



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.

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

Because of the Jewish Festivals of Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, and Succot, the next four issues of MEMO will be published midweek on 23 and 30 September, and 7 and 14 October.

Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Changes in Immigration Rules

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster): [HCWS445] ... We have made changes to the immigration rules which will introduce the student and child student routes to replace the tier 4 (general) and tier 4 (child) routes. The changes are being introduced to give effect to the Government plan to create a global visa system which applies equally to all individuals coming to the UK to work or study, including EEA nationals, with the exception of Irish nationals.

The student and child student routes, collectively referred to as the student routes, are for both European economic area (EEA) and non-EEA nationals who wish to come to the UK for the purpose of study. The routes are the first to be introduced as part of the new points-based immigration system, and the first to be simplified in line with the recommendations of the Law Commission in its report, “Simplifying the Immigration Rules”, to which the Government responded on 25 March 2020. We have consulted the Simplification of the Immigration Rules Review Committee, which represents several external stakeholders, on the drafting of the simplified rules. The immigration rules will eventually be consolidated in the new style.

As part of the new simplified style, we are introducing new rules on English language and finance—which will only apply to the new student and child student routes at this stage—with the intention of creating rules on themes which apply across several routes. These thematic rules include changes to:

- ensure applicants only need to prove the required level of English language to the Home Office once;

- update the majority speaking English language country list to include Malta and Ireland (where, for example a non-Irish national has a degree from an Irish university they can rely on this to show their English language ability);

- allow applicants who have gained GCSE/A-level or Scottish higher in English while at school in the UK to rely on this to prove their English language ability, replacing the ability of child students to rely on six months in the UK to prove English;

- no longer require applicants who have met the maintenance requirement on their current route to meet it again if they have been supporting themselves in the UK for more than a year;

- allow applicants to rely on electronic bank statements;

- allow applicants to show they meet maintenance requirements by relying on a wider range of accounts.

EEA nationals are subject to transitional arrangements until the transition period ends on 31 December. An EEA or Swiss national who makes an application in the UK under the new student rules before 1 January 2021 will have their application rejected since they continue to have freedom of movement under EU law and are entitled to apply to the EU settlement scheme. EEA nationals who apply under the student rules from outside the UK will only be granted leave that commences on or after 1 January 2021, provided they meet the requirements of the route.

The list of countries whose nationals may submit reduced documentary evidence (formerly appendix H) has been updated to add all the countries which form part of the EEA and Switzerland. Appendix 15 of the immigration rules will be deleted and replaced with a new appendix ATAS which sets out requirements and conditions for the academic technology approval scheme (ATAS). EEA and Swiss nationals, and nationals of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore and South Korea will be exempted from having to apply for an ATAS certificate in order to study certain sensitive subjects in the UK.

The tier 4 (general) and tier 4 (child) routes will be closed to new applications after 08.59 on 5 October 2020. References to tier 4 have either been deleted from the immigration rules or amended where appropriate to reflect the new student and child student rules. All references to students or child students in the new rules must be read as including references to people who currently hold leave as tier 4 migrants, including in part 9, appendix AR and appendix W. All student and child student applications, including dependant of a student applications, which are made at or after 09.00 on 5 October 2020 will be decided in accordance with the new student rules, even where they are accompanied by a confirmation of acceptance for studies which was issued under the tier 4 rules and policy in place before 09.00 on 5 October.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-10/debates/20091036000005/ChangesInImmigrationRules>

The report referred to above can be read at
https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lawcom-prod-storage-11jxou24uy7q/uploads/2020/01/6.6136_LC_Immigration-Rules-Report_FINAL_311219_WEB.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [84331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the earliest date is for applications to be made under the new points based immigration system.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The new UK's Points-Based System will be operating from 1 January 2021. We will open key routes from Autumn 2020, so people can start to apply ahead of the new system taking effect in January 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/84331>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Controls: Migrant Workers

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [84372] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph A3 of the Tier 2 of the Points Based System – Policy Guidance, for what reasons care workers have not been included in that paragraph.

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [84373] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to paragraph A3, Tier 2 of the Points Based System – Policy Guidance, whether she plans to add care workers to the list of eligible occupations for the Health and Social Care Visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Those currently applying for the Health and Care Visa must meet the Tier 2 (General) immigration route requirements. Under the requirements of the current Tier 2 (General), a migrant worker must be filling a degree level job and meet the relevant salary threshold.

The UK's new Points-Based Immigration System, which will come into effect from January 2021, will include changing the qualifying skill level – to A level and equivalent and above - and salary requirements.

Senior care workers will qualify under the UK's Points-Based Immigration System and guidance on occupations eligible for the Health and Care Visa will be updated in line with the launch of the new Skilled Workers route and the expanded skills threshold. As we implement our new global points-based immigration system we want employers in the care sector to focus on ensuring care workers are offered rewarding packages and career development opportunities which value the vital work they do, rather than the UK's migration system providing them with an alternative to doing this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/84372>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/84373>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/900030/2020-07-13_Tier_2_Policy_Guidance.pdf

Visas: Health Professions

Ruth Jones (Labour) [82368] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to extend the health and care visa to include all jobs requiring a HCPC registered physiotherapist.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The published Tier 2 policy guidance sets out who is

eligible for the Health and Care Visa. This includes any person in an eligible occupation, who is employed or engaged by or registered with the Health and Care Professions Council. The Tier 2 policy guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-2-worker>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82368>

Visas: Health Professions

Ruth Jones (Labour) [82369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to extend the health and care visa to include roles in disability charities and hospices that are not direct NHS sub-contractors.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The eligibility criteria for the Health and Care Visa are set out in the published Tier 2 policy guidance. This guidance can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-tier-2>.

A number of health occupations, for example nurses, are eligible for the visa by virtue of being registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council. This means they will be eligible to apply, even if the organisation is not a direct NHS sub-contractor.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82369>

Social Services: Migrant Workers

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [81641] To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the financial implications for local authorities of excluding social care workers from the fast track visa programme; and whether the Government plans to provide additional funding to local authorities in relation to that matter.

Reply from Steve Barclay: The Government completed an Impact Assessment for the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2020: Introduction of the Health and Care Visa, IA number HO0369.

The Chancellor has written to Secretaries of State to launch the Comprehensive Spending Review. This is a multi-year Spending Review, setting resource budgets for three years (21-22 to 23-24) and capital budgets for four years (21-22 to 24-25) to set direction and firm budgets for the duration of the parliament. Any local government funding decisions, including decisions about social care workforce funding, will be taken as part of this Spending Review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81641>

UK Visas and Immigration: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [82352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure people who need to apply to UKVCAS as a result of the covid-19 pandemic are not bearing the financial costs of doing so instead of the commercial partners of UK Visas and Immigration.

Reply from Kevin Foster: No customer has had to apply through the UK Visa and Citizenship Application Service (UKVCAS) as a result of Covid-19 who would not have previously been required to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82352>

Visas: Travel Restrictions

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [86739] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will permit the extension of visas where the person with the expiring visa cannot get a flight to their home country.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As is already stated in the published guidance on exceptional assurance for visa applicants in the UK and abroad:

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

if you intend to leave the UK but have not been able to do so and you have a visa or leave which expires between 1 September and 31 October 2020 you may request additional time to stay, also known as 'exceptional assurance', by contacting the coronavirus immigration team (CIT).

<https://hsforms.smartcdn.co.uk/webform.html>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86739>

Immigrants: Finance

Helen Hayes (Labour) [78766] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of Government financial support for (a) people with no recourse to public funds and (b) local authorities providing support to those people.

