling racism from our national sport council, Sport England, who provide free support and learning in running a club through its "Club Matters" programme.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-01-21/6185/>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/486622/Sporting_Future_ACCESSIBLE.pdf

The wrong dates have been quoted in relation to the House of Commons debates referred to above. There was no relevant debate on 22 May 2019, and the Commons was not sitting on 12 July 2019

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Hate Crime

Lord Browne of Belmont (DUP) [HL554] To ask Her Majesty's Government what specific offences are categorised as a hate crime; and what are the criteria for such categorisation.

Lord Keen of Elie: The law responds to hate crime in four ways by:

- providing for additional "aggravated" offences with longer sentences in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 if an offender demonstrated hostility or was motivated by hostility based on race or religion.
- prohibiting conduct that is likely to stir up hatred on grounds of race, or intended to do so on grounds of religion or sexual orientation in the Public Order Act 1986.
- providing for enhanced sentencing under sections 145 and 146 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 if hostility is motivated by any of the five protected characteristics: disability, transgender status, race, religion or sexual orientation; and
- providing Sentencing guidelines. Section 125(1) of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 requires that a sentencing judge must follow any sentencing guideline which is relevant to their case. This includes, for example, consideration of whether the offence was motivated by racial or religious hostility, or if it was motivated by or demonstrated hostility towards the victim based on one or more of several of the victim's characteristics: age, sex, gender identity (or presumed gender identity), disability (or presumed disability) or sexual orientation.

The Government have invited the Law Commission to review the law relating to hate crime and to make recommendations to the Government for its reform. The review began in March 2019.

Specifically, the Law Commission have been asked to consider the current range of offences and aggravating factors in sentencing, and to make recommendations on the most appropriate models to ensure that the criminal law provides consistent and effective protection from conduct motivated by hatred towards protected

groups or characteristics. The review will also take account of the existing range of protected characteristics, identifying any gaps in the scope of protection currently offered under the law and making recommendations to promote a consistent approach.

The Law Commission plan to issue a consultation on this matter in early 2020. Further information on the review can be found on the Law Commission webpage at: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-20/HL554/>

Hate Crime

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL384] To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect the Law Commission review into hate crime to be completed.

Reply from Lord Keen of Elie: The Law Commission were invited to review the law on hate crime and to make recommendations for its reform. The review began in March 2019 and will also consider which characteristics (for example gender, age, disability) deserve enhanced protection by the criminal law and on what basis. The Law Commission plan to issue a consultation on this matter in early 2020. Further information on the review can be found on the Law Commission webpage at: <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-01-14/HL384/>

Racial Discrimination: Football

Lord Bassam of Brighton (Labour) [HL377] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 30 October 2019 (HL181), how many of the police reported football-related racist incidents have led to people being charged; and what range of penalties was applied.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold this information, although individual police forces may have this information for their force area.

As mentioned in my previous response, 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 a relevant offence if it reasonably believes that making an order would help to prevent violence or disorder at, or in, connection with any regulated football matches. Football Banning Orders prohibit the subject from attending regulated football matches for a period of two to ten years, depending on the nature of the offence.

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/2020-01-14/HL377/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Information about the review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/hate-crime/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Conor McGinn (Labour) (115) Racial Justice Sunday 2020: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – That this House welcomes the Catholic Church's focus on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities for Racial Justice Sunday on 9 February 2020; recognises the valuable contribution that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities make to the Church and to wider society; notes with concern that over three-quarters of people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have experienced hate speech or hate crimes; further notes that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities experience the worst health, education and employment outcomes of any ethnic group; and calls on the Government to take urgent action to address the discrimination and inequalities these communities face.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/54570/racial-justice-sunday-2020-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-communities>

Welsh Assembly Oral Answers

Hate Crime

Mohammad Asghar (Conservative): Will the Deputy Minister provide an update on measures to tackle hate crime in Wales? OAQ54993

Reply from Jane Hutt (Deputy Minister and Chief Whip): We've significantly increased our investment in tackling hate crime in recent months to address the rise in hateful narratives. And I'll lead a debate in March providing an update on action to tackle hate crime with our partners in Wales.

