



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

Contents

[Immigration and Asylum](#)

[Equality](#)

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

[Other UK Parliament and Government](#)

[Health Information: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Bills in Progress](#)

[Consultations](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Events, Conferences, and Training](#)

[Useful Links](#)

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-21723 Pauline McNeill (Labour): Death of Syrian Man in Glasgow Hotel – That the Parliament is dismayed at reports of a Syrian man who recently died at a hotel in Glasgow; understands that hundreds of asylum seekers have been moved recently from either single occupancy or two-bedroom flat accommodation to hotels procured by Mears and the Home Office; further understands that approximately 360 people are now housed in hotels across Glasgow; is concerned about whether hotel accommodation and the removal of financial support is suitable for many of those moved, especially if compared with the privacy and stability in the accommodation they were moved from; is further concerned about reports that social distancing is impossible in the hotels, especially in meal areas; believes that asylum seekers are entitled to dignity and respect and to live in a safe environment, particularly during the current pandemic, and calls on Mears and the Home Office to work very closely with Glasgow City Council and NGOs on transitioning

out of the pandemic in order to avoid any further potential harm to these vulnerable people.
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21723>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Young People

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [34968] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the timeframe is for her Department's decision on the level of the citizenship application fee for young people.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has been granted permission to appeal against the High Court Ruling of 19th December 2019. While the case remains on-going we continue to charge Child Registration fees as set out in the Fees Regulations.

The Home Office notes the Court's judgment from the High Court and is considering its implications carefully, while awaiting the appeal hearing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-25/34968/>

The ruling referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/prcb-v-sshd.pdf>

Immigration: Coronavirus

Kate Green (Labour) [43006] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when her Department plans to reinstate the Settlement Scheme online application for non-EEA nationals that do not have a Biometric Residence Permit during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As part of the application process, non-EEA citizens need to provide their Biometrics if they are not already in possession of a Biometric Residence Card. In line with the latest advice from Public Health England the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Centres (UKVCAS) where non-EEA citizens need to attend to have their biometrics taken are temporarily closed in accordance with advice on limiting the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The government will look again at these measures at regular intervals and relax them if the evidence shows this is possible.

Those applicants who already hold a Biometric Residence Card do not need to provide biometrics and so are still able to apply to the scheme while the current restrictions are in place.

UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) has set up a dedicated team for customers with immigration queries related to coronavirus, including questions about urgent, compelling, compassionate cases. More information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43006/>

Immigration: Families

Kate Green (Labour) [43007] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will bring forward legislative proposals to amend the Minimum Income Requirement to ensure that UK citizens and settled persons sponsoring their family members under the immigration rules are not penalised by (a) being furloughed, (b) having a wage cut and (c) being made redundant as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and take these exceptional circumstances into account.

The minimum income requirement can be met in a number of ways in addition to or instead of income from employment or self-employment. For example, income from the couple's investments, property rental or pension may also be taken into account, together with their cash savings. Where there are exceptional circumstances, other sources of income can also be taken into account.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further temporary adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate. We will ensure people are not unduly affected or penalised by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43007/>

Health Services: Ethnic Groups

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [41587] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what step he is taking to ensure that BAME patients who are migrants have access to free medical care on the NHS during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Edward Argar: Regulations came into force on 29 January 2020 to add Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) (now known as COVID-19) to Schedule 1 of the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015. This means there can be no charge made to an overseas visitor for the diagnosis, or, if positive, treatment, of COVID-19.

To help ensure that no one is deterred from safely accessing healthcare for COVID-19 this information has been widely communicated to NHS staff and the public and has been translated into 40 languages. This message has been shared with organisations representing vulnerable migrant groups.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41587/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [43715] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to permanently exempt (a) NHS staff and (b) the families of NHS staff from the Immigration Health Surcharge.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We welcome the vital contribution NHS staff from across the globe make to our healthcare system.

The Government has recently announced a series of measures for key health workers on the frontline fighting coronavirus. Visas will be automatically extended for 12 months free of charge and there will be no Immigration Health Surcharge for the extension. These measures apply to NHS doctors, nurses and paramedics, and we have recently expanded this offer to cover more key NHS frontline health workers, including those working in eligible occupations in the independent health and care sector. This will also apply to their family members. The automatic extension offer will be for those whose visas expire between 31 March and 1 October. We estimate around 3,000 healthcare professionals, plus their families, will benefit.

Going forward, it is right those who come to the UK contribute to the NHS whose services they can access from when they arrive. Income from the Immigration Health Surcharge goes directly back into the NHS to help provide vital and lifesaving services.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-05/43715/>

Migrant Workers: NHS

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [44051] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will grant indefinite leave to remain for all foreign nationals working in the NHS.

Reply from Kevin foster: The Government has announced we will extend the visas for a range of healthcare professionals working for the NHS and independent health and care providers, where their current visa expires before 1 October. This offer also applies to their families. The 12-month extension is automatic and free of charge and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge. The Home Secretary has confirmed families and dependants of the health workers applicable for this automatic visa extension, who sadly pass away due to contracting the Covid-19 virus, will be offered immediate Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK, without a requirement to pay a fee.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/44051/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Kate Green (Labour) [37637] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect on the well-being of children of their parents or carers having no recourse to public funds.

Kate Green (Labour) [37638] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for a change of conditions to allow recourse to public funds her Department has (a) received and (b) granted since 1 March 2020; and what the average time was for her Department to determine its response to those applications.

Kate Green (Labour) [37640] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an estimate of the cost of suspending the no recourse to public funds condition during the covid-19 outbreak.

Migrant Workers: Finance

Kate Green (Labour) [37639] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department is providing to families with no recourse to public funds whose parents or main carers have lost their jobs as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

Children: Social Services

Kate Green (Labour) [37641] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the implementation of the no recourse to public funds condition on local authority children's services.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). We therefore do not believe it is necessary to suspend the NRPF condition.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The information you have requested regarding these applications is not assured to the standard required by ONS for publication, and as it would be too costly to do so we are unable to provide it. However, the Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and

statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Additionally, measures we have brought forward such as rent and mortgage protections are not considered public funds and can be accessed by migrants with leave to remain.

Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

The Government has made in excess of £3.2bn of funding available to local authorities in England to assist them in managing the pressures arising out of the pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37637/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37638/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37640/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37639/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37641/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Finance

Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op) [37524] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications have been made to lift the no recourse to public funds restrictions by residents with leave to remain since 23 March 2020.

Meg Hillier (Labour Co-op) [37525] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many no recourse to public funds restrictions have been removed since 23 March 2020.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [43998] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average time taken is for applicants to receive a decision from her Department after filing a change of conditions application to have the no recourse to public funds restriction lifted.

Reply from Chris Philp: Migrants with limited leave to remain under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the no recourse to public funds restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances.

