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Note that some weblinks, particularly of newspaper articles, are only valid for a short period of time, usually around a month, and that the Scottish and UK Parliament and Government websites have been redesigned, so that links published in previous issues of MEMO may no longer work. To find archive material on these websites, copy details from MEMO into the relevant search facility.

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-20962 Gordon MacDonald (SNP): Tory Immigration Policy Detrimental to Scottish Care Sector – That the Parliament unreservedly condemns the UK Conservative administration's immigration proposals; believes that these completely disregard the needs of Scotland's employers, public services and communities; considers that they will have a detrimental impact on the social care sector, which employs over 110,000 people in Scotland, including in Edinburgh, with a significant number of the workforce coming from the European Economic Area (EEA); notes with concern that the Conservative's immigration policy income threshold of £25,600 is significantly higher than the £17,500 average salary paid in Scotland's care sector; recognises that Donald Macaskill, chief executive of Scottish Care, the umbrella body representing more than 400 nursing homes, day services, and home care providers, has warned of the "triple whammy" that the immigration policy will impose on the provision of support for dementia patients, vulnerable adults and others in need; understands that the policy will reduce the number of working-

age people coming to live, work and contribute to Scotland's economy; believes that it will reduce the number of current care staff due to what it considers toxic rhetoric around immigration, and that it will reduce the funding available to the care sector due to the economic impact of these political decisions; deplores the UK Conservative administration's proposals for categorising care workers earning under £25,600 as "low-skilled labour"; considers this view to be harmful, out of touch, and completely opposed to the needs of an aging population in Scotland, and acknowledges calls for an immigration policy that reflects Scotland's distinct needs, demographic and economy, and to maintain quality support in the care sector.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-20962>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Points-based Immigration System

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... Last week, I announced our plans for a radical new approach that works in the interests of the British people. It will be a fair, firm and fundamentally different system in the control of the British Government that prioritises those who come to our country based on the skills they have to offer, not on the country they come from, and it will enable the UK to become a magnet for the brightest and the best, with special immigration routes for those who will make the biggest contribution. We will create new arrangements for new migrants who will fill shortages in our NHS, build the companies and innovations of the future and benefit the UK for years to come.

As this Government restore our status as an independent sovereign nation, we will set our own immigration standards and controls as an open, democratic and free country. The Government have listened to the clear message from the British public and are delivering what the people asked for in the 2016 referendum and the December 2019 general election. That includes ending free movement through the introduction of a single global immigration system that prioritises the skills that people have to offer, not where they come from, and restoring public trust in our immigration system with a system that truly works for this country. That is what people voted for, and we are a Government who will deliver on the people's priorities.

We are ending free movement: that automatic right for EU citizens to enter and reside in the UK, which does not apply to people from other countries. Now that we have left the EU, this ambitious Government of action are ending the discrimination between EU and non-EU citizens so that we can attract the brightest and best from around the world. Our country and our people will prosper through one system and an approach that is in the control of the British Government—one that will also deliver an overall reduction in low-skilled immigration, as the public asked for.

Many of the values that define our great country originated in the huge benefits immigration has brought to our nation throughout its history. People from every corner of the globe have made an enormous contribution to the fabric of our society, which is why at the heart of this new single global immigration system will be a focus on attracting talented people from around the world and on the contribution they and their families will make, irrespective of their country of origin.

Last Wednesday, I published a policy statement setting out the new UK points-based immigration system, which will start operating from 1 January 2021 and will work in the interests of the whole United Kingdom. This will be a single, comprehensive, UK-wide system for workers and students from around the world. Our points-based system will provide a simple, effective and flexible arrangement to give top priority to the skilled workers we need to boost our economy and support our brilliant public services. All

applicants will need to demonstrate that they will have a job offer from an approved sponsor. The job must be at an appropriate skill level and the applicant must be able to speak English and meet tougher criminality standards and checks.

We have acted on the advice of the Migration Advisory Committee to make the skilled workers route more flexible, as businesses asked for, and we have reduced the required skill level to the equivalent of A-level qualifications and cut the general salary threshold to £25,600.

The threshold for many NHS workers and teachers will be set in line with published pay scales to ensure that our public services do not suffer and we attract the talent that we need. Experienced workers who earn less than the general threshold, but not less than £20,480, may still be able to apply tradable points to reward vital skills and to bring us the talent that our economy needs. For example, a PhD in a relevant subject will earn extra points, with double the number of points for specialists in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Additional points will be awarded for occupations that struggle to fill vacancies, and I am asking the Migration Advisory Committee to keep its list under regular review to ensure that it reflects the needs of the labour market.

The Government will ensure that talented employees from overseas on whom our great NHS relies can come here to work and provide high-quality, compassionate care. That means that we will prioritise qualified staff who seek to move to the UK to work in our NHS, as well as retaining our own national commitment—through the investments made by this Government—to invest in and train more brilliant nurses, doctors and public health professionals in our own country. The new NHS visa system will provide a work visa with a fast-track decision, a larger dedicated advice service for applicants, and reduced fees.

Like many other Members, I represent a partly rural constituency. Our commitment to British agriculture is clear. In addition to the reforms that I have outlined, I am quadrupling the size of the pilot scheme for seasonal workers in the horticulture sector to ensure that our farms and our horticultural sector continue to thrive. That is happening immediately.

We will continue to welcome international students who want to study in our world-class universities across the United Kingdom, and there will be no cap on their numbers. Those who apply will be accepted provided that they are sponsored by an approved educational institution, have the necessary academic qualifications and English language aptitude, and are able to support themselves financially once they are in the United Kingdom. When they have finished their studies, our new graduate route will allow them to stay in the UK and work at any skill level for up to a further two years. Let me also take this opportunity to reassure the House that the immigration arrangements for members of the armed forces, musicians and other performers are completely unchanged, and those routes will operate as they do now.

In line with the ending of free movement, there will be no immigration route for lower-skilled workers. No longer will employers be able to rely on cut-price EU workers. Instead, we are calling on them to invest in British people—as well as investing in technology and skills—to improve productivity, and to join the UK Government's mission to level up our skills and economic growth across our country. Those changes are vital if we are to deliver a high-skill, high-wage and highly productive economy, and because we have provided certainty in respect of the new immigration system, the economy and businesses have had time to adjust.

The proposals set out in our policy statement are just the start of our phased approach to delivering a new immigration system. We will continue to refine our immigration system, and will build in flexibility where it is needed. Over time, more attributes for which points can be earned—such as previous experience and additional qualifications—may be added, which will allow us to respond effectively to the needs of the labour market and the economy. However, to be effective the system must be simple, so there will not be endless exemptions for low-paid, lower-skilled workers. We will not end free movement only to recreate it in all but name through other routes.

The world's top talent will continue to be welcome in our country. From January we will expand our existing global talent route to EU citizens, giving all the world's brightest and best the same streamlined access across the UK. Reforms that I introduced last week will allow us to attract even more brilliant scientists, mathematicians and researchers through that route to keep this country at the cutting edge of life-changing innovation and technology, and the points-based system will provide even more flexibility to attract the finest international minds with the most to offer. Alongside the employer-led system, we will create a points-based unsponsored route to allow a limited number of the world's most highly skilled people to come here without a job offer as part of the phased approach, if they can secure enough points.

Our new fair and firm immigration system will send a message to the whole world that Britain is open for business as we continue to attract the brightest and best from around the world, but with a system that the British Government have control over. Our blueprint for taking back control will transform the way in which people come to our country to work, study, visit or even join their family. Our new independence will strengthen border security, allowing us to reject insecure identity documents from newly arriving migrants. We will be able to do more to keep out criminals who seek to do harm to our people, communities and country.

Finally, I am pleased to say that when it comes to EU citizens already in the UK, the EU settlement scheme—the biggest scheme of its kind ever in British history—has already received 3.2 million applications resulting in 2.8 million grants of status. Through this system, we will finally develop a true meritocracy where anyone with the skills who wants to come here will have the ability to do so. This is just the start of a phased approach to delivering a new system. I will shortly be bringing forward an immigration Bill and radically overhauling and simplifying the complex immigration rules that have really dominated the system over a number of decades. For the first time in decades, the UK will have control over who comes here and how our immigration system works. I commend this statement to the House.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour): ... the Government call this a points-based immigration system, but Professor Alan Manning, the departing chair of the Migration Advisory Committee, has derided this and called it a “soundbite”—that is, meaningless phraseology. The truth is that the Government are introducing a set of restrictions on migration for work including the damaging salary threshold, but that is not the sole restriction. Workers earning below the salary threshold are not low skilled at all. There is no such thing as low-skilled work: just low-paid work. All work is skilled when it is done well. In fact, outside London and the south-east, they are the majority of workers. Again, they are underpaid, not low skilled. In trying to exclude their overseas recruitment, Ministers run the risk of doing even greater damage to our public services than they have done already. ...

