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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, Ministerial Statement

UK Points-based Immigration System

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster) [HCWS614] I am pleased to confirm the Government have today launched a number of immigration routes under the new UK points-based system, including the skilled worker route. This is a significant milestone and delivers on this Government's commitment to take back control of our borders by ending freedom of movement with the EU and replacing it with a global points-based system.

The Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Act 2020, which received Royal Assent on 11 November, ends free movement on 31 December 2020 and paves the way for our new points-based system that treats EU and non-EU nationals equally.

Applicants for the new routes can now start to apply under the points-based system. EEA

nationals who arrive in the UK before 31 December 2020 remain eligible for the EU settlement scheme. Over 4.2 million have already applied and others have until 30 June 2021 to do so.

The points-based system will work in the interests of the whole of our United Kingdom and prioritise the skills a person has to offer, not where their passport comes from. It will ensure we attract the brightest and best talent we need to contribute to our economy, our communities and our public services. It also forms a critical part of this country's economic recovery by ensuring investment in the UK domestic workforce and helping us to create a high-wage, high-skill, high-productivity economy is the focus of employer's recruitment activities.

Today's launch builds on the successful opening of the reformed global talent route in February, the health and care visa in August and the student and child student routes in October. In addition, as the Chancellor set out in the spending review last week, we are supporting the delivery of the new borders and immigration system with an additional £217 million of funding.

Ending free movement and introducing the points-based system is the first phase of our plans to transform the operation of our borders and immigration system. Additional routes will be opened in the coming months and our longer-term plans will further simplify, enable and digitise our systems to put customers at the heart of a firmer, fairer and easier to navigate borders and immigration system.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-12-01/debates/20120135000008/UKPoints-BasedImmigrationSystem>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Scheduled Mass Deportation: Jamaica

Bell Ribeiro-Addy (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to make a statement on the scheduled mass deportation by charter plane to Jamaica.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Chris Philp): This charter flight to Jamaica is specifically to remove foreign criminals. The offences committed by the individuals on this flight include sexual assault against children, murder, rape, drug dealing and violent crime. Those are serious offences, which have a real and lasting impact on the victims and on our communities. This flight is about criminality, not nationality. Let me emphasise: it has nothing to do with the terrible wrongs faced by the Windrush generation. Despite the extensive lobbying by some, who claim that the flight is about the Windrush generation, it is not. Not a single individual on the flight is eligible for the Windrush scheme. They are all Jamaican citizens and no one on the flight was born in the United Kingdom. They are all foreign national offenders who between them have served 228 years plus a life sentence in prison.

It is a long-standing Government policy that any foreign national offender will be considered for deportation. Under the UK Borders Act 2007, which was introduced and passed by a Labour Government with the votes of a number of hon. Members who are present today, a deportation order must be made where a foreign national offender has been convicted of an offence and received a custodial sentence of 12 months or more. Under the Immigration Act 1971, FNOs who have caused serious harm or are persistent offenders are also eligible for consideration.

Let me put this flight in context. In the year ending June 2020, there were 5,208 enforced returns, of which 2,630, or over half, were to European Union countries, and only 33 out of over 5,000 were to Jamaica—less than 1%. During the pandemic, we have continued with returns and deportations on scheduled flights and on over 30 charter flights to countries including Albania, France, Germany,

Ghana, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland and Spain, none of which, I notice, provoked an urgent question. The clear majority of the charter flights this year have been to European countries.

Those being deported have ample opportunity to raise reasons why they should not be. We are, however, already seeing a number of last-minute legal claims, including, in the last few days, by a convicted murderer, who has now been removed from the flight.

This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make no apology—no apology—for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals. Any Member of this House with the safety of their constituents at heart would do exactly the same.

Bell Ribeiro-Addy: First, no one opposing this flight condones any of the crimes that these individuals have been found guilty of. It is the process of mass deportation that is fundamentally wrong, and it is notorious for bundling people out of the country without due process. Does the Minister recognise that this decision effectively amounts to double jeopardy when those involved in some lesser offences have already served their custodial sentence? Does he recognise the message that that sends about the consequences of being a white offender or a black offender, given the racial disparities in sentencing?

I hope the Minister agrees that no one is above the law, not even the Government, and that no one is beneath adequate defence and proper legal representation, not even those born in other countries. Will he therefore outline whether the deportees have been granted access to adequate legal advice and representation, and whether any have been allowed to appeal this decision, particularly given the lockdown restrictions and the likelihood that they would have no access to legal aid?

On being above the law, the Equality and Human Rights Commission recently found that the Home Office unlawfully ignored warnings that the hostile environment was discriminatory. Can the Minister explain why the Government are so comfortable continuing with a key part of the hostile environment policy when it has been so damningly called into question? Has he considered the 31 children who will be impacted by having a parent removed from this country?

The Home Office has got it wrong again and again on immigration. Will it therefore think again, halt this deportation flight and finally end the illegal hostile environment?

Reply from Chris Philp: The hon. Lady speaks of what she calls mass deportations. I have already pointed out that, over the last year, of the 5,800 people who have been removed, only 33 have been of Jamaican nationality.

The hon. Lady mentioned black versus white. She was insinuating in her question that there was some element of underlying racism in this, but I have pointed out already that the vast majority of people who have been removed this year have been removed to European countries. This policy applies to people from Spain, France and Italy as much as it does to people from Jamaica. There is no element of discrimination in this policy whatever, and the hon. Lady was completely wrong to insinuate that, in some way, there was.

The hon. Lady asked about double jeopardy. She said that these people have been punished by a prison sentence already, but I say this: if somebody comes to this country, commits a serious criminal offence and puts our constituents at risk, it is right that, once they have served their sentence, or a great part of it, they should be removed. It is not just me who thinks that; it is the Labour Members who voted for this law in 2007 who think that, some of whom are sitting in this Chamber today.

The hon. Lady mentioned the EHRC and the compliant environment. This case is nothing to do with the compliant environment; it is about implementing the Borders Act 2007, as we are obliged to do. In terms of due process, there are ample opportunities to complain and appeal, as many people do, and I have mentioned already the case of a murderer who was taken off the flight just a few days ago

following legal appeals.

We are protecting our fellow citizens, and I suggest that the hon. Lady takes a similar approach.

Bob Blackman (Conservative): Will my hon. Friend make it clear that people who come to the United Kingdom to contribute to our economy and our society are most welcome, but that those who come from foreign countries and then commit the most heinous of crimes, be it murder, sexual violence, violence against children or violence against the person, can expect to experience the full force of law and then be required to leave the country at the end of their sentence? Does he agree that, far from the public disagreeing with that, they are wholly in support of it and expect the Government to take this action to keep society safe?

Reply from Chris Philp: ... Of course, when people come to this country as immigrants and make a contribution—to academia, to the work environment, and in myriad other ways—we welcome them with open arms. Our new points-based system, which will become active in just a few days' time, does precisely that. However, as he says, if somebody comes to this country and enjoys our hospitality, but abuses that hospitality by committing a serious criminal offence, they can, should, and will be removed in the interests of public protection.

