



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.

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Immigration and Asylum

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Immigration: Coronavirus

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [107118] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to suspend the minimum income requirement during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Minimum Income Requirement is set at the level which prevents burdens on the taxpayer and promotes integration and we remain aligned with those aims whilst making adjustments to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Such adjustments are among a range of measures put in place by the Home Office to support those affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. These are set out for customers on GOV.UK and are available here:

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

We have no plans to suspend the Minimum Income Requirement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107118>

Immigration

Olivia Blake (Labour) [107770] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times have police officers have accompanied immigration enforcement teams on visits in the last 12 months.

Reply from Chris Philp: To maintain the highest standards of accuracy, the Home Office prefers to refer to published data, as this has been subject to rigorous quality assurance under National Statistics protocols prior to publication.

Information about enforcement visits undertaken jointly with police partners is not part of our published data.

Our published data is available at the following links:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-august-2020>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2020/summary-of-latest-statistics>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-22/107770>

Immigration

Olivia Blake (Labour) [107771] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times police have used Stop and Scan technology to gather data on individuals for immigration purposes in the last 12 months; and on how many of those occasions the police were operating (a) alone and (b) alongside Home Office immigration enforcement teams.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: A Police Officer is able to use their Strategic Mobile device only when they suspect a person of having committed an offence and their identity is not known or cannot be ascertained, whether or not related to immigration. All data used as part of the Strategic Mobile check, including the results, are deleted and not stored on the phone. It is an operational matter for the police officer whether to contact the Home Office for further immigration details if this might be required as part of their investigation. This information is not recorded as part of the mobile search.

The latest available figures show that there have been 8,940 matches against the Immigration and Asylum Biometric System (IABS), when a police officer has made a Strategic Mobile search. The period covering this figure is March 2018 to May 2020.

There is no data available to identify whether, when making a Strategic Mobile search, a police officer was alone or alongside the Home Office Immigration Enforcement Team

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-22/107771>

Immigration

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [109519] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the six month service standard for Indefinite Leave to Remain applications remains her Department's policy.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our service standard for the processing of ILR cases remains 6 months. We aim to conclude the applications within the published service standard.

If we cannot make a decision within the service standards, we write to customers and explain the reason for the delay. Delays may occur where we require further

information/investigations before a decision can be made on the application.

Most ILR cases are submitted digitally and can be assessed remotely by caseworkers working from home.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109519>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Artificial Intelligence

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [109678] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 October 2020 to Question 102174, what decision-making algorithms her Department uses in applications for processing indefinite leave to remain applications.

Immigration: EU Nationals

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [109679] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant of the Answer of 19 October 2020 to Question 102174, what decision-making algorithms her Department uses in applications for processing EU settled status applications.

Visas: Artificial Intelligence

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [109680] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 October 2020 to Question 102174, what decision-making algorithms her Department uses in applications for processing Tier 2 visa applications.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour) [109681] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 19 October 2020 to Question 102174, what decision-making algorithms her Department uses in applications for processing Returning Resident visa applications.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There are no decision-making algorithms used in the processing of Indefinite Leave to Remain, EU Settled Status and Tier 2 visa applications. Every application is assessed by a decision-maker against the Immigration Rules, on its individual merits and taking into consideration the evidence provided by the applicant and any other relevant factors at the date of the decision

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109678>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109679>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109680>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109681>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/102174>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [105275] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people were granted an extension to their Leave to Remain with No Recourse to Public Funds in each quarter in the five years prior to June 2019.

Reply from Chris Philp: The data for in-country extensions from 2010 onwards is published here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910638/extensions-datasets-jun-2020.xlsx\(opens in a new tab\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910638/extensions-datasets-jun-2020.xlsx(opens in a new tab))

The requested data on how many people were granted an extension to their Leave to Remain with No Recourse to Public Funds in each quarter in the five years prior to June 2019 is stated below.

		No Recourse to Public Funds	% No Recourse to Public Funds
2015 Q3	In-country 'family' extensions	12,000	85%
2015 Q4	In-country 'family' extensions	13,100	92%
2016 Q1	In-country 'family' extensions	17,600	94%
2016 Q2	In-country 'family' extensions	17,400	93%
2016 Q3	In-country 'family' extensions	15,000	93%
2016 Q4	In-country 'family' extensions	14,000	96%
2017 Q1	In-country 'family' extensions	15,200	95%
2017 Q2	In-country 'family' extensions	13,700	94%
2017 Q3	In-country 'family' extensions	19,500	94%
2017 Q4	In-country 'family' extensions	22,600	91%
2018 Q1	In-country 'family' extensions	23,000	90%
2018 Q2	In-country 'family' extensions	20,800	92%
2018 Q3	In-country 'family' extensions	20,800	92%
2018 Q4	In-country 'family' extensions	24,000	91%
2019 Q1	In-country 'family' extensions	26,900	92%
2019 Q2	In-country 'family' extensions	24,900	93%
2019 Q3	In-country 'family' extensions	27,700	90%
2019 Q4	In-country 'family' extensions	25,300	89%
2020 Q1	In-country 'family' extensions	21,400	89%
2020 Q2	In-country 'family' extensions	6,700	86%

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/105275>

British National (Overseas): Hong Kong

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [107610] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to enact the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa announced on 22 October 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Visa route will open from 31 January, and will allow BN(O)s and their family members to come to the UK to live, work and study.

The Immigration Rules for the route were put before Parliament on 22 October which set out further details of the route.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-22/107610>

Information about the visa referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-applications>

NHS: Migrant Workers

Drew Hendry (SNP) [109482] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment her Department has made of the potential merits of further (a) visa extensions and (b) reduced visa costs for NHS workers during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government recognises the vital contribution which overseas NHS, health and social care workers have made and continue to make in fighting the pandemic. That is why we automatically extended the visas of thousands of health professionals who had visas expiring between 31 March and 1 October, free of any charges.

On 4 August, the Government also introduced the Health and Care visa. Those who are eligible can expect a decision within three weeks of enrolling their biometrics. They, and their dependants, also pay significantly reduced visa fees and are exempt from having to pay the Immigration Health Charge.

Those who are not eligible for the Health and Care Visa may still benefit from the

Department for Health and Social Care's (DHSC) reimbursement scheme which was launched on 1 October.

We are keeping all measures under review and continuing to work closely with the DHSC to ensure individuals working in the health and care sector are supported fully.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109482>

British Nationality: Windrush Generation

Patrick Grady (SNP) [110850] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans the Government has to bring forward legislative proposals to automatically grant British citizenship to British born Windrush descendants whose families gained rights to settle in the UK under the Immigration Act 1971.

Reply from Priti Patel: Individuals born in the UK prior to 1 January 1983 are British citizens. A person born in the UK since 1983 will be a British citizen automatically if either parent was a British citizen or settled in the UK at the time of the birth. This includes any person whose parent was a member of the Windrush generation with indefinite leave to remain granted by the Immigration Act 1971.

A child born before 1 July 2006 will only acquire citizenship automatically through their father if their parents were married. There is a provision in nationality law for such a person to register as a British citizen if they would have become a British citizen automatically had their parents been married. This provision extends to individuals born in the UK to members of the Windrush generation that were granted indefinite leave to remain under the Immigration Act 1971. Those applying under this provision do not have to pay a registration fee.

The British Nationality Act 1981 (Remedial) Order 2019 further provides that such a person may register as a British citizen without needing to meet the good character requirement. The Order specifically amends the British Nationality Act 1981 to address the Supreme Court's finding that the good character requirement for registration under certain routes was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/110850>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Au Pairs: EU Nationals

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [109201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether au pairs from the EU who are currently working in the UK and who return home for Christmas will require a visa to return to the UK in January 2021.