Blocking the overseas recruitment of social care workers who are generally paid well below the threshold will cause major problems with social care. ...

The requirement to speak English is a complete red herring. ... Most people who come here to work ... come here with some English language skills and learn more as they go along. It is difficult to function in the labour market without any English at all, which is why they already speak English when they come here. Do the Government intend to split up families where the spouse or child has less-than-perfect English? ... Do the Government also intend to block the recruitment of scientists, mathematicians and IT specialists, for example, if they have less-than-perfect English? ...

Reply from Priti Patel: Through a points-based system, the British Government will have control over immigration and numbers. We will reduce numbers, in due course, for the long term, but we will also bring in new checks and measures, which is what the British public have been calling for. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): ... Why have employers been given just a few months to

prepare for these massive changes when the Home Office took three and a half years just to dream them up? Will she listen to the swathes of industry leaders telling her it will be impossible to fill vacancies because of the salary thresholds? Will she listen to the employers who are worried about being mired in the red tape and expense of sponsorship and visa processes?

Why has the Home Secretary removed even the half-baked temporary worker scheme that was meant to operate as a transitional measure? Why is there no provision for self-employed workers? What has happened to the remote areas pilot scheme promised by her predecessor and to the heavily trailed extra points that were to be on offer for working outside London? And why has she said nothing about the tens of thousands of extra families that will be destroyed if she extends the UK's barbaric family migration rules to their relationships? ...

This will be disastrous across all manner of key sectors in Scotland, from agriculture to hospitality, from fishing to manufacturing and from construction to social care. Free movement was the one part of the migration system that actually worked for Scotland. Does the Home Secretary even understand the basic point that reducing migration is a disastrous policy goal for Scotland? ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... it is important to recognise that the new points-based system will work in the interests of the whole United Kingdom ...

We are introducing greater flexibility for businesses ... the business community specifically asked for a number of factors, including: abolishing the resident labour market test; removing the cap on the number of skilled workers; and reducing the salary threshold, as it has been.

We have reformed the exceptional talent route, and we are working on a simpler, streamlined sponsorship process, both of which businesses asked for. We also aim to reduce the time taken to process visas. Skilled workers will also be able to switch easily between employers through a sponsor licence, which is effectively what businesses have asked for. We have delivered on that through this system. ...

The MAC has stated that we should have a single UK immigration policy, one based on one system that will benefit every single part of the United Kingdom. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-24/debates/BFC9BA43-7D17-4A24-9C34-917C233FB056/Points-BasedImmigrationSystem>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Prime Minister's Questions

Ian Blackford (SNP): This week, we learned that 40% of small businesses in Scotland employ more than one EU national. Immigration is crucial for Scotland's economy, so it is no wonder that the Scottish Government's proposals for a Scottish visa system have been universally welcomed by businesses and charities alike—even the Scottish Tories think it is a good idea. The Prime Minister rejected these proposals within a few short hours. Does he now admit that that was a mistake?

Reply from the Prime Minister: It was not only I who rejected the proposals, but, of course, the Migration Advisory Committee. That is because we are bringing forward a very sensible proposal, which the people of this country have long desired, whereby we take back control of our immigration system with a points-based system. The right hon. Gentleman has important concerns to raise, and we

will ensure that everywhere in this country—all businesses, all agricultural sectors and all the fishing communities of this country—will be able to access the labour and the workforce that is needed, under our points-based system. But what would be the height of insanity would be to proceed with the Scottish National party's solution of a border at Berwick between England and Scotland.

Ian Blackford: Once again, the Prime Minister shows that he is utterly delusional. Let us look at the reality: Scottish Care has said that the Prime Minister's damaging immigration plans "shut the door" on enabling people to be cared for in their own home. The general secretary of the GMB union says that the plans "could genuinely tip some businesses over the edge."

Scotland's National Farmers Union says that its evidence has been "disregarded" by the UK Government. The Scottish Tourism Alliance says that the plans will have a devastating impact on Scotland's workforce. Senior figures in the UK Government have said that what the Scottish Parliament decides "doesn't matter one jot"; if the Prime Minister thinks that the Scottish Parliament does not matter, do Scottish businesses matter?

Reply from the Prime Minister: Of course Scottish businesses matter, and the way to do well by them would not be to tax them with the highest tax rates in the UK; it would be to run a sound economy in Scotland and to have an educational system that does not leave Scottish children lagging behind through no fault of their own. This Government will get on and deliver a working immigration system for the whole of this country. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-02-26/debates/6A733918-AC43-4143-A629-0BA4AF5A932B/Engagements#contribution-DD244A53-6A21-4611-B011-BAAD1D88316D>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Married People

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [18990] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to assess the effect of the minimum income requirement regime on the integration of non-EEA spouses of British citizens.

Immigration Controls

Babmos Charalambous (Labour) [18991] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the findings of her Department's most recent review of the minimum income requirement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In February 2017, the Supreme Court upheld the lawfulness of the minimum income requirement, which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration, ruling it strikes a fair balance between the interests of those wishing to sponsor a partner to settle in the UK and of the community in general. The Court found the minimum income requirement is not a breach of the right to respect for private and family life under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and is not discriminatory.

Whilst we continue to keep the Family Immigration Rules under review, and make adjustments should these prove necessary, our overall assessment is the Rules, including the minimum income requirement, are having the appropriate impact and are helping to ensure public confidence in the immigration system.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18990/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18991/>

A summary of the Supreme Court ruling referred to above can be read at <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2015-0011-press-summary.pdf>

Migrant Workers

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [19020] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the policy paper entitled The UK's points-based immigration system: policy statement, published on 19 February 2020, what the requirements will be for employers to become approved sponsors.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Requirements for employers to become approved sponsors can be found in the 'Tiers 2 and 5: guidance for sponsors' at the following link:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/sponsor-a-tier-2-or-5-worker-guidance-for-employers.

We keep this guidance under review and will make changes in due course to reflect the introduction of the new points-based immigration system, from January 2021.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/19020/>

The policy paper referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

Teachers: Migrant Workers

Anneliese Dodds (Labour Co-op) [18945] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many teachers in UK schools are EU nationals.

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

The Department publishes data on the nationality of initial teacher training (ITT) trainees, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/initial-teacher-training-trainee-number-census-2019-to-2020>. In 2019-20, there were 28,859 postgraduate new entrants to ITT whose nationality was known, which was 98% of all postgraduate new entrants. Of these, 5% (1,484) were EEA nationals (excluding UK).

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18945/>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Doctors: Migrant Workers

Alun Cairns (Conservative) [19867] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many doctors have been recruited by the NHS from overseas in each last five years.

Nurses: Migrant Workers

Alun Cairns (Conservative) [19868] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many nurses have been recruited from overseas in each last five years.

Reply from Helen Whately: The following tables show people with a non-United Kingdom nationality joining the National Health Service, not people who have been recruited directly from abroad.

NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services workforce

statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), but not staff working in primary care or in general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers. The following table shows the number of doctors with a nationality other than British joining NHS trusts and CCGs as at September 2019 and at each year since 2014 (headcount).

| | September 2014-15 | September 2015-16 | September 2016-17 | September 2017-18 | September 2018-19 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| European Union | 2,259 | 2,262 | 2,087 | 2,117 | 2,088 |
| European Economic Area (EEA) | 43 | 36 | 44 | 46 | 38 |
| Rest of World | 3,161 | 3,374 | 3,872 | 4,675 | 6,670 |
| Unknown | 791 | 807 | 1,143 | 931 | 713 |

The following table shows the number of nurses with a nationality other than British joining the NHS trusts and CCGs as at September 2019 and at each year since 2014 (headcount).

| | September 2014-15 | September 2015-16 | September 2016-17 | September 2017-18 | September 2018-19 |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| EU | 5,817 | 5,941 | 2,779 | 2,313 | 2,328 |
| EEA | 21 | 17 | 12 | 17 | 18 |
| Rest of World | 2,161 | 2,782 | 2,993 | 4,325 | 7,068 |
| Unknown | 1,417 | 1,817 | 1,167 | 1,078 | 733 |

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19867/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19868/>

Healthcare Assistants: Migrant Workers

Roger Gale (Conservative) [19724] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what estimate he has made of the number of (a) EU and (b) overseas nationals employed as semi-skilled ancillary staff in (a) National Health Service hospitals and (b) the private care sector as care assistants.

Reply from Helen Whately: NHS Digital publishes Hospital and Community Health Services workforce statistics. These include staff working in hospital trusts and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), but not staff working in primary care or in general practitioner surgeries, local authorities or other providers.