Holly Lynch (Labour): ... The news of this flight comes just days after the Equality and Human Rights Commission found that the Government, as we have heard, acted unlawfully in their treatment of the Windrush generation through the hostile environment. As Caroline Waters, the chair of the EHRC, said, "The treatment of the Windrush generation as a result of hostile environment policies was a shameful stain on British history."

There is no clear timetable for implementing the recommendations of the Wendy Williams report, and with just 12% of applicants having received a payment and at least nine people having died waiting, the Windrush compensation scheme is failing badly. In his written response to me over the weekend, the Minister said that it is wrong and offensive to conflate this returns flight with the Windrush scandal, but I am afraid that given this Government's track record, their failings on Windrush and the delays in the compensation scheme, we simply have no faith that this Government have done their due diligence in relation to those on this scheduled flight, and we would not be doing ours if we did not ask the questions.

Of course, we recognise that those who engage in violent and criminal acts must face justice. However, we also hear that at least one person on that flight has a Windrush generation grandfather; there is another whose great-aunt was on the HMT Windrush, and another whose grandfather fought in the second world war for Britain. It is clear that we have not yet established just how far the consequences of the Windrush injustice extend. With that in mind, what assessment has been made to ensure that none of those scheduled to be on the flight are eligible under the Windrush scheme, or have been affected by the wider immigration injustices that impacted the victims of the Windrush scandal? What assurances can the Minister provide the House that the mandatory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children left behind, who are innocent in this, has been considered?

It has also been reported that the Home Office has reached an agreement with the Jamaican Government that people who left Jamaica as children will no longer be repatriated. Can the Minister confirm whether this is the case, and can he also confirm what age someone would need to be to have been determined to be a child?

Reply from Chris Philp: The hon. Lady, the shadow Minister, asks about the Windrush scheme. As she will be aware, over 6,300 people have now been given citizenship, quite rightly, and 13,300 documents have been issued to those people who suffered terrible wrongs in the past. In terms of compensation, 226 people have now received claims totalling in excess of £2.1 million, with a great deal more

to pay out. I can also confirm that all of these cases on the plane have been individually assessed, and none of them is eligible for the Windrush compensation scheme.

The hon. Lady spent a great deal of time talking about Windrush during her question, but I say again—as I said in my letter to her—that it is completely wrong to conflate the people who were the victims of terrible injustice in the Windrush cases with these cases, who are nothing to do with Windrush, have no Windrush entitlement at all, and have committed terrible criminal offences. She also asks about the age eligibility. The Government are fully committed to discharging their obligation under the 2007 Act, which is to seek to remove anyone of any age who has been sentenced to a custodial term of over 12 months. That has been, is, and will remain our policy.

I am not going to comment on the individual operational circumstances surrounding any particular flight, but we are fully committed to the 2007 Act's provisions. In relation to children, there is a well defined test around family rights and how they interact with removal. It is possible for people to go to the courts if they want to test their family rights against the Government's obligations to remove them. But we are clear that our priority is protecting British citizens from dangerous criminals, and that is what we are doing. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-11-30/debates/D3928F57-B16F-4BB0-9A50-642E1C47E6C7/ScheduledMassDeportationJamaica>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

British Nationality: Coronavirus

Christopher Chope (Conservative) [119970] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to allow applicants for naturalisation as British citizens to continue to qualify if they have been absent outside the UK for more than three months as a result of covid-related lockdowns or border closures in the country in which they were temporarily residing with the consequence that they were unable to return to the UK before the expiry of the three month time limit; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: There is discretion within the British Nationality Act 1981 to overlook excess absences, which is explained in published guidance. When considering whether to exercise discretion we will take into account time when a person was unable to return to the UK because of a global pandemic.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-24/119970>

British Nationality: Ceremonies

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [113663] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has made to enable the covid-safe continuation of citizenship ceremonies during the period of the new national covid-19 lockdown from 5 November 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Each local authority is responsible for administering citizenship ceremonies. Local authorities strictly follow Government as well as local advice relating to social distancing and public safety.

In addition, an innovative process for 'virtual' citizenship ceremonies was implemented in July. Work continues to increase availability of virtual ceremonies across local authorities to maximise opportunities for applicants to attend one.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-10/113663>

Immigration: Health Services

Bambos Charalambous (Labour) [121901] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government has made an assessment of the potential merits of offering Indefinite Leave to Remain to healthcare workers and their families who have been employed under a temporary work visa during the covid-19 outbreak.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Workers from overseas in the NHS and wider health and care sector have made a huge contribution in tackling COVID-19 and the Government has taken un-precedented measures to ensure the sector is supported fully, including free 12-month visa extensions for those working in eligible occupations in health and social care.

Individuals working in healthcare, on a route which leads to settlement, will be able to apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) for themselves and their family, providing they meet the requirements, including a period of lawful residence in the UK without excess absences, sufficient knowledge of the English language and life in the UK. In sponsored work routes, settlement relies on applicants having worked in their sponsored job for five years.

In addition, we are granting immediate indefinite leave to remain (ILR), free of any charges, to family dependants of migrant NHS, health and care workers who unfortunately lose their lives as a result of contracting COVID-19.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/121901>

Immigration: Health Services

Andrew Gwynne (Labour) [121822] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 27 November 2020 to Question 119191, if she will provide refunds for payments of the immigration health surcharge made prior to 31 March 2020 by people working in the (a) health and (b) care sector.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Following the announcement in May that health and care workers would no longer be required to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge, the policy was backdated to 31 March to bring it in line with the introduction of visa extensions for health and care workers.

Health and care workers who paid the health surcharge to cover the period from 31 March 2020 onwards may be eligible for a refund. Refunds will not be made for the period prior to 31 March 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-27/121822>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119191>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Immigration

Robert Largan (Conservative) [119427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) visa applications, (b) asylum claims and (c) indefinite leave to remain applications have been accepted (i) nationally and (ii) in the High Peak constituency in the first six months of 2020.

Robert Largan (Conservative) [119428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) visa applications, (b) asylum claims and (c) indefinite leave to remain applications have been rejected (i) nationally and (ii) in the High Peak constituency in the first six months of 2020.

Robert Largan (Conservative) [119429] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) visa applications, (b) asylum claims and (c) indefinite leave to remain applications have been processed (i) nationally and (ii) in the High Peak constituency in the first six months of 2020.

Robert Largan (Conservative) [119430] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many (a) visa applications, (b) asylum claims and (c) indefinite leave to remain applications are still outstanding (i) nationally and (ii) in the High Peak constituency as at 23 November 2020.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The available data on entry clearance visa applications are published in table Vis_D01 of the Entry clearance visa detailed datasets.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>

Data on decisions, including whether this was a grant or refusal, are published in table Vis_D02. All data can be broken down by nationality.

The available data on indefinite leave to remain applications are published in settlement tables

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

se_02_q and se_03.

The available information on other data on processing times are published as part of the Migration Transparency data, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/migration-transparency-data>

The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'.