Mohammad Asghar: ... Welsh police forces recorded nearly 4,000 hate crimes in 2018- Eleven per cent of these incidents were disability hate crimes—shocking. The learning disability charity United Response has called for measures to be taken across the country and by the authorities to make the process of reporting and convicting disability hate crimes more accessible and less daunting for victims. They went on to say they feel the process is currently a significant barrier to criminals being given the punishment they deserve, especially in the context of the dramatic rise in repeat offenders. Minister, will you take action to address the specific needs of disabled people with regard to reporting hate crime in Wales, please?

Reply from Jane Hutt: We have put more funding into our national hate crime report and support centre over the next two years, and that's also on top of annual funding that we give. And we're also developing an anti-hate crime campaign in terms of communications, and we're going to focus particularly on hate crime affecting disabled people, and learning from, for example, the organisation People First—you will be aware of the People First organisations across Wales—so that learning disabled people can contribute to that communications campaign in terms of tackling disabled people's hate crime, which, unfortunately, has been on the rise.

John Griffiths (Labour): Minister, would you agree with me that hate crime against the Gypsy/Traveller community must be treated with equal seriousness as hate crime against any other community or minority in Wales? I recently met with local members of my Gypsy/Traveller community, and they feel very strongly that too often that isn't the case. They gave examples of social media postings, for example, that were discriminatory, prejudicial and clearly hate crime, but when they tried to get effective action, they found it very, very difficult. Their plea, really, was that hate crime against their community must be treated with equal seriousness as any other hate crime.

Reply from Jane Hutt: ... indeed, we must treat hate crime against Gypsy/Traveller/Roma communities with equal vigour, as we are against disability hate crime, race hate crime, LGBT hate crime, all the hate crimes that unfortunately

are in our midst. And, of course, I'm pleased that we are investing not only in our Travelling Ahead fund in terms of ensuring that we do have Gypsy sites across Wales, but also working with local authorities and those third sector organisations that we are supporting the Gypsy/Traveller/Roma community. And can I also say that it's very important that we have an all-party group to tackle these issues? I meet regularly with Isaac Blake from the Gypsy/Traveller Romani Cultural and Arts Company, and we are funding them in terms of addressing these issues.

<https://record.assembly.wales/Plenary/6077#C261420>

Press Releases

PM speech at the UK Commemorative Ceremony for Holocaust Memorial Day

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-at-the-uk-commemorative-ceremony-for-holocaust-memorial-day>

Stop this story – recommit to countering antisemitism

<https://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2020/stop-story-recommit-countering-antisemitism>

News

Shakespeare, Blake and Woolf are on the curriculum due to 'racial bias', university says

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/01/31/shakespeare-blake-woolf-curriculum-due-racial-bias-university/>

I just wanted an apology, says target of Alastair Stewart's 'angry ape' Shakespeare jibe

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/alastair-stewart-quits-itv-news-over-social-media-blunder-rj57rwhn8>

White people can't tell black people what is and isn't racist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/the-sunday-times-magazine/white-people-cant-tell-black-people-what-is-and-isnt-racist-7m85zhtzf>

Auschwitz 75 years on: Holocaust Day prompts new anti-Semitism warnings

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51266883>

Auschwitz 75 years on: Are anti-Semitic attacks rising?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/51266129>

Rising antisemitism shows we must remember the 'banality of evil' that led to Holocaust

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/rising-antisemitism-shows-we-must-remember-the-banality-of-evil-that-led-to-holocaust-alex-cole-hamilton-1-5081837>

Lessons of the Holocaust bear repeating as we fail to learn

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18190921.lessons-holocaust-bear-repeating-fail-learn/>

The fight against fascism didn't end with the Nazis – Britain's Jewish antiracists continued it here on our streets