Reply from Chris Philp: The no recourse to public funds (NRPF) policy is based on the principle that migrants coming to the UK are expected to maintain and support themselves and their families without posing a burden on the UK's welfare system. However, there are existing safeguards and exceptions in place for those in need, for example refugees and those on human rights routes who would otherwise be destitute. The Government has also taken steps to support those in need, including those subject to NRPF, through the current pandemic.

The assistance being given under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the Self-employed Income Support Scheme are not classed as public funds and are available to all those who are legally working or self-employed respectively, including those with NRPF status and those on zero-hour contracts. Statutory sick pay and some other work-related benefits, such as contributory employment and support allowance, are also not classed as public funds and so are also available to individuals with NRPF who are eligible.

Local authorities are also able to help. The Government has provided £4.3 billion of funding to local authorities in England to respond to spending pressures they are facing, including supporting those with no recourse to public funds where there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution. Funding has also been allocated to the Devolved Administrations under the Barnett Formula.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-22/78766>

The following three questions all received the same answer

English Language: Education

Mick Whitley (Labour) [86757] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that clinically vulnerable learners are able to continue to access English for Speakers of Other Languages provision during the 2020-21 academic year during the covid-19 outbreak.

Mick Whitley (Labour) [86758] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he is taking steps to increase funding for the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages as a result of the increased costs of introducing remote and hybrid learning for that subject.

Mick Whitley (Labour) [86759] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of increasing funding per learner at entry level for the provision of English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: The government recognises that language skills are crucial to help people integrate into life in England, as well as to break down barriers to work and career progression. This is why we want to support all adults in England to secure the English language skills they need. We remain committed to the manifesto commitment to boost English language teaching to empower existing migrants and help promote integration into society.

We understand the challenges faced by further education providers due to the

implications of the COVID-19 disruption and the issues that remote learning has for some learners. We want to get all further education learners, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students, back into education settings as soon as the scientific advice allows because it is the best place for them to learn, and because we know how important it is for their mental wellbeing to have social interactions with their peers and teachers. From Autumn 2020, all learners will return to a full high-quality education programme delivered by their college or post-16 learning provider. We have also introduced a change to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Adult Education Budget (AEB) Funding Rules for 2020-21 academic year, to enable providers to use their Learner Support funds to purchase IT devices for learners (aged 19+) and to help them meet learners' IT connectivity costs, where these costs are a barrier to accessing or continuing in their training. We fund adults through the £1.34 billion AEB for a range of courses and qualifications, including ESOL, so adults can secure the English language skills they need. Following the devolution of approximately half of the AEB, seven Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs), and the Greater London Authority (GLA), are now responsible for determining adult English language (and other) provision in their areas. Eligible adults resident in non-devolved areas of England are funded through the ESFA AEB and can access fully-funded ESOL if they are unemployed, looking for work and in receipt of certain benefits, or if they are employed and in receipt of a low-wage. All other ESFA AEB-eligible learners are co-funded with the Government contributing 50% of the course cost. ESFA allocations for 2020-21 have been confirmed, and payments will be made in line with the national profile, which has been confirmed in the ESFA AEB Funding and Performance Management Rules for 2020-21. We are looking carefully at further education funding, including ESOL, in preparation for the forthcoming Spending Review. Further information on the AEB funding rules for 2020-21 is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/adult-education-budget-aeb-funding-rules-2020-to-2021>.

We do not ring-fence a particular amount of the ESFA AEB budget for ESOL, so colleges and training providers have the freedom and flexibility to determine how they use their AEB allocation to meet the needs of their communities. They are responsible for planning, with local partners, which ESOL courses can be delivered locally. We want to support all adults in England to secure the English language skills they need. While we are keen to support the learners who are most in need, we also believe that those who decide to settle in the UK have a responsibility to invest their own time and resources into learning English.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86757>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86758>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-08/86759>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [83851] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason refused passport application fees are not covered under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [83852] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason fees for applications for Limited Leave to Remain are not covered under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [83853] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason Immigration Health Surcharge fees are not covered under the Windrush

Compensation Scheme.

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [83854] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons fees for successful but unnecessary applications to her Department are not covered under the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Windrush Compensation Scheme (WCS) compensates individuals for fees associated with immigration applications that would have confirmed the lawful status they held at the time (British Citizenship, Right of Abode, Indefinite Leave to Remain/Enter), but were unsuccessful because they were unable to provide sufficient evidence of that lawful status. Fees for immigration applications that were successful will not be awarded under the scheme because they gave individuals documentary evidence of their status.

The WCS will further compensate individuals if, following these unsuccessful immigration applications, in a reasonable attempt to resolve their immigration status they made additional, different, immigration applications (e.g. limited leave to remain) that also did not resolve their lawful status. Where it is decided to make a payment for these immigration application fees, any associated health charge paid under section 38 of the Immigration Act 2014 will also be made.

The WCS will not made any awards for fees associated with unsuccessful passport applications. This is in line with the scope of the Commonwealth Citizens Taskforce, because all individuals are required to pay for passport applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83851>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83852>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83853>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83854>

To read information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [83855] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the Loss of Access to Benefits award under the Windrush Compensation Scheme does not include circumstances where decisions by her Department have made an applicant ineligible for an award from the Department for Work and Pensions.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is responsible for determining eligibility for benefits, including decisions on whether to reinstate benefits or recompense for lost benefits. The Windrush Compensation Scheme will not make any payment in relation to DWP administered benefits but will work with DWP in order to facilitate the processing of claims in accordance with their usual rules. To the end of March, the Vulnerable Persons Team have made 364 referrals to DWP in relation to fresh claims and reinstatement of benefits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83855>

To read information about the Windrush compensation scheme, referred to above, see <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Immigration: EU Nationals

John Lamont (Conservative) [83908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from the Scottish Borders have applied to the EU Settlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Up until 30 June 2020 a total of 2,560 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) had been received from applicants in the

Scottish Borders local authority area.

Published information on EUSS applications by region and local authority to 30 June 2020, can be found in the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics', local authority statistics tables, table EUSS_LA_01 (by the applicants nationality) and EUSS_LA_02 (by the applicants age), available at:

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

The latest published information shows 3.81 million (3,805,200) EUSS applications had been received up to 31 July 2020. The latest figures can be found on the Home Office's 'EU Settlement Scheme statistics' web page available at:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83908>

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

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

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [83773] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she plans to allow the resumption of appointments for EU citizens to scan ID documents as part of applications to the EU Settlement Scheme as covid-19 lockdown restrictions are eased.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Home Office support services and application routes have all fully reopened in line with public health guidance. However, some face-to-face support services are provided by our delivery partners. The scanning service is provided by Local Authorities who will review and assess the safe provision and resumption of the service. The Home Office and our delivery partners are keeping this situation under constant review and will endeavour to reinstate all services to their original capacity in line with public health guidance.

Despite this there are multiple ways applicants can have their identity documents checked as part of the application process, including using the EU Exit: ID Document Check smartphone app or by posting identity documents to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83773>

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

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

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

John Hayes (Conservative) [81518] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect of section 31 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 on the rate of illegal crossings of the English Channel.

Reply from Chris Philp: Section 31 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 sets out the defences available to a refugee if charged with certain offences connected to entering the UK, and is in accordance with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Refugee Convention. The Home Secretary has been clear that she will explore all options to review the UK immigration system in order to deter people from making dangerous journeys such as crossing the Channel, and promptly return those who have no right to be in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81518>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [82642] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that immigrants who cross the English Channel illegally return safely to their home countries.