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

Data on asylum applications are published in table Asy_D01

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

of the Asylum and resettlement detailed datasets. Data on initial decisions, including whether this was a grant or refusal, are published in table Asy_D02. Data on the number of asylum applications awaiting a decision are published in table Asy_D03. All data can be broken down by nationality.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to the year ending September 2020. Additionally, the Home Office publishes a high-level overview of the data at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/immigration-statistics-data-tables-year-ending-september-2020#asylum-and-resettlement>

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

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements/immigration-statistics-year-ending-december-2020>

The Home Office has no published data to answer part (ii) of the questions regarding the High Peak constituency. The information is not readily available nor held centrally and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119427>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119428>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119429>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119430>

Immigrants: Finance

Stephen Timms (Labour) [106890] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department of 8 October 2020, Official Report, column 223WH, what progress her Department has made on improving the time taken to determine applications

for exemption from the No Recourse to Public Funds condition.

Reply from Chris Philp: Migrants with leave under the Family and Human Rights routes can apply, for free, to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of conditions' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances.

Change of conditions decisions are being prioritised and are being dealt with compassionately. This approach is working. Data published in November shows that 85% of change of condition applications have been granted and the average time taken to make a decision is now just 17 days, down from 45 days in the previous quarter.

Local authorities, who have been allocated more than £6.4 billion to help them respond to Covid-19 pressures across all the services they deliver, may provide basic safety net support, regardless of immigration status, if it is established that there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-21/106890>

The oral contribution referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2020-10-08/debates/944270AD-A1F0-4E11-8A03-4FC869173C45/NoRecourseToPublicFunds#contribution-41548C30-72D5-4ABE-B03B-33B4A662F797>

Visas: Married People

Drew Hendry (SNP) [121292] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the effect on household income of circumstances in which the UK national sponsoring a spousal immigration visa application falls ill, and is unable to work, and their spouse has no recourse to public funds.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Government remains committed to protecting vulnerable people and has acted decisively to ensure that we support everyone through this pandemic.

We have introduced a range of measures to ensure people can stay safe and many of these are available for those with a no recourse to public funds (NRPF) condition. The Coronavirus job retention scheme, self-employment income support and statutory sick pay are not classed as public funds for immigration purposes. Contribution-based benefits are also not classed as public funds for immigration purposes.

Support is also in place for those with mortgages. Borrowers who have been impacted by coronavirus and have not yet had a mortgage payment holiday will be entitled to a six month holiday, and those that have already started a mortgage payment holiday will be able to top up to six months without this being recorded on their credit file.

Furthermore, migrants on spousal visas are permitted to work in the UK in order to support themselves and their family, and UK nationals who are unable to work are entitled to apply for government support.

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

The Government has provided additional funding for the devolved administrations under the Barnett formula as part of the wider government response. Funding provided to local authorities under the Covid-19 emergency response will be paid through a grant that is not ring-fenced, recognising that local authorities are best

placed to decide how this funding is spent.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-26/121292>

Free School Meals: Immigrants

Jo Gideon (Conservative) [119416] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending the temporary provision of Free School Meals to children with No Recourse to Public Funds on a permanent basis.

Reply from Vicky Ford: We are working with departments across government to evaluate access to free school meals for families with no recourse to public funds. In the meantime, the extension of eligibility will continue with the current income threshold until a decision on long-term eligibility is made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119416>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Ed Davey (Liberal Democrat) [122553] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department has taken to implement the comprehensive improvement plan, published in September 2020 in response to the Windrush lessons learned review.

Reply from Priti Patel: I am committed to delivering lasting and meaningful change across the entire department to make sure that the Home Office better represents all the communities it serves, and to ensure that nothing like this happens again. Work continues at pace to implement the comprehensive improvement plan and I will update Parliament on progress in the new year, ahead of Wendy Williams returning to assess our progress in September 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122553>

The Lessons Learned Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

The improvement plan referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/922973/CCS001_CCS0820050750-001_Resp_to_Windrush_Lessons_CP_29_3_Accessible.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [122818] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has to reduce the evidential requirements for eligibility for compensation from the Windrush Compensation Scheme from beyond reasonable doubt to the balance of probabilities.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [122819] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made the effect of the requirement to provide evidence beyond reasonable doubt for the Windrush Compensation Scheme on the proportion of successful claimants.

Reply from Priti Patel: The Windrush Compensation Scheme awards compensation according to both actual losses and tariff-based awards. Where awards are for actual losses it is right we seek to obtain an appropriate level of assurance these losses were incurred in order to fulfil our duty to properly manage taxpayers' money.

However, we do not expect people to meet the criminal standard of proof. We therefore published revised Windrush Compensation Scheme rules and guidance in October which clarify that the scheme operates on the balance of probabilities. This means caseworkers must be satisfied it is more likely than not that the losses

and impacts being claimed for were suffered due to difficulties evidencing lawful status. We are working through more detailed changes to the 'Loss of Access to Employment' category to enable the actual losses section to be operated on the balance of probabilities as well.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122818>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122819>

The rules and guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/927278/windrush-compensation-case-work-guidance-5.0ext.pdf

Immigration: EU Nationals

Robert Largan (Conservative) [119426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to process all applications for the EU Settlement Scheme before 30 June 2021.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are fully committed to ensuring that we have the flexible resources required to run an efficient and effective migration system; including the continued delivery of the EU Settlement Scheme until 30 June 2021 and beyond.

Administration of the Scheme will not cease on 30 June 2021; that is the deadline that EEA citizens and their family members resident in the UK have to apply for status. There will be some instances where applications made after 30 June 2021 will be accepted and guidance on that will be published in due course.

EEA citizens and their family members who have already been granted pre-settled status will be able to make a subsequent application for settled status once they meet the criteria of being resident in the UK for a continuous year five-year period. EEA citizens who hold Scheme status may also bring close family members to join them in the UK after the 30 June 2021 deadline. Such family members will be able to make an application to the Scheme, provided they meet the relevant criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119426>

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

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

Work Experience: EU Nationals

Thangam Debbonaire (Labour) [114248] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether young people from EU countries will be allowed to continue to pursue unpaid short-term work placements in the UK without a work permit after the transition period.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Free Movement will end on 31 December 2020 with the end of the Transition Period. Following the end of the Transition Period EEA and Swiss nationals will be able to continue to travel to the UK for holidays or short-term trips, without needing a visa.

We have set out plans to introduce a future points-based immigration system, which together with our generous list of Permitted Paid Engagements and Activities within the visitor route, will provide a route for workers within the Charity sector to undertake voluntary work within the Tier 5 route.

We have also 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. This may also provide a viable route for EU nationals to come to the UK to work on a voluntary basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-11/114248>

Asylum: Penally

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [120095] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to asylum accommodation provided at the Penally training camp in Pembrokeshire, how many people there are per room; and how many and what types of bed there are in each room.

Reply from Chris Philp: There are several different types of accommodation blocks at Penally.

The beds in the accommodation blocks consist of either a single bed or a sole use pod within a block. A pod comprises of 2 bunks (4 beds) separated by a lockable cabinet. Only 1 of the 4 beds in a pod is in use at any time.