The information you have requested is not assured to the standard required by ONS for publication and as it would be too costly to do so, we are unable to provide it. However, my department has recently digitised the application form, to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being prioritised and dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37524/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37525/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/43998/>

Immigrants: Finance

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [39741] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of (a) suspending no recourse to public funds conditions and (b) providing a specific support package for people with no recourse to public funds during the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Chris Philp: `The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). We therefore do not believe it is necessary to suspend the NRPF condition. The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Additionally, measures we have brought forward such as rent and mortgage protections are not considered public funds and can be accessed by migrants with leave to remain.

Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

In addition, the Government has made in excess of £3.2bn of funding available to local authorities in England and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations to enable them to respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable.

More information on the support available to migrants, including those with NRPF, can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-24/39741/>

Immigrants: Finance

Amy Callaghan (SNP) [39761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will allow people who have the ability to work on their current visa but have no access to public funds to be temporarily granted access to public funds for income during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is working closely with other government departments to support people, including migrants with no recourse to public funds, through this crisis. We are taking a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation are continually reviewing to consider what more can be done.

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being dealt with swiftly and compassionately.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with no recourse to public funds (NRPF). The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Similarly, the support the Government is providing to the rented sector and in respect of mortgages is available to all regardless of their immigration status.

In addition, the Government has made in excess of £3.2bn of funding available to local authorities in England and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations to enable them to respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable.

More information on the support available to migrants, including those with NRPF, can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-24/39761/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [42868] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for the lifting of the No Recourse to Public Funds condition have been (a) submitted and (b) granted in each of the last 12 months.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Migrants with limited leave to remain under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the no recourse to public funds restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances.

The information you have requested is not assured to the standard required by ONS for publication and as it would be too costly to do so, we are unable to provide it. However, my department has recently digitised the application form, to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and I can assure you that the applications are being prioritised and dealt with compassionately.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/42868/>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [43577] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an area-based assessment of the correlation between numbers of residents having no recourse to public funds and the largest numbers of deaths involving covid-19; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government has already commissioned work from Public Health England to consider the impact of various factors such as ethnicity, obesity, age, gender and geographical location and how these may have an impact on someone's susceptibility to the virus. We will consider whether further work is necessary.

Everyone who contracts Covid-19 will be treated for free, regardless of their immigration status. NHS trusts have been advised that no immigration checks are

required for those undergoing testing or treatment for Covid-19. The Government therefore urges anyone who needs medical care for Covid-19 to seek it.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-05/43577/>

Immigrants: Finance

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [44050] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will suspend the no recourse to public funds clause during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office is working closely with other government departments, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department of Health and Social Care to support people, including migrants with NRPF, through this crisis.

Many of the wide-ranging Covid-19 measures the government has put in place are not public funds and therefore are available to migrants with NRPF. The Government has published advice and information about the support available to migrants living here, including where they are subject to NRPF. This information covers statutory sick pay, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employment Income Support Scheme and can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-get-support-if-youre-a-migrant-living-in-the-uk>

Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply to have the NRPF restriction lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if there has been a change in their financial circumstances. The Home Office has recently digitised the application form to make sure it is accessible for those who need to remain at home, and applications are being dealt with compassionately.

Local authorities may provide basic safety net support, regardless of immigration support, if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution, for example, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

The Government has allocated more than £3.2 billion to local authorities in England, and additional funding under the Barnett formula to the devolved administrations, to help them respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, including services helping the most vulnerable.

In addition, on the 8th April the Chancellor announced an additional £750m package of support for charities across the UK to ensure they can continue their vital work during the Covid-19 pandemic. In light of the support available, we do not believe it is necessary to suspend the NRPF condition. We will keep the situation under review and consider further measures if needed.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/44050/>

Immigrants: Coronavirus

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [44000] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the potential merits of removing the no recourse to public funds conditions during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Jesse Norman: The Chancellor and Home Secretary have regular discussions on matters of importance for the Home Office.

The Home Office leads on policy towards those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and is working closely with the Treasury and other government departments, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department of Health and Social Care to support people,

including migrants with NRPF, through this crisis. Departments are sharing what they are learning from other bodies and charities with each other to ensure that the Government continues to take a compassionate and pragmatic approach to an unprecedented situation.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/44000/>

Entry Clearances: Coronavirus

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [40720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the 30 day entry clearance vignette while travel restrictions are in place as a result of the covid-19 pandemic.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the covid-19 outbreak.

It has been agreed that if an individual's 30-day visa to travel to the UK for work, study or to join family has expired, or is about to expire, a replacement visa with revised validity dates valid for up to 90 days may be requested free of charge until the end of this year (2020). Affected customers will need to contact the UKVI Coronavirus Immigration Help Centre. Full details of the Help Centre and how to make a request can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-uk-visa-applicants-and-temporary-uk-residents>.

These are unprecedented times and we may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate, to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-27/40720/>

Visas: Married People

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [43719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether furloughed salaries will be calculated as part of the earnings requirement for applications for spousal visas.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The earnings requirement for those seeking a spouse visa is a minimum income of £18,600 or higher where a child is also applying for leave. Salaries received whilst the sponsor, or applicant who is in the UK with permission to work, is furloughed will be calculated as part of this minimum income requirement.

Income from other employment or self-employment, cash savings, pension, or property rental may also be counted; along with other sources of income where there are exceptional circumstances.

The Home Office has put in place a range of measures to support those affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. We continue to monitor the situation closely and may make further adjustments to requirements where necessary and appropriate to ensure people are not unduly affected by circumstances beyond their control.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-05/43719/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Colum Eastwood (SDLP) [42215] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to waive the cost for visa renewal for all (a) NHS, (b) social care sector and (c) key sector workers who are working in response to the covid-19 outbreak; and to extend that same waiver to the families of those workers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government has announced we will extend the

visas for a range of healthcare professionals working for the NHS and independent health and care providers, where their current visa expires before 1 October. This offer also applies to their families. The 12-month extension is automatic and free of charge and those benefitting will not have to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42215/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [42149] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish guidance on which frontline workers are eligible to receive an automatic one-year visa extension if their visa is due to expire before 1 October 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Details of the automatic visa extension, and other immigration changes relating to COVID-19 can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-immigration-and-borders>.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42149/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Emma Hardy (Labour) [43142] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking with UK Visas and Immigration to (a) increase capacity and (b) reduce bureaucracy in Tier 4 student visa applications during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has already published guidance setting out a range of temporary concessions for Tier 4 applicants and sponsors, in order to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on them.

It can be found on the Government website by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-tier-4-sponsors-migrants-and-short-term-students>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43142/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Emma Hardy (Labour) [43143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether EU/EEA nationals entering the UK for full-time study at a UK university in academic year 2020-21 will be required to apply for a Tier 4 visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: EEA nationals arriving in the UK prior to the end of the transition period (31 December 2020) will be able to enter the UK on the basis of free movement. EEA nationals arriving on this basis will be able to apply for settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

This information is already available on the Government website by following this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/studying-in-the-uk-guidance-for-eu-students>

Any EEA national intending to enter the UK after January 2021, for the purposes of study, will be required to apply for a visa under the student route.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43143/>

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Emma Hardy (Labour) [43148] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the utility of credibility interviews in assessing Tier 4 applicants; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Credibility interviews form an important part of the Tier 4 application process, they ensure migrants are genuinely intending to study within the UK and can speak and comprehend English to a sufficient level.