Reply from Chris Philp: We remain committed to removing those with no right to be in the UK, and who do not comply with our immigration laws.

The Home Office continues to work closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six-month timeframe for a return.

There are a number of factors that have affected returns, including the inflexibility of Dublin Regulations and last-minute legal challenges from activist lawyers, alongside practical and logistical difficulties as a result of the pandemic. We are working at pace to reduce the number of older cases in the system and increase the number of removals - and we are in active discussions with countries to make that happen.

The Home Office publishes data on the number of asylum seekers transferred under the Dublin regulation in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum seekers transferred out of the UK under the Dublin Regulation, broken down by the EU member state they have been transferred to are published in tables [Dub D01](#) of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending December 2019.

Please note, that we do not publish the breakdowns of the nationality of those being transferred under the Dublin Regulation

Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data in the 'summary tables'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on asylum and resettlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82642>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [82643] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many immigrants who crossed the English Channel illegally have been returned to their home countries since 1 January 2018.

Reply from Chris Philp: We remain committed to removing those with no right to be in the UK, and who do not comply with our immigration laws.

The Home Office continues to work closely with EU Member State partners to enact transfers as soon as possible and ahead of the six-month timeframe for a return.

There are a number of factors that have affected returns, including the inflexibility of Dublin Regulations and last-minute legal challenges from activist lawyers, alongside practical and logistical difficulties as a result of the pandemic. We are working at pace to reduce the number of older cases in the system and increase the number of removals - and we are in active discussions with countries to make that happen.

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

https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F885622%2Fdublin-regulation-datasets-mar-2020.xlsx&data=02%7C01%7C%7C45a74cb48ae24878e4a308d806ee2df2%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637266967355702880&data=vaSspWJbkCtn8xcTawc2wFnj9D1kOXDqfFYbX8AD1F0%3D&reserved=0

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fstatistical-data-sets%2Fasylum-and-resettlement-datasets&data=02%7C01%7C%7C45a74cb48ae24878e4a308d806ee2df2%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637266967355702880&data=IQm%2B%2Faz5MK1EfybmyRPb8JjSvt5VbRTt2bXNvlj3oD8%3D&reserved=0>

https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fuploads%2Fsystem%2Fuploads%2Fattachment_data%2Ffile%2F849497%2Fasylum-summary-sep-2019-tables.xlsx&data=02%7C01%7C%7C45a74cb48ae24878e4a308d806ee2df2%7Cf24d93ecb2914192a08af182245945c2%7C0%7C0%7C637266967355712874&data=6AWUyArHORle%2Ftd4Hz5zEMMZIR2ne5Dlfm8ww4EFar0%3D&reserved=0

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82643>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [82645] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether immigrants entering the UK via crossing the English Channel illegally are being tested for covid-19 upon arrival.

Reply from Chris Philp: We continue to work in line with Public Health England guidance; people arriving by small boats are not specifically tested for coronavirus but are assessed upon arrival for any medical needs and are monitored for symptoms. If symptomatic, individuals will be referred for testing and treatment if appropriate.

All people arriving by small boat are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82645>

Refugees

Catherine West (Labour) [84313] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 8 July 2020 to Question 64881 on Refugees, what progress she has made on recommencing (a) refugee resettlement programmes and (b) the community sponsorship scheme.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are working on detailed plans to recommence resettlement arrivals as soon as it is safe and operationally viable to do so.

The resumption of refugee resettlement arrivals, including community sponsorship, remains dependent on a number of factors including: restarting flights from refugee host countries; the lifting of restrictions imposed by the governments of those countries and in the UK; the ability of our international partners to operate; the reopening of the UK's visa application centres; local authority and central government capacity in light of COVID-19; and recovery of the asylum system from the impact of COVID-19.

We continue to closely monitor the situation and remain in regular dialogue with our international and domestic stakeholders.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-02/84313>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-06-25/64881>

Asylum

Philip Davies (Conservative) [81717] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have claimed asylum in each of the last six months.

Reply from Chris Philp: There were 32,423 asylum claims in the UK (main claimants only) in the year ending June 2020.

This information can be found in the published immigration statistics, updated, 27th August 2020 at Asy_01a and Asy_02b:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/list-of-tables#asylum-and-resettlement>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81717>

Asylum

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [82308] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to (a) limit the level of turnover of caseworkers in her Department and (b) ensure the effective training of caseworkers.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum Operations have, over the last 18 months increased the number of decision makers and support staff as part of a rolling recruitment campaign, developed a staff retention strategy to ensure Asylum Operations retains its highly skilled asylum decision makers.

The Asylum Operations Training Team ensure the effective training of caseworkers by delivering the Foundation Training Programme to all new asylum decision makers. This intensive five-week course provides staff with training on all aspects of asylum decision making. This course is followed by a period of mentoring to consolidate their learning.

In addition, an Asylum Transformation Programme is in development that will help address attrition alongside seeking to simplify, streamline and digitise processes as part of the plans to speed up Asylum decision making.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82308>

Asylum

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [82309] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance her Department provides to asylum caseworkers on the extent to which country-of-origin information should be (a) used in interviews and (b) evaluated in claimant decision-making.

Reply from Chris Philp: The references to Country of Origin information across Asylum Policy Instructions are numerous.

The majority of the detail on how asylum caseworkers should consider this information, both in interviews and in final decisions, is contained in the Asylum Policy Instruction on Assessing Credibility And Refugee Status.

However, this is an issue which cuts across a number of areas including interviewing, with detail on this contained in the Asylum Interviews guidance, and is also featured in specific pieces of guidance on issues such as gender identity. It also forms part of the Foundation Training Programme for caseworkers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82309>

Asylum

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [82310] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (a) how do asylum caseworkers access country of origin information for asylum seekers; and (b) how often this information is updated.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes Country Policy and Information Notes, which provide country of origin information, and analysis of this information, for use by Home Office decision makers assessing protection and human rights claims. Each Note provides information concerning the situation for a

particular group of people in a particular country. They are published on our intranet, the GOV.UK website and are also available through the country information sites eci.net and Refworld.

Our Notes are kept under constant review and updated depending on demand and the situation.

Decision makers also have access to the latest available country information through an information request service for specific enquiries to deal with particular issues raised in individual claims. These are published on our intranet.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82310>

Asylum: Undocumented Migrants

Adam Holloway (Conservative) [81652] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to bring forward legislative proposals to make it harder for migrants who are in the UK illegally to make an asylum claim.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK has a long and proud history of providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations.

The Prime Minister has been clear that we will address the rigidities in our laws that make this country a target for those who would exploit vulnerable people in this way. We will also take advantage of leaving the EU by changing the Dublin regulation on returns.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81652>

Asylum

Gill Furniss (Labour) [82243] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to provide safe and legal routes of entry to the UK for asylum seekers in order to prevent the risk of exploitation and the dangers of crossing the Channel by boat.

Reply from Chris Philp: The UK is one of the world's leading refugee resettlement states. We resettle more refugees than any other country in Europe and are in the top five countries worldwide. Since 2015, we have resettled more than 25,000 refugees. We can be proud as a country of our ambitious commitments and achievements.

The UK has a long and proud tradition of providing safe haven to those who genuinely need our protection, and we remain committed to providing protection to those who need it, in accordance with our international obligations.

Those who fear persecution should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach and not put their lives at risk by making unnecessary and dangerous journeys to the UK. Illegal migration from safe countries undermines our efforts to help those most in need - controlled resettlement via safe and legal routes is the best way to protect such people and disrupt the organised crime groups that exploit migrants and refugees.