The number of people varies according to block size and type however the numbers in each room is calculated to ensure that it is possible to adhere to COVID rules.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-24/120095>

Asylum: Penally

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [120096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when the temporary accommodation site for asylum seekers at Penally training camp in Pembrokeshire will be inspected by the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration.

Reply from Chris Philp: The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration has stated his intention to conduct an inspection in this area, but the timings are yet to be confirmed and formally notified to the Department.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-24/120096>

Asylum: Penally

Liz Saville Roberts (Plaid Cymru) [120097] To ask the Secretary of State for Wales, what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the proposed use of the Penally training camp in Pembrokeshire as a temporary accommodation site for asylum seekers prior to 12 September 2020; and what subsequent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary.

Reply from Simon Hart: I had no discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department regarding the use of Penally training camp as accommodation for asylum seekers prior to 12 September. I first spoke to the Secretary of State for the Home Department about this matter on 13 September.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-24/120097>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Sexuality

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [119420] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been granted asylum in the UK as a result of persecution for being LGBTQ+ in their home state within the last two years.

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [119421] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department takes to confirm an individual's sexual orientation for the purpose of asylum claims.

Reply from Chris Philp: UIN: 119421: A claimant seeking protection on the basis of their sexual orientation is required to substantiate the claim they are lesbian, gay or bi-sexual (LGB), or perceived to be so by others, and that they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country arising from this sexual identity. They are required to establish this to a reasonable degree of likelihood.

We do not accept that someone is LGB simply because they affirm it. Any such declarations will form the starting point of explorations and all claims will be subject to a proper assessment of all relevant facts and circumstances.

Our processes ensure applicants are afforded ample opportunity to establish how

they define and identify themselves sexually and how their sexual identity is relevant to fears around future risk of harm.

The Home Office approach to considering such claims is based on dedicated published guidance and training aimed at ensuring that claims are handled sensitively and appropriately. Our guidance and training products reflect all relevant UK caselaw and all claims are considered on their merits in accordance with the obligations under the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

UIN: 119420: The Home Office publishes data on asylum applications and initial decisions for main applicants for whom sexual orientation formed part of the basis of their claim, broken down by nationality in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. The latest data, covering the period from 2015 to 2019 were published in [Immigration Statistics, year ending June 2020](#). Data on the number of grants of asylum at initial decision where sexual orientation formed a basis of their claim are published in tables SOC_00 and SOC_02 of the '[Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation tables](#)'.

Data published in this release relate to the number of asylum claims made where sexual orientation – lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) – formed part of the basis of the claim. The data do not represent the number of asylum claimants who define themselves as LGB. Having an identifier that an asylum case is based on sexual orientation does not indicate that a claimant has any particular sexuality or that sexual orientation is the reason for any grant or refusal of asylum. It also does not signify whether that aspect of the claim has been accepted. Sexual orientation as a basis of claim could be due to imputed assertions or association rather than a defining characteristic of the claimant.

These data are experimental statistics and should be interpreted with caution. Experimental statistics are statistics that are in a testing phase and are not yet fully developed. These statistics have not been subject to the full level of quality assurance of National Statistics. Further details can be found in the Office for National Statistics [Guide to Experimental Statistics](#).

The next published update will be August 2021, covering the period from 2015 to 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119420>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119421>

Immigration Removal Centres: Coronavirus

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [119317] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps have been taken to reduce the transmission of covid-19 in immigrant removal centres.

Reply from Chris Philp: Immigration Enforcement responded quickly to the risks presented at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic and continues to follow the latest guidance from Public Health England (PHE). This has been supported by the High Court, which ruled on 26 March that our approach to detention and Covid-19 was sensible, with the appropriate precautionary measures in place. The safety of detained individuals and our staff are our utmost priority.

All immigration removal centres (IRCs) have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. Detained individuals arriving at IRCs are medically assessed by a nurse within two hours of their arrival, are offered an appointment with a doctor within 24 hours and have access to medical assistance throughout their detention. Additionally receptions to Heathrow, Gatwick and Yarl's Wood are offered a Covid-19 test on arrival at the IRC.

Everyone entering an IRC spends a minimum of 14 days on a 'reverse cohorting' unit; this is dedicated accommodation designed to prevent an asymptomatic individual transmitting the virus to the wider centre population. Reverse cohorting is supported by further measures such as single occupancy rooms in all IRCs and the cessation of social visits. Protective shielding is available to those who are deemed medically high or very high risk.

Since Wednesday 21 October 2020, all staff and visitors to IRCs and short term holding facilities are required to wear a face mask, at all times, when undertaking direct contact duties with those detained and when in the main centre or holding facility.

The mental health of detained individuals is equally important to physical health; IRC residents are being encouraged to utilise virtual means of social contact including mobile telephone (for which additional phone credit is being provided on a weekly basis), video calling and email. Risk-assessed activities are available in all centres to support mental well-being.

We are confident that these collective measures have contributed to minimising the impact of Covid-19 on our estate and keeping those in detention and the staff who work there safe.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119317>

The judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Detention-Action-v-SSHD-CO-1101-2020.pdf>

Immigrants: Detainees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [122657] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether women held at (a) Dungavel and (b) Colnbrook immigration removal centres have access to doctors and other medical staff with (i) knowledge of and (ii) expertise in gender-based violence; what assessment she has made of the effect of detaining women at immigration removal centres predominantly holding men on her ability to fulfil her duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (Public Sector Equality Duty) b); and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Chris Philp: The health and welfare of those in our care is of the utmost importance. The provision of 24-hour, seven-days-a-week healthcare in all immigration removal centres (IRCs) ensures that individuals held there have ready access to medical professionals and levels of primary care in line with individuals in the community, according to their clinical needs.

Detention Services Order (DSO) 06/2016 'Women in the detention estate' sets out guidance for Home Office, supplier and healthcare staff on the care and management of women in immigration detention. The DSO ensures a consistent approach is taken by all centres that accommodate women, and that the female-specific needs of the population are met.

Victims of sexual or gender-based violence (including female genital mutilation) are covered by the adults at risk in immigration detention policy. Anyone who falls within the scope of the policy is regarded as unsuitable for detention unless the specific immigration circumstances in their case are considered to outweigh the vulnerability issues.

Healthcare in IRCs in England is commissioned by NHS England, who only commission evidence-based treatments approved by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). NICE provides guidance on the treatment of people who have suffered sexual or gender-based violence, which healthcare professionals in IRCs are expected to take into account. The revised Primary Care specification for IRCs acknowledges the importance of healthcare professionals

delivering trauma informed interventions across the immigration detention estate. The healthcare team at Dungavel, comprising registered nurses and NHS Scotland GPs, work to the standards set by 'Equally Safe', Scotland's strategy to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence. In addition, all registered nurses at Dungavel are female and access to a female GP is available on request.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122657>

Deportation

Tulip Siddiq (Labour) [119318] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that people who are being considered for deportation have access to (a) sufficient legal support and (b) contact with family members.

Reply from Chris Philp: Those being deported will have been provided with the opportunity to raise claims, prior to their deportation. The UK only ever returns those who the Home Office and, where applicable, the courts are satisfied do not need our protection and have no legal basis to remain in the UK. Any new legal representations made whilst an individual is detained are considered carefully and in accordance with the law.