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [109202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps au pairs from EU countries, who are not classified as workers by the Government, should take to define their employment in the UK in the event that they apply for pre-settled status.

Immigration

Theresa Villiers (Conservative) [109203] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to continue (a) access to the UK for au pairs and (b) other cultural exchange programmes after the end of the transition period.

Reply from Kevin Foster: EU citizens resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 can apply for UK immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), to enable them to continue living and working in the UK after 30 June 2021. Their eligibility for the EUSS will not be affected if they are absent from the UK over the Christmas period and they will not require a visa to return to the UK in January 2021.

Eligible EU citizens have until 30 June 2021 to make an application to the EUSS. Applicants only need to complete three key steps: prove their identity, show their

residence in the UK and declare any criminal convictions. Eligibility for the EUSS is not generally concerned with whether the applicant has been engaged in a qualifying activity, such as employment.

From 1 January 2021, EU citizens newly arriving in the UK and non-EU citizens will be treated equally under the new points-based immigration system. The UK has not operated a dedicated immigration route for au pairs since 2008 and has no plans to introduce one. However, the UK currently operates eight Youth Mobility Schemes which are principally designed for cultural exchange. We have indicated our desire to negotiate a youth mobility arrangement with the EU or with individual countries within it, if a collective agreement is not possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109201>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109202>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109203>

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

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Immigration: EU Nationals

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [106981] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, under what legislation EU nationals in the UK have the right to maintain the same level of access to benefit payments as comparable UK nationals after the end of the transition period.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [106982] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to allow EU nationals with limited leave to remain in the UK and who are accessing public funds to gain pre-settled status without losing their access to public funds.

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [106983] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to allow EU nationals with discretionary leave to remain in the UK to gain pre-settled status without losing their access to public funds.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government has protected the rights of EEA citizens, and their family members, resident in the UK by 31 December 2020 through the enactment of the European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020 and the establishment of the EU Settlement Scheme under Appendix EU to the Immigration Rules. The scheme provides a simple means for those who are eligible to secure their immigration status in UK law.

Those who obtain pre-settled status or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme are able to access benefits and services in the UK on the same basis as currently applies under free movement rules. Where a person already holds another form of limited leave to enter or remain that allows recourse to public funds, for example discretionary leave, the Immigration Rules (HC 813) make provision for a late application to the scheme. Such an application must be made before the expiry of that leave unless there are reasonable grounds for failure to do so.

Parliament has approved the Citizens' Rights (Application Deadline and Temporary Protection) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020. These regulations protect existing relevant EU law rights for those EEA citizens and their family members who are lawfully resident in the UK at the end of the transition period but who have yet to obtain status under the EU Settlement Scheme, until the final determination of an application to the scheme made by the deadline of 30 June 2021. This ensures there is no change to their current rights while they make their application. Regulations to be made under clause 4 of the Immigration and Social Security Co-

ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill, subject to its enactment, will contain provisions to ensure those with pre-settled status are treated in the same way after the end of the transition period as they are now for the purposes of accessing benefits and services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106981>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106982>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106983>

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

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

Refugees: Resettlement

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [107117] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme will resume.

Reply from Chris Philp: It is not currently possible to undertake resettlement activity due to the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We continue to evaluate how to respond given these restrictions and pressures, but we expect to resume refugee resettlement activity when safe to do so.

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/2020-10-21/107117>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [106941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she make permanent the change introduced in response to the covid-19 outbreak which permits the registration of in-country initial asylum claims in six regional locations.

Reply from Chris Philp: We take the wellbeing of asylum claimants extremely seriously and have put in place a range of measures to register asylum claims in a safe way for claimants and officials in response to COVID 19.

Asylum in the UK should continue to be sought at the first available opportunity, this means on arrival, at a port of entry. For those who have failed to claim on arrival, or whose circumstances have changed since arrival, can lodge a claim at an in-country location – this is usually by appointment at the Asylum Intake Unit (AIU) in Croydon. The asylum registration process requires the enrolment of biometrics (photographs and fingerprints) to complete immigration and security checks against Home Office systems. This process requires attendance in person and cannot be undertaken remotely.

The AIU in Croydon has continued operate throughout the COVID 19 pandemic, however in line with Government COVID 19 guidance and restrictions, additional regional locations have been temporarily introduced to ensure asylum seekers are able to safely register their claims. The asylum screening and registration process has been temporarily abridged to minimise in person contact and limit travel required but remains under ongoing review. The AIU and the regional registration locations all facilitate social distancing for the safety of claimants and officials.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106941>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [106940] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make permanent the change introduced as a result of the covid-19 outbreak which permits new asylum claims to be submitted electronically.

Reply from Chris Philp: To help reduce the potential spread of Covid 19, in March 2020 the Home Office placed a temporary suspension on the long-standing requirement for fresh asylum claims to be submitted in person in Liverpool. The suspension was brought in as a measure to reduce travel and direct contacts between applicants and officials. It was permitted instead for evidence relating to a fresh claim to be submitted electronically or through the post.

There are no current plans to make the suspension on in-person appointments for fresh asylum claims a permanent arrangement. The situation is kept under regular review, though it is not expected that in-person appointments will resume in the near future.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106940>

Asylum: Coronavirus

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [106942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the electronic submission of accompanying evidence for asylum applications electronically will continue at the conclusion of the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Chris Philp: Covid-19 has created both challenges and the opportunity to explore new working practices for the Home Office. Whilst certain documents have been accepted electronically, we consider it is likely we will still need to see certain original document where appropriate in the future. However, business practices are kept under review and new ways of working which have been implemented to cope with current restrictions, where they have been successful, may be continued beyond the current Covid-19 related restrictions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106942>

Asylum: Mobile Phones

Sarah Champion (Labour) [107004] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers entering at the UK border do not have their mobile (a) photos and (b) contacts seized by border authorities without the owner of the device receiving a copy of that information.

Reply from Chris Philp: Organised crime groups involved in immigration crime are highly exploitative of vulnerable adults and children, charging large sums of money for their illegal services.

This revenue is often used to fund other forms of criminality. Phones are seized to gather evidence to establish Organised Crime Group links. The dismantlement of these Organised Crime Groups is essential to protect vulnerable migrants. Where there is no requirement to retain the mobile phone for evidential purposes, they are returned to the owner.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107004>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Coronavirus

Afzal Khan (Labour) [109620] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on issuing discontinuation letters to people living in asylum accommodation who (a) have had their asylum claim or fresh claim refused and (b) were eligible for asylum accommodation on public health grounds during the covid-19 outbreak.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [109621] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her policy is on issuing discontinuation letters to people living in asylum accommodation in Tier (a) 2 and (b) 3 local covid-19 alert level areas.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [109622] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many discontinuation letters have been issued to people living in asylum accommodation in (a) Manchester, (b) Greater Manchester and (c) Liverpool since the

outbreak of covid-19.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [109623] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the risk to health of evicting people from asylum accommodation during alert level 4 of the covid-19 outbreak; and if she will publish the evidence she used to make that assessment.

Asylum: Housing

Afzal Khan (Labour) [109624] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential effect on people in Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities of discontinuation letters being served to people living in asylum accommodation.

Reply from Chris Philp: Failed asylum seekers who have exhausted their appeal rights are eligible to receive accommodation and other support provided they take reasonable steps to leave the UK or there is a legal or practical obstacle to their departure. Only failed asylum seekers who are able to take steps to leave the UK, but choose not to, are therefore issued with notices that their support will be discontinued.