The following table shows the number of support staff in Central Functions and Hotel, Property and Estates, by nationality group, in National Health Service trusts and CCGs in England, as at 31 October 2019, the latest available data (full time equivalent). This is not a measure of the number of ancillary staff employed in NHS funded services carried out in the private sector. This does not include staff involved in contracted out services.

| Care setting | Level | European Union | European Economic Area | Rest of World | Unknown |
|-------------------|------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|---------|
| All care settings | All levels | 6,893 | 33 | 6,267 | 7,472 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|----|-------|-------|
| Central functions | Healthcare Assistant | - | - | - | 6 |
| Central functions | Support Worker | 148 | - | 156 | 186 |
| Central functions | Clerical and administrative | 2,578 | 25 | 2,613 | 3,665 |
| Hotel, property and estates | Clerical and administrative | 223 | 1 | 171 | 304 |
| Hotel, property and estates | Estates (maintenance and works) | 368 | 1 | 235 | 413 |
| Hotel, property and estates | Healthcare Assistant | 15 | - | 10 | 1 |
| Hotel, property and estates | Support Worker | 3,561 | 6 | 3,083 | 2,897 |

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19724/>

Immigration Controls: Social Services

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [19863] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to page 4 of the the Government's UK points based immigration system policy statement, whether the initiatives being brought forward for NHS workers will include care workers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We will deliver on the people's priorities by introducing a new NHS Visa for certain qualified health professionals, offering fast-track entry, reduced visa fees and dedicated support to come to the UK with their families. Care workers who meet the relevant criteria, including a skills and salary threshold, with a confirmed job offer working for the NHS or providing services to the NHS, will be able to benefit from this offer.

Further details will be published in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19863/>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866664/CCS207_CCS0120013106-001_The_UKs_Points-Based_Immigration_System_print.pdf

The following four questions all received the same answer

Visas: Entertainers

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [19767] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to her oral contribution of 24 February 2020 Official Report column 35, whether it is her policy that touring (a) musicians and (b) performers from EU countries will require Tier 5 visas from January 2021.

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [19895] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether musicians and artistic performers from the EU will be required to obtain a temporary worker Tier 5 creative and sporting visa after the transition period.

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [19903] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether musicians and artistic performers from the EU will be required to obtain a temporary worker Tier 5 creative and sporting visa after the transition period.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19919] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether musicians and artistic performers from the EU will be subject to the Tier 5 (Creative and Sporting visa) temporary worker route from 1 January 2021.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Currently, visiting artists, entertainers and musicians can perform at events, take part in competitions and auditions, make personal appearances and take part in promotional activities for up to 6 months without the need for formal sponsorship or a work visa. They can also receive payment for appearance at permit free festivals for up to 6 months, or for up to one month for a specific engagement, under the Visitor route.

Artists wishing to come to the UK for longer-term work will need to do so under the points-based system. There will continue to be special arrangements for creative workers, which in future will encompass both EEA and non-EEA citizens.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19767/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19895/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19903/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19919/>

Biometric Residence Permits

Alison Thewlis (SNP) [1961] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many complaints her Department received on biometric residence permits being produced with an incorrect (a) name, (b) date of birth, and (c) place of birth in each of the last three years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Biometric Immigration Document Management Unit (BIDMU) is responsible for correcting biographic errors on Biometric Residence Permits (BRP). From locally held records it has received the following number of complaints relating to (a) name, (b) date of birth, and (c) place of birth in each of the last three years.

| | Name | Date of Birth | Place of Birth |
|------|------|---------------|----------------|
| 2017 | 1203 | 111 | 616 |
| 2018 | 2276 | 177 | 944 |
| 2019 | 3991 | 292 | 1168 |

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1961/>

Biometric Residence Permits

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [1962] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the terms of the contract for the physical production of biometric residence permits are on (a) who produces the permits, (b) where they are produced, (c) when the contract is due for renewal, (d) whether the contract includes a break clause and (e) what circumstances would trigger any break clause.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The production of biometric residence permits is carried out by the Driver and Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA) in Swansea under a Memorandum of Understanding.

This is reviewed yearly on the anniversary of the agreement and should either party wish to terminate they must give 12 months' notice.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1962/>

EU Settlement Scheme: Looked-after Children

Steve Reed (Labour Co-op) [1257] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2020 to Question 12894, on Immigration: EU Nationals, if his Department will work with local authorities to estimate the number of looked-after children that (a) are eligible for settled status and (b) have applied successfully for settled status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all, including children in care.

The Home Office has engaged extensively with relevant stakeholders such as the Department for Education, Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services to assess the needs of this group and ensure they are supported. That engagement continues, and all parties are committed to ensuring local authorities are supported throughout the process.

The vital role local authorities and health and social care trusts (HSCT) have with regards to looked after children accessing the EU Settlement Scheme has been agreed nationwide. Those responsibilities include the identification of eligible children and the recording of each application made. This includes the outcome status and future plans for converting pre-settled status into settled status.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-12/1257/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-05/12894/>

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

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

EU Settlement Scheme

Hilary Benn (Labour) [1866] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU citizens will be required to provide evidence of settled status or pre-settled status by Border Force officials when entering the UK after the end of the transition period.

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1866/>

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

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

EU Settlement Scheme

Hilary Benn (Labour) [1867] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether (a) airline and (b) ferry operators will be required to ask EU citizens for evidence of (i) settled status and (ii) pre-settled status before they board flights and ferries to the UK after the end of the transition period.

Hilary Benn (Labour) [1868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department,

what guidance the Government has issued to airline operators on the evidence EU citizens will be required to provide before boarding flights to the UK from (a) the EU and (b) other countries after the end of the transition period.

Hilary Benn (Labour) [1869] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance the Government has provided to ferry operators on the evidence EU citizens will need to provide before boarding a ferry to the UK after the end of the transition period.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Immediately after the end of free movement, carriers will not be required to ask EU citizens for evidence of EU Settlement Scheme status before they board flights and ferries to the UK. As part of our future plans for strengthening border security, there may be changes to the checks carriers are required to undertake to ensure their passengers have the appropriate permission to travel to the UK. This could include checks for EU Settlement Status. We will work with carriers to develop the detailed policy and system requirements, and ensure there is appropriate guidance in place before any such changes are made.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1867/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1868/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/1869/>

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

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

EU Settlement Scheme

Martyn Day (SNP) [15147] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many EU nationals reside in (a) Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency and (b) Scotland; and what proportion of those EU nationals have been granted settled status.

Martyn Day (SNP) [15148] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department holds information on the number of vulnerable adults in Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency who are (a) eligible for settled status and (b) have applied successfully for settled status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published information shows that more than 3.1 million (3,107,900) EU Settlement Scheme applications had been received up to 31 January 2020. In the same period 2.7 million (2,730,200) applications had been concluded of which 58% were granted settled status. The latest figures can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme monthly statistics' available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2020>

Published information on EU Settlement Scheme conclusions by region and local authority to 31 December 2019, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', local authority statistics tables, table EUSS_LA_03, available at:

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

In addition, the available published information on EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) applications and concluded applications by the applicant's age and nationality to 31 December 2019, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme

quarterly statistics', statistics tables, tables EUSS_01, EUSS_02 and EUSS_04, available at:

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

The Home Office has put in place a comprehensive vulnerability strategy to ensure the EU Settlement Scheme is accessible for all. We are working in partnership with vulnerable group representatives, local authorities and other experts to understand user needs and to ensure the right support arrangements are in place for applicants, including those with disabilities.

The Home Office has introduced a range of support including up to £9 million grant funding for voluntary and community organisations, to ensure those who require the most support to apply to the scheme can access it.

The Home Office has developed a community toolkit which includes communications materials and specific guidance on the EU Settlement Scheme for local authorities to download to help support individuals. The Settlement Resolution Centre provides help and information to individuals completing their EU Settlement Scheme application and can also be contact-ed via e-mail.

An Assisted Digital service is available for those who do not have the skills, access or confidence to complete the online form.

The published figures refer specifically to applications made to the EU Settlement Scheme and cannot be directly compared with ONS estimates of the resident population of EU/EEA nationals in the UK. The published EUSS figures include non-EEA family members, Irish nationals, and eligible EEA citizens not resident in the UK, none of whom are usually included in ONS estimates of the resident EU population. Furthermore, the population estimates do not take account of people's migration intentions and will include people who have come to the UK for a range of purposes, including some who have no intention to settle in the UK.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/15147/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/15148/>

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

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

The toolkit referred to above can be read at

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [18585] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to inform employers of the entitlement to work of people with pre-settled status.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have a comprehensive and ongoing programme of engagement with businesses of all sizes, across the UK, to ensure they fully understand their obligations as employers of EU nationals.

We have made it clear there is no requirement for employers to differentiate between those with settled and pre-settled status. EU citizens continue to be able to use their passport or national identity card to evidence their right to work and this will not change until 30 June 2021.

Employers must not discriminate between those who have been granted a status under the EU Settlement Scheme and those who have not.