Detained individuals are advised of their right to legal representation, and how they can obtain such representation, within 24 hours of their arrival at an Immigration Removal Centre (IRC).

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) operates free legal advice surgeries in IRCs in England. Individuals who are detained are entitled to receive up to 30 minutes of advice regardless of financial eligibility or the merits of their case. There is no restriction on the number of surgeries an individual may attend. If an individual who is detained requires substantive advice on a matter which is in scope of legal aid, full legal advice can be provided if the statutory legal aid means and merits criteria are met. Following a change of operations in line with Government advice on social distancing, the LAA Detained Duty Advice scheme is currently operating by phone. Detained individuals who wish to access this service are asked to advise centre staff, who will notify the duty solicitor under the scheme. The duty solicitor will contact the individual directly.

All individuals in immigration removal centres are provided with a mobile phone and have access to landline telephones, fax machines, email and video calling facilities which can be used to contact legal advisers. Social visits to IRCs and Short-Term Holding Facilities have been paused in light with the latest Government restrictions. Detained individuals are being encouraged to utilise virtual means of social contact including video calling, email and mobile telephone; additional weekly mobile phone credit is being provided to support continued social contact in these unprecedented times.

In exceptional circumstances, and for individuals facing imminent removal from the UK face to face legal and social visits can occur where other means of contact (video calling, telephone, email) are not feasible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-23/119318>

Deportation: Coronavirus

Patrick Grady (SNP) [121284] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of suspending deportations until the World Health Organization declares that the global covid-19 pandemic has been brought under control.

Reply from Chris Philp: We remain committed to removing foreign national offenders or those who violate our immigration rules and we have shown that we can continue to do this safely.

Immigration Enforcement are following the latest guidance from Public Health

England. On all removal flights public health guidance is adhered to, those on flights are seen by a healthcare professional before they are returned and anyone who is exhibiting symptoms would be removed from the flight and placed into medical isolation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-26/121284>

Deportation: Appeals

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [122668] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent last-minute legal appeals by foreign born-criminals who are subject to deportation orders.

Reply from Chris Philp: We are committed to removing foreign national offenders and other immigration offenders who have no legal basis to be here.

The Home Secretary has set out the Government's ambition to overhaul our approach to asylum and illegal migration, delivering a firm but fair system, including bringing forward new legislation next year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-30/122668>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Scheduled Mass Deportation: Jamaica

The Minister of State, Home Office (Baroness Williams of Trafford) repeated the answer given by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Chris Philp) in the House of Commons, and included in the "House of Commons Oral Answers" section above.

Lord Rosser (Labour): My Lords, the Government have said that this charter flight to Jamaica is specifically to remove relevant foreign national offenders. What assurances can the Government give that the mandatory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of the children left behind — who are innocent in this — has been considered? How many such children will be left behind as a result of the imminent deportations to Jamaica? It has also been reported that some sort of understanding has been reached between the Home Office and Jamaica that people who came to the UK as children under the age of 12 will not be removed on this flight. Is that report correct, or partially correct, and if so does it apply only to the imminent flight or also to all future deportation flights to Jamaica?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord will understand that I cannot discuss details of the individuals deported. I cannot, therefore, tell the noble Lord how many children will be left behind, but I can assure him that the welfare of children is of paramount concern to this Government. As for an understanding that might have been reached on under-12s born here, the provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007 have not changed.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, 50% of decisions on immigration matters have been overturned on appeal. What can we do to restore confidence in decisions taken by the Home Office, and how can we make sure that those facing deportation have sound legal advice? Secondly, what arrangements are made to meet these folk who have been deported to their home country—or what is considered their home country? Are they supported in any way, or are they just left to their own devices, so that they can easily resume a life of crime?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In answer to the question on immigration, the noble Lord is absolutely right about the high rate of appeal success. Quite often, people bring successful last-minute claims; we are trying to get those figures down. This Urgent Question is, however, about the deportation of some pretty serious criminals. On the noble Lord's other question, people who face

deportation have legal advice whenever they need it and arrangements are made for them when they arrive back in their countries of origin.

Lord Woolley of Woodford (Crossbench): My Lords, can the Minister assure me that on this flight to Jamaica tomorrow there are no individuals who were brought to this country as children, and nobody with a non-serious, non-violent offence?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The noble Lord will understand that I cannot talk about individuals, but I assure him that everybody on that flight has served a sentence of 12 months or more, some for very serious crimes indeed.

Lord Lancaster of Kimbolton (Conservative): ... what message does my noble friend think it sends to the general public if we are seen to be putting the rights of murderers, rapists, sex offenders and drug dealers ahead of delivering justice for their victims?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I could not agree more with my noble friend. The types of crime that these individuals are being deported for have had a devastating impact on the victims, and of course on their families, which have been left without sons, daughters, mothers and fathers. The trauma of a violent sexual assault is hard for the victim and their family to recover from, and it has a long-lasting impact on communities. The Home Office's priority will always be to keep our communities safe for everyone, and one of its key objectives, when legislation permits, is to protect the public by removing foreign national offenders who commit dangerous crimes. That is what we are doing by deporting these foreign criminals.

Baroness Blackstone (Independent Labour): ... Can she confirm that her department agreed a request from the Jamaican high commissioner that no one on the flight was under 12 when they first arrived in the UK? Is that true or not? If it is true, can she tell the House what is to happen in future? Does she agree that it should really apply to all those who arrived as children, regardless of their country of origin?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: ... I can tell the noble Baroness that the provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007 still stand, that any criminal who has served a custodial sentence of more than 12 months will be considered for deportation and that they are considered for deportation regardless of their country of origin.

Lord Vaizey of Didcot (Conservative): My Lords, I wonder whether my noble friend the Minister could confirm a number of things regarding this case: first, that these deportations are taking place under legislation passed by the last Labour Government; secondly, that the deportation of foreign criminals to Jamaica makes up a very small percentage of the deportations undertaken every year; and, thirdly, that it is wholly wrong to conflate the scandal of Windrush with this case. The Government are dealing with the fallout from the Windrush scandal but this case has nothing to do with it.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Perhaps I can turn to my noble friend's last question first, because he is absolutely right; my noble friend Lord Lancaster also alluded to this point. To conflate this flight, which contains some pretty serious criminals, with the people of the Windrush generation who came to this country to rebuild it after the war is an absolute insult to the Windrush generation, so I absolutely agree with my noble friend.

On the second point about the percentage of deportations, he is absolutely right. It is tiny: in terms of deportations to Jamaica, it is some 1%. Thirdly, he is absolutely right about the legislation: the UK Borders Act was passed in 2007 under a Labour Government.

Lord Clark of Windermere (Labour): My Lords, the noble Baroness was unusually unforthcoming about the age of people coming to this country and their deportation. Will she look into this, because it does seem very fair to the Windrush generation that it applies to anyone who came to the UK before they were 12? That seems a very decent thing to do. Will she look into this and see if it can be put in a more formal arrangement?