The process of issuing discontinuation notices is kept under regular review, taking consideration of public health guidance and the impact of the virus on those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. The issuing of notices was paused on 27 March, but resumed on 15 September for some cases, starting with failed asylum seekers living in tier 1 and 2 areas in England at the time of the decision being prioritised over other cases.

The number of discontinuation notices issued to those living in Manchester, Greater Manchester and Liverpool since 27 March is not in a recordable format and to do so would be at a disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of people in receipt of support are published here <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-support>

this includes applications, supported persons and those discontinued. The Home Office does not publish a breakdown by individual Local authority.

This is being kept under continual review, particularly in light of the fact that we are only issuing negative cessation notices where a route back to the home country exists for the individual, amongst other things. An offer of voluntary return is made, in each case, including flights being paid for and a cash sum of X is offered as well.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109620>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109621>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109622>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109623>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109624>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Coronavirus

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [109422] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will pause asylum support cessations and evictions in areas designated as Tier 3 or above of local covid-19 restrictions in (a) England and (b) Scotland; and if she will make a statement.

Asylum: Housing

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [109423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 7 October 2020 to Question 96929 on Asylum:

Housing, whether local health colleagues includes local authority Public Health Directors; and whether she consulted with local authority Public Health Directors on her decision to resume asylum support cessations for people who have had a negative decision on their asylum case, as announced on 15 September 2020.

Reply from Chris Philp: Since the beginning of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Home Office paused ending support for people who had been granted asylum, or whose claim had been refused. This was to ensure that people were not made homeless and able to follow social distancing.

We said from the outset that this was a temporary measure which would be brought to an end as soon as it was safe to do so. The Home Office has started cessations of support in a phased way which will reduce demand on the asylum system while prioritising the safety of those within the asylum system.

The process of issuing discontinuation notices is kept under regular review, taking consideration of public health guidance. The issuing of notices was paused on 27 March, but resumed on 15 September for some cases, starting with failed asylum seekers living in tier 1 and 2 areas in England at the time of the decision being prioritised over other cases. This is being kept under continual review, particularly in light of the fact that we are only issuing negative cessation notices where a route back to the home country exists for the individual, amongst other things. An offer of voluntary return is made, in each case, including flights being paid for and a cash sum of X is offered as well.

We have been working closely with National and Local health Colleagues throughout the pandemic to inform our approach and will continue to do so. We remain committed to working closely with the accommodation providers and communicating with local authorities to relieve pressure and capacity as much as possible and ensure that health guidance is being followed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109422>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109423>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-29/96929>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Housing

Patrick Grady (SNP) [109459] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what standards her Department sets for contracted asylum accommodation providers to action repair requests from tenants.

Patrick Grady (SNP) [109460] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what requirements her Department sets for contracted asylum accommodation providers to report on the (a) number of repair requests received from tenants, (b) number of repairs completed and (c) timescales for completed repairs.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government demands the highest standards from contractors and their accommodation and monitor them closely to ensure this is maintained. Information on the requirements of our contracts, in relation to accommodation standards and defect resolution, can be found in the published version of the contracts, in Schedules 2 and 13:

Wales

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/79fd7209-ce47-453d-8880-a837bfdb3ef9?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

South

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/7dc0db40-c8f9-4cbc-bad5-744a28d6fecf?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

NW

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/ea95799-92db-4968-bf8a-004bd39868de?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

MEE

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/cb6aa97e-a5a8-4e5e-9368-268d4923d68a?p=@UFQxUIRRPT0=NjJNT08=>

NEYH

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/24c6a868-8e1a-4775-8d4f-ab750854d367>

Scotland

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/a569f254-af0a-4ec8-a6a1-6622baa435ab>

NI

<https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/24c6a868-8e1a-4775-8d4f-ab750854d367>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109459>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109460>

Asylum: Legal Aid Scheme

Tim Farron (Liberal Democrat) [109252] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of access to legal aid immigration advice by asylum seekers housed at the (a) Napier Barracks in Folkestone and (b) Penally Training Camp in Pembrokeshire; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: All asylum seekers have access at all times to Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE), a single, integrated service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help.

The AIRE service provides advice and guidance to asylum seekers on the asylum process, their rights and signposts different services.

This includes information on the availability of legal advice and representation, including legal aid, upon induction into temporary accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109252>

Asylum: Employment

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [109701] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the potential merits of granting the right to work to asylum seekers and their adult dependents after six months of having lodged an asylum claim without the constraints of the Shortage Occupation List.

Reply from Chris Philp: 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. The findings of the review will be announced once the work has been completed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109701>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people are in immigration detention in (a) Immigration Removal Centres and (b) prisons.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109452] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have (a) entered immigration detention and (b) been released from immigration detention in the last 60 days.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Home Office publishes statistics on people entering

and leaving detention in each quarter, and the number of people in detention on the last day of each quarter in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on people entering and leaving detention under immigration powers, are published in Table Det_01 of the '[Summary tables](#)' and of those in detention, by location in Table Det_03a. The 'contents' sheet contains an overview of all available data on detention.

Further breakdowns can be found in the [Immigration detention detailed datasets](#). Figures on people in 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](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109450>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109452>

The following six questions all received the same answer

Immigrants: Detainees

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109451] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people held in immigration detention in (a) prisons and (b) Immigration Removal Centres (i) have been advised to shield in their cells and (ii) are shielding.

Detention Centres: Coronavirus

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109449] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many detainees and staff at (a) Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre and (b) Brook House Immigration Removal Centre have tested positive for covid-19 in the last 60 days.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109454] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many covid-19 tests have been administered to detainees in Immigration Removal Centres in the last 60 days.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109455] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many covid-19 tests have been administered to Immigration Removal Centre staff in the last 60 days.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the tests for covid-19 carried out in Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs) in the last 60 days have been positive; and at what IRCs those positive results have occurred.

Alison Thewliss (SNP) [109457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps are taken to protect (a) detainees, (b) staff, and (c) people who are vulnerable when a positive covid-19 test occurs at an Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government takes the welfare of staff and detained individuals in its care very seriously. Earlier this year, the High Court ruled that our approach to detention and COVID-19 was sensible, with the appropriate precautionary measures in place. Guidance regarding the principles for managing the detention estate during the COVID-19 pandemic is published on GOV.UK and can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921491/detention-and-escorting-services-guidance-during-covid-19_v3.0.pdf

Further preventative measures in place include full 'reverse cohorting' staffed by dedicated teams, single occupancy rooms and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, in response to an increasing rate of infection in the community, as of 21 October, all staff and visitors to IRCs and Short-Term Holding Facilities are required to wear a face mask at all times when in the main centre(s). For the week commencing 26 October, management information shows that there were 45 individuals detained in an IRC who were considered to be at heightened risk from COVID-19 and had been offered protective isolation (shielding) measures. Individuals can decline the offer of protective isolation measures and change their

minds at any subsequent point. The protective isolation or shielding of those detained under immigration powers in prisons is managed by the Ministry of Justice. All immigration removal centres have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. As per the guidance published by Public Health England, any individual with symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in protective isolation for 7 days. Those individuals who are severely unwell will be transferred to appropriate healthcare facilities with usual escorts and following advice on safe transfers. Appropriate PPE equipment is available to contractor and healthcare staff when interacting with detained individuals being held in isolation.

Since Thursday 3 September to date, management information indicates that 35 individuals in detention have been tested for COVID-19 due to their circumstances (such as being symptomatic). In the same time period, there has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in an individual who was detained in a Residential Short-Term Holding Facility. The individual was in medical isolation and did not require hospital treatment.