The International Education Strategy outlines the Government's ambition to expand our education exports to £35 Billion by 2030. One of the actions outlined within the International Education Strategy, is to improve the customer journey by reviewing credibility interviews to ensure they are appropriately focused.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43148/>

Windrush Generation: Anniversaries

Helen Hayes (Labour) [43994] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that Windrush day 2020 is safely commemorated during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Luke Hall: It is only right that we celebrate the enormous contribution of the Windrush Generation and their descendants to our social, economic and cultural life. 2020 will see the second provision of an annual £500,000 grant to support celebrations on 22 June and ensure a lasting legacy.

Earlier this year, on the advice of the Windrush Day Grants Committee, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government approved funding to be allocated among 49 charities, community groups and local authorities.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been working with grantees to encourage them to develop contingency plans if there are still restrictions on gatherings and the use of public buildings on 22 June. In the midst of challenging circumstances, the grantees are demonstrating admirable willingness and aptitude to deliver their project outcomes through online or virtual means to coincide with Windrush Day, and by postponing some delivery until later in the year where necessary. We are also working with community stakeholders to mark Windrush Day appropriately online and in the media.

The Government remains committed to ensuring that 22 June is a day of celebration and recognition for the Windrush generation and their descendants.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-06/43994/>

Social Security Benefits: EU Nationals

Caroline Lucas (Green) [41960] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department has published guidance for Jobcentre Plus staff on accepting pre-settled status as sufficient proof of the right to reside for the purpose of accessing social security, including universal credit.

Reply from Justin Tomlinson: I can confirm that guidance has been provided to Jobcentre Plus staff on those who have pre settled status.

Those granted pre-settled status have the same access to benefits as they did prior to the introduction of the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). EEA citizens with pre-settled status are eligible to claim DWP income-related benefits such as Universal Credit if they are exercising a qualifying EU Treaty Right. This includes those with a worker or self-employed status and EEA workers with retained worker status who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own.

EEA citizens with pre-settled status can also claim contributory benefits providing they meet eligibility criteria.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/41960/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Christopher Chope (Conservative) [41376] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish her assessment of the progress achieved in implementing the joint action plan by the UK and France on combating illegal migration involving small boats in the English Channel; and when the objective set out in paragraph 6 of the addendum of ensuring that by Spring 2020 successful migrant crossings have become an infrequent phenomenon will be achieved.

Reply from Chris Philp: Since the signature of the Joint Action Plan in January 2019, my department has successfully worked with the French Government to deliver on the commitments made, including (i) the purchase of equipment to assist detections by French law enforcement partners (ii) the delivery of a strategic communications campaign and (iii) increased intelligence sharing through the CCIC. Additionally, under the terms of the Addendum to the Action Plan, the UK has supported the deployment of French gendarme reservists along the French coast, whose efforts have been vital in preventing boats crossing the English Channel. However, as recognised under the Addendum, this threat continues to evolve, with the recent good weather and Covid-19 lockdown having an impact on migrant behaviour, resulting in a rise in the number of arrivals in the UK. My department is working with the French government to respond to this evolving threat as a matter of urgency to reduce the number of crossings.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41376/>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/773403/UK_France_declaration_24_Jan_13.00.pdf

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum

Alyn Smith (SNP) [37985] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees have been resettled in the UK in each of the last three months.

Asylum: Children

Alyn Smith (SNP) [37986] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees below the age of 16 have been resettled in the UK in each of the last three months.

Refugees: Families

Alyn Smith (SNP) [37987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many refugees whose applications for resettlement in the UK have been granted by her Department have been reunited with their family in each of the last three months.

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

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

The next set of figures will be in the quarterly release on 21 May 2020. These figures will include the number of people resettled in the period January to March 2020 and will also include a breakdown of minors arriving under each scheme. We do not publish a breakdown of resettlement family reunifications.

The arrival of refugees under our schemes is currently impacted by travel restrictions globally. As a result, our current planned arrivals will not happen as originally scheduled. We are closely monitoring the situation and expect resettlements to resume when conditions allow.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37985/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37986/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37987/>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [37685] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on providing (a) refuge and (b) asylum to the (i) Sikh and (ii) Hindu communities from Afghanistan.

Reply from Chris Philp: It was appalling to hear of the attack conducted against a Sikh Gurdwara in Kabul on 25 March and the subsequent attack on the funeral procession the following day. We are deeply concerned about any attacks which target innocent people based on their beliefs; religious minorities should never be a target. Freedom of religion and belief is a fundamental right, and the UK is firmly committed to protecting ethnic and religious minority groups around the world. We are clear that all ethnic and religious groups have equal rights and an important role to play in Afghan society.

Whilst we sympathise with people in many difficult situations around the world, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from people overseas. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

The UK's refugee resettlement schemes do offer a route for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recognised refugees in need of protection, who have fled their country of origin. Through these schemes, the UK prioritises the most vulnerable refugees regardless of race, religion or ethnicity and we do not discriminate in favour of, or against, any group. We work closely with UNHCR, which has well-established procedures and criteria for identifying refugees they consider to be suitable for resettlement, taking into account their protection needs. Apart from the criteria we set for each scheme, we do not seek to influence which cases are referred to us by UNHCR.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-20/37685/>

Asylum: Applications

Daniel Zeichner (Labour)[41059] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce delays to substantive interviews for asylum seekers during the covid-19 outbreak; and whether (a) video conferencing and (b) other alternative processes are being assessed as a means of conducting substantive interviews for people seeking asylum in the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office takes the wellbeing of asylum seekers extremely seriously and has already put in place a range of measures to support asylum seekers affected by the covid-19 outbreak. In line with the Home Office's commitment to protect the health and wellbeing of its staff and customers as a top priority, Asylum Operations made the decision to cease face to face substantive asylum interviews with effect from Thursday 19th March 2020.

Asylum Operations have secured a mobile digital and video interviewing solution to support remote interviewing and are working with delivery partners, to enable the use of this technology. We remain committed to restarting substantive asylum interviews as soon we can establish a process that safely allows the participants - applicants, representatives, interpreters and interviewers - to do so safely.

Asylum Operations are continuing to make and serve decisions on cases where

there is enough information to do so. We are continuing to review these on a case by case basis, ensuring those with significant safeguarding concerns or vulnerabilities are only served if appropriate to do so.

These are unprecedented times and we are adjusting processes and procedures where necessary and appropriate to adapt to these changes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-28/41059/>

Asylum: Applications

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [41060] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of re-introducing a target of six months for the completion of asylum applications to the UK.

Reply from Chris Philp: A new service standard for asylum applications is currently being developed, which is intended to bring balance back to the asylum system.