Further guidance on right to work checks after 30 June 2021 will be issued in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/18585/>

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

Refugees

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [19006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the move-on period for newly recognised refugees.

Reply from Chris Philp: Whilst there are currently no plans to extend the move-on period, the Government has been working on a number of important initiatives to ensure that newly recognised refugees are able to access benefits and housing promptly once their Home Office support ends. We are ensuring that this work takes into account the views of the key voluntary sector groups, including the British Red Cross.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-21/19006/>

Dublin Regulation

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [2052] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many inadmissibility decisions based on the concept of safe third country were made by the UK in 2019, by country designated as safe third country.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Dublin III Regulation is a long-standing mechanism between EU Member States to determine responsibility for examining asylum claims. It is not an application route for transfer to the UK. At present we do not publish data on cases covered by the Dublin Regulation. Eurostat, the EU's statistics agency, regularly publishes Member State figures, which can be found at:

http://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=migr_dubto&lang=en

The UK is committed to providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with its international obligations. It is an established principle that those in need of protection should seek asylum in the first safe country that they enter and not put their lives at risk by making unnecessary and dangerous onwards journeys to the UK. Illegal migration from safe countries undermines our efforts to help those most in need. Controlled resettlement via safe and legal routes is the best way to protect refugees and disrupt the organised crime groups that exploit migrants and refugees.

Information regarding how many inadmissible decisions based on the concept of safe third country and which designated safe third country those decisions relate to is not recorded or held in a reportable format.

Full guidance on which asylum claims must be treated as inadmissible was published in October 2019 and can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inadmissibility-third-country-cases>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2052/>

Asylum: Children

Kenny MacAskill (SNP) [2017] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria is used in deciding the rate to be paid to local authorities for the care of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We recognise local authorities undertake incredibly valuable work in looking after vulnerable young asylum seekers and the Home Office is committed to supporting this.

The Home Office provides funding to local authorities as a contribution to the costs they incur when supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), which is in addition to the money provided through the local government finance settlement.

The UASC funding review gathered evidence from over 50 local authorities and concluded in May 2019 with a significant increase in the funding: from 1 April 2019, local authorities now receive £114 per UASC per night for each UASC in their care, regardless of their age or when they entered the UK. This represents a 61% increase to the lowest rate that was previously paid. As well as providing a greater contribution to local authorities support costs, these changes addressed feedback from the review that the previous rate structure was overly complex.

Further consideration is being given to funding rates for local authorities supporting UASC and former UASC care leavers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2017/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19904] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people claimed asylum in the UK on the basis of sexual orientation in 2018; and what proportion of those applications were refused.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on the number of asylum applications on the basis of sexual orientation and the initial decisions on such applications are published in the LGBT asylum data table under SOC_00 of the asylum and resettlement detailed datasets.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to 2018, with the next planned update scheduled for August 2020.

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

Links:

Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release:

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

LGBT asylum data table:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/848102/asylum-sexual-orientation-dec-2018-tables.ods

Asylum and Resettlement Detailed Datasets

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

Research and statistics calendar:

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19904/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19905] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many hours of LGBT+ sensitive training were delivered to officers who interview people claiming asylum on the grounds of sexual orientation in 2019.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office does not record the number of hours of LGBT+ sensitive training delivered to officers who interview individuals who claim asylum on the grounds of sexual orientation. LGBT+ training is a central theme

throughout the Foundation Training Programme (FTP) that all asylum Decision Makers receive.

We are committed to an asylum system which is supportive and responsive to those claiming asylum on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19905/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19906] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to minimise the risk of victimisation to LGBT+ asylum seekers living in temporary accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the welfare of all our service users in asylum accommodation very seriously.

The new accommodation contracts contain several uplifts in order to safeguard the vulnerable, including LGBT+, service users. This includes specific training for all frontline provider staff and improved data sharing protocols which include the characteristics and needs of Service users at risk of with specific needs.

Further, we liaise with Micro Rainbow, a charity who organises safe housing and support for LGBT+ asylum seekers and refugees.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19906/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: LGBT People

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19907] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the risks to LGBT+ detainees in immigration removal centres.

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19910] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people seeking asylum in the UK on the basis of sexual orientation are in immigration detention.

Deportation: LGBT People

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many failed LGBT+ asylum seekers were deported from the UK in each year since 2015.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK has a proud record of providing protection for asylum seekers fleeing persecution because of their sexual orientation. Each case is considered on its individual merits, with all available evidence carefully and sensitively considered in light of published country information.

Decisions on claims based on sexual orientation are reviewed by a second experienced caseworker as an additional safeguard.

Migrants, including asylum claimants, may be detained for immigration purposes only in accordance with Home Office detention policy, as set out in Detention general guidance and adults at risk in immigration detention. The detention decision must always be made on the basis of the individual's particular circumstances and eligibility for detention.

All immigration removal centres take a strategic approach to equality and diversity, with identification, monitoring and support for all detainees with protected characteristics. Every detainee receives an individual risk assessment at the point of initial detention which is repeated when the detainee enters the immigration removal centre. The risk assessment is kept under review.

Guidance is available for Home Office and supplier staff on providing consistent standards of treatment for LGB detainees. This is provided in Detention Services Order 2/2016 'Lesbian, gay and bisexual detainees in the detention estate' which

is available on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lesbian-gay-and-bisexual-detainees>

Where transsexual individuals are detained, Detention Services Order 11/2012 on the 'Care and Management of Transsexual Detainees' sets out how individuals with these particular protected characteristics should be safeguarded and treated in detention. This can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/caring-for-and-managing-transsexual-detainees>

The UK only ever returns those who both the Home Office and the Courts are satisfied do not need our protection and have no legal basis to remain in the UK. We do not currently hold the data in the format you have requested, however published data is available on the number of individuals held in immigration detention and those that are returned, including the sexuality of the number of applicants and decisions made. Details of the number of Asylum claims made is also published, the data can be found at:

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

Under section 8 (detentions and returns) and section 10 (Asylum on the basis of sexual orientation):

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

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19907/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19910/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19908/>

Asylum: LGBT People

Jo Stevens (Labour) [19909] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many LGBT+ asylum seekers have been the victim of a reported hate crime in (a) asylum accommodation and (b) immigration removal centres in each year since 2015.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government takes the welfare and safety of those in asylum accommodation very seriously and no form of ill-treatment or discrimination is tolerated.

We do not tolerate any kind of criminal activity in our accommodation or immigration removal centres, and any allegation of crime is immediately reported to the police for investigation. Reported incidents which are considered crimes are recorded by the police.

Information on the number of reported hate crimes is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-24/19909/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Deportation: Jamaica

Apsana Begum (Labour) [2037] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the people deported to Jamaica on 11 February 2020 had previously been granted (a) a right of residency and (b) indefinite leave to remain.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [2038] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any of the people deported to Jamaica on 11 February 2020 originally entered the

UK as a child.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [2039] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether any of the people deported to Jamaica on 11 February 2020 were the (a) children and (b) grandchildren of people who migrated to the UK from the Commonwealth before 1973.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [2040] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Whether his Department has taken steps to ensure the safety of people deported to Jamaica on 11 February 2020.

Apsana Begum (Labour) [2041] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the people deported to Jamaica on 11 February 2020 had access to legal advice and representation prior to deportation.

Reply from Chris Philp: The foreign national offenders who have been removed on this flight have all had their cases fully reviewed to ensure there are no outstanding legal barriers that would prevent their removal from the UK.

Under the UK Borders Act 2007, introduced by the Labour Government, a Deportation Order must be made where a foreign national has been convicted of an offence and received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. This is subject to several exceptions, including where to do so would be a breach of a person's ECHR rights or the UK's obligations under the Refugee Convention.

A Deportation Order also invalidates any leave to enter or remain that the person has or is subsequently given while the order is in force. In the case of a foreign national who has been sentenced to a period of imprisonment of at least four years, the public interest requires deportation unless there are very compelling circumstances.

A foreign national who has been convicted of an offence that has caused serious harm, who is a persistent offender or who represents a threat to national security may be considered for deportation under the Immigration Act 1971, where it is conducive to the public good. The individuals on the flight were foreign national offenders whose offences include manslaughter, rape, violent crime and dealing Class-A drugs.

The length of time a person has lived in the UK, as well as the strength of their social, cultural and family ties to the UK are factors considered when determining whether there are very compelling circumstances which satisfy the requirements of the Immigration Rules. Each case is considered on its individual merits and is carefully assessed against a background of relevant case law and in light of published country information, which covers country specific issues.