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: I would say to the noble Lord that

nobody due to be on that flight is of the Windrush generation—that is number one. In terms of the age of people coming to the UK, I keep saying that the provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007 still stand; I hope that that answers that question. I will go back and confirm that those provisions still stand and that, no matter what age someone came to this country, if they have committed a serious crime and have been jailed for more than 12 months, they will be under the provisions of the UK Borders Act 2007.

To read this lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2020-12-01/debates/427406B9-B6AC-4737-AAA3-93F36AAB179C/ScheduledMassDeportationJamaica>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Immigration Rules: Skilled Workers

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL10474] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 17 November (HL9917), by what means they are able to introduce a limit on the number of skilled workers able to come to the UK; what is the nature of any parliamentary approval that would be required; and how long would be required for any such changes to take effect.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Points-Based Immigration System will allow the Government to take back full control of our borders. We will suspend the cap on the number of skilled workers able to come to the UK but other controls, such as salary thresholds and the Immigration Skills Charge, will ensure immigration is managed and considered alongside investment in and protection of the UK's resident labour market.

We have considered carefully the possible impacts of the new immigration system, making best use of existing evidence and data. However, variables including Coronavirus are not the only uncertainty. We will need time to monitor the impacts on migration flows and the labour market, and whether this is in line with our detailed planning assumptions, before making any changes.

Any limit could be introduced through changes to the Immigration Rules, which are subject to negative resolution in both Houses. Changes are conventionally laid before Parliament 21 days before they take effect. The cap on skilled workers will be suspended when the new Rules come into force on 1 December, but the Home Office processes required to enforce such a control will remain in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-18/hl10474>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-03/hl9917>

Migrant Workers: Interpreters and Teachers

Baroness Coussins (Crossbench) [HL10503] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the letter from the Home Secretary to the Migration Advisory Committee, published on 23 October, on what evidence they based their decision "not to immediately accept the recommendations" contained in the report by the Migration Advisory Committee Review of the Shortage Occupation List: 2020, published on 29 September, that teachers of modern foreign languages and interpreters be included on the Shortage Occupations List.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The recent review of the Shortage Occupation Lists (SOL) was commissioned at a time when the main variable under consideration was the broadening of the skills requirement to include RQF level 3-5 occupations. The UK labour market has changed dramatically due to the economic impacts of the measures necessary to tackle Covid-19. Many UK based

workers now face an uncertain future and need to find new employment opportunities. The Government is clear our migration policies need to be considered alongside our strategies for the UK labour market.

Whilst we have considered carefully the possible impacts of the new immigration system, additional variables such as Covid-19 require closer examination. To avoid taking a piecemeal approach to implementing the MAC's advice, we need time to monitor the various influences on migration flows and the labour market, including introduction of a new immigration system, and whether this is in line with our anticipated outcomes, before considering which changes are required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/hl10503>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-to-the-mac-on-the-shortage-occupation-lists-report/home-secretary-letter-to-the-mac-in-response-to-the-shortage-occupation-lists-report-accessible-version>

Visas: Business

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10453] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish updated guidance on which business activities are permitted under visa rules after the end of the transition period for the UK's departure from the EU.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Immigration Rules setting out what activities visitors can undertake in the UK were laid in Parliament on 22 October 2020. They will come into effect on 1 December 2020 and will apply to EU, EEA and Swiss nationals. Supplementary guidance will be available on the gov.uk website from 1 December 2020.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/hl10453>

The Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/928751/CCS001_CCS1020373376-001_Statement_of_changes_in_Immigration_Rules_-_HC_813_PRINT_.pdf

The supplementary guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/01/new-routes-launched-as-part-of-points-based-immigration-system/>

Migrant Workers: Visas

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10452] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have (1) to widen the scope, and (2) to extend the length, of Permitted Paid Engagement visas after the transition period for the UK's departure from the EU has ended.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Permitted Paid Engagement visitor route currently allows professionals in several sectors to enter the UK for up to one month to undertake permitted paid engagements, where they have been invited by a UK-based organisation and without the need to apply through the sponsored work routes. Non-visa nationals can apply for entry under this route at the border. Visa nationals must apply for entry under this route before travel. The requirements in the Immigration Rules are otherwise the same for both cohorts. We will continue to keep our policy under close review as free movement ends, including through wide engagement and dialogue with stakeholders from a range of sectors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/hl10452>

Visas: Graduates

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10455] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to include the Legal Practice Course or the Bar Professional Training Course as admissible courses to attain a visa to the UK via the graduate immigration route after the transition period for the UK's departure from the EU ends.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To be eligible for the Graduate route, students must successfully complete a degree at undergraduate level or above at a Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance and hold valid leave as a student when they apply for the Graduate route.

Certain professional qualifications will also confer eligibility for the Graduate route. The professional qualifications conferring eligibility, are yet to be confirmed. Further details of the professional qualifications conferring eligibility for the Graduate route will be published in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/hl10455>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Compensation

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10534] To ask Her Majesty's Government what amount in total has been paid to claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme to date; and how much remains to be paid.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL10535] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many claimants have received compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme to date; and how many claimants are yet to receive compensation.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Information on the amount in total that has been paid to claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme and the total amount of claimants that have received payments to date is available to view on GOV.UK at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/windrush-compensation-scheme-data-october-2020>.

There inevitably is a high degree of uncertainty around estimated costs and volumes and the Home Office will continue to review estimates as more payments are made. However, there is no cap on the amount of compensation that the Home Office will pay out.

A total of 196 claimants have received payment up to the end of September 2020. We are processing claims and awarding compensation as quickly as possible. The first payment was made just four months after the scheme was launched and we are making interim payments where parts of a claim can be resolved more easily than others. An offer must be accepted by a claimant before it can be paid, and claimants have a right of review. Overall, the value of all payments made through the scheme was over £1.6m. A further £1.2m had been offered to individuals, awaiting acceptance or pending review.

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/08/27/windrush-factsheet-august-2020/>

The published figures also show that 80 claims have been rejected on eligibility grounds and 81 claims had a zero award under entitlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/hl10534>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-19/hl10535>

Vetting: EU Nationals

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL10456] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to publish guidance to employers on the obligation to conduct right to work checks of EU nationals once the transition period for the UK's departure from the EU has ended.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Right to work checks for EEA citizens will not change until after 30 June 2021. Until then, EEA citizens can use their passport or national identity card to evidence their right to work. Alternatively, those with status under the EU Settlement Scheme or the new points-based immigration system may evidence their right to work using the Home Office online checking service if they choose to do so.

Updated advice on right to work checks after the grace period ends on 30 June 2021 will be published in due course.

Further advice on employing EEA citizens in the UK can be found on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/employing-eu-citizens-in-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/hl10456>

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

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

The advice on employing EEA citizens referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/employing-eu-citizens-in-the-uk>

Asylum

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green) [HL10432] To ask Her Majesty's Government what risk assessment has been conducted on the requirement of the Home Office for asylum seekers to report in person.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Immigration Enforcement recommenced face to face reporting in July and August for limited priority cohorts. We have implemented Safe Systems of Working (SSOW) and Risk Assessments in all our Reporting Centres. We have put in place robust social distancing measures, health screening questions as you enter, face masks offered to those without, one-way systems and sanitiser stations throughout our public areas.