Until October 2018, there was a published service standard in place to decide 98% of straight-forward cases within six months from date of claim. Whilst the operation consistently achieved this for three years, the number of non-straight forward cases awaiting a decision grew rapidly and it became clear that the former service standard no longer best served those that used our services. For these reasons, former Ministers agreed that we should move away from the service standard to reprioritise cases in the short term, whilst we come to longer term arrangement for service standards that meet the needs of all parties.

As a result, we moved away from the 6-month service standard to concentrate on older claims, cases with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). Additionally, we are prioritising cases where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required.

In line with UKVI's ambition to promote a greater understanding and transparency of the asylum system and to develop a service standard that is meaningful and commands confidence, we have engaged with stakeholders as part of our plans and are considering this valuable insight as we work to shape the new service standard. We are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay, to ensure that individuals who need protection are granted asylum as soon as possible and can start to integrate and rebuild their lives, including those granted at appeal.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-28/41060/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [42020] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of asylum support rates.

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [42021] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to increase asylum support rates.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are currently reviewing the level of the cash allowances, as we do each year, to ensure that they remain capable of meeting the essential living needs of asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42020/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42021/>

Immigrants: Finance

Alex Cunningham (Labour) [43012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) asylum seekers and (b) refugees with no recourse to public funds have been provided with (i) accommodation and (ii) other support by the Government during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seekers continue to be provided with accommodation and other support by the Home Office if they would otherwise be destitute. Data on the numbers receiving this assistance is published at

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

People granted refugee status in the United Kingdom are able to access the mainstream benefits in the same way as a British Citizen. No data is available on the number receiving that assistance.

As a temporary measure in light of Covid-19, any asylum seeker in Home Office accommodation who is granted refugee status is being allowed to remain where they are until the end of June. The arrangement will be reviewed at that point.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43012/>

Asylum: Employment

Ruth Jones (Labour) [43163] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with Cabinet colleagues on permitting asylum seekers to accept work outside the shortage occupancy list.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue. The review of the policy is ongoing, and we are considering the evidence put forward on the issue. It is crucial we take the time to get this right.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43163/>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

Richard Fuller(Conservative) [34954] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to help ensure people in immigration detention (a) at increased risk and (b) with an underlying health condition are able to (i) isolate in line with Government advice and (ii) access adequate medical treatment during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: There are currently no cases of COVID-19 in immigration removal centres.

The safety and health of people in the detention estate is of the utmost importance. The Home Office is working closely with NHS England health and justice teams and regional commissioning teams to support the planning and delivery of healthcare services in immigration removal centres during the COVID-19 outbreak. All immigration removal centres have communicable disease contingency plans, based on PHE advice, and dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. All receptions into detention receive an assessment within two hours by a nurse and can see a doctor within 24 hours.

NHS England have identified all people with known vulnerabilities across the immigration detention estate, who by age, underlying health conditions or both are at greater risk from COVID-19. Each of these detainees will be shielded using protective isolation measures as far as practicable. Detainees can also self-declare any vulnerabilities to healthcare or centre staff.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-03-25/34954/>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [40509] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to release detainees from immigration removal centres in response to the covid-19 outbreak; and what steps she is taking to ensure the health and protection of the remaining detainees.

Reply from Chris Philp: We only detain people where it is absolutely necessary, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis and kept under constant review but it is only right that we protect the public from high-harm individuals, which is why the vast majority of those in detention are foreign national offenders.

The health of those in immigration removal centres is of the utmost importance and Immigration Enforcement are following the latest guidance from Public Health England. Measures such as protective isolation will be considered on a case by case basis to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading to vulnerable groups in the immigration detention estate. Further measures including shielding, single occupancy rooms and the cessation of social visits have been introduced in line with the Government direction on social distancing.

As of 13 May there are no cases of COVID-19 in the immigration detention estate.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-27/40509/>

Coronavirus: Detention Centres

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [43087] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 30 April 2020 to Question 38618, on Detention Centres, for what reasons information on the number of covid-19 tests conducted in immigration removal centres is not held; and if he will make a statement.

Reply from Nadine Dorries: The overall number of tests for COVID-19 is published daily by the Government and is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

However, the information is not broken down to the level of detail being requested.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43087/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38618/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [38497] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigration detainees have been moved from Larne House detention centre in Northern Ireland to immigration detention centres in (a) Scotland and (b) England since 23 March 2020; and what risk assessments have been undertaken in respect of those moves.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the welfare of the detainees in our care very seriously. The safety and health of those in residential short-term holding facilities and immigration removal centres (IRC) is of the utmost importance.

Management information indicates that since the 23 March 2020, three detainees have been transferred from Larne House to an IRC. All these moves were to Dungavel House IRC in Scotland.

The Home Office undertake careful risk assessments when considering detainee placement in the detention estate. This is done on a case by case basis to ensure placement in the most suitable IRC that can best accommodate the individual's needs.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-21/38497/>

Immigrants: Detainees

Angela Crawley (SNP) [43061] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to reduce the number of people who are (a) held in immigration detention and (b) unlawfully detained.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are making good progress with an ambitious and systematic programme of immigration detention reform, at the heart of which is a Government commitment, over time, to secure a material reduction in the number of people detained and the length of time they spend in detention, coupled with improved welfare for detainees and a culture that maintains the highest standards of professionalism.

As part of this reform, we are maximising the use of existing alternatives to detention and exploring new approaches including a current pilot to support vulnerable women in the community who would otherwise be detained at Yarl's Wood.

We are progressing these priorities all while continuing to tackle abuse of the immigration system. The immigration estate is safer, more secure, and almost 40 per cent smaller than in 2015, with only four per cent of individuals detained for more than four months, and only two per cent of individuals detained for more than six months in year ending December 2019. Detention only exceeds these timescales in the most complex cases, almost always where serious and/or persistent criminality is involved.

Reducing instances of when the Courts find that we have unlawfully detained an individual is a priority. Often, an initial decision to detain will be appropriate, before a change in the individual's circumstances undermines this decision. As part of our response to the Home Affairs Committee immigration detention report, the Home Office has begun a programme of work focused on litigation outcomes to ensure that best practice is shared, that lessons are learned, and that we reduce instances of unlawful detention.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43061/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration Controls

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL3502] To ask Her Majesty's Government what the age limit for new entrants under the points-based immigration system will be.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL3503] To ask Her Majesty's Government what the salary threshold for new entrants under the points-based immigration system will be; and what assessment they have made of how that relates to the living wage in (1) London, and (2) the rest of the UK.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL3504] To ask Her Majesty's Government how long successful new entrants under the points-based immigration scheme will be able to stay in the UK.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL3505] To ask Her Majesty's Government what requirements, if any, there will be, as part of their new immigration system, for businesses to advertise jobs in the UK before recruiting overseas.