The Home Office works with a number of non-governmental organisations that provide support on arrival for returnees which includes general orientation, access to temporary accommodation, travel, vocational training, job referral and signposting services. We are committed to ensuring safe and dignified returns and reintegration is a key part of that

All individuals who are detained are made aware of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an immigration removal centre (IRC). The Legal Aid Agency operates legal advice surgeries across the detention estate in England, with detainees receiving up to 30 minutes of advice without reference to financial eligibility or merits of their case.. If they require substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid then full legal advice can be provided.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2037/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2038/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2039/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2040/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-02-13/2041/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Immigration: Points-based System

Baroness Williams of Trafford repeated Ministerial Statement made by Priti Patel in the House of Commons which has been copied above.

Lord Rosser (Labour): ... Over the last decade, we have been told by the Government of their determination to reduce net migration. For many years, their objective was to bring it down to the tens of thousands. Net migration actually went up under Conservative Governments over the last decade, even though the Government had control over non-EU migration which, in each and every year since 2010, has been in excess of net migration from EU countries. In 2018 non-EU net migration, over which the Government have control, was in fact three times the rate of net migration from the EU.

Are the Government now telling us that EU net migration—which I believe was about 75,000 in 2018—was made up of large numbers of people who we really do not need in this country? How many people are the Government now saying came into this country in 2018 and 2019 who they now want to stop coming in, first from EU states and secondly from non-EU states, and who will no longer be allowed in under the points system referred to in the Statement?

We have been told that a distinction will be drawn between skilled and low-skilled workers, and that points will be awarded only if a laid-down salary level, skill level and level of ability in speaking English are achieved. The idea is apparently to keep out those whom the Government deem to be low-skilled workers, who appear to include most of those working in care services, retail and hospitality, construction and agriculture, for example. What percentage of jobs in the UK do the Government consider fall into the low-skilled category referred to in the policy statement? ...

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): ... “I am absolutely incandescent about the stupid lack of flexibility for care workers ... What may not be realised is the extent to which refugee families settled here (for example from war-torn Somalia) have family members scattered all over Europe who now can travel freely here. They are hard-working carers and often regard those they care for as part of their own family. It is just so shaming that we are turning our back on such caring people, labelling them as ‘low-skilled’.” ...

It is not possible, obviously, to mention today all the sectors that will be affected, but I want to mention the creative industries—performers and so on—because we are told there will be no change to existing routes. However, many agents and promoters have previously engaged EU performers only. They will need to get into the bureaucratic world of certificates, sponsorship and so on, and they are asking: what will be the “right talent”? ...

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... We have been clear ... that we will not implement a dedicated route for low-skilled workers and that UK businesses will have to adapt, upskill workers and not rely on cheap labour from the EU. Care workers can, with an A-level, or the equivalent, be able to come to the UK under our new skilled worker route. The salary levels have reduced as well. ...

The system will not change for the creative sector as it is as present. It will be exactly the same system, but she makes the point that EU versus non-EU will now be one and the same: it will just be non-UK. ...

Lord Lang of Monkton (Conservative): ... I believe that this is an important policy that must be controlled and delivered from the centre, from the United Kingdom Government. Nevertheless, there are so many wide variations in different parts of the United Kingdom of a social, economic and demographic nature that it is very important to take this new opportunity that we have with the flexibility the policy allows to take account of these circumstances and to try as fully as we can to meet them. Therefore, will my noble friend consult with the Governments of the devolved parliaments and assemblies to find out the facts that they are able to provide and also to test their opinions as to how the Government can best help them in getting a policy that will bind the United Kingdom together?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... He is absolutely right that we should be mindful of regional variation, regional demand and regional supply. In fact, the shortage occupation list that was drawn up does not look much different in Scotland than it does in the UK as a whole. But he is right to make the point that, in terms of engagement, we should listen to the devolved Administrations and be mindful of what they say. We would not want them to be unable to have the workforce that they need in their areas. ...

To read the lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-25/debates/D876BB2F-52CB-44EA-A2E7-DC4014D319EA/ImmigrationPoints-BasedSystem>

The policy statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement/the-uks-points-based-immigration-system-policy-statement>

Immigration: Refugee Doctors

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the case for accepting refugee doctors to the United Kingdom.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford): My Lords, our new immigration system will ensure that the UK has the skills it needs, including those of doctors. Our refugee resettlement schemes rightly focus on support for the most vulnerable recognised refugees, and those we resettle are supported to apply their skills in the UK.

Baroness Finlay of Llandaff: ... Given the significant hurdles when people flee with no papers or proof of qualifications and are unable to meet the English language requirements or pay the exam fees they need to register, how have the Government sought co-ordination across all healthcare regulators to ensure refugee doctors and other such professionals can achieve registration and bring their experience and skills to the NHS? Given that UNHCR estimates that over 1,000 people who identify as qualified doctors are stranded in refugee camps—many having been trained, in part, in English, yet only 46 having applied last year to the GMC—can the Minister tell us how many were refused entry last year?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Baroness will know, I am sure, that doctors and nurses are on the shortage occupations list. In that sense, they would not be refused entry, but I completely understand the point she makes about someone who is fleeing who does not have proof of their qualifications. The National Academic Recognition Information Centre is the designated UK agency to help doctors and healthcare professionals get their qualifications recognised by various NHS bodies. Individuals can, I know, apply for a statement of compatibility to have that recognised.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, if the Home Secretary is looking to the economically inactive to fill the gaping labour market holes that her immigration policy will create, will the Government now rethink their opposition to allowing asylum seekers the right to work after six months?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, our policy on that has not changed, but these things are constantly under review. My right honourable friend the Home Secretary is right that, if someone is seeking asylum but not yet legally resident here, they should not be in a position to be able to work.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour): My Lords, the Minister makes great play of the fact that doctors are highly skilled; of course they are. But what about care workers? Why is the classification used by the Home Office going to deny us thousands of people coming from other countries to work in our care system? This is complete madness.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: My Lords, it is fair to recognise that the problems in the care system are not fixable only through immigration. The MAC recognised in 2018 that the sector needs to invest in making jobs in social care worthwhile careers rather than be propped up with immigrant labour.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): The noble Baroness, Lady Finlay, referred to co-operation and collaboration between the various agencies and the Government to enable refugees who are doctors to practise. Can we add the availability or non-availability of clinical attachments to that list? After all, many of these doctors are among—I hate the term, but the Government use it—the brightest and the best.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Some clinical attachments will, if people have the skills required, come under the purview of doctors, nurses and other medical staff on the shortage occupations list. If not, obviously the requisite salary will be required.

The Lord Bishop of Durham: My Lords, it is important that Her Majesty's Government give serious consideration to complementary pathways such as this for refugees to find sanctuary while they are contributing professional skills of all kinds. However, the Minister will be aware that, this year, the existing refugee resettlement schemes will be consolidated into a new global resettlement scheme, for which only one year of funding has been announced. Is the Minister yet able to confirm that funding will continue for refugee resettlement for the full term of this Parliament, to maintain refugee resettlement at current levels?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The right reverend Prelate will recognise that the ambition for this coming year is that it should exceed previous years, and he will know that under our various resettlement schemes we are on course to resettle 20,000 people from the region this year. It is difficult to make commitments beyond this year because of the spending review, frustrating though that is, but I will keep him posted on our future ambitions for resettling people.

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative): My Lords, I am grateful. Will my noble friend ensure that any doctor who seeks to practise, whether a refugee doctor or otherwise, is registered to practise in their home country and has not, under any circumstances, been struck off and banned from practising there?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I will certainly confirm in writing if that is the case, because we do not want people who are ineligible to practise. We have had examples of that.

Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean (Labour): Will the noble Baroness be kind enough, after Oral Questions, to revisit the answer she gave a moment or two ago about the health service being “propped up” by immigrant labour? We rely on many immigrant doctors. Many of us have had experience of relying on those immigrant doctors in this country. It was an unfortunate term to use, considering the shortages, the waiting lists and those people—we all know someone—who have waited a very long time. She should reconsider her answer.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Noble Lords will know that, in using that word, I did not mean it to be in any way derogatory; nor is it a derogatory term. <https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-24/debates/7FBBAC32-5125-4535-BC62-AC7E55A2B82E/ImmigrationRefugeeDoctors>

Afghan Interpreters: Security Clearance

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench): To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Goldie on 22 October 2019 (HL19), whether the review of security clearance policies for Afghan interpreters who have been relocated to the United Kingdom has been completed; and if so, what was the outcome.

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Baroness Goldie): My Lords, I am pleased to confirm that the Ministry of Defence has revised its national security vetting policy for all interpreters who deploy overseas in support of military operations. Afghan interpreters who have relocated to the United Kingdom will now no longer be disadvantaged for not meeting the previous residency and nationality requirements. The Government will also now take account of previous loyal service alongside UK Armed Forces overseas.