While resettlement arrivals are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will resume them as soon as conditions allow, and intend to meet our full commitment to those fleeing the Syrian conflict.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82243>

Asylum: Finance

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [81749] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of providing support to asylum seekers who are unable to work because their case has not yet been heard.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office has not made an estimate of this cost. Asylum seekers can work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months, through no fault of their own. Those allowed to work are restricted to jobs

on the Shortage Occupation List, which is published by the Home Office and based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

It is important to distinguish between those who need protection and those seeking to work here, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider policy could be undermined if migrants bypassed work visa Rules by lodging unfounded asylum claims here.

As part of the plans to speed up Asylum decision making, over the last 18 months, UK Visas and Immigration have increased the number of Asylum decision makers and support staff as part of a rolling recruitment campaign and mobilised a transformation programme that seeks to simplify, streamline and digitise processes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81749>

Asylum: Finance

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [82338] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to (a) provide refugees and asylum seekers with (i) additional financial support and (ii) support with their travel during the covid-19 outbreak and (b) support social distancing within asylum seeker accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: Refugees are free to take employment and are eligible to apply for the same welfare benefits as British Citizens and other permanent residents of the UK. They do not therefore receive assistance from the Home Office. Asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are provided with free accommodation, with utilities and council tax paid for, as well as free access to the NHS and free access to education for their children. Unless they are in full-board accommodation, they also receive a cash allowances to cover their other essential living needs.

The level of the cash allowance was reviewed earlier in the year, taking account of Covid-19 factors and evidence about a range of living costs, including travel. As a result of that work, the allowance was raised to £39.60 per week from £37.75 per week with effect from 15 June, an increase of around 5%. The increase was significantly higher than the general rate of inflation, which Office for National Statistics data shows was only 0.5% in the 12 months period to May.

Accommodation providers have worked closely with Public Health officials to ensure that all supported asylum seekers receive guidance on social distancing, which is in line with the advice provided to the general public.

The UK has a generous record in supporting asylum seekers. Last year, we made around 20,000 grants of asylum or protection (one of the higher figures in Europe), as well as offered protection to 3,000 Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children – the highest number of any country in Europe. In addition, we have directly resettled around 20,000 people from the most dangerous areas of the world (especially Syrians) in the UK over the last 5 years. Finally, we spend around £14 billion per year in Overseas Aid, helping millions of people around the world. This is the highest amount of any country in Europe and we are the only G7 country to meet the 0.7% of GNI Overseas Aid target.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82338>

Asylum: Finance

John Hayes (Conservative) [81517] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reasons the repeal of section 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, as provided for by the Immigration Act 2016, has not yet taken effect.

Reply from Chris Philp: Implementation of the changes made by the Immigration Act 2016 to asylum support under the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and to local authority support for migrants without immigration status requires engagement

with local authorities, the devolved administrations and other partners on the preparation of the required regulations. The timing of this work is currently under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81517>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Appeals

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [81747] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to allow asylum seekers to work after they have been waiting six months for a decision on their case.

Asylum: Employment

Barbara Keeley (Labour) [81748] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to allow asylum seekers to work in roles in addition to those on the Shortage Occupation List.

Reply from Chris Philp: Asylum seekers can work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months, through no fault of their own. Those allowed to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is published by the Home Office and based on expert advice from the Migration Advisory Committee.

It is important to distinguish between those who need protection and those seeking to work here, who can apply for a work visa under the Immigration Rules. Our wider policy could be undermined if migrants bypassed work visa Rules by lodging unfounded asylum claims here.

Asylum seeker right to work is a complex issue. A review of the policy is ongoing, and we are considering the evidence put forward on the issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81747>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81748>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Diana Johnson (Labour) [84661] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities were contacted in advance of the latest allocation of asylum seekers to initial accommodation.

Diana Johnson (Labour) [84662] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many local authorities agreed to accommodate asylum seekers in the latest allocation of asylum seekers to initial accommodation.

Diana Johnson (Labour) [84664] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to ensure an equitable distribution of asylum seekers to local authorities for initial accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: I wrote to all Local Authorities on 27 March 2020 to inform them that, due to the pause on cessations because of the Covid 19 pandemic, we would be required to procure hotel accommodation, often at short notice in order to meet our statutory duty to accommodate a growing supported population. In addition to this we, and our accommodation providers, engaged with each local authority in which hotels we used.

There are currently 141 Local Authorities participating in the dispersal scheme. The Home Office has established the Home Office/Local Government Chief Executive group (HOLGCEX) in order to take forward a review of the costs, pressures and social impact of asylum dispersal in the UK, as well as a number of other key priorities relating to how central and local government work together.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-03/84661>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-03/84662>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-03/84664>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour) [82134] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) men and (b) women are detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour) [82135] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre.

Nick Thomas-Symonds (Labour) [82136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) people, (b) men and (c) women were detained in Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in each month from 1 July 2019.

Detention Centres

Ben Spencer (Conservative) [82488] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of detainees remained in immigration detention centres for longer than 28 days; what the longest recorded length of stay is; and what the (a) median and (b) inter-quartile range of length of stay was in the most recent period for which figures are available.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes statistics on people entering detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people entering detention under immigration powers by place of detention and sex, are published in Table Det_D01 and on people in detention at the last day of each quarter in Table Det_D02 of the '[immigration detention detailed datasets](#)'. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Figures on people entering detention in Q3 2020 will be published on 26 November 2020. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

The figures published in Det_D01 relate to the first place of detention. If an individual enters immigration detention in another part of the detention estate, or in prison before being moved to Yarl's Wood, they will be recorded under that centre.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/returns-and-detention-datasets#immigration-detention>

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82134>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82135>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82136>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82488>

Asylum: Deportation

Philip Davies (Conservative) [81718] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people refused asylum have been deported in each of the last six months.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes data on returns in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum-related returns are published in table Ret_05 of the [returns summary tables](#).

Asylum-related returns relate to cases where there has been an asylum claim at some stage prior to the return. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but removed for other reasons (such as criminality).

The term 'deportations' refers to a legally-defined subset of returns which are enforced either following a criminal conviction or when it is judged that a person's removal from the UK is conducive to the public good. Information on those deported is not separately available and therefore the published statistics refer to all enforced returns.

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910114/returns-summary-jun-2020-tables.xlsx

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81718>

UK Parliament House of Commons Home Affairs Committee

Inquiry into Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/830/html/>

Press Release

New international student immigration routes open early

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-international-student-immigration-routes-open-early>

New Publication

The impact of COVID-19 on refugees and refugee-assisting organisations in Scotland

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Covid-impact-survey.pdf>

News

More than 200 migrants picked up in English Channel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-54068405>

Near-record 319 migrants arrive after crossing Channel, with dozens making landfall

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/11/another-319-migrants-arrive-crossing-channel-dozens-making-landfall/>

Migrant baby taken into care as 200 cross Channel to reach Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/09/07/screaming-baby-thought-one-youngest-migrants-ever-cross-channel/>

The Home Office claims deportations stop dangerous Channel crossings – this boy's story shows the reality

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossing-asylum-seekers-migrants-home-office-deport-calais-uk-b421465.html>

Transfer of young asylum-seekers from Kent 'dried up' before recent boat arrivals
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/09/transfer-of-young-asylum-seekers-from-kent-dried-up-before-recent-boat-arrivals>

COVID-19: research finds loneliness a key concern for refugees in Scotland
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/covid-19-research-finds-loneliness-a-key-concern-for-refugees-in-scotland/>

Boris Johnson agrees to help father of Mercy Baguma's child stay in UK
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/sep/09/boris-johnson-agrees-to-help-father-of-mercy-bagumas-child-stay-in-uk>

Candlelit vigil to be held for asylum seeker after Glasgow death
<https://www.scotsman.com/health/candlelit-vigil-be-held-asylum-seeker-after-glasgow-death-2968106>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Fifth of white non-Muslims believe that British culture is 'under threat from invasion', poll shows

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/muslims-extremism-far-right-uk-british-culture-white-poll-b421631.html>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Equalities and Human Rights Committee

Race Equality, Employment and Skills Inquiry: evidence session

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12791&i=115673#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Department for Work and Pensions: Ethnic Groups

Seema Malhotra (Labour Co-op) [86059] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps her Department is taking to improve the (a) recruitment and (b) progression of its BAME staff.