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL3506] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the number of people who will enter the UK each year as new entrants under the points-based immigration system, broken down by country of origin.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government set out its plans for the UK's future points-based immigration system in the Policy Statement published

on 19 February. The definition of new entrants will be based on the advice provided by the Migration Advisory Committee in its most recent report, which includes retaining the current upper age of 26 but also allowing new entrants to qualify in other ways, for example if they are taking up a postdoctoral position.

The salary requirement for new entrants will be set 30% lower than the rate for experienced workers in any occupation, but must still meet the minimum salary threshold of £20,480. New entrants will be able to extend their stay and settle in the UK, just as others in the Skilled Worker route, but their sponsors must increase their pay to the level required for experienced workers.

The Policy Statement indicated our intention to remove the resident labour market test. An impact assessment will be published to accompany the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3502/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3503/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3504/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3505/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3506/>

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>

Migrant Workers: Health Professions

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL3716] To ask Her Majesty's Government what immigration charges, if any, are payable by medical staff who are non-UK citizens to enable them to practise in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Medical staff from outside of the European Economic Area need to apply for a visa to work in the UK. Cost will vary depending on the type and length of visa. A list of current visa fees can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visa-regulations-revised-table>

Individuals coming to work, study or join family in the UK for a period of longer than six months, may also be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-29/HL3716/>

Immigrants: Health Services

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL3915] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that people with irregular migration status in the UK are informed about (1) free access to NHS treatment for COVID-19, (2) treatment for COVID-19, and (3) treatment for underlying medical conditions if hospitalised from COVID-19 related complications.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Regulations came into force on 29 January 2020 to add Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) (now known as COVID-19) to Schedule 1 of the

National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 2015. This means there can be no charge made to an overseas visitor for the diagnosis, or, if positive, treatment, of COVID-19. The exemption from charge does not extend to any pre-existing conditions, unless separately exempt under the Regulations. This message has been disseminated to National Health Service staff, the public and organisations representing vulnerable migrant groups. It has also been published in 40 languages on Public Health England's Migrant Health Guide.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-05-05/HL3915/>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL3618] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they are continuing to return people crossing the Channel by boat directly to France during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: People crossing the Channel to enter the UK have come from a safe country – usually France – and so there is no reason why they need to make this trip in order to claim asylum. Those fleeing persecution should seek protection in the first safe country they enter.

The UK continues to work closely with France and other countries to return migrants who have entered the UK by small boat in order to provide a strong deterrent against these dangerous crossings.

As a result of COVID-19 the vast majority of EU member states have temporarily paused accepting returns under the Dublin Regulations, but we are tracking those individuals and where appropriate will seek to return them when routes are available.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3618/>

Refugees: Children

Baroness Altmann (Conservative) [HL3646] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many unaccompanied migrant children from refugee camps in Greece they have committed to allow into the UK since 1 January; when such children will be received in the UK; how many of those children they decided to allow into the UK as a direct result of COVID-19.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office does not hold detailed information on the location of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children within European Member States.

The Home Office publishes data on the Dublin III Regulation on an annual basis (each February) in the Immigration Statistics This includes data on the number of requests to transfer into and out of the UK and the number acceptances and transfers into and out of, broken down by article. The latest data, covering up to 2019, can be found at:

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

Instructions on how to use the data can be found in the 'Notes' sheet.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, the UK remains fully committed to meeting our obligations under the Dublin III Regulation. Arrangements to complete a transfer have always been and still are the responsibility of the sending State who have 6 months to enact transfer after acceptance. We continue to liaise with our counterparts in Member States so that we can effect transfers as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. The Government remains committed to relocating the specified number of 480 unaccompanied children from Europe to the UK under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 ('the Dubs amendment'). Over 220 children

were transferred to the UK under section 67 when the Calais camp was cleared in late 2016. Since then we have continued to make further progress with participating States including Greece, to move closer to achieving this commitment.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-28/HL3646/>

Asylum: Finance

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat) [HL3390] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will credit the Aspen cards for asylum seekers with more than one week's allowance at a time.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We are currently reviewing the level of the cash allowances, as we do each year, to ensure that they remain capable of meeting the essential living needs of asylum seekers.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-23/HL3390/>

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

The Lord Bishop of London [HL3786] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 29 January, the statement that "for detention to be lawful, there must be a realistic prospect of the individual's removal from the UK within a reasonable timescale", and the travel restrictions in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, what steps they are taking to find alternative ways in which those placed in detention centres are managed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The health and safety of those in immigration removal centres is of the utmost importance but we remain committed to removing foreign national offenders or those who violate our immigration rules. Detention plays a key role in securing our borders and maintaining effective immigration control. Decisions to detain are made on a case-by-case basis and kept under constant review. As circumstances of the case change, detention is reviewed in light of these changes and release may then become appropriate. However, it is only right that we protect the public from high-harm individuals, which is why the vast majority of those in detention are foreign national offenders. The Home Office is following all Public Health England guidance and have robust contingency plans in place including measures such as protective isolation to minimise the risk of COVID-19 spreading in the immigration detention estate. Further measures including shielding, single occupancy rooms and the cessation of social visits have been introduced in line with the Government direction on social distancing.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-30/HL3786/>

The answer referred to above can be read at

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

Press Releases

Migration plea

<https://www.gov.scot/news/migration-plea/>

Windrush online engagement events

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-online-engagement-events>

More than 3.5 million applications to the EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-35-million-applications-to-the-eu-settlement-scheme>

New Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): letter to UK government about future borders and immigration system

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-future-borders-and-immigration-system-letter/>

Statement of changes in Immigration Rules

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885021/CCS207_CCS0520583832-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_CP_232_PRINT.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884897/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-quarterly-march-2020-hosb1220.pdf

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, March 2020 – tables

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884899/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-quarterly-march-2020.ods

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 Section 11: Independent Child Trafficking Guardians Consultation Analysis Report

<https://tinyurl.com/yaqzqct7>

Relocating unaccompanied children: applying good practices to future schemes

https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2020-relocating-unaccompanied-children_en.pdf

Asylum Trends and COVID-19

<https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/easo-special-report-asylum-covid.pdf>

News

Priti Patel to push ahead to end free movement

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-to-push-ahead-to-end-free-movement-h8qw8cltk>

Coronavirus: More visa extensions urged for foreign key workers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52646438>

Call for visa fees for social care workers to be scrapped

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/call-for-visa-fees-for-social-care-workers-to-be-scrapped>

Anger as Priti Patel says NHS fees paid by foreign health staff must stay, just three weeks after announcing ‘review’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/priti-patel-nhs-fees-foreign-health-staff-immigration-surcharge-a9517356.html>

Home Office failure to scrap NHS migrant surcharge sparks anger

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/may/16/home-office-priti-patel-failure-to-scrap-nhs-migrant-surcharge-sparks-anger>

Emma De Souza: Home Office 'concession' over NI immigration rules

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-52660737>

Northern Ireland-born British and Irish win EU citizenship rights

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/14/northern-ireland-born-british-and-irish-win-eu-citizenship-rights>