Baroness Coussins: My Lords, I am relieved by and pleased to hear that Answer, although I find it odd that if residency and nationality for five years are no longer a barrier to security clearance, a minimum of five years' residency is still required as proof of honesty and integrity—as set out in the Minister's letter to me earlier this month. What is the difference and why can the two not be aligned? Also, I ask about the interpreters who remain in Afghanistan and do not qualify for the provision to relocate to the UK under the excellent ex-gratia scheme, but who might still be vulnerable to intimidation and death threats from the Taliban. Since responsibility for interpreters was contracted out to the private company thebigword, protection and the general duty of care for them has not matched the previous government-run scheme. When will this contract be reviewed and what due diligence will be undertaken to ensure that the previous intimidation policy will at the very least be restored, if not improved?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: As I indicated to the noble Baroness, in determining security vetting the Government will take account of previous loyal service alongside UK Armed Forces overseas. A variety of criteria are applied for UK clearance. It is for other groupings such as NATO to determine what satisfies them. On the point about thebigword and monitoring, I reassure her that the Ministry of Defence holds regular governance and assurance meetings with the contractor and has performance metrics in place to ensure that standards are met. On the intimidation angle, she will be aware that the UK Government have been at the forefront of providing support—and to considerable effect. In addition to the checks that the Government expect the contractor to carry out, there is an intimidation unit in Afghanistan, manned 24/7, to deal with any situations of concern. She asked for some specific figures; I will check *Hansard* and undertake to write to her.

Lord West of Spithead (Labour): My Lords, these people effectively fought the Queen's enemies alongside us. Does the Minister not agree that the foot-dragging, delays and confusion over this is a terrible message to give, because our forces will again, without a doubt, fight elsewhere and people will not be willing to help them if they see that we do not look after them?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: I respect the noble Lord's experience on such matters, but I disagree. The United Kingdom Government have effectively demonstrated that they stand by the people they ask to work alongside them in situations of hostility and conflict. Help has been forthcoming, particularly for those who feared intimidation: 570 locally employed staff have received support throughout the scheme, ranging from bespoke security advice to 40 locally employed staff being supported to relocate within Afghanistan. The two systems,

intimidation and redundancy, indicate that a great deal of help has been available from the United Kingdom Government, which is something of which we should be very proud.

Baroness Hooper (Conservative): Can my noble friend tell us, in addition to the good news she has already given, how many of these brave interpreters are still in the pipeline or are being processed, and when they can expect to hear when they and their families will be relocated?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: My understanding is that, under the redundancy scheme, there are only two former locally employed staff and their families waiting to relocate, neither of whom is an interpreter. So far, 445 former locally employed staff and their families—1,317 people in total—have been relocated to the UK, the vast majority of whom were interpreters. The noble Baroness referred to families in the pipeline; I understand that the Ministry of Defence is processing 66 spousal applications and 58 child applications for relocation from former locally employed staff who relocated without their families.

Lord Campbell of Pittenweem (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, I do not know if in preparing for this Question the Minister had regard to the *Hansard* of 17 June last year. At that time it was made abundantly clear that there was considerable sympathy on all sides of the House for the position of those who were willing to risk life and limb by being interpreters for the British Army. Some of that good will has in fact been dissipated by the length of time that it has taken to reach the conclusion that she announced in her initial response to the Question. However, I go back to those who have not yet been afforded the opportunity of settling in the UK. There is of course at the moment the suggestion of some kind of peace treaty between the Americans and the rebels in Afghanistan, but it is highly unlikely that the position of these interpreters will in any way be protected by that. Should we not be much more generous towards those who were willing to assist us, not least for the pragmatic point made by the noble Lord, Lord West: why will other people be willing to do the same thing if they do not believe they will be properly treated?

Reply from Baroness Goldie: I have endeavoured to reassure the House by giving the information that I have been able to disclose. A great deal has been done for the very reasons that the noble Lord rightly states. We value what these people have done in supporting our Armed Forces in an area of conflict; we value the contribution that they have made. It is clear that with the two schemes we have done everything we can to ensure that these people are not compromised, placed at risk or put at a disadvantage. In fact, the noble Lord will be aware that in particular the training and finance packages available for those who seek to stay in Afghanistan are very generous. They are having very positive outcomes as we speak, which is to be applauded and commended. We do not want a situation where people would be reluctant to work with the United Kingdom, and I am not aware of any evidence to that effect.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-25/debates/95111CC7-E25C-43A0-8E33-80299DC119F3/AfghanInterpretersSecurityClearance>

The written answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2019-10-14/HL19/>

The question and answer session on 17 June 2019, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2019-06-17/debates/DF876E5B-026E-4B27-85A9-B44CD0BB8FAE/AfghanInterpretersSecurityClearance>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration Controls

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1617] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of public understanding of changes to immigration rules and how they may be affected by any such changes.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Changes to the Immigration Rules are accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum, which explains how each of the changes may affect the public. Following each set of Immigration Rules changes, we also update relevant guidance on GOV.UK, so the public can understand how the changes may affect them.

The Law Commission, in their report on simplifying the Immigration Rules on 14 January 2020, have made recommendations on how to improve the presentation of changes to the Immigration Rules. We are carefully considering the Law Commission's report and recommendations. We will be providing a response to the report in due course.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1617/>

The most recent Changes to Immigration Rules can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862074/Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_HC56_PRINT.pdf

The accompanying Explanatory Memorandum is available at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/862102/Explanatory_Memorandum_to_HC56_Web_Accessible.pdf

The Law Commission Report referred to above can be read at

https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jsxou24uy7q/uploads/2020/01/6.6136_LC_Immigration-Rules-Report_FINAL_311219_WEB.pdf

Migrant Workers

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1615] To ask Her Majesty's Government what measures they are planning to put in place to meet any increase in the number of immigrants to the UK as a result of proposed changes to the salary threshold for skilled migrant workers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Under the future immigration system, people applying under the skilled worker route will need to meet a range of criteria, including a salary and skills threshold. This system is expected to bring the overall level of immigration down. Employers recruiting a skilled migrant worker will need to pay the Immigration Skills Charge, used to help fund training to increase the skills of the domestic workforce. Individual migrants, coming to the UK for more than six months, are required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge, ensuring they contribute to the cost of NHS services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1615/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Domestic Abuse: Immigrants

Baroness Penn (Conservative) [HL1492] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to extend the period of time that victims of domestic abuse who are applying for indefinite leave to remain can claim public funds under the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession.

Baroness Penn (Conservative) [HL1493] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans

they have to ensure that all migrants who have been victims of domestic violence have access to the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession and other support.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In response to the recommendations from the Joint Committee on the Draft Domestic Abuse Bill, the Government committed to review the scope and duration of the Destitute Domestic Violence Concession.

We have carefully considered the Committee's recommendations and the evidence provided by stakeholders on the issue. The evidence gathering stage of the review into support levels for migrant victims of domestic abuse has now completed and its findings are being considered.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-10/HL1492/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-10/HL1493/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

EU Nationals: Discrimination

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL1574] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of sanctions or other actions that may be applied in relation to landlords, employers and providers of services who, before the end of the implementation period, discriminate against UK-resident citizens of the EU who have not yet been granted settled status or pre-settled status.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL1575] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the options that will be available to UK-resident citizens of the EU who possess settled status or pre-settled status, when a landlord, employer or provider of a service is unable or unwilling to check their status information on line.

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL1576] To ask Her Majesty's Government what provision they will make available to (1) landlords, (2) employers, and (3) providers of services, who need to check the status of persons claiming to possess settled status or pre-settled status and are not able to access that information online.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: EEA and Swiss citizens can continue to use their national passports or identity cards to evidence their status in the UK until the new border and immigration system is introduced in 2021. There is no requirement for them to start using their digital status to evidence their right to rent, work or other entitlements until then.

The Home Office has published statutory codes of practice on GOV.UK for landlords and employers on how to avoid unlawful discrimination when undertaking checks, which clearly stipulate that landlords and employers should provide individuals with every opportunity to demonstrate their right to rent and work and should not discriminate on the basis of how the individual chooses to evidence their status check; by the production of documents or using the online service.

We are clear those who discriminate are breaking the law. Any EEA or Swiss national who believes they have been discriminated against, either directly or indirectly, may bring a complaint before the courts or before an employment tribunal. The Equality Advisory Support Service is there to support people who may have experienced discrimination in England, Scotland or Wales, and an equivalent is provided by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

95[1] per cent of adults aged 16-74 years in the UK in 2018 were recent internet users, however, we are committed to delivering a service that reflects the diverse needs of all users:

- We have a call centre that can assist digital status holders to use the service and telephone helplines that offer guidance to employers and landlords on conducting right to work and right to rent checks.
- We are providing assisted digital services that are triaged to reflect the individual's need – both the status holder and the user who may be conducting the check.

We will continue to review how digital status is working and the impact of its usage as we roll it out, to inform future design and communications.