As of 2 November, there are no confirmed cases of COVID-19 in detained individuals in the immigration detention estate. There have been no deaths in immigration removal centres or short-term holding facilities as a result of COVID-19.

Numbers of staff being tested for COVID-19 is recorded on a weekly basis. Since the week commencing 30 August, 152 members of staff working in the immigration detention estate (supplier staff and healthcare providers) have been tested for COVID-19. Since 3 September, there have been a total of 17 positive COVID-19 tests of Home Office and supplier staff (including healthcare providers) working in the immigration detention estate.

To supplement the preventative measures already in place, the Home Office have begun a program of voluntary COVID-19 testing on induction for individuals arriving at an IRC. Induction testing began at the Heathrow and Gatwick estates from 26 October (those tested on induction are not included in the figures provided above).

The induction testing program will be rolled out to other centres in coming weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109451>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109449>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109454>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109455>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109456>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-30/109457>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigrants: Housing

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL9318] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that the ex-Ministry of Defence sites currently being used to accommodate migrants in Pembrokeshire and Folkestone are in good condition.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government demands the highest standards from contractors and their accommodation and monitor them

closely to ensure this is maintained.

All accommodation provided is required to be safe, habitable, fit for purpose and correctly equipped, and to comply with relevant national or local housing legislation. These standards apply to all accommodation used by the Home Office including the Ministry of Defence sites in Pembrokeshire and Folkestone

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-19/hl9318>

Asylum: Glasgow

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9479] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to improve the management of temporary accommodation for asylum applicants in Glasgow; whether they intend to consult (1) the Scottish Refugee Council, and (2) Glasgow MPs, on this matter; and whether any such consultation will incorporate (a) mental health provision, and (b) the use of contractors.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Glasgow provides a safe haven and welcome to Asylum Seekers and we are very grateful for the support the city provides.

We are committed to ensuring that the services provided to the people we support are of the required quality. The Home Office has commissioned an evaluation of the accommodation and support services offered to asylum seekers in Glasgow during COVID-19 – seeking feedback from MPs and the voluntary sector.

Meanwhile the Home Office continues to work with Glasgow City Council (GCC) LA and the Scottish Government via the Glasgow Partnership Board and the Regional Delivery and Procurement Group regular (currently bi weekly meetings) to explore all accommodation procurement options available and ensure appropriate support is provided.

However, the Home Office does not directly commission health services. These are provided through the Asylum Health Bridging Team, part of the Glasgow City Council Health and Social Care Partnership.

It should also be noted that the reduction of contingency accommodation in Glasgow is dependent upon both LA sign off for accommodation procurement requests and the progressing those cases that are in the LAs remit including working with Home Office to process cases that have had their asylum application concluded.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-22/hl9479>

Asylum and Immigration: Deportation

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL9416] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many enforced returns they are in the process of carrying out because of a breach of asylum or immigration rules; and whether those subject to those returns have been informed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Numbers of those liable to removal can be found online (and attached) in our published statistics in table ASY_03 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-protection-data-august-2020>

and tables Pre_MRP_01 and Post_MRP_01 at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-enforcement-data-august-2020>

The notification of liability to removal, including changes brought in by the Immigration Act 2014; single power of removal; appeal rights; administrative reviews; and curtailment. More detail can be found at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/606982/GI-Non-EEA-admin-removal-v3.pdf

[Table - ASY_03](#)

[Tables - Pre MRP 01 and Post MRP 01](#)

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Work of the Minister for Future Borders and Immigration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1135/html/>

New Publications

Updated guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): get support if you're a migrant living in the UK

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

Updated guidance: Coronavirus (COVID-19): advice for UK visa applicants and temporary UK residents

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

Letter from Baroness Williams of Trafford to Lord Rosser regarding the number of times the exemption to deportation under section 117C of the Immigration and Nationality Act 2002 had been applied to exempt a foreign national offender from deportation, 2017-18 to 2019-20

http://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2020-0687/lord_Rosser_Follow_up_letter_ISSC_Bill_Cttee_Stage_deportation_data.pdf

Asylum accommodation: the use of hotels

<http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8990/CBP-8990.pdf>

Building a post-Brexit immigration system for the economic recovery

<https://www.ippr.org/files/2020-11/post-brexit-migrationnov20.pdf>

News

Windrush: Victims face 'unacceptable delays' for compensation says Labour

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-54795205>

Windrush: At least nine victims died before getting compensation

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-54748038>

Eight in 10 EU care workers in UK wouldn't have been eligible under new immigration system, study finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-care-workers-brexit-immigration-system-b1533714.html>

Channel crossings: Nearly 100 migrants make journey to UK around a week after family deaths

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrant-families-death-b1651118.html?amp>

People smugglers who steered two boats of migrants jailed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-54800090>

Government votes down bid to help child refugees be reunited with family

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/child-refugee-migrants-dubs-amendment-immigration-bill-b1595914.html>

Refugee services face permanent cuts as Home Office fails to reopen resettlement scheme

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/refugee-resettlement-home-office-vprs-b1050485.html>

Home Office accused of breaching court order over asylum seeker evictions

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/nov/06/home-office-high-court-asylum-seeker-evictions-coronavirus>

The Home Office announced this week that asylum support will rise from £39.60 a week to ... £39.63.

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/asylum-support-to-increase-by-just-3p-per-week/>

Lone child migrants cannot be put in adult hotels, high court rules

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/nov/02/lone-child-migrants-cannot-be-put-in-adult-hotels-high-court-rules>

Egyptian NHS doctor stricken by Covid seeks visa reassurances from Home Office

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/02/egyptian-nhs-doctor-covid-seeks-visa-reassurances-home-office>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Criminal Proceedings: Ethnic Groups

Lucy Powell (Labour Co-op) [908318] What steps [is the Minister] taking to help ensure that BAME communities have confidence in the criminal justice system.

Reply from Alex Chalk: The overall changes we are making to the system are designed to give all communities and victims of crime increased confidence.

Ensuring the trust of Black and minority ethnic people in the criminal justice system is critical to its effectiveness. We have responded positively to previous reviews on this subject and look forward to welcoming the conclusions of the independent Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities.

We are committed to increasing the diversity of people working in the CJS to represent the communities they serve, making it more transparent in the data on ethnicity it produces, and we are making progress on this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/908318>

Youth Justice Board: Ethnic Groups

Peter Kyle (Labour) [107062] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to improve BAME representation amongst the staff of the Youth Justice Board (a) overall and (b) at Grade 7-5 level.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: The YJB is a non-departmental public body and as such

has responsibility for its own recruitment policies and processes. They are seeking to address disproportionality by implementing good practice from other organisations.

The YJB's actions to date include:

- Mandatory unconscious bias training for all those involved in the recruitment process;
- Race Awareness training for all staff;
- Widening the advertising of posts to include specific networks for black and minority ethnic individuals;
- Promoting staff networks to black and minority ethnic staff;
- A review of current recruitment practices and processes for potential bias;
- A promotion of mentoring and coaching programmes and how these can be expanded to specifically support black and minority ethnic staff; and
- Mentoring by YJB Chair and Board members for staff.

The YJB's Equality and Diversity Group are reviewing the success of YJB's measures and may make recommendations to the organisation on further good practice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107062>

Youth Justice Board: Ethnic Groups

Peter Kyle (Labour) [107063] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, with reference to p55 of the Youth Justice Board Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20, what proportion of Youth Justice Board staff are from a BAME background, by geographical region.