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/holocaust-memorial-day-antifascist-nazi-antisemitism-oswald-mosley-a9303611.html>

Cardiff demand apology from Reading after away fans accused of racist and homophobic behaviour in FA Cup draw

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/01/27/cardiff-demand-apology-reading-away-fansaccused-racist-homophobic/>

Sharp rise in football racism as incidents go up by more than 50% in one year

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/jan/30/football-related-racist-incidents-sharp-rise-police-kick-it-out>

TOP

Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Fund announced for security measures at places of worship

<https://www.gov.scot/news/fund-announced-for-security-measures-at-places-of-worship/>

News

Muslim Council of Scotland welcomes the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme announced by the Scottish Government

<https://www.facebook.com/MuslimCouncilScot/posts/2839216532767643>

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities welcomes Scottish Government funding for security measures at places of worship

https://www.scojec.org/news/2020/20i_security/security.html

Security cash fund for places of worship

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/security-cash-fund-for-places-of-worship-1-5080924>

Scheme to help places of worship install security measures

<https://news.stv.tv/politics/scheme-to-help-places-of-worship-install-security-measures?noq>

Scottish government announces £500k in security funding for places of worship

<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/scottish-government-announces-500k-in-security-funding-for-places-of-worship/>

Scottish Parliament backs holding indyref2 vote this year

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/scottish-parliament-backs-holding-indyref2-vote-this-year-1-5082696>

61% of Scots believe Holyrood should have final say on Scottish independence referendum

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18187924.61-scots-believe-holyrood-final-say-scottish-independence-referendum/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

House of Commons Debate

Claim of Right for Scotland

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-01-27/debates/63B5AE03-C711-4310-BB11-A02502FCBFB2/ClaimOfRightForScotland>

TOP

Brexit

Press Releases: Scottish Government

Scotland's commitment to the EU

<https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-commitment-to-the-eu-1/>

Cabinet Secretary's message to EU: 'Leave a light on for Scotland'

<https://www.gov.scot/news/cabinet-secretarys-message-to-eu-leave-a-light-on-for-scotland/>

Press Releases: UK Government

PM address to the nation: 31 January 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-address-to-the-nation-31-january-2020>

Guidance: EU-funded programmes under the withdrawal agreement

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/eu-funded-programmes-under-the-withdrawal-agreement>

New Publications: Scottish Government

First Minister's letter to Europe: 31 January 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-ministers-letter-to-europe/>

Letter to Steve Barclay MP from Michael Russell MSP: 24 January 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/letter-to-steve-barclay-mp-from-michael-russell-msp-24-january-2020/>

Letter to Michael Gove MP from Michael Russell MSP: 24 January 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/letter-to-michael-gove-mp-from-michael-russell-msp-24-january-2020/>

The European Union's Strategic Agenda 2020-2024: Scotland's Perspective

<https://tinyurl.com/tsxss7m>

News

Brexit: UK begins new chapter outside European Union

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51340945>

Brexit: The UK has officially left the EU - what happens next?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51307874>

Brexit: End of era as EU says goodbye to UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-51329353>

TOP

New Publication

An Easy Read Guide to being a Charity Trustee

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/media/3837/easy-read-v4.pdf>

TOP

Other News

Scottish Charity and Public Surveys 2020

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/we-are-gathering-information-for-our-latest-surveys/>

Sikhs threaten legal action over census that omits their ethnicity

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sikhs-threaten-legal-action-over-census-that-omits-their-ethnicity-p7dbjgb6k>

Black and in the police: 'I've been called a traitor'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-51099169>

Birmingham man jailed for trying to force niece into marriage

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/west-midlands/news/birmingham-man-jailed-trying-force-niece-marriage>

TOP

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>

UK Parliament

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/immigration-control-gross-human-rights-abuses.html>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/marriage-approved-organisations.html>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/refugees-family-reunion.html>

Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/windrush-compensation-scheme-expenditure.html>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