[1] <https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/itandinternetindustry/bulletins/internetusers/2019>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1574/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1575/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1576/>

Immigration: EU Nationals

Lord Greaves (Liberal Democrat) [HL1577] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend the IT system for settled status applications so that it accept applications from people over the age of 100.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Applicants of any ages, including those over the age of 100, are able to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme via the online application form. We are aware of a very small number of applicants over the age of 100 who have seen incorrect content relating to their age when making their application via the identity app. These issues are caused by the format of the date of birth in the Machine Readable Zone and Biometric Chip in the applicant's identity document and we are investigating ways to address this.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Settlement Resolution Centre if they experience any issues or have any concerns about their application. Our trained agents can amend the date of birth manually in the event of any errors.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1577/>

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

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

Deportation: Jamaica

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1613] To ask Her Majesty's Government who was deported on to Jamaica Tuesday 11 February; and for what offences any such individual had been convicted.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: On 11 February 2020, 17 foreign criminals with a combined sentence of 75 years and one life sentence were deported on a charter flight to Jamaica.

Those on board had been convicted of serious crimes including robbery (3), burglary (1), rape (2), violent crime, including GBH (3), and drug offences (8).

These are serious offences which have a very real impact on the victims and the communities that we all live in. As required under the UK Borders Act 2007, a deportation order must be made where a foreign national has been convicted of an offence and received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. A deportation order may also be made against a serious or persistent offender who has received

sentences of less than 12 months.

All but one of those deported had sentences over 12 months.

A full breakdown of the offences of the 17 people on the flight is below:

Robbery:

- 1 convicted of robbery and was given a life sentence
- 1 convicted of robbery, firearms offence, theft of a vehicle and possessing class A drugs, and was given a five-year sentence
- 1 convicted for conspiracy to rob and possession of a firearm and was given a sentence of nine years

Burglary:

- 1 convicted of burglary and given a prison sentence of two years and six months

Rape:

- 1 convicted for rape and was given an 11-year sentence
- 1 convicted of rape and was given a sentence of four years and six months

Violent crime:

- 1 convicted for a violent assault and was given a sentence of one year and three months
- 1 convicted of wounding with intent to cause GBH, possession of a weapon in public place and violent offences against a person (Wounding) and was given a seven-year sentence
- 1 convicted of a violent crime against a person and was given an eight-year sentence

Drugs:

- 1 convicted for intent to supply class A drugs and was given a seven-year sentence
- 1 persistent offender, whose most recent conviction was for drugs offences and intimidating a witness, and was given a total sentence of 11 months
- 1 convicted for importing controlled drugs and was given a sentence of four years
- 1 convicted to supplying class A drugs and was given a sentence of four years and six months
- 1 convicted to supplying class A drugs and was given a sentence of three years
- 1 convicted of importing controlled class B drugs and was given a three-year sentence
- 1 convicted of supplying class A drugs (crack cocaine) and was given a sentence of three years and two months
- 1 convicted of supplying class A drugs and was given a sentence of three years and four months

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1613/>

Deportation: Jamaica

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL1616] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Court of Appeal's instruction on 10 February to the Home Office not to remove anyone scheduled to be deported to Jamaica from two detention centres on 11 February unless the Home Office was satisfied that those scheduled for deportation had access to a functioning non-O2 Sim card on or before 3 February, on what basis any such deportations then took place.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The 17 Foreign National Offenders who were deported by charter flight on 11 February were individually assessed

against the Court of Appeal order. The 17 were not covered by the terms of the order as they were either not held at IRC Colnbrook or IRC Harmondsworth or otherwise had been assessed by the courts as not being affected by the O2 outage.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-12/HL1616/>

The Court of Appeal Order referred to above can be read at

<https://detentionaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/DOC002.pdf>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Drew Hendry (SNP) (205) Highland Syrian refugee resettlement programme – That this House recognises the success of the Highland Syrian refugee resettlement programme; notes that Highland communities have welcomed 23 families that endured the most horrific circumstances and ensured they are settled, safe, well and wanted in their new surroundings; acknowledges the welcome and the support local residents have given to their new neighbours; and thanks the third sector organisations that have arranged welcome parties, provided food and clothing, helped with transport and fostered social integration for those families.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/55664/highland-syrian-refugee-resettlement-programme>

Press Releases

Culture Secretary hosts Festivals Visa Summit

<https://www.gov.scot/news/culture-secretary-hosts-festivals-visa-summit/>

UK immigration stats: Indian student visas up by 93%

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-immigration-stats-indian-student-visas-up-by-93>

New Publications

Briefing: EU Settlement Scheme

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8584/CBP-8584.pdf>

Supreme Court ruling concerning the detention of a refugee who was subsequently convicted in the UK of a number of offences, the most serious of which occurred on 22 January 2007 when he pleaded guilty to assisting the unlawful entry of a non-EEA national in the UK. Following the end of his prison sentence, the Secretary of State made a decision to deport the refugee. He brought a claim for judicial review of the deportation order, and subsequently of the lawfulness of the detention. That appeal was dismissed but the Supreme Court now unanimously allows the appeal. It holds that the appellant was unlawfully detained and is entitled to pursue a claim for damages for false imprisonment.

To read the full press release see

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2018-0140-press-summary.pdf>

To read the full judgement see

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/docs/uksc-2018-0140-judgment.pdf>

English proficiency of pupils with English as an additional language

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868209/English_proficiency_of_EAL_pupils.pdf

A World of Talent - Building an immigration system that works for small businesses

<https://www.fsb.org.uk/static/b21f3889-24ba-4dee-93d9fa6136d31a14/A-World-of-Talent-Building-an-immigration-system-that-works-for-small-businesses.pdf>

News

Migration to UK from outside EU hits record level, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migration-immigration-eu-highest-level-brexiteers-figures-work-a9362531.html>

Migration from non-EU countries is highest on record

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migration-from-non-eu-countries-is-highest-on-record-03mwmv2sd>

Calls for rural pilot scheme go-ahead after 'catastrophic' immigration policy announcement

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18255222.calls-rural-pilot-scheme-go-ahead-catastrophic-immigration-policy-announcement/>

Tourism industry to rally against 'disgraceful' immigration policy

https://www.heraldsotland.com/business_hq/18264026.tourism-industry-rally-disgraceful-immigration-policy/

Immigration: Conservative MP brands social care advice 'facile'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51682372>

UK Government immigration reforms could force Scottish businesses to close, warns report

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-government-immigration-reforms-could-force-scottish-businesses-to-close-warns-report-1-5095208>

The teams of migration experts have missed a crucial demographic

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/the-teams-of-migration-experts-have-missed-a-crucial-demographic-htlh5ltf9>

Number of asylum seekers waiting longer than half a year for decision surges by 76%, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/asylum-seekers-delay-waiting-decision-home-office-priti-patel-a9363061.html>

When you paint targets on the backs of foreigners, it is any surprise that Priti Patel has taken aim and pulled the trigger?

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18255238.kevin-mckenna-paint-targets-backs-foreigners-surprise-priti-patel-taken-aim-pulled-trigger/>

Scotland 'should welcome more Syrian refugees'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/scotland-should-welcome-more-syrian-refugees-2005020>

Italian man, 95, resident in UK for 68 years, told to prove it

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/17/italian-man-95-resident-in-uk-for-68-years-told-to-prove-it>

Academics refused permanent UK visas because of field trips abroad

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/25/academics-refused-permanent-uk-visas-because-of-field-trips-abroad>

'How do I convince the Home Office I'm a lesbian?'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/stories-51636642>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Apsana Begum (Labour) (210) Community language services – That this House notes that community language services help provide young people with an understanding of their first language and culture, raise educational attainment, celebrate diversity and linguistic plurality, and promote social cohesion across communities; is concerned that, at a time when many are worried about knife crime, radicalisation and the lack of a sense of belonging that many young people feel, these services are being cut and privatised; regrets that local government and the vital public services they provide have been undermined by Government cuts, leading to the loss of key services, such as community language services; and calls on the Government to ensure that the local and public provision of community language services is free at the point of use.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/55683/community-language-services>

Virendra Sharma (Labour) (218) Darus Salaam Mosque, Southall – That this House welcomes the opening of the new Darus Salaam Mosque in Ealing Southall; congratulates the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Ealing Southall and the UK for their work in bringing this new place of worship to the community; notes the contribution of the Ahmadiyya Community to the UK; and thanks Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul Masih V for his inspiring inauguration of the new Mosque.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/55675/darus-salaam-mosque-southall>

New Publication

Exploring religion in England and Wales

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/religion/articles/exploringreligioninenglandandwales/february2020/pdf>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament Debate

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities: Inequalities

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-02-25/debates/0BF4D3EA-3149-4AAD-A3D0-58DD807054B4/GypsyRomaAndTravellerCommunitiesInequalities>

News

Fewer than 1% of UK university professors are black, figures show

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/feb/27/fewer-than-1-of-uk-university-professors-are-black-figures-show>

Tesco to sell plasters in racially diverse skin tones

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51611514>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answer

Islamophobia

Anas Sarwar (Labour): “He started screaming in my face, that I should go home, that I was a terrorist. Again, he used the ‘p’ word, swearing at me, telling me I wasn’t welcome here.”