Reply from Lucy Frazer: Due to the geographical spread of YJB staff, YJB records only allow them to split staff geographically by 'London' and 'National'. In this context 'National' represents YJB staff who are based outside of London. The latest diversity figures have been provided by the YJB below.

72% of YJB staff are London based. Within this:

25% of London based staff are Black or from an ethnic minority group.

63% of London based staff are white

12% of London based staff have chosen not to state their ethnicity

28% of YJB staff are based Nationally. Within this:

0% of National staff are black or from an ethnic minority group.

96% of National based staff are white

4% of National based staff have chosen not to state their ethnicity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107063>

The Annual Report and Accounts referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918612/YJB_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2019-20.pdf

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Martyn Day (SNP) [1080] Ethnicity pay gap reporting – That this House notes the efforts of Business in the Community to help cross-sector employers better understand ways that ensure the UK workplace is a place that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) employees, business owners, entrepreneurs and communities feel they belong; further notes the potential benefit to the UK economy is estimated at £24 billion annually if BAME individuals are fully represented across the labour market; notes its concern that racial disparities have been highlighted by the covid-19 pandemic; regrets that leadership and management roles across public and private sectors does not reflect equity of the BAME population; urges the Government to introduce mandatory ethnicity pay gap reporting

alongside gender pay gap reporting; and further urges the Government to require employers to set and publish targets so that BAME individuals are better represented at senior levels.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57650>

Press Release

Equality body to scrutinise racial inequality of workers in health and social care

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/equality-body-scrutinise-racial-inequality-workers-health-and-social-care>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Hate Crime Sentences

Nicola Richards (Conservative): What assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the CPS in securing sentence uplifts in hate crime cases. [908173]

Reply from the Solicitor General (Michael Ellis): I recognise the devastating impact that hate crimes have on victims and communities, and the CPS is committed to bringing offenders to justice. Training for prosecutors draws on input from key community groups, helping to improve the prosecution response to hate crime. In the 12 months to the end of June this year, the proportion of convictions for hate crime with a recorded sentence uplift increased to 78.4%, which is the highest rate yet.

Nicola Richards: Having heard directly from victims of hate crime in the west midlands, during a virtual session hosted by our candidate for police and crime commissioner, Jay Singh-Sohal, it is obvious that we need to do more to support victims of that appalling type of crime, through all stages of the judicial process. Will my right hon. and learned Friend commit to working with the CPS, and police across the country, to ensure that hate crime victims feel able to come forward and report incidents in the first place?

Reply from the Solicitor General: I thank my hon. Friend for her work with the Holocaust Educational Trust and on tackling antisemitism. I visited the CPS East of England yesterday, and heard about its great work on tackling hate crime. The CPS works closely around the country with members of the community, to ensure that the approach to hate crime prosecutions is sensitive and provides sufficient support to victims. For example, the CPS recently met key groups that represent the Jewish community, including the Community Security Trust, to discuss work on antisemitism. It also recently delivered a webinar on its approach to hate crime to an audience invited by the Chinese Welfare Trust and the Covid-19 anti-racism group, both of which support the Chinese and south-east Asian communities.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-05/debates/DDBB72B5-96AD-4C4E-905B-E7C20AE794AB/HateCrimeSentences>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Equality Act 2010

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [104141] To ask the Minister for Women and

Equalities, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Equality Act 2010 in preventing discrimination (a) on the ground of religion or belief or (b) because of a lack of a religion or belief.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: The provisions within the Equality Act 2010 protect everyone equally, if they hold a recognised religion or belief or if they have a lack of any such religion or belief. The Act does not list or codify recognised religions or beliefs as this is a matter for the courts. Exceptions in the Act recognise the legitimate requirements of organised religions, such as allowing religions to require that its ministers hold that particular faith. We believe this is an effective legislative approach.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-15/104141>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107102] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he has taken to tackle Islamophobia; and what plans he has to support Islamophobia Awareness Month in November 2020.

Reply from Luke Hall: This Government has pledged to tackle prejudice, racism and discrimination. We recognise the discrimination and intolerance faced by Muslim communities. Everyone in our country should be able to practice their faith in freedom. We already have some of the strongest legislation in the world to tackle hate crime and, where groups incite racial hatred or are engaged in racially or religiously motivated criminal activity, we would expect them to be prosecuted. This Government's work to tackle the scourge of anti-Muslim hatred is extensive, and includes:

- Supporting Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with more than £2.8 million since 2016, helping to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred
- Providing almost £5 million through our Places of Worship Security Grant in the last two years alone - helping to secure and protect mosques and other places of worship
- Supporting the work of the cross-Government Anti-Muslim Hatred Working Group, which provides valuable advice on the challenges faced by Britain's Muslim communities, and proposals on how to address them

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107102>

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>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Afzal Khan (Labour) [107103] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's statistical release, Hate Crime: 2019-20, published on 13 October 2020, what steps her Department is taking to tackle (a) Islamophobia and (b) the number of Islamophobic incidents.

James Brokenshire: This Government recognises the discrimination and intolerance faced by Muslim communities and the UK has a robust legislative framework in place to respond to hate crime.

The Government has taken steps to combat anti-Muslim Hatred including supporting Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks) with just over £2.8m between 2016 and 2020 to monitor and combat anti-Muslim hatred.

In addition, the Places of Worship protective security funding scheme, which provides security measures for mosques and other places of worship, has been allocated £3.2m for 2020-21 - double what was awarded last year.

This Government is committed to continuing the promotion of shared values among

people of all backgrounds through sustainable social integration and meaningful civic participation whilst tackling and preventing religiously and racially discriminatory behaviour and those acting against others because of their faith or race. Therefore, we have launched a competitive grant scheme for 2020-21 to support projects in this space, with a budget of up to £2M.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107103>

The statistical release referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2019-to-2020/hate-crime-england-and-wales-2019-to-2020>

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>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Afzal Khan (Labour) [110239] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 2 November 2020 to Question 107102 on Religious Hatred: Islam and with reference to the Government's commitment on tackling Islamophobia, what representations his Department has made to the Muslim Council of Britain on that tackling Islamophobia.

Reply from Luke Hall: This Government stands strongly against the discrimination and intolerance faced by Muslim communities and we are determined that Muslims in our country should be able to practice their faith in freedom. The Government engages closely with a broad spectrum of Muslim voices to tackle hatred towards Muslim communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/110239>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107102>

Religious Hatred: Islam

Afzal Khan (Labour) [110240] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the Answer of 2 November 2020 to Question 107103 on Religious Hatred: Islam, what steps the Government has taken to adopt a formal definition of Islamophobia to help tackle that issue.

Reply from Luke Hall: This Government is committed to fighting any discrimination and intolerance faced by Muslim communities and we are working to develop a definition of anti-Muslim hatred.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-02/110240>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/107103>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Racial Discrimination

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL9062] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to address racism.

Reply from Baroness Berridge: The Government's Race Disparity Audit (RDA) and its website, Ethnicity Facts and Figures, was launched in October 2017. The website is a world first and has been welcomed internationally for its open and data-driven approach to highlighting inequalities of outcomes.

In response to its findings, Government has taken action to address disparities in

criminal justice, increasing diversity in employment, mental health, school exclusions, and barriers to progress for young people.