We continue to review our current reporting arrangements in line with any new local and national COVID restrictions that are put in place. Before inviting individuals into reporting, case owners will assess cases based on the persons harm they pose to the public, their vulnerability and personal circumstances. We continue to keep in contact with the overall reporting population by telephone to update individuals on the current reporting position.

An SMS text or email/letter is sent to those required to recommence reporting detailing the date and time they should report along with relevant advice on COVID. We have also updated the reporting pages of GOV.UK for those who report and their representatives. This information includes travelling safely on public transport avoiding busy transport hubs, revised opening times to avoid travel at peak times, advice on reporting alone where possible and what to do if those reporting have symptoms or are shielding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-17/hl10432>

UK Parliament Home Affairs Committee

Channel crossings, migration and asylum-seeking routes through the EU

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/1310/html/>

Press Release

Points-based immigration system opens

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/points-based-immigration-system-opens>

News

Immigration: Visa applications open under UK's post-Brexit system

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-55133506>

UK finally extends visa for NHS doctor who was critically ill with Covid

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/03/uk-finally-extends-visa-for-nhs-doctor-who-was-critically-ill-with-covid>

Patel warned over legality of 'morally repugnant' prosecutions of asylum seekers crossing Channel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-priti-patel-steering-boats-b1766502.html>

Government refuses to rule out wave machine to deter Channel crossings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/english-channel-crossings-wave-machine-island-b1765077.html>

Channel crossings: Home Office 'twisted judge's remarks' to defend branding migrants as 'people smugglers'

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-channel-crossings-migrants-jailed-smugglers-patel-b1762927.html>

Saving two migrants in the Channel has only confirmed to me the folly of the Government's approach

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/12/01/saving-two-migrants-channel-has-confirmed-folly-governments/>

Scottish Refugee Council urges Home Office to close military barracks

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/scottish-refugee-council-urges-home-office-to-close-military-barracks/>

Home Office faces legal challenge over asylum seeker payments during Covid

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/dec/01/home-office-faces-legal-challenge-over-asylum-seeker-payments-during-covid>

Asylum system to be shaken up as Government set to raise the bar on appeals

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/11/30/asylum-system-shaken-government-set-raise-bar-appeals/>

Murderers and rapists could be barred from claiming asylum as part of Priti Patel's crackdown on immigration

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/12/03/murderers-rapists-could-barred-claiming-asylum-part-priti-patels/>

Female trafficking survivors in UK forced into unsafe housing, report finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2020/dec/02/female-trafficking-survivors-in-uk-forced-into-unsafe-housing-report-finds>

Hundreds of immigration detainees held in jails 'blocked from accessing legal advice' during pandemic

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/prisons-immigration-detention-legal-advice-home-office-b1766240.html>

UK races to deport asylum seekers ahead of Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/06/uk-races-to-deport-asylum-seekers-ahead-of-brexit>

Home Office minister denies deporting foreign offenders is discriminatory

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-deport-jamaica-b1764122.html>

Jamaica flight: Priti Patel criticises anti-deportation campaign

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55190208>

Priti Patel hits out at lawyers and Labour MPs after 30 criminals evade deportation to Jamaica

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/12/01/priti-patel-attacks-lawyers-labour-mps-30-criminals-evade-deportation/>

Priti Patel rounds on deportation critics

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/priti-patel-rounds-on-deportation-critics-mhjvw0gcl>

Jamaica deportation flight leaves with only 13 out of 36 passengers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/jamaica-deportation-flight-leaves-with-only-13-out-of-36-passengers-z8xprthcb>

The EHRC report is clear: the Home Office is trampling on people's rights

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/dec/01/ehrc-report-home-office-trampling-peoples-rights-immigration-citizen-politicians>

'This is my home now': The charities helping refugees rebuild their lives

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/long-reads/refugee-charities-uk-middle-east-b1724165.html>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Equal Pay: Ethnic Groups

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL10408] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to compel companies to report their ethnicity pay gaps.

Reply from Lord Callanan: In 2018/19, the Government consulted on options for employer-level ethnicity pay reporting. Following the consultation, the Government met with businesses and representative organisations to understand the barriers to reporting and explore what information could be published to allow for meaningful action to be taken. We also ran a voluntary methodology testing exercise with a broad range of businesses to better understand the complexities outlined in the consultation using real payroll data. The Government is continuing to analyse this data and will respond in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/hl10408>

New Publications

Freedom of Information release: Scottish history curriculum and teaching of Black history
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202000098366/>

Welsh Government: Ethnic diversity in schools
<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-12/ethnic-diversity-in-schools.pdf>

News

Fears that inquiry into UK race disparities will be a ‘tool for inaction’
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/nov/30/fears-inquiry-uk-race-disparities-commission-will-be-tool-for-inaction>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Higher Education: Antisemitism

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL10404] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay on 9 November (HL9589), what legislative options they are considering to ensure that all higher education institutions sign up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: As set out in my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education's letter to higher education providers on 9 October 2020, the government sees adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition as a demonstration that providers are taking the matter of antisemitism seriously.

The letter also sets out that officials are exploring how best to ensure that providers are tackling antisemitism, with robust measures in place to address issues when they arise. Options identified by my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education in the letter include directing the Office for Students to impose a new regulatory condition of registration, and suspending funding streams for universities at which antisemitic incidents occur and which have not signed up to the definition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-16/hl10404>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-10-26/hl9589>

The letter referred to above can be read at

<https://twitter.com/GavinWilliamson/status/1314506646115278848>

News

Keir Starmer reveals anger at Jeremy Corbyn's anti-Semitism stance
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/11/30/keir-starmer-reveals-anger-jeremy-corbyns-anti-semitism-stance/>

Keir Starmer urged to return donations from 'Islamophobic' property developer
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/dec/01/keir-starmer-urged-to-return-donations-from-islamophobic-property-developer>

Allegations of Islamophobia in the Labour party go far beyond one party donor
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/dec/04/islamophobia-labour-david-abrahams-british-muslims>

CEO urges staff to come forward after anonymous racism allegations
<https://www.hsj.co.uk/barnet-enfield-and-haringey-mental-health-nhs-trust/ceo-urges-staff-to-come-forward-after-anonymous-racism-allegations/7029080.article>

Black Lives Matter founders: We fought to change history and we won
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-55106268>

The government should not impose a faulty definition of antisemitism on universities
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/dec/02/the-government-should-not-impose-a-faulty-definition-of-antisemitism-on-universities>

Roald Dahl's family apologises for his antisemitism
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/dec/06/roald-dahl-family-apologises-for-his-antisemitism>

Roald Dahl's family posts quiet apology for antisemitism
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/roald-dahls-family-posts-quiet-apology-for-antisemitism-ftbx9wj09>

Alexa is repeating antisemitism and conspiracy theories – we will be raising the matter in parliament
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/alexa-amazon-antisemitism-hate-speech-conspiracy-theories-b1765104.html>