Those are the words of Linsay Taylor, a Scots-born Muslim who wears a hijab. She goes on to say: “I don’t use public transport. I don’t walk about streets I am unaware of. It has altered my behaviour.”

The initial findings of our public inquiry into Islamophobia will shock the majority of Scots, but sadly they will not surprise Scottish Muslims. The inquiry has found that a third of Muslims say that Islamophobia is an everyday issue, 80 per cent have experienced Islamophobia and 80 per cent believe that it is getting worse. That impacts education, policing, communities, transport and employability.

Will the First Minister commit to ensuring that all relevant Scottish Government departments make themselves available to support the work of the inquiry? I know that there are lots of issues that divide people in this chamber and in the country, but the fight against all forms of prejudice and hatred is a fight that must unite us all.

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): I will give that commitment on the part of the Scottish Government that the Government and its agencies will make themselves available to co-operate with the inquiry. As Anas Sarwar said, the findings coming out of the inquiry will shock many people, but unfortunately, they do not shock Muslims and, I am sad to say, they do not entirely shock me either, because I regularly hear from Muslim friends and constituents about the completely unacceptable and heinous abuse that they are the victims of almost daily. It is unacceptable. It shames our country and, whatever else we may disagree or divide on, we must unite to stamp it out. Bigotry, racism, prejudice, antisemitism, Islamophobia and prejudice of any shape, form or nature is completely unacceptable. That is not who we are. We must never tolerate it and we must come

together to make sure that it can be eradicated once and for all.

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12541&i=113370#ScotParlOR>

The initial findings referred to above have only been published in the media at
<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/race-hate-reality-modern-scotland-21574705>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Antisemitism

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL1548] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of any correlation between the actions of the government of Israel and antisemitic incidents in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: This government takes a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime and that includes antisemitism. There has been an increase in reported hate crime towards the Jewish community captured in both the Home Office report "Hate Crime: England and Wales 2018/19", and recent statistics released by the Community Security Trust. Some of the increase will reflect improvements in the recording of hate crime and increased confidence in reporting it. But we cannot be complacent. There have also been spikes following certain events such as international and domestic terror attacks. However, Government cannot comment on the specifics of individual cases.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-02-11/HL1548/>

The Home Office report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839172/hate-crime-1819-hosb2419.pdf

The CST statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/9/0/IncidentsReport2019.pdf>

New Publication

Annual Report on ECRI's Activities covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2019

<https://rm.coe.int/ecri-annual-report-2019/16809ca3e1>

News

Scotland's Islamophobic shame exposed as most Muslims say they have endured race hate

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/race-hate-reality-modern-scotland-21574705>

Racists call for Muslims to be persecuted and mosques bulldozed after hijacking Scots Islamophobia inquiry

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/islamophobia-inquiry-hijacked-racists-call-21582092>

Scots Muslim lifts lid on racist abuse she has faced for practising her religion

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/scots-muslim-lifts-lid-racist-21574882>

Third of Muslims say Islamophobia is an 'everyday' issue in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/third-of-muslims-say-islamophobia-is-an-everyday-issue-in-scotland-1-5095943>

It is time we faced up to the nasty side of Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18268297.rebecca-mcquillan-time-faced-nasty-side-side-scotland/>

Islamophobia “an everyday issue” for Scottish Muslims

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/islamophobia-an-everyday-issue-for-scottish-muslims>

An exodus of British Muslims is happening right under our noses – and still we're asking whether Islamophobia exists

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/islamophobia-british-muslims-brexit-hate-crimes-boris-johnson-a9356531.html>

Humza Yousaf accuses Scottish Labour leader of 'not taking racism seriously' over councillor racism row

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/humza-yousaf-accuses-scottish-labour-21589619>

Former Labour activist charged in police antisemitism investigation

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/26/labour-activist-charged-in-police-antisemitism-investigation>

Man charged following Labour anti-Semitism probe

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/02/26/man-charged-following-labour-anti-semitism-probe/>

Extremist neo-Nazi group to be banned under terror laws

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-51618248>

UK to ban neo-Nazi Sonnenkrieg Division as a terrorist group

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/24/uk-ban-neo-nazi-sonnenkrieg-division-terrorist-group>

Christian solicitor launches unfair dismissal case

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/christian-solicitor-launches-unfair-dismissal-case-h0xzj39fk>

Cardiff woman wins £400k in DWP race discrimination row

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-51620990>

DWP ordered to pay former trainee £400k over racism and ageism

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/25/dwp-ordered-to-pay-former-trainee-400k-over-racism-and-ageism>

Police and CPS accused of racism after Christopher Kapessa's death

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-51611880>

Black pupils are being wrongly excluded over their hair. I'm trying to end this discrimination

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/feb/25/black-pupils-excluded-hair-discrimination-equality-act>

Antonio Rudiger says 'racism has won' after Chelsea defender is jeered by Tottenham fans

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/chelsea-vs-tottenham-antonio-rudiger-booped-racism-has-won-racist-abuse-fans-spurs-a9353941.html>

Leeds United goalkeeper Kiko Casilla handed eight-game ban for racist abuse

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/02/28/leeds-united-goalkeeper-kiko-casilla-handed-eight-game-ban-racist/>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

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

**** Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill**

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

Stage 1 evidence session, Equalities and Human Rights Committee

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12527&i=113233#ScotParlOR>

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 Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

Windrush Compensation Scheme (Expenditure) Bill

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

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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>

Race equality, employment and skills inquiry (closing date 17 April 2020)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrc/race-equality-employment-and-skills-inquiry/>

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

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

Experiences of Islamophobia (closing date not stated)

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

Raising skills and standards of supporters of refugees and asylum seekers

(closing date not stated)

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

Police Scotland: Your view counts (open all year)

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

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

Scottish Refugee Council Small Grants Scheme

Closing date for applications: 8 March 2020

Grants of up to £1,000 to help community groups across Scotland involved in providing integration projects and services for refugees and asylum seekers, to deliver an event or activity which will help the group to strengthen connections, partnerships and networks with other communities in their local area. For information and an application form see <https://tinyurl.com/qgh6klq>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

BAME women in Scottish Politics

3 March 2020 in Glasgow (10.00–12.00)

In the 20 years since the opening of Scottish Parliament, no minority ethnic woman has been elected. The Parliament Project and Amina, Muslim Women's Resource Centre want to create a safe space for 12 women of colour, visibly Muslim women and minority ethnic women to come together to explore their political pathway, and demystify the process of standing for elected office. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wlfnr3l>

**** this week!**

Training for Trainers: Confidence Building and Hate Crime Reporting

4, 11, and 18 March 2020 in Wishaw (9.30–2.30)

(Participants must attend on all three dates)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre with North Lanarkshire Council training to deal with discrimination and hate crime, and build confidence. For information contact info@mwrc.org.uk / ansaria@northlan.gov.uk / 0141 212 8420

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

Sanctuary in Scotland

14 March 2020 in Edinburgh (10.00-3.30)

Church of Scotland, ACTS and CTBI conference to develop and support a shared commitment between the Churches on issues relating to migration, especially with those who are asylum seekers. For information see <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sanctuary-in-scotland-tickets-82607101063>

Researching migrant and ethnic minority communities in Scotland

18 March 2020 in Aberdeen (12.00–3.30)

School of Nursing and Midwifery at Robert Gordon University Symposium to discuss the influence of policy on research with migrant and ethnic minority communities. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/stry5vl>

Talking Prejudice

23 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–4.00)

5 May 2020 in Inverness (9.30–4.00)

2 June 2020 in Stirling (9.30–4.00)

YouthLink event for youth workers and others working in diverse communities to hear from other professionals about the tools and services available to address hate crime and prejudice. For information about the Glasgow event see <https://tinyurl.com/uq4antk> for the Inverness event see <https://tinyurl.com/t5g6xnv> and for the Stirling event see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

**** Advancing Human Rights & Inspiring Equal Citizens for Torture Survivors**

24 March 2020 in Glasgow (9.30–3.30)

Freedom from Torture event to share learning and experiences from the Healing Neighbourhood Project, in relation to promoting human rights, equality, and the empowerment of torture survivors through community learning and development, and enhancing democratic participation in all aspects of Scottish life. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/wdpzwvn>

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>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interfaith Scotland <https://interfaithscotland.org/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en>

Equality Advisory Support Service <http://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/>

Scottish Human Rights Commission <http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/>

ACAS <http://www.acas.org.uk/>

SCVO <https://scvo.org.uk/>

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/>

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news>

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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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