To date, the Race Disparity Unit has worked across Whitehall and with local authorities to co-produce interventions to address disparities. These include:

- In the last 12 months, we have undertaken work to improve trust between police forces and the local communities that they serve, including increasing diversity in the police workforce and developing additional training
- We continue to provide targeted employment support in twenty areas around the country with high rates of ethnic minority unemployment to boost earning potential
- Last year, we announced measures to drive change in tackling inequalities between ethnic groups in higher education, and the last 10 years have seen a significant increase in the rates of 18 year olds from ethnic minority groups going to university;
- And we are acting on the findings of the Public Health England Review into disparities in the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 to ensure we take the right steps to protect and minimise the risks to vulnerable groups.

In addition, this year the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities was established and is examining all aspects of continuing racial and ethnic disparities in Britain. The Commission aims to set out a new, positive agenda for change - balancing the needs of individuals, communities and society, maximising opportunities and ensuring fairness for all.

It is building on the work of the Race Disparity Unit. The Commission is carrying out a deeper examination of what the causes of these disparities are, and is seeking to establish what works to address them effectively.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-12/hl9062>

The website referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/>

The Public Health England Review referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

NHS: Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL8896] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce a formal definition of racism and discrimination for the NHS.

Reply from Lord Bethell: The statutory definition of racism is set out in the Equality Act 2010 (section 9). Key statutory definitions of discrimination are set out in sections 13, 19, 26 and 27 of the same Act.

There are no plans, of which we are aware, to introduce different formal definitions of racism or discrimination for the National Health Service that would differ from the statutory definitions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-07/hl8896>

Press Release

Grammar schoolboy sentenced for encouraging far-right terrorism and possessing indecent images of children

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/cps/news/grammar-schoolboy-sentenced-encouraging-far-right-terrorism-and-possessing-indecent-images>

New Publication

FoI release: Statistics regarding crimes of racial discrimination during COVID-19 pandemic
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000091498/>
and
<https://tinyurl.com/y25ghouq>

News

Warning hate crime bill will make it an offence to 'insult'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18844317.warning-hate-crime-bill-will-make-offence-insult/>

Extending hate speech laws to private homes 'crazy'
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/extending-hate-speech-laws-to-private-homes-crazy-d7k99llrk>

Hate crime bill: Parents face prosecution if 'insulting remarks' are repeated in playground
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/hate-crime-bill-parents-face-prosecution-if-insulting-remarks-are-repeated-in-playground-gphxlx26>

Priti Patel rebukes police over Darren Grimes 'race hate' investigation
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/11/04/priti-patel-rebukes-police-darren-grimes-race-hate-investigation/>

Harry Vaughan: Neo-Nazi teenager sentenced
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-54782394>

Cambridge college to remove memorial and any 'explicit celebration' of major benefactor due to slavery links
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/06/cambridge-college-remove-memorial-explicit-celebration-major/>

How the link between racism and Covid is being ignored
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/nov/02/link-racism-covid-ignored-report-black-and-minority-ethnic-people-dying>

Emma Dabiri: Black people need to be protected against hair discrimination
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/life/emma-dabiri-black-people-need-protected-against-hair-discrimination/>

Young black people shouldn't have to change their name or hair to fit in
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/young-black-people-shouldnt-have-to-change-their-name-or-hair-to-fit-in-thd3cq7xd>

Ryan Sessegnon: Tottenham winger is sent racist abuse online
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/54792582>

Tottenham condemn racist who abused Ryan Sessegnon on social media
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/11/03/tottenham-condemn-racist-abused-ryan-sessegnon-social-media/>

Tottenham and Hoffenheim support Ryan Sessegnon after racist abuse

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/nov/03/tottenham-and-hoffenheim-support-ryan-sessegnon-after-racist-abuse>

Tottenham player Ryan Sessegnon reveals racist abuse and says Instagram racism doesn't surprise him anymore

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/ryan-sessesgnon-racist-abuse-instagram-tottenham-b1554986.html>

This is how we overcome anti-black racism in the UK and beyond

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/anti-racism-black-blm-grenfell-activism-belly-mujinga-b1399525.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Defence to assault on children removed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/defence-to-assault-on-children-removed/>

New Publication

Equality and Human Rights Commission briefing for the 2021 Scottish Parliament election

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/briefing-2021-scottish-parliament-election/briefing-2021-scottish-parliament-election>

News

Scotland becomes first part of UK to ban smacking

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54825151>

Nicola Sturgeon: Postal voting will play key role in Holyrood election

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18853774.nicola-sturgeon-postal-voting-will-play-key-role-holyrood-election/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Remembrance Sunday 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/remembrance-sunday-2020>

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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>

Protect-Scot contact tracing app

<https://protect.scot/how-it-works>

Healthcare for overseas visitors

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

Healthcare for refugees and asylum seekers

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

NHS Near Me (Scotland)

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

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

NHS (England and Wales)

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Coronavirus Act 2020

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [94583] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent assessment the Government has made of the effect of the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020 on people with protected characteristics.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: An equalities assessment was carried out on the Coronavirus Act and was published on the 28 July.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-act-2020-equality-impact-assessment>

We are undertaking a wide range of analysis to support decision making across government. We are keeping Parliament and the wider public updated on the analysis of covid including through several survey publications on business and social impacts available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-statistics-and-analysis#social-impacts>

More broadly, equality impacts have been identified as part of an ongoing process to support policy development and have been a key part of the decision-making process. The responsibility for equalities impact assessments lies with departments, who take this responsibility very seriously.

It is important to note that protected characteristics refer to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race,

religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation; the Equality Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of any of these characteristics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-09-23/94583>

Coronavirus: Ethnic Groups

Apsana Begum (Labour) [108296] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent steps his Department has taken to address the disproportionate effect of covid-19 on (a) BAME people and (b) people of a Bangladeshi background.

Reply from Jo Churchill: On 22 October, the Race Disparity Unit at the Cabinet Office published 'Quarterly report on progress to address COVID-19 health inequalities', which made three recommendations.

This includes reviewing the effectiveness and impact of current actions being undertaken by relevant Government Departments to directly lessen disparities in infection and death rates of COVID-19 and taking action to modify existing policy, and policy in development, to address these disparities. The Prime Minister has accepted these recommendations. These measures apply to the black, Asian and minority ethnic population, including those of Bangladeshi background.

The report is available at the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928646/First Covid Disparities report to PM Health Secretary Final 22-10-20.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928646/First_Covid_Disparities_report_to_PM_Health_Secretary_Final_22-10-20.pdf)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-23/108296>

Diabetes and Ethnic Groups: Coronavirus

Virendra Sharma (Labour) [106947] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people with diabetes from BAME groups who have died from covid-19.

Reply from Jo Churchill: Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic diabetes care has remained a priority and general practitioners (GPs) have supported patients with long term conditions to access care and support.

Trusts, working with GP practices, have been asked to ensure that every patient whose planned care has been disrupted by COVID-19 receives clear communication about how they will be looked after, and who to contact if their clinical circumstances change. The focus is on accelerating the return of non-COVID-19 health services to near-normal levels, including making full use of available capacity between now and winter, whilst also preparing for winter demand pressures. This will be done alongside continued vigilance against further COVID-19 spikes locally and possibly nationally.

The NHS England and NHS Improvement's Diabetes Programme Team has helped to develop a COVID-19 risk prediction model to support shared decision making between clinicians and patients based on more accurate information as well as discussions on how to reduce risk of COVID-19 for all, including those with diabetes. Reflecting the fact that those of black and south Asian background are at both greater risk of developing type 2 diabetes and of in-hospital COVID-19 mortality, NHS England and NHS Improvement have developed a focused marketing and promotion campaign, aimed at those who are black and south Asian. This work is supported by deep insight work commissioned from Cultural Intelligence Hub to develop approaches for communications and engagement activity targeted at black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.