Reply from Mims Davies: The Department is committed to the Civil Service ambition to become the UK's most inclusive employer and increasing the representation of under-represented groups to make DWP more diverse.

We are undertaking work to better understand the lived experiences of BAME colleagues and the career progression barriers they face. For example, we have implemented Listening Circles and held Let's Talk About Race conversations throughout our organisation and are using the insight and feedback captured to help

inform our departmental Race Priorities and Plan.

We have strengthened our commitment to Sponsorship and have extended this to all of our Senior Civil Servants with the expectation that their personal intervention will support BAME colleagues to move into new roles/projects to further develop their skills, or move to a role on promotion.

To further support career progression we also continue to actively promote Civil Service development opportunities which include: Future/Senior Leaders Scheme; the Civil Service Ethnic Diversity Programme; and access to the Civil Service Race to the Top staff networks.

We have introduced a departmental Catalyst programme which provides under-represented colleagues at Grades 6 and 7 with access to development opportunities, inspirational speakers and senior sponsorship to support their career and leadership journeys.

We have implemented a number of improvements to our recruitment and selection methods which include: improved marketing of DWP as a diverse and inclusive employer of choice; mandated ethnic minority representation for our senior recruitment panels; implemented anonymised recruitment to minimise bias; and introduced a new strengths based approach to our recruitment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-07/86059>

Administration of Justice: Equality

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [81535] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to (a) ensure objectiveness of judges and (b) tackle racial disparities in the justice system.

Reply from Alex Chalk: Statutory responsibility for the provision and content of training for the judiciary rests with the Lord Chief Justice as Head of the Judiciary in England and Wales, and the Senior President of Tribunals, in line with the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, and is delivered through the Judicial College. This provides a separation of powers which is crucial in maintaining and supporting the independence of the judiciary. As such, the job of ensuring the objectiveness of judges does not fall to the government. Judges are selected for appointment by the Independent Judicial Appointments Commission.

Upon appointment, all judges take the Judicial Oath to “do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this realm, without fear or favour, affection or ill will”. Judgments are made on the evidence presented at court; in criminal jury trials it is the jury which reaches a verdict on whether the defendant is guilty, and the judge’s responsibility is to ensure a fair trial. The Judicial College also provides cross-jurisdictional training for all new judges through a new faculty induction training course, which includes training in unconscious bias.

Where racial disparities are observed, and there is no reasonable explanation, the Government is committed to responding by reviewing the process or practice in question. A Criminal Justice Race and Ethnicity Board coordinates actions being taken in relation to race disparity across all criminal justice operational agencies and policy-making functions; its work was reported on in February 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tackling-racial-disparity-in-the-criminal-justice-system-2020>

On 16 July 2020, the Prime Minister established the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. The independent Commission is reviewing inequality in the UK, focusing on areas including education, employment, health and the criminal justice system. The commission will aim to submit its findings to the Prime Minister by the end of the year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81535>

Dental Services: Ethnic Groups

Judith Cummins (Labour) [76756] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to ensure that the disproportionate effect of covid-19 on BAME communities does not further exacerbate (a) oral health inequalities and (b) lower dental attendance rates among some ethnic minorities.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The Department and NHS England and NHS Improvement are working hard to ensure that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on existing inequalities is minimised. During the pandemic peak face to face dentistry was limited to urgent care only provided from over 600 urgent dental centres. However, from 8 June all National Health Service dental services including practices, community dental services and bespoke services aimed at particular groups such as homeless people were permitted and encouraged to reopen for urgent and routine care at as fast a pace as is compatible with patient and staff safety. In the letter announcing the restart, NHS England and NHS Improvement set out clear guidance that in the sequencing and scheduling of patients for treatment as services resume organisations should take into account the urgency of patient needs and the particular unmet needs of vulnerable groups.

A copy of the letter can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/Urgent-dental-care-letter-28-May.pdf>

The Chief Dental Officer issued a further letter and an updated standard operating (SOP) procedure to further assist NHS dental service recovery on 28 August. A copy of this letter and SOP can be found at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/03/C0690-dental-update-letter-from-sara-hurley-28-aug-2020.pdf>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/dental-standard-operating-procedure-transition-to-recovery/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-20/76756>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

NHS: Diversity

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7113] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve the diversity of NHS senior management.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The Department recognises more work needs to be done to encourage and improve diversity in the National Health Service.

The NHS People Plan publication of 30 July committed to measures which will contribute to improving diversity of NHS senior management. These include every NHS trust, foundation trust and clinical commissioning group publishing their progress against the Model Employer Strategy goals to ensure that at every level, the workforce is representative of their overall black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) workforce. Work continues on the Workforce Race Equality Standard and the Workforce Disability Equality Standard which have led to progress across a number of areas - for example increases in proportion of BAME very senior managers – and shone a light on the difficulties that colleagues with disabilities and long-term health conditions face.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-21/hl7113>

The People Plan, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/We-Are-The-NHS-Action-For-All-Of-Us-FINAL-24-08-20.pdf>

UK Parliament Joint Committee on Human Rights

Inquiry into Black people, racism and human rights: evidence session

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/812/html/>

New Publication

The Black Community and Human rights

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/jt5801/jtselect/jtrights/correspondence/The-Black-Community-Human-Rights-Report.pdf>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Debate

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12802&i=115764#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Motions

S5M-22636 Liam Kerr (Conservative): Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill – That the Parliament believes that hate crimes are a blight on society in Scotland and must be dealt with robustly; notes that the right to freedom of expression is the cornerstone of democracy and must never be compromised; believes that the significant number of responses to the Scottish Government consultation on its proposed Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill highlight the significant and valid concerns that the Bill would be an attack on free speech, and urges the Scottish Government to accept these criticisms, remove its proposed Bill and immediately begin work with stakeholders and others to draft the legislation that is needed to tackle hate crime in Scotland, while not threatening to make free speech a crime.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22636>

S5M-22636.1 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill – As an amendment to motion S5M-22636 in the name of Liam Kerr (Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill), leave out from second "believes" to end and insert "recognises the significant number of responses to the Justice Committee's call for evidence on the Scottish Government's proposed Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill highlighting serious and substantial concerns in relation to its potential impact on free speech, and calls on the Scottish Government to set out the steps that it plans to take to address these concerns, specifically in relation to Part 2 of the Bill, in time for the Committee to hear evidence and give them due consideration."