Refugee families reunited in UK after rescue flight from Greece

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/may/11/refugee-families-reunited-in-uk-after-rescue-flight-from-greece>

Migrant crossings: Another boat intercepted amid lockdown spike

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-52605310>

More than 1,000 migrants reach the UK in small boats since lockdown as more children picked up in the Channel

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/16/1000-migrants-reach-uk-small-boats-since-lockdown-children-picked/>

Children smuggled to Britain in dinghies 'for slavery'

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/children-smuggled-to-britain-in-dinghies-for-slavery-xqzk68qhn>

400 asylum seekers forced into shared accommodation despite lockdown

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/400-asylum-seekers-forced-into-shared-accommodation-despite-lockdown>

Urgent action needed in response to death in Glasgow asylum accommodation

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/devastating-death-in-hotel-used-for-asylum-accommodation-in-glasgow/>

Syrian man dies in Glasgow amid fears over refugees' mental health

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/11/syrian-man-dies-glasgow-fears-refugees-mental-health>

Home Office lost passport of man battling for decades to remain in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/14/home-office-lost-passport-osman-bash-taqi-battling-to-remain-in-country>

When the world crumbles, migrant lives are shattered – after being threatened with deportation, I know

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-lockdown-migrants-hostile-environment-home-office-furaha-asani-a9512826.html>

TOP

Equality

New Publication

Freedom of Information release: Ethnic background students grades for SCQF Level 5 and SCQF Level 6

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000023759/>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Motion

S5M-21766 Mary Fee (Labour): Romani Resistance Day – That the Parliament recognises that 16 May 2020 is Romani Resistance Day, which is an annual event commemorating the courage of 6,000 Roma and Sinti prisoners of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp who resisted SS guards on 16 May 1944; understands that, by using weapons made from rocks and scraps of metal, they managed to force the guards to retreat, delaying the inevitable Roma genocide; acknowledges that this is a day to recognise the dignity and strength of the Romani people when they were faced with the ultimate adversity; condemns the reality that members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) community continue to face discrimination in Scotland every day, with the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey revealing that 31% of people in Scotland would be unhappy if a close relative married a member of the GRT community; believes that anti-GRT discrimination is the last form of acceptable racism, and resolves to redouble its collective effort to secure economic, health and social equality for the GRT community in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-21766>

Press Release

Complaints raised about Islamophobia in the Conservative Party

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/complaints-raised-about-islamophobia-conservative-party>

New Publication

Conservative Party Independent Investigation into Islamophobia: Terms of Reference

<https://www.conservatives.com/investigation>

News

The Conservatives will not tolerate prejudice or discrimination – everyone should have a home in our Party

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/05/12/conservatives-will-not-tolerate-prejudice-discrimination-everyone/>

Conservative Party publishes terms for discrimination review

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-52634769>

Equalities watchdog drops plan for Tory Islamophobia inquiry

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/may/12/equalities-watchdog-drops-plan-for-tory-islamophobia-inquiry>

Human rights watchdog will not launch Islamophobia inquiry into Conservative Party 'at this stage'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/05/12/human-rights-watchdog-will-not-launch-islamophobia-inquiry-conservative/>

Conservative investigation into prejudice and discrimination branded “a facade” by Muslim Council of Britain

<https://mcb.org.uk/general/conservative-investigation-into-prejudice-and-discrimination-branded-a-facade-by-muslim-council-of-britain/>

Conservative party discrimination probe is a ‘facade’ and an attempt to distract from Islamophobia, Muslim Council of Britain says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/conservative-party-boris-johnson-islamophobia-muslim-council-discrimination-a9511241.html>

Coronavirus: Fears over London Chinatown’s survival

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-52605319>

Man charged after BBC reporter suffers racist abuse

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-52629255>

Man charged over alleged racial abuse of BBC journalist

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/12/man-charged-following-alleged-racial-abuse-against-bbc-journalist>

Man denies racially abusing BBC journalist Sima Kotecha

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/12/man-denies-racially-abusing-bbc-journalist-sima-kotecha/>

Man charged over alleged racist abuse of BBC TV crew

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/sima-kotecha-racist-abuse-leicester-bbc-tv-crew-a9509681.html>

NHS nurse loses discrimination claim after tribunal finds that the phrase 'cracking the whip' referred to horses not slavery

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/13/nhs-nurse-loses-discrimination-claim-tribunal-finds-phrase-cracking/>

‘Cracking the whip’ racism claim fails

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cracking-the-whip-racism-claim-fails-gg9b6md8d>

As with so much else, black and minority women have been left out of the national domestic violence conversation

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-domestic-violence-women-girls-bame-race-a9510156.html>

Ian Wright ‘fighting all the way’ after being sent ‘relentless’ racist abuse on Instagram
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/ian-wright-racist-abuse-instagram-messages-arsenal-england-a9509596.html>

Anti-racism charities condemn online abuse of Wright and Agbonlahor
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/may/11/anti-racism-charities-condemn-online-abuse-of-wright-and-agbonlahor>

Has push for independence been sidelined by Hate Crime and Gender Recognition fanatics?
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18454205.opinion-kevin-mckenna-push-independence-sidelined-hate-crime-gender-recognition-fanatics/>

TOP

Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Marriage

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL3013] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made on their commitment in the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, published 14 March 2018, to "explore the legal and practical challenges of limited reform relating to the law on marriage and religious weddings".

Lord Keen of Elie: The Government continues the exploration of both limited reform and non-legislative options that it began in detail last Spring. We are doing so with the greatest care. Any proposals affecting how religious groups are permitted to conduct marriages must be thoroughly assessed for their fairness to all religious groups and for how far they could achieve the change of practice intended.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-22/HL3013/>

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

TOP

Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NHS

NHS Inform (Scotland)

Latest guidance about COVID-19 from NHS Scotland and the Scottish Government, including social distancing and stay at home advice.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

Healthcare for overseas visitors

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-overseas-visitors>

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/care-support-and-rights/health-rights/access/healthcare-for-refugees-and-asylum-seekers>

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

Near Me is a video consulting service that enables people to have health and social care appointments from home or wherever is convenient. All you need is a device for making video calls like a smartphone and an internet connection. Near Me is a secure form of video consulting approved for use by the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland.

<https://www.nearme.scot/>

NHS (England and Wales)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [41556] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with counterparts in the devolved Administrations on the reasons why covid-19 disproportionately affects people from BAME communities throughout the UK.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Public Health England (PHE) has been asked by the Chief Medical Officer to review the potential that some ethnic minority groups are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. PHE is hosting a series of stakeholder events in the coming weeks, which will involve the devolved administrations and opportunities to collaborate and share learning will be part of the discussion.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41556/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [41557] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, when the terms of reference for the inquiry into BAME covid-19 deaths will be announced.

Reply from Jo Churchill: We are very concerned by the apparent disproportionate number of people from minority ethnic backgrounds who have died, both within the National Health Service and overall. We have asked Public Health England to complete a rapid review to understand how COVID-19 may be having an impact on different ethnic groups, and other groups of concern. The Terms of Reference will be announced in due course.