The number of people with diabetes who died between 16 February and 12 October 2020 where COVID-19 was mentioned as a cause of death on the death certificate, by diabetes type and ethnicity is in the following table.

Ethnicity group	COVID-19 deaths where the person had type 1 diabetes	COVID-19 deaths where the person had type 2 or other diabetes
Asian	70	1,760
Black	60	1,075
Mixed	5	170
Other	15	240
Not stated/known	50	1,835

Coverage: England and Wales

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106947>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Covid-19: Places of Worship

Lord Moylan (Conservative): To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the official guidance to address the Covid-19 pandemic issued following the Prime Minister's remarks on Saturday 31 October, whether they will now produce the evidence that justifies the cessation of acts of public worship in places of worship.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (Lord Greenhalgh): My Lords, we have come to a critical point in the fight against Covid-19. The R rate is above one across England, and the ONS estimates that an average of one in 100 people has the virus. To protect the NHS and get the R rate below one, we must limit our interaction with others. Therefore, with great regret, while places of worship will remain open for individual prayer, communal worship cannot take place at this time.

Lord Moylan: ... This Question is about evidence. Evidence matters to science. Clearly, my noble friend the Minister is not going to announce a reversal of government policy, but can he at least give an assurance to your Lordships' House that if these measures are continued beyond 2 December or are reimposed in the future either nationally or locally, despite the many efforts to make places of worship Covid secure, that will not happen without the Government offering some evidence for these restrictions on acts of public worship being renewed or extended?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: ... Public Health England is looking at the evidence around places of worship and proliferation of the virus. I am aware that a tremendous amount of effort has been put into ensuring that places of worship are Covid secure.

Lord Griffiths of Burry Port (Labour): My Lords, I am glad to hear the Minister's recognition that churches have acted diligently in making sure that things are safe. Over the last 10 weeks, I have either led or attended acts of worship in three different churches, and meticulous attention has been given to all aspects of proper behaviour in such circumstances. Methodists are even reduced to not singing our hymns: we are reduced to humming behind our masks or, indeed, some kind of Trappist silence. On behalf of the many elderly people for whom the act of worship is the only social activity they have from one week to another, when can their needs be taken seriously into account so that they can enjoy a sense of well-being, even in these difficult times?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we recognise that this lockdown will be a very difficult period for people of faith too. The position is somewhat better than in the first lockdown, when places of worship were shut entirely. I note what the noble Lord has requested. We recognise that some significant events for all faiths will be taking place during this lockdown, and I am sure that this will be kept under review by the Government.

Baroness Eaton (Conservative): My Lords, the number of people suffering from mental

illness and depression is rising during this pandemic. At such times, many people experience real spiritual hunger and wish for guidance. Where do they go if places of worship are closed? ... As my noble friend said, churches and places of worship have become extremely Covid compliant. Can my noble friend the Minister recognise that and provide flexibility for Covid-compliant places of worship? ...

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, my noble friend will be pleased to know that the members of the places of worship task force have made that precise point to the Prime Minister: that public worship is Covid-19 secure; that it is essential to sustain our service; that it is necessary for social cohesion and connectedness; that it is important for the mental health of our nation; and that it is an essential sign of hope. ...

Lord Harries of Pentregarth (Crossbench): Although it is true that churches are remaining open for private prayer, is it not important to recognise that the Christian faith is essentially a corporate activity? ... Similarly, Islam is no less a communal religion. ...

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, my noble friend has not given a single shred of evidence as to why churches should not be open for public worship. ...

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I recognise that this is a difficult time for people of all faiths. ... we should also recognise that British Hindus will not be able to celebrate their version of Christmas—Diwali—during this period, and there is also the birthday of Guru Nanak for British Sikhs. We understand that these are sacrifices but, as someone who, during the first lockdown, lost his mother, who was very much a believer, spent three days in hospital before she died and said her rosary every day, I understand what it means to have faith. ...

I invoke the name of the Chief Rabbi, who told me that people of faith tend to live longer and have a better quality of life precisely because they converge in a communal way.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench): My Lords, is there not a grave danger that, in our increasingly secular society, too little account is taken of people's religious sensibilities, when millions of people from a variety of faiths live in this country? Do we not underestimate the importance of people's sacramental and spiritual needs, denial of which not only threatens the principle of religious freedom but jeopardises people's personal well-being, as the Minister acknowledged? What other European countries have taken such draconian powers? ...

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, the noble Lord, Lord Alton, makes a very important point. We should look to international comparisons to understand how places of worship have played a part in the spiritual well-being of people while not accelerating the virus. We need the data on that and as soon as it is available in this country it will be published at the earliest opportunity ...

Lord Lilley (Conservative): ... Does the fact that we are forbidden to worship God and encouraged to work in the economy but obliged to obey the rules of the state, even in the absence of any evidence, suggest that the Government put the state at the top of the list of things that they value?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: ... Those who made this difficult decision feel that there can still be a form of communal worship, as many people of faith have gone through the experience of going to mass or a service in a mosque via Zoom or other technology. That shift has taken place. It is not the same, but even the service I went to was very limited in capacity but many more were participating remotely. ...

Lord Balfe (Conservative): My Lords, I draw the Minister's attention to the statement from Cardinal Vincent Nichols on behalf of the Catholic hierarchy. He said that, "we have not yet seen any evidence whatsoever that would make the banning of communal worship, with all its human costs, a productive part of combating the virus."

That is a very clear statement on behalf of all the Catholic bishops. The right honourable

Sir Edward Leigh MP, the president of the Catholic Union ... states in a letter to the Prime Minister: "We have seen no evidence of people meeting for church services contributing to the spread of the virus in this country."

He has, however, suggested that the Government, as an exception, could allow religious services as long as all those attending apply online beforehand. A number of churches are using this method. Are the Government prepared to move even an inch on this, because there has not been a single statement in this debate in favour of what they are doing?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I hear what my noble friend said, and I point to the Prime Minister's remarks in the other place. He said that this was a burden on people of faith, but he reminded everybody that this was only for 28 days. He offered the hope—the candle in the darkness—that, if we got this right, we would be able to go back to something much more like normal life before Christmas. The first day of Advent falls towards the end of this period; as we know, the period will be kept under review.

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-11-03/debates/3225ABA8-5630-4FAF-AC61-9A484E93BCE5/Covid-19PlacesOfWorship>

The Prime Minister's remarks of 31 October, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-announces-new-national-restrictions>

UK Parliament, Early Day Motion

John Spellar (Labour) [1089] Places of Worship – That this House recognises the considerable role played by places of worship of all faiths in providing support to communities and individuals; is deeply concerned at the impact on mental health and personal wellbeing, especially on the the elderly, of the closure of places of worship during the period of new national covid-19 lockdown restrictions; calls on the Government to publish the evidence that the banning of communal worship is an effective part of controlling the covid-19 rate of infection; and urges the Government to urgently engage with faith leaders to reach a better arrangement for the period of the new national covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/57663>

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) update: First Minister's statement – Friday 6 November 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-friday-6-november-2020/>

Updated guidance: New National Restrictions from 5 November [England only]

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november>

UK Government Publication

Prime Minister's statement on coronavirus (COVID-19): 5 November 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-on-coronavirus-covid-19-5-november-2020>

News

Covid in Scotland: New five-level regional restrictions go live

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-54771868>

Covid in Scotland: National lockdown 'cannot be ruled out'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-scotland-54771281>

Scotland to push ahead with five-tier system but lockdown 'cannot be ruled out'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18838115.scotland-push-ahead-five-tier-system-lockdown-cannot-ruled-out/>

Coronavirus Scotland: What are the new covid lockdown rules?