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22636.1>

S5M-22636.2 John Finnie (Green): Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill – As an amendment to motion S5M-22636 in the name of Liam Kerr (Hate Crime and Public

Order (Scotland) Bill), leave out from "notes" to end and insert "considers that the development of hate crime law in Scotland has been carried out in a piecemeal fashion, resulting in fragmented legislation; notes that calls have been made for the consolidation of hate crime law for more than a decade; believes that freedom of expression is a critically important human right, and that Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) protects it within the context of factors such as the prevention of crime and protecting the rights of others; recognises that stirring up racial hatred has been the basis of criminal offences since 1986 and is clearly compatible with ECHR; welcomes the Scottish Government's commitment to examine the development of an offence on misogynistic harassment and looks forward to the working group on misogynistic harassment's output on this matter, and commits to listen to all serious views on ways to improve the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill as part of the normal process of parliamentary scrutiny and to consider how best to ensure that all forms of hate crime are taken seriously."

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22636.2>

S5M-22636.3 Rhoda Grant (Labour): Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill – As an amendment to motion S5M-22636 in the name of Liam Kerr (Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill), leave out from “, remove” to end and insert “; has serious concerns about Part Two of the Bill as currently drafted and considers that it will require substantial revision if it is to be fit for purpose, and urges the Scottish Government to work with stakeholders and the Parliament throughout the legislative process to amend the Bill so that it does deal robustly with hate crime, protect individuals while protecting the privileges that people enjoy with regard to free speech and builds consensus that prejudice and hatred have no place in Scotland.”

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22636.3>

S5M-22636.4 Humza Yousaf (SNP): Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill – As an amendment to motion S5M-22636 in the name of Liam Kerr (Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill), leave out from second "believes" to end and insert "agrees that tackling hate crime is central to building the Scotland that all people want to see, a Scotland free from hatred, prejudice, discrimination and bigotry; acknowledges the importance of ensuring that hate crime legislation in Scotland affords sufficient protection for those that need it; agrees with the unanimous decision of the Justice Committee to afford the Bill rigorous and detailed scrutiny over the coming months; recognises that there are concerns about aspects of the Bill, including in relation to the stirring up of hatred offence provisions, which will benefit from further engagement with stakeholders and Parliamentary scrutiny; further recognises that there is a clear need to tackle misogyny in Scotland, and that the Scottish Government is committed, in principle, to developing a standalone offence of misogynistic harassment and is establishing a working group to take this forward, and agrees to seek common ground and compromise to ensure that effective legislation can be agreed that protects those affected by hate crime and prejudice in Scotland while respecting freedom of expression."

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-22636.4>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Racial Discrimination

Janet Daby (Labour): If [the Minister] will publish an update on the Archbishop of

Canterbury's steps to tackle racial discrimination in the Church of England. [905884]

Reply from Andrew Selous: In July, both archbishops launched an anti-racism taskforce to assess progress in implementing past recommendations to the Church in this area. The report will be concluded before the end of the year, and then an archbishops' commission will be formed to produce recommendations for action on combating racism.

Janet Daby: The Archbishop of Canterbury's proactive approach over the summer to address the Church's issue with racial inequality was welcome. He also commented that the Church was still deeply institutionally racist. Does the hon. Member believe, as I do, that there is a need to address in more depth the history of the Church's involvement in the slave trade and beyond?

Reply from Andrew Selous: Although the Church has issued a formal apology for slavery and both archbishops undertook a public act of repentance, the Church does still need to be deeply mindful of its involvement in slavery and its more recent completely shameful treatment of Windrush generation migrants, who were, in some appalling cases, asked not to come to Church of England services. We ask forgiveness from those who we have treated so badly.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-10/debates/8416A2E3-FA82-4584-8AB5-DDBA683972B1/RacialDiscrimination>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Internet: Safety

Emma Hardy (Labour) [83920] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, whether racist abuse and disinformation will be within the remit of the Government's planned online harms regulatory system.

Reply from Caroline Dinenage: The new online harms regulatory framework will require companies to put effective systems and processes in place to protect UK users. The Online Harms White Paper set out an indicative list of harms which will be in scope of the new regulatory framework. Further details will be included in the full government response to the consultation, which we will publish later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83920>

Ministry of Defence: Racial Discrimination

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [82313] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what steps he is taking to ensure that his Department does not contain institutional racism.

Reply from Johnny Mercer: While Defence has long recognised that any form of racism or discrimination is absolutely unacceptable and has continued to challenge itself to become more diverse and inclusive, we recognise the pace of change needs to quicken. Efforts are being redoubled to fulfil the key objective in Defence's 2018-2030 Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Strategy to eliminate discrimination and improve diversity throughout Defence.

Progress against Defence's D&I Strategy in the last 12 months has included a new governance structure with ambitious levels of ambition across Defence, as well as an increased scrutiny and monitoring function. Diversity and Inclusion is being integrated in top level boards and mainstreamed through the transformation programme. At the very highest levels of Defence, from the Executive Committee downwards, we have been, and will continue to reflect on and discuss our own behaviours and attitudes.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is continuing its efforts to implement all the recommendations made in the Wigston review to tackle unacceptable behaviour. On 1 September, the MOD launched a new, independent, whole-force helpline on

bullying, harassment and discrimination to offer support and advice to personnel. All MOD personnel (civilian and military) complete mandatory diversity and inclusion training courses, including on unconscious bias, and a new Active Bystander course has been rolled-out to equip personnel with the skills to effectively challenge unacceptable behaviour.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/82313>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907901/20180806-MOD_DI_Plan_A4_v14_Final-U.pdf

Fines: Racial Discrimination

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [81562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to tackle racial bias in the issuance of covid-19 related fines.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Our dedicated police officers have gone above and beyond during this pandemic – keeping the public safe through engaging, explaining, encouraging, and enforcing only as a last resort.

While it is a complex picture, it is a concern to see disparity between white and black, Asian or ethnic minority people. Each force will be looking at this carefully to assess and mitigate any risks of bias – conscious or unconscious – and to minimise disproportionate impact wherever possible. Many forces have brought in community representatives to help them scrutinise the circumstances around each Fixed Penalty Notice and if it has been issued fairly.

We are clear that no one should be subject to police enforcement on the basis of race alone and we work closely with forces and the NPCC to address disproportionality in policing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81562>

Social Media: Antisemitism

Sajid Javid (Conservative) [81792] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps his Department is taking to tackle anti-Semitic hate online.

Reply from Simon Clarke: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we're taking a strong lead in tackling it in all its forms. In the refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan, we have reaffirmed our commitment to combating all forms of hatred and our total support for Jewish communities.

We have recognised that incidents of online hate crime are becoming more prevalent and we have committed to take action to reduce this in the Hate Crime Action Plan. In September the Communities Secretary confirmed £100,000 of funding for the Antisemitism Policy Trust to support the organisation's ongoing work to tackle the spread of racist tropes online.

We have recently published a White Paper on Online Harms, which contains a range of legislative and non-legislative measures, setting out definitive plans to tackle a wide range of harms online, and opens a consultation on options for regulation.

The Online Harms White Paper sets out the government's plans for world leading legislation to make the UK the safest place to be online. We intend to establish in law a new duty of care on companies towards their users which will be overseen by an independent regulator. This regulator will set clear safety standards, backed up by mandatory reporting requirements and strong enforcement powers to deal with non-compliance.