To complement this rapid review, the National Institute for Health Research and UK Research and Innovation issued a joint call on 22 April for research proposals to investigate emerging evidence of an association between ethnicity and COVID-19 incidence and adverse health outcomes.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41557/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [41558] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and

Social Care, when the decision to appoint Trevor Phillips to lead a review into the effect of covid-19 on BAME communities was made; and whether he will provide a list of all other individuals contributing to the review.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Trevor Phillips is not leading or running the review. The review is being led by Public Health England (PHE). Mr Phillips and his company will be but one source of intelligence alongside the National Institute for Health Research research call and PHE's own surveillance expertise. Their input will be specific and time limited.

PHE is hosting a series of stakeholder events in the coming weeks and these discussions will include government and public health specialists from the devolved administrations, community and faith groups, voluntary sector leads, organisations that represent migrant populations, local government leaders and public health specialists, academics and researchers, Royal Colleges and other Government departments.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41558/>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [41559] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will publish data on the ethnicity of people (a) infected and (b) who have died of covid-19 by (i) age and (ii) English region in (A) hospitals and (B) in the community; whether demographic data on covid-19 deaths can be provided in real-time; and how that data will be collected.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Data on those infected with COVID-19 are collected by Public Health England (PHE) for new diagnoses and hospitalised patients. Standard recording practice across laboratory systems requires recording of only minimal data (such as date of birth and name) as these records are not intended for disease surveillance purposes.

PHE has begun a rapid review to better understand how COVID-19 may be having an impact on different ethnic groups. As part of this review, PHE is matching thousands of laboratory records of COVID-19 cases to other health records to draw down accurate data on ethnicity, age, sex and geographical region. The first results will be published by the end of May.

NHS England and NHS Improvement lead on reporting deaths with confirmed COVID-19 in hospital. They publish a daily summary that includes a breakdown by ethnicity which can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

The Office for National Statistics publishes provisional counts of the number of deaths registered in England and Wales, including deaths involving COVID-19, by age, sex and region, in the latest weeks for which data are available. These data can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriage/s/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/weekending24april2020>

The Public Health England COVID-19 dashboard shows the number of cases confirmed by NHS/PHE labs for each region and upper tier local authority in England. The dashboard can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-track-coronavirus-cases>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41559/>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

David Davis (Conservative) [41383] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if the Government will publish statistics on the risk of death posed by covid-19, by ethnic group, after removing co-morbidities.

Coronavirus: Death

David Davis (Conservative) [41382] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if the Government will publish statistics on the risk of death posed by covid-19, by age group, after removing co-morbidities.

Coronavirus: Gender

David Davis (Conservative) [41384] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if the Government will publish statistics on the risk of death posed by covid-19, by gender, after removing co-morbidities.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Government statistics on the risk of death posed by COVID-19, by age group, ethnic group and gender, after removing co-morbidities, are not currently published.

We have asked Public Health England to review COVID-19 outcomes among different groups to better understand how factors such as ethnicity, deprivation, age, gender and obesity could impact on how people are affected, and to explore underpinning reasons for disparities.

We are also supporting the National Institute for Health Research's call for rapid research proposals on COVID-19 and ethnicity.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41383/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41382/>

and

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-04-29/41384/>

Coronavirus: Death

Siobhain McDonagh (Labour) [42873] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, how many people have died from covid-19 in the UK, by faith group.

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

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing mortality statistics for deaths registered in England and Wales. The most recent annual figures published are for deaths registered in 2018¹, however we do publish provisional weekly deaths registrations, which are currently published for deaths registered up to 24 April 2020². National Records Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing the number of deaths registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

We are unable to provide information on how many people in the UK have died from COVID-19 by faith group, because information on the deceased's religious status is not among the particulars generally recorded. The information we hold on deaths is limited to what is recorded at death registration, which is based primarily on the death certificate by a doctor or information about the cause and circumstances of the death provided by a coroner. However, we are exploring the feasibility of providing this information in the future based on linkage of census data to the death registration data.

¹ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/datasets/deathsregisteredinenglandandwalesseriesdrreferencetables>

² <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/deathsregisteredweeklyinenglandandwalesprovisional/weekending24april2020>

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-01/42873/>

Religion: Coronavirus

Ruth Hall (Labour) [43164] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what Government financial support is being provided to faith groups, institutions and organisations in (a) Newport West constituency, (b) Wales and (c) the UK who have lost income as a result of the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Luke Hall: Financial support provisions for faith groups, institutions and organisations in Newport West and Wales in general are devolved matters and the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly, with matters in Scotland and Northern Ireland the responsibility of the respective governments.

As the Department responsible for Faith, MHCLG continues to play a facilitative role in ensuring Government understands the needs of faith communities and the challenges they may be currently facing due to the pandemic. We are working closely with a range of faith and community groups to better understand how Government can support them to respond to the pressures they face on sustaining their organisations during this period of time.

There are a range of Government-backed financial support measures that these organisations in the United Kingdom can access.

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme and the Coronavirus Large Business Interruption Scheme are both available to registered charities, and therefore places of worship registered with the Charities Commission. Registered charities have now been exempted from the requirement that the applicant derives at least 50 per cent of its income from its trading activity, so that more charities can access the scheme.

Any person or organisation, including places of worship, that is unable to pay any HMRC bill due to Covid-19 should get in contact through the HMRC Coronavirus helpline. HMRC will be able to agree payment plans, which can include a gap before any initial payment is required. If charities or places of worship are VAT registered, they are also able to use the VAT deferral scheme.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme provides support for entity with a UK payroll - small or large, charitable or non-profit, to be reimbursed 80 per cent of furloughed worker wages by HMRC, up to a cap of £2500 per month.

However, we know that some charities cannot furlough staff as they are contributing to the frontline response. There is a substantial package of targeted support for charities on the frontline of responding to Covid-19. The Chancellor on 9 April announced overall £750 million of funding for charities providing key frontline services to vulnerable people affected by the pandemic. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-sets-out-extra-750-million-coronavirus-funding-for-frontline-charities>

£60 million of the funding will be allocated through the Barnett formula so the devolved administrations are funded to provide similar support in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2020-05-04/43164/>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Doocey (Liberal Democrat) [HL3376] To ask Her Majesty's Government what is the timetable for the review by the NHS and Public Health England on the impact of COVID-19 on ethnic minorities; and what data they will publish before that review is completed.

Reply from Lord Bethell: Public Health England (PHE) has been asked by the Chief Medical Officer to review the potential that some ethnic minority groups are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The findings of the Review will be published at the end of May.