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18838819.coronavirus-scotland-new-covid-lockdown-rules/>

Scotland enters new coronavirus tiered restrictions system - here's everything you can and can't do from today

<https://www.scotsman.com/health/coronavirus/scotland-enters-new-coronavirus-tiered-restrictions-system-heres-everything-you-can-and-cant-do-today-3021785>

Covid: Watchdog probes racial inequalities in healthcare

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-54819985>

BAME health workers need extra care during second Covid wave, says minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/05/bame-health-workers-need-extra-care-coronavirus-second-wave/amp/>

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Other News

Lord Jonathan Sacks, former chief rabbi, dies aged 72

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-54857556>

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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>

Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

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

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

Justice Committee, stage 1 evidence session

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12919&i=116783#ScotParlOR>

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>

House of Commons consideration of Lords message ('ping pong')

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-04/debates/64A67215-0E25-487B-AB05-D2E8FFAD5D11/ImmigrationAndSocialSecurityCo-Ordination\(EUWithdrawal\)Bill](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-04/debates/64A67215-0E25-487B-AB05-D2E8FFAD5D11/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>

Consultations

** new or updated this week

Ethnic disparities and inequality in the UK (closing date 30 November 2020)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence/ethnic-disparities-and-inequality-in-the-uk-call-for-evidence>

Hate crime laws [in England and Wales] (closing date 24 December 2020)

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

Future Arrangements for Early Medical Abortion at Home (closing date 5 January 2021)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/early-medical-abortion-at-home/>

Tackling modern slavery [in Northern Ireland] (closing date 7 January 2021)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-tackling-modern-slavery>

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>

Scotland's Winter Festivals: Acts of Kindness Fund

Closing date: 23 November 2020

BEMIS funding to encourage community groups to come together to celebrate St Andrew's Day by performing an act of kindness in their community – something that celebrates and promotes inclusion, diversity, and togetherness. For information see <https://bemis.org.uk/swf/acts-of-kindness/>

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/emnrn/transition-fund/>

Places of Worship Fund

Running until mid January 2021

Interfaith Scotland grants of up to £500 for places of worship that are struggling to meet the safety requirements of re-opening their buildings and safely holding services within Government Guidelines. With discretion the funds can also be used to assist in keeping open places that have managed their initial outlay with regard to safely reopening their place of worship but are now struggling to keep up the measures required to stay open.

This fund will help places of worship to:

- **Re-open** safely, including deep clean premises, provide appropriate signage and ensure that all volunteers and staff have appropriate training and PPE.
- **Keep open** places of worship that are struggling with the on-going health and safety costs during the pandemic
- **Remain connected** with those still too vulnerable to come to a place of worship – this may be through regular mail outs, telephone calls or the provision of mobile devices to allow those without digital access to keep in touch
- **Advancing Equality and Tackling Loneliness** Supporting faith communities to

open the doors of their places of worship in a safe and inclusive manner will enable thousands of lonely and isolated people across Scotland to re-connect with their wider community.

The funding will be available for faith communities and community groups that utilise places of worship only, and will be offered to faith communities that are members and associate members of Interfaith Scotland in the first instance. For full details and an application form contact Frances Hume frances@interfaithscotland.org

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scottish Interfaith Week

8-15 November 2020

SIFW brings people together whilst promoting dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse religious communities and cultures. The full programme of events is available at <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org/programme-2020>

**** this week!**

Connecting as Women of Different Faiths, Beliefs and Cultures

9 November 2020 (online 10.00–11.30)

Interfaith Scotland event in partnership with with Bridging the Gap about experiences of putting faith into action by connecting with others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y53fq72u>

**** this week!**

Taster session: diversity training

9 November 2020 (online 2.00–2.30)

Interfaith Scotland taster session for two courses: "Working with people from diverse religions and beliefs" and "Interpreting culture: improving cross-cultural communication". For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y35joro2> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** this week!**

"And then I came to live in Glasgow."

9 November 2020 (online 2.00–2.30)

Gathering the Voices presentation about some of the lives of refugees from Nazi persecution who came to live in Glasgow. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yyzt4omm>

**** this week!**

Advancing Human Rights & Inspiring Equal Citizens for Torture Survivors

10 November 2020 (online, 12.30–2.30)

Freedom from Torture Scotland stakeholders' participation event aiming at sharing learning and experiences from Healing Neighbourhoods project. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y32ln4ap>

**** this week!**

Challenging discrimination under the European Convention on Human Rights

10 November 2020 (online, 3.00–4.30)

Equality and Human Rights Commission Scotland webinar to explore the use of Article 14

(Prohibition of Discrimination) in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yxg3otjd>

**** this week!**

Hate Crime and COVID-19

11 November 2020 (online, 9.30–10.45)

Manchester Metropolitan University seminar to discuss reports in the UK and Australia that attest to increases in hate crimes against Chinese and people who look ‘Chinese’, attributed to racist assumptions that they are to blame for the COVID-19 pandemic. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy8s6q7s>

**** this week!**

Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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!**

Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 Scotland Workshop

11 November 2020 (online, 12.00–1.30)

18 November 2020 (online, 7.00–8.30)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust workshop for anyone planning a Holocaust Memorial Day activity in Scotland, providing an opportunity to find out more about this year’s theme, “Be the light in the darkness”, explore powerful life stories of those affected by the Holocaust and genocide, participate in thought-provoking activities and discussions, and network with other activity organisers. For information about the 11 November event see <https://tinyurl.com/y626d5bt> and the 18 November event see <https://tinyurl.com/y43q4pkm>

**** this week!**

Taster session: diversity training

11 November 2020 (online 2.00–2.30)

Interfaith Scotland taster session for two courses: “Three mottos for equality, diversity and inclusion” and “Tackling unconscious bias”. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y5wv996c> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

**** this week!**

Faith and Organ Donation

11 November 2020 (online 6.00–7.30)

Multi Faith webinar discussing and raising awareness on Faith and Organ Donation. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y3zpqfan>

**** this week!**

Remembrance Day: Remembering British Jews in the Armed Forces

11 November 2020 (online, 7.00)

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities event in partnership with British Jews in the First World War, including a short video utilising augmented reality to allow us to interact with British Jews in the First World War, and opportunity for people to share their own family histories of combat and military service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y48ccvix>

**** this week!**

Anti-Racism Workshop

13 November 2020 (online, 2.00–4.00)

Interfaith Scotland and Anti-Racist Educator Collective workshop looking at what racism is and how we can take an active part in dismantling it. How do race and religion intersect? And what does good allyship actually mean? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y4gyyb9u>

Windrush engagement events

17 November 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

25 November 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

15 December 2020 (online, 4.30–6.00)

UK Government events to raise awareness of the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the work of the Windrush Taskforce, and provide information on who may be eligible for the Windrush Compensation Scheme, what kinds of losses and impacts it covers and how to apply. For information see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/windrush-engagement-events>

No Recourse to Public Funds

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/>

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/>

Racism in Scotland

21 November 2020 (online, 12.00–1.00)

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics panel discussion in partnership with CRER: With people in Scotland reporting daily racism, what needs to change on an individual and national level? For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/racism-in-scotland>

Interpreting Culture – Improving Cross-Cultural Communication

9 December 2020 (online, 1.00–4.00)

Interfaith Scotland course to explore how culture forms a lens through which we interpret each other's behaviour, and learn how to improve our inter-cultural communication. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y2yr6qaw> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals

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/>

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



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



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

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