We are also ensuring that the criminal law is fit for purpose to deal with online

harms. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and the Ministry of Justice have engaged the Law Commission on a second phase of their review of abusive and offensive online communications. The Law Commission will review existing communications offences and make specific recommendations about options for reform, to ensure that criminal law provides consistent and effective protection against such behaviours.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-08-28/81792>

The Action Plan referred to above can be read at

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

The White Paper referred to above, and initial consultation response, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/online-harms-white-paper>

Information about the review referred to above can be read at

<https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/law-commission-to-undertake-phase-2-of-the-abusive-and-offensive-online-communications-project/>

News

MSPs vote down bid to scrap hate crime bill

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-54071705>

MSPs vote to push ahead with controversial hate crime legislation

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18709338.msps-vote-push-ahead-controversial-hate-crime-legislation/>

Tories face defeat in bid to force SNP to abandon hate crime bill

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/09/07/tories-face-defeat-bid-force-snp-abandon-hate-crime-bill/>

Hate Crime Bill clash as Conservatives demand plans are ditched at Holyrood

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/hate-crime-bill-clash-conservatives-22650333>

Humza Yousaf preparing to ditch elements of hate crime bill

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-09-08/scotland/humza-yousaf-preparing-to-ditch-elements-of-hate-crime-bill-7sg2qdtms>

Humza Yousaf: The Parliament must come together on hate crime law

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18703269.humza-yousaf-parliament-must-come-together-hate-crime-law/>

Humza Yousaf defends controversial hate crime laws after backlash

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/humza-yousaf-defends-controversial-hate-22655579>

Councillors add voices to concerns over Scots hate crime laws

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/councillors-add-voices-concerns-over-scots-hate-crime-laws-2969878>

Je suis Charlie': Time to start again with Scotland's Hate Crime Bill

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/je-suis-charlie-time-start-again-scotlands-hate-crime-bill-murdo-fraser-2965240>

'Hitler youths' using Instagram to recruit children

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hitler-youths-using-instagram-to-recruit-children-xfgnglklv>

Biggest ever study into institutional racism in British sport to be launched

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/2020/09/08/exclusive-biggest-ever-study-institutional-racism-british-sport/>

Racist responses to Marcus Rashford's campaign for children are no surprise

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/sep/09/racist-responses-to-marcus-rashfords-campaign-for-children-are-no-surprise>

'Football should be an extended family': the fans turning the tide on racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/sep/12/football-should-be-an-extended-family-the-fans-turning-the-tide-on-racism>

Asian advisory body happy Yorkshire racism inquiry will be serious and fair

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2020/sep/09/asian-advisory-body-happy-yorkshire-racism-inquiry-will-be-serious-and-fair>

Experiences of racism are not confined to black players at professional level

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/09/12/experiences-racism-not-confined-black-players-professional-level/>

Plans to launch racism-reporting hotline for professional cricketers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2020/09/09/plans-launch-racism-reporting-hotline-professional-cricketers/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Organs: Donors

Dan Jarvis (Labour) [83819] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent steps his department has taken to raise awareness in (a) the general population and (b) BAME community of the changes to the law in England following the implementation of the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2019 on 20 May 2020.

Reply from Helen Whately: NHS Blood and Transplant launched a communication campaign, on behalf of the Government in April 2019, to make the public fully aware of the new system of consent in England. The campaign has continued to date, with social media activity running through the summer. Activity will increase in the autumn, with radio and social media activity to coincide with Organ Donation Week. Television, video on demand, out of home and radio will run from November. There will be a further multimedia campaign in spring 2021 to reinforce the role of the family and normalising sharing a decision with family members. NHS Blood and Transplant will also be releasing new Key Stage 3 and 4 materials for schools. As part of the campaign, there have been specific initiatives to drive awareness amongst black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) populations. These have included engagement with faith leaders and community media advertising, targeted press release activity and case study stories. Such initiatives will continue, with specific focus on Black History Month in October and year 3 of the BAME

Community Investment Scheme to be launched later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-01/83819>

Crime Prevention: Churches

John Hayes (Conservative) [78502] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent crimes against churches.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: The Government is committed to cutting crime, and is investing in prevention to ensure that every opportunity is taken to stop unnecessary crimes from happening. The Government is committed to protecting churches from hate crime through the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme. The 2020-21 round launched on 16 June with an uplift to £3.2 million- double the amount awarded last year. Over the last four years we have awarded 183 grants worth approximately 3 million to places of worship across England and Wales - with 76 churches receiving funding.

The Government has an established programme that provides those responsible for crowded places including churches with high quality advice and guidance to ensure appropriate measures may be taken to reduce their vulnerability. Free advice from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) for crowded places includes specific advice for places of worship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-22/78502>

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

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

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/820082/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1b.pdf

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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/coronavirus>

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/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Coronavirus: Church services

S5W-31321 Jamie Greene (Conservative): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on whether it is considering relaxing the restrictions on the maximum number of people allowed to attend church.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: On the 20 August, we reviewed the current restrictions limiting the number of people allowed to attend a place of worship. Giving consideration to Scotland's broader position regarding virus suppression and to minimise overall harm and ensure transmission of the virus continues to be suppressed, it was decided on balance to maintain the current limit of 50 people in line with two metre physical distancing guidelines.

I refer the member to the answer to question S5W-31084 on 18 August 2020 detailing the reasoning behind the current restriction on numbers.

We remain committed to ensuring that these restrictions last no longer than is necessary and we will consider them again, on 10 September, as part of the next three weekly review set out in the Framework for Decision Making. ...

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31321>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31084>

Coronavirus: Marriage and Civil Partnership

S5W-31431 Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government further to the comments by the First Minister on the wedding sector on 26 August 2020 (Official Report, c. 25), whether it will provide an update regarding the advice on the limit on the number of people who can attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration.

Reply from Ash Denham: At present, we are advising that no more than 20 people should attend a marriage ceremony or civil partnership registration, provided they can be accommodated safely with physical distancing in the chosen venue. Receptions and celebratory events related to a marriage or civil partnership, along with any other celebratory events, remain subject to the restrictions on gatherings in the Health Protection Regulations and in guidance. These will be reviewed again on 10 September.

Our position will continue to be kept under careful review and we will continue to consider ways to permit marriage ceremonies and civil partnership registrations to take place safely. Any further changes to the current limit on numbers will depend on public health advice.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-31431>

The comments referred to above can be read at

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12763&i=115428#ScotParlOR>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Covid-19: Effect on Black Community in Scotland and England

Kim Johnson (Labour): If he will make a comparative assessment of the effect of covid-19 on the black community in Scotland and England. [905558]

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (David Duguid): It is clear that the black community has been disproportionately affected by covid-19, and action is under way to determine what is driving these disparities. We continue to work closely with the Scottish Government and the Department of Health and Social Care on a range of issues related to covid-19, and will continue to do so to address the impact on the black community across the whole of the UK.

Kim Johnson: Findings from three Edinburgh University surveys of Scottish ethnic minorities show that, from 2015 to 2019, between 18% and 20% of respondents said they experienced racial discrimination in using health services. Will the Minister's Department commit to investigating this further and to taking steps to eliminate all kinds of racial discrimination in health services?

Reply from David Duguid: I recognise that the hon. Lady is an ardent campaigner for equality in the black community. The UK Government are keenly aware of the continuing discrimination ethnic minorities face in the United Kingdom today and take seriously their obligation to secure equality for all. That is why my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities on 16 June.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-09-09/debates/0422A7ED-86FF-4CC3-A1D5-C89D50FBEF4E/Covid-19EffectOnBlackCommunityInScotlandAndEngland>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-article-in-the-telegraph-15-june-2020>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [74482] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what advice he is giving to other Departments on ways to reduce the increased risk covid-19 poses to black, Asian, and ethnic minority communities.

Reply from Jo Churchill: The Government has implemented specific measures, guided by medical and scientific expertise, to reduce the spread of the virus in all communities. For example, Public Health England has been working with the Government Equalities Office in order to help departments take a consistent approach to risk mitigation and guidance, including for black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities where relevant, and support engagement with sector representatives on key issues that arise during the pandemic.