NHS England publishes data of deaths broken down by ethnicity and PHE is planning to include data by ethnicity in its weekly COVID-19 surveillance report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Lords/2020-04-23/HL3376/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's speech 15 May 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-speech-14-2020/>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-trends-in-daily-data/>

Contact tracing technology piloted

<https://www.gov.scot/news/contact-tracing-technology-piloted/>

Extra support for charities

<https://www.gov.scot/news/extra-support-for-charities/>

UK Government Press Releases

Prime Minister's article in the Mail on Sunday: 17 May 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-article-in-the-mail-on-sunday-17-may-2020>

Additional £58 million to help Scotland tackle coronavirus

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/additional-58-million-to-help-scotland-tackle-coronavirus>

Government begins large scale study of coronavirus immunity

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-begins-large-scale-study-of-coronavirus-immunity>

Answers to the most common topics asked about by the public for the coronavirus press conference [mostly England and Wales]

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/answers-to-the-most-common-topics-asked-about-by-the-public-for-the-coronavirus-press-conference>

New taskforce developing plan to reopen places of worship [England and Wales only]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-taskforce-developing-plan-to-reopen-places-of-worship>

Other Organisations

Video: Charities and Coronavirus - An update from the Scottish Charity Regulator

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/video-charities-and-coronavirus-an-update-from-the-regulator/>

News

Coronavirus: How lockdown rules now differ between Scotland and England

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-52616182>

Scottish Secretary denies problem as his website carries English-only advice

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18445658.scottish-secretary-denies-problem-website-carries-english-only-advice/>

Coronavirus: Call for public inquiry into BAME death risk

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52602467>

Volunteering and insurance during coronavirus

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/about-us/news-blog/news/volunteering-and-insurance-during-coronavirus/>

Let furloughed workers volunteer with their charities, chancellor told

<http://thirdforcenews.org.uk/tfn-news/let-furloughed-workers-volunteer-with-their-charities-chancellor-told>

Coronavirus: Keeping Ramadan spirit alive under lockdown

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-wales-52683870/coronavirus-keeping-ramadan-spirit-alive-under-lockdown>

TOP

Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

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

Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill

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

Disclosure (Scotland) Bill

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

**** Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

General Overview

<https://tinyurl.com/ybxua3cu>

Age

<https://tinyurl.com/yah3y6ut>

Blasphemy

<https://tinyurl.com/y7sd3yln>

Protection of Freedom of Expression

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ealbhe>

Racial Hatred

<https://tinyurl.com/ya3smpqe>

Sex/Gender

<https://tinyurl.com/yck2cdod>

Transgender Identity & Variations in Sex Characteristics

<https://tinyurl.com/y8unx9m4>

Statutory Aggravations

<https://tinyurl.com/yamathua>

What is Stirring Up Hatred?

<https://tinyurl.com/y7uwdoz4>

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/asylum-support-prescribed-period.html>

Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-21/immigration-and-social-security-co-ordination-eu-withdrawal.html>

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2019-20/unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-legal-advice-and-appeals.html>

TOP

Consultations

** new or updated this week

COVID-19 Move out of lockdown (closing date 29 May 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115116.aspx>

**** Shortage occupation list** (closing date 24 June 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/shortage-occupation-list-call-for-evidence>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill (closing date 24 July 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115038.aspx>

Your Police 2020-2021 (closing date 31 March 2021)

Police Scotland recognise the importance of understanding the views and priorities of Scotland's diverse communities. This is especially important during the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This survey is an opportunity for you to give your views and opinions during these challenging times, and beyond.

<https://consult.scotland.police.uk/surveys/your-police-2020-2021/>

Equality and human rights impact of Covid-19 (closing date not stated)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/114975.aspx>

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>

TOP

Job Opportunities

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

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

TOP

Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Grants online: Coronavirus

A number of Community Foundations and other organisations have launched funding programmes to assist local organisations in responding to the challenges of the Coronavirus Pandemic. To read a list of organisations and the types of funding they have made available, see <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/coronavirus.html>

**** closes this week!**

Wellbeing Fund

Closing date 22 May 2020

The Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund aims to support organisations across the third

sector that are providing important services to people who are most affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The fund will support activities that are focused on immediate and emerging forms of support working with at risk groups with new needs which are not currently being met by existing services, providing vital wellbeing support on issues such as mental health, personal finances, employment, housing, food, physical health and home life. For full details and to apply see

<https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/scottish-government/wellbeing-fund>

Third Sector Resilience Fund

Closing date not stated

Scottish Government grants and loans from £5,000 to £100,000 for the Third Sector in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. The Third Sector Resilience Fund is an emergency fund for charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations working in Scotland. The fund will support organisations that already deliver services and products but find themselves in financial difficulties directly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The primary intention of the fund is to help third sector organisations to stabilise and manage cash flows over this difficult period. For information and to apply see

<https://scvo.org/support/coronavirus/your-funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund/>

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

Ethnic Minority National Resilience Network funding for organisations to respond to the changing needs of their members in a sustainable way. Funding priorities will be to ensure that community organisations can:

- set up sustainable networks that support access to food and sustenance needs initially up until August 2020
- support their communities to be connected to services, information and communication
- provide services to tackle isolation, such as online events and befriending

For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/emnrn/transition-fund/>

Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund

Closing date not stated

This small grant fund has been established by the William Grant Foundation, Faith in Community Scotland and the National Lottery Community Fund so that Scotland's network of local faith groups and related community organisations can provide immediate support for individuals and families. For information and to apply see

<https://www.faithincommunity.scot/covid19info>

Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week Activity Fund 2020

Closing date not stated

Grants of up to £100 for charities, community and voluntary groups, sporting groups, and informal groups to host a one-off activity celebrating the diverse population of Fife during Fife Centre for Equalities Diversity Week 7-13 September 2020. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/stbmu24>

TOP

Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Charities and Coronavirus: accounts and reporting to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

21 May 2020 online webinar (12.30–1.15)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator webinar for charities regulated in Scotland to provide guidance and information related to charity accounting and reporting. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y7gg46ye>

Talking Prejudice

The YouthLink website states that this event is likely to be run as an online event, and that further details will be posted soon.

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 see <https://tinyurl.com/v29nlow>

3rd International Conference on Migration and Mobilities

8–10 July 2020 in St Andrews

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

TOP

Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

TOP



The **Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC)** is the representative body of all the Jewish communities in Scotland. It advances public understanding about the Jewish religion, culture and community, and also works in partnership with other organisations to promote good relations and understanding among community groups and to promote equality. (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438) <https://www.scojec.org/>



BEMIS is the Scottish national Ethnic Minorities led umbrella body, supporting, empowering, and building the capacity of minority third sector community organisations. As a strategic partner with Government, it is proactive in influencing the development of race equality policy in Scotland, and helps develop and progress multicultural Scotland, active citizenship, democracy, and Human Rights Education at the Scottish, UK, and European levels. (Scottish Charity, no. SC027692) <http://www.bemis.org.uk/>



The **Scottish Government** is committed to promoting equality of opportunity and social justice for all those who live in Scotland. **One Scotland** is the Scottish Government campaign designed to tackle racism. It aims to raise awareness of racist attitudes, highlight its negative impact and recognise the valuable contributions that other cultures have made to our society – and make Scotland no place for racism. <http://www.gov.scot/>

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