FA executive quits in new race row
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fa-executive-quits-in-new-race-row-vckk8qp5l>

Edinson Cavani faces FA investigation for potentially racist post on social media
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/11/29/edinson-cavani-faces-fainvestigation-potentially-racist-post/>

Edinson Cavani apologises for using racial term in Instagram post
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/nov/30/manchester-uniteds-edinson-cavani-apologies-for-racist-instagram-post>

Millwall fans who booed Black Lives Matter protest condemned by Football Association
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2020/12/05/millwall-fans-booed-black-lives-matter-protest-condemned-football/>

Returning fans boo as Millwall and Derby take the knee
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2020/dec/05/returning-fans-boo-as-millwall-and-derby-take-the-knee>

Anton Ferdinand documentary shines light on football's ongoing struggle with racism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/premier-league/anton-ferdinand-racism-documentary-john-terry-b1764189.html>

Kick It Out admits Anton Ferdinand did not get proper support during racism case

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/anton-ferdinand-kick-it-out-john-terry-b1764449.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

MSPs to forgo pay increase in 2021, says Presiding Officer

<https://www.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/116678.aspx>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Religion: Finance

Alicia Kearns (Conservative) [121403] To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing a legal requirement for religious institutions to publicly declare (a) donations and (b) overseas funding.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: Faith-based organisations and faith-based giving play an important role in our society. Their contributions play an integral role in supporting our most vulnerable in communities and tackling a number of social challenges.

Faith-based Institutions and organisations registered as a charity (with an income of over £25,000) and as other not for profit entities, either through the Charity Commission or Companies House, are required to produce and submit annual returns, reports and accounts to their relevant regulatory body. All returns, reports and accounts required by law must be made available on request by the registering body or is made accessible via a public register.

Some religious charities are 'excepted' from charity registration and are not required to register or submit annual returns. They are still charities, and are subject to charity law.

This government encourages greater transparency across the charity sector as a matter of good practice and it is our assessment that the current level of legal transparency, regarding sources of funding for charities, is appropriate. It is right that charities are not legally required to publicly disclose the identity of individual donors because donor anonymity can be an important factor in giving people the confidence to donate to charitable causes they care about.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2020-11-26/121403>

Press Release

St Andrew's Day 2020: Alister Jack's message

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/st-andrews-day-2020-alister-jacks-message>

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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/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Faith Groups: Singing

S5W-33296 Beatrice Wishart (Liberal Democrat): To ask the Scottish Government what consideration has been given to permitting faith groups to sing indoors while wearing face coverings, particularly those based in areas living under level 1 of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Reply from Aileen Campbell: I recognise how difficult it has been for Scotland's faith communities to be unable to come together and sing within their places of worship and understand the important role that singing has in congregational worship and supporting spiritual wellbeing. We do not want restrictions to last any longer than is necessary but must ensure that people who enter places of worship to undertake congregational activities will be safe.

Unfortunately we are currently advising that indoor congregational singing is avoided in all places of worship at all of the levels (0 – 4) specified in the Strategic Framework and irrespective of whether face masks are worn. This is because scientific studies indicate that singing is likely to generate a particular transmission risk, and there is an absence of evidence for the efficacy of face masks in suppressing this additional risk. The Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) report recommends that further research of the risk of transmission from singing and playing wind instruments is needed.

In certain circumstances, it may be possible for professional singers to sing indoors, in places of worship located in local authorities with protection levels 0 & 1, provided additional mitigations and safeguards are in place in accordance with performing arts guidance.

Where it is essential to an act of worship for an individual to sing or chant indoors, one individual (non-professional) may sing or chant behind a plexiglass screen without the need for a face covering to be worn. Any screen used should be cleaned regularly and extended physical distancing should be considered.

Officials in Scottish Government's Connected Communities Division work closely with faith group representatives from across Scotland on the provision of appropriate guidance on restrictions necessary for safe worship and the scope for removing or alleviating such restrictions as soon as possible.

In the meantime, we appreciate your understanding and compliance with ongoing restrictions, which are vital to stay safe, protect others and save lives.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-33296>

Scottish Government Press Releases

COVID-19 vaccination programme to start next week

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-vaccination-programme-to-start-next-week/>

More people can claim Self-Isolation Support Grant

<https://www.gov.scot/news/more-people-can-claim-self-isolation-support-grant/>

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/>

UK Government Press Releases

UK authorises Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-authorises-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>

November interim findings from COVID-19 transmission study published

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/november-interim-findings-from-covid-19-transmission-study-published>

UK Government Publications

Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on coronavirus regulations: 1 December 2020

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-coronavirus-regulations-1-december-2020>

REACT-1 round 7 interim report: fall in prevalence of swab-positivity in England during national lockdown

https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/institute-of-global-health-innovation/imperial_react1_r7_interim.pdf

Other Organisation

Carnegie UK

COVID-19 and Communities Listening Project: A Shared Response

https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2020/11/01084615/FINAL_Shared-Problem-Shared-Response-1.pdf

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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=12973&i=117280#ScotParlOR>

Scottish General Election (Coronavirus) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/scottish-general-election-coronavirus-bill>

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

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

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

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

Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill

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

Asylum Support (Prescribed Period) Bill

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

European Citizens' Rights Bill

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

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

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

Immigration Control (Gross Human Rights Abuses) Bill

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

Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff)

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

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill

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

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Legal Advice and Appeals) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

The Windrush Compensation Scheme (closing date 16 December 2020)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/317/the-windrush-compensation-scheme/>

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/>

**** Experiences of people with refugee status who are renting private property in Scotland**
(closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YDR67MN>

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>

Winter Social Wellbeing Fund (Glasgow)

Closing date 29 January 2021

Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership funding for organisations in Glasgow City to support people who may be isolated over the winter months. Priority will be given to organisations working with individuals most at risk of social isolation and loneliness as well as those most impacted by coronavirus. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y22jeads>

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

Resilient & Inclusive Communities Fund

Running until March 2021

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

Covid-19 Transition Fund

Closing date not stated

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

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

For information and to apply see

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

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scots Charity Law Engagement: Transparency & Accountability

9 December 2020 (online, 1.00–2.30)

Scottish Government event in partnership with ACOSVO and SCVO to hear views on enhancing transparency and accountability in Scottish charities, and the possibility of increased regulatory powers for the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. For information about the 2 December event see <https://tinyurl.com/yx9pdavx> and the 9 December event see <https://tinyurl.com/yxadkkyo>

**** this week!**

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

Windrush engagement events

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>

Emerging Futures: Conversation

6 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

7 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

7 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

8 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

11 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

13 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

14 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

14 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

15 January 2021 (online, 10.00–11.30)

15 January 2021 (online, 12.30–2.00)

Amina workshops for women to meet other women and be guided through some simple exercises to help share the highs and lows of 2020. Life in the time of a Pandemic is a creative collaborative project, designed to elevate the voices and experiences of Muslim and BME women in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y6fsh994>

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/>

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/>

No Recourse to Public Funds

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/>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



gov.scot

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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