We are concerned that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate effect on people from BAME backgrounds, which is why the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Equalities (Kemi Badenoch MP) has been tasked to lead the Government's work tackling this issue. With the support of the Race Disparity Unit, the Minister is also reviewing the effectiveness and impact of current actions being undertaken by relevant Government departments and their agencies to directly lessen disparities in infection and death rates of COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-15/74482>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Neil Coyle (Labour) [75492] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care,

what guidance his Department has published for Black, Asian and minority ethnic NHS (a) patients and (b) employees in response to the findings of Public Health England's report: 'Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups, published in June 2020.

Reply from Helen Whately: In April, the Chief People Officer, launched a comprehensive programme to address the issue of impact of COVID-19 on the black, Asian and minority ethnic workforce underpinned by three principles of protecting, supporting and engaging staff. On 28 April NHS Employers published risk assessment guidance, which was subsequently updated on 29 May. On 12 May the Faculty of Occupational Medicine published a risk reduction framework to support risk assessments. In addition, on 24 June NHS England and NHS Improvement wrote to all National Health Service trusts to encourage deployment of risk assessments for all 'at risk' groups within four weeks.

The Government has also provided a wide range of guidance to support the country in tackling COVID-19. Considerable efforts are now underway including work with stakeholder groups to help ensure messages are disseminated into different communities in culturally appropriate ways. For example, in Leicester, assets have been translated into 12 different languages, and a range of local community voices, such as faith leaders and local general practitioners, are engaged in supporting the campaign.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-07-16/75492>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/892376/COVID_stakeholder_engagement_synthesis_beyond_the_data.pdf

The risk assessment guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.nhsemployers.org/covid19/health-safety-and-wellbeing/supporting-staff-health-and-safety>

The risk reduction framework referred to above can be read at

<https://www.fom.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/Risk-Reduction-Framework-for-NHS-staff-at-risk-of-COVID-19-infection-12-05-20.pdf>

Scottish Government Press Releases

Maximum gathering set at six people from two households

<https://www.gov.scot/news/maximum-gathering-set-at-six-people-from-two-households/>

Protect Scotland app launches

<https://www.gov.scot/news/protect-scotland-app-launches/>

Scottish Government Publications

Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: staying safe and protecting others

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/>

Phase 3 Update: Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis

<https://tinyurl.com/y65u3hlu>

Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated guidance for funeral services

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-funeral-services/>

News

Coronavirus: Maximum size of gatherings in Scotland cut to six

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54093110>

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New Publications

5 Minute Judaism

First four of a set of videos and practical resources for schools, community groups, and individuals wanting to know more about Jewish life.

https://www.scojec.org/resources/5_minute_judaism/5mins.html

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Other News

Minorities more likely to opt out of organ donation

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/past-six-days/2020-09-11/news/minorities-more-likely-to-opt-out-of-organ-donation-s752j8p6l>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Children (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/children-scotland-bill>

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill

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

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2699>

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2638>

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2535>

European Citizens' Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2704>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2660>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2714>

** Committee Stage, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-07/debates/E5AFC7F1-3014-4D53-A625-8019C2A9CC31/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-07/debates/E5AFC7F1-3014-4D53-A625-8019C2A9CC31/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

and

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-09/debates/F49EADAC-25B3-4B71-AD18-0F7EC966BCEA/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-09-09/debates/F49EADAC-25B3-4B71-AD18-0F7EC966BCEA/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination(EUWithdrawal)Bill)

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2574>

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2770>

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2538>

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2611>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

** *closes this week!*

Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU (closing date 14 September 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/147672/channel-crossings-migration-and-asylumseeking-routes-through-the-eu-inquiry/>

**** closes this week!**

Impact of COVID-19 on equalities and human rights (closing date 18 September 2020)
<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/115819.aspx>

**** closes this week!**

From Scotland's Young People: views to inform the Scottish Youth Parliament Manifesto 2021-2026 (closing date 19 September 2020)
<https://www.surveygizmo.eu/s3/90236199/From-Scotland-s-Young-People-SYP-s-Manifesto-2021-2026>

An inspection of UKVI's 'Front End Services' (closing date 1 October 2020)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-ukvis-front-end-services>

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>

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Job Opportunities

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

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

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>

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

BEMIS grants of up to £3,000, in partnership with Foundation Scotland, for eligible local community groups and organisations supporting disadvantaged and excluded communities (suffering with domestic abuse; mental health; access to food, shelter and amenities; poverty, access to services/care). For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/ricfund/>

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/emnrrn/transition-fund/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Meet the Charity Regulator

15 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

Updates from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), and an opportunity to meet their staff and board as well as other charity trustees. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/y4qh4xef>

**** this week!**

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 Resources Launch

15 September 2020 online (4.00–5.30)

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will explore the importance of marking Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), and showcase new resources to enable groups of all kinds to mark HMD 2021. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5pwqro5>

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

16 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

11 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

20 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

10 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to explore how the asylum system works from the perspective of a claimant and the process involved in making a claim for asylum. The course will also explore the barriers faced by both refugees and asylum seekers building a new life in Scotland and their respective entitlement to services. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

**** this week!**

Equality and Diversity in Service Delivery Part 1

22 and 23 September 2020 (2 day course) online (2.00–4.00)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to develop a workplace delivering accessible services to a diverse service user group. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

No Recourse to Public Funds

23 September 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

18 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

3 February 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

17 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to help frontline workers identify a tenant's current status, clarify what this means in terms of access to public funds and plan effective support where difficulties arise. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

3 Mottos to Guide our Approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

29 September 2020 online (1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course considering diversity in its widest sense, and looking at three models which provide insight on our experience of difference: the role of the dominant identity and the idea of 'human neutral', why some people ignore or deny the disadvantages that others experience; and how to respond to misunderstandings or offence. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3d47pyr> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** Keeping your charity safe online**

1 October 2020 online (2.00–3.00)

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator webinar to provide a review of the most common types of cyber-crime and fraud along with providing plenty of practical advice for you and your charity on how to protect against these. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3x6pvjk>

**** Changing inequality in exposure to crime**

1 October 2020 online (3.00–4.30)

Understanding Inequalities webinar to enable participants to gain insights into some of the drivers of crime inequality and key lessons for policing policy and practice. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3hpgnuc>

**** Developing Management and Leadership Skills Programme for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities**

21 October 2020 to 20 May 2021 (online)

PATH training programme to address imbalances in the representation from black and minority ethnic communities in all aspects and levels of public life. For information see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/qztq5btqsfhvukh/dmls%202020-21%20course%20outline.docx?dl=0>

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

4 November 2020 online (10.00–12.00)

13 January 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

3 March 2021 online (10.00–12.00)

Positive Action in Housing course to provide information about fundamental issues of housing, homelessness and welfare entitlements of EEA nationals and look at how service

users might prepare themselves to avoid the threats of Brexit. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Equality and Diversity in Workplace

18 and 19 November 2020 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course outlining the fundamentals of how to create a respectful, supportive and inclusive working environment for a diverse staff and volunteer group, discuss the type of language that can be offensive and excluding, and debate how to challenge such behaviour in a constructive manner. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

Interpreting Culture

19 and 20 January 2021 (two day course) online (10.30–12.30)

Positive Action in Housing course to examine where culture comes from and look at examples of its extraordinary diversity, and focus on interactions with people from other cultures to improve understanding, confidence and trust. For information contact training@positiveactionh.org or see <https://www.paih.org/our-services/training/>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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