Defamation and Malicious Publications (Scotland) Bill (closing date 13 March 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114208.aspx>

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 17 March 2020)

<https://tinyurl.com/sxarzv4>

Harassment and sexual misconduct in higher education (closing date 27 March 2020)

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/76f6bdd3-bb14-4956-b089-cd1598323d55/consultation-on-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-in-higher-education.pdf>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Discrimination Law in 2020

3 February 2020 in Edinburgh (9.00–4.00)

Equality and Human Rights Commission conference to review major discrimination cases from the last year, and provide with authoritative guidance on recent and proposed changes to discrimination legislation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/vg5gdu7>

**** this week!**

Forced Marriage Training

3 February 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–4.00)

Shakti Womens' Aid training for professionals to provide information about the gendered cultural context of forced marriage and its links to honour-based violence and domestic abuse, learn how the forced marriage and other legislation, can be used to protect children and adults at risk, and find out about appropriate responses to identified risk and disclosure of forced marriage. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/t9twmd8>

BME Women's Experiences of Gender Based Violence

12 February 2020 in Edinburgh (10.00–4.00)

Scottish Women's Aid/Shakti training to raise awareness of the varied issues for black and minority ethnic women and their children experiencing domestic abuse, forced marriage and other types of gender based violence, and explore the social, cultural, and religious factors which impact upon BME women's experiences of gender based violence. For information see <https://womensaid.scot/training-event/bme-womens-experiences-of-gender-based-violence-2/>

Evidencing and Mainstreaming Equality Data

12 February 2020 in Kirkcaldy (9.30–4.00)

Fife Centre for Equalities training for service providers wishing to improve the quality and usage of their data as a resource to actively promote equality. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/smzko4g>

Three mottos to guide our approach to equality, diversity & inclusion

13 February 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

2 June 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense including why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience, how to respond to misunderstandings or offence, and the impact of our inner narratives on our interactions. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

The Gathering

19 and 20 February in Edinburgh

Scotland's largest free voluntary sector event in the UK, a place for everyone working in the sector to network, showcase what they do and learn from each other. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020>

Strengthening Scotland's charity sector

19 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (10.00–11.00)

Discussion with the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Maureen Mallon OSCR and Anna Fowle SCVO about how, together, we can strengthen the brand of charity, its role and potential in an ever changing world. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/strengthening-scotlands-charity-sector/>

Counting Scotland: the census, the population and the future

19 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (2.00–3.00)

National Records of Scotland presentation to highlight how Scotland's population is changing; how we think it will change further and the implications this has for the third sector and others. We will be highlighting the various statistical information we publish, free of charge, which is available to the third sector. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/counting-scotland-the-census-the-population-and-the-future/>

Brexit & the voluntary sector

20 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (9.30–10.30)

Civil Society Brexit Project session to provide insight into the main changes, challenges & concerns around Brexit for organisations in Scotland. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/brexit-the-voluntary-sector/>

Telling your charity's story with impact

20 February 2020 at the Gathering in Edinburgh (11.15–12.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator event to explore the benefits of a good trustee annual report and how charity trustees can plan for and prepare an excellent report that helps the charity in many ways. For information see <https://scvo.org/the-gathering-2020/event-programme/telling-your-charitys-story-with-impact/>

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

10 March 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity to explore how cultural background influences behaviour, values, and beliefs, and how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with people from diverse religion & belief identities

22 April 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. Includes the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Organising interfaith events and enabling dialogue

7 May 2020 in Glasgow (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on how to arrange events that bring together people of many faiths and philosophies for meaningful and respectful dialogue, including practical considerations for their success, and creating an environment that respects difference while seeking mutual understanding. For information see <https://interfaithscotland.org/get-involved/training> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

The conference is orientated around the four themes that reflect key contemporary conceptual and policy concerns: internal migration and urban change, forced migration and bordering, visualising mobilities, and European migration in turbulent politics. For information see <http://www.imigmob2020.org/home>

[TOP](#)

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>

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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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