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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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**The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 21 February 2022.**

## Immigration and Asylum

### Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

#### Human Trafficking

**Ruth Maguire (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to identify perpetrators of human trafficking and disrupt their activity. (S6O-00752)

**Reply from the Minister for Community Safety (Ash Regan):** Human trafficking is a horrific abuse of human rights and there is absolutely no place for it in Scotland or elsewhere.

Action to identify perpetrators of human trafficking and disrupt their activity is led by action area 2 of the trafficking and exploitation strategy. That group, which is chaired by Police Scotland's dedicated national human trafficking unit, worked

collaboratively to maintain the profile of human trafficking throughout the pandemic, including the development and circulation of monthly briefings to draw together intelligence and information.

Police Scotland continues to pursue and disrupt perpetrators of human trafficking and exploitation, including across national boundaries. Joint investigative teams have been developed with other European law enforcement agencies, including in Romania.

**Ruth Maguire:** Websites advertising sexual services are a major enabler of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation and, according to Police Scotland, they are somewhere where crime groups hide in plain sight. Does the minister think that the current legislative framework in Scotland provides our law enforcement agencies with all the tools that they require to end the exploitation and bring perpetrators to justice?

**Reply from Ash Regan:** Police Scotland actively investigates all reports of online sexual exploitation. Human trafficking legislation gives police and prosecutors powers to bring traffickers to justice. In addition, we have laws that make it an offence to procure for the purposes of prostitution, including in an online context. Work to design a model to challenge men's demand for prostitution will consider whether the current laws need further modernisation or strengthening.

Recognising that the regulation of internet and online service providers is reserved, we are liaising with the United Kingdom Government on its draft online safety bill, which will form part of our consideration as more details become available.

**Rhoda Grant (Labour):** Criminalising the purchase of sex would make Scotland an unwelcome place for traffickers. Is the Scottish Government taking action by using websites to identify both people who have been trafficked and the traffickers? Will it take further action in that regard?

**Reply from Ash Regan:** We are taking further action in that regard. It is an ambition of the Government to create an environment that makes Scotland a hostile place for human traffickers. Trafficking is an absolutely abhorrent crime. The member will know that the Scottish Government is undertaking a vast amount of work on the model for Scotland, which will seek to challenge men's demand for prostitution.

Regarding the online part of it, we have the UK Government's draft online safety bill, as I have said. The situation is a developing one, and it looks like there are some interesting developments there regarding what the member has raised. The Government takes the matter very seriously and there is on-going work in this area.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13580&i=123244#ScotParlOR>

## UK Parliament Debate

### **Draft Immigration and Nationality (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2022**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-10/debates/931a8a7e-472e-4e56-a549-69578fc5369b/DraftImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Order2022](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-10/debates/931a8a7e-472e-4e56-a549-69578fc5369b/DraftImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Order2022)

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

### **TOEIC English Language Tests**

**Stephen Timms (Labour):** To ask the Home Secretary to make a statement about reports of failings in the test of English for international communication, or TOEIC, language tests in 2012.

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster):** I am aware that BBC "Newsnight" is tonight

examining the Home Office's response to systemic fraud that took place in the teaching of English international communication exams prior to 2014. In 2014, the BBC's "Panorama" programme uncovered examples of organised fraud on a significant scale taking place during TOEIC exams, as they are known, which were at the time required under immigration rules for student and other visas. The Home Office's subsequent investigation into the abuse of English language testing revealed systemic cheating that was indicative of significant organised fraud. Ministers and Parliament were clear at the time that they expected a robust and speedy response. As such, the Government took a number of steps to fix the broken student visa system that operated before 2014 and to prevent such abuse from happening again.

The actions taken included stopping more than 1,000 colleges bringing bogus or low-quality students into the country who intended to work, not study. Given the scale of the fraud, it is impossible to say that nobody was wrongly affected and a number of appeals have succeeded. However, we continue to believe that there was a large-scale problem with cheating, as the BBC uncovered. Individuals affected have always had the right to challenge Home Office decisions through appeal or judicial review. Many have done that and it is important to note that the courts, up to the Court of Appeal, have consistently found that the evidence of invalid cases was enough for the Home Office to take the action it did.

However ... the upper tribunal presidential panel is currently considering the case known RK/DK, which involves many of the issues raised by the BBC in relation to ETS TOIEC. The determination in that case will have a critical bearing on the Home Office's future approach to ETS TOIEC-related cases, so it would be inappropriate to comment directly on the BBC's findings ahead of that determination. I can confirm, though, that we will announce the next steps once we have received and considered the judgment.

**Stephen Timms:** In 2011, the Home Office gave a licence to the US firm ETS to operate its TOIEC English language test to establish whether overseas students could speak English well enough to study in the UK. Nearly 60,000 students took the test over three years but, as the Minister said, in 2014 "Panorama" exposed cheating at a number of TOIEC test centres and the ETS licence was withdrawn.

In response, ETS promised to analyse its recordings of all the students who had taken the test. Having done that, ETS told the Home Office later in 2014 that 96.5% of the students had either definitely or probably cheated. The Home Office seems to have failed to ask even the most basic questions about that absurd claim, now discredited, and it went ahead and cancelled the visas of more than 30,000 students. Contrary to what the Minister said, no appeal was available other than for students to go back to their home countries and then appeal, but in reality there was no provision there to make an appeal. Thousands of innocent students had their futures destroyed.

This morning, the original "Panorama" team has reported that ETS knew about the cheating well before the "Panorama" programme but did nothing because it wanted to keep the revenue. The BBC has also reported that the Home Office was told in 2012 by ETS whistleblowers but, instead of cancelling the licence then, allowed ETS to carry on for another two years. Thousands of innocent students were dragged into disaster as a result. Home Office failings have wrecked the lives of thousands of innocent people.

The Home Secretary told the Home Affairs Committee a year ago that too many people had been hurt and that a resolution was needed, but there has been no progress since. Will the Minister now come forward with a straightforward mechanism, as promised by the previous Home Secretary two and half years ago, to enable innocent students to clear their names and rebuild their lives?

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** ... I point out again that the scale of cheating exposed at the time was endemic. ... the courts up to the Court of Appeal have consistently

found that there was enough evidence of invalid cases for the Home Office to take the action it took. ...

At the core of all this is the need to reflect on what has happened over the past 10 years in respect of what was previously the tier 4 route and is now the student route. We have reformed a system that was wide open to abuse and that brought the name of our education sector into disrepute. We have created a new system, particularly in respect of the new student visa, that works for students and education providers and, crucially, in respect of the Home Office balancing the need for compliance with the wish to facilitate the ambitions of hundreds of thousands of people who wish to study at our world-leading institutions. The student visa system is a world away from where it was in the past.

Finally, I should point out that 20 people have been convicted for their role in the systemic and organised cheating in English tests. That speaks strongly to the actions we took. ...

**Stephen Kinnock (Labour):** ... The harrowing accounts that have emerged include a man who was held in a cell for months on end, wrongly accused of failing his test, without any right to release or even to appeal. Students who could have contributed so much to our country have been wrongly deported based on unreliable evidence and as a result have suffered deep and intolerable injustice and personal hardship. As one student put it: "I want my future back."

It goes without saying that the Labour party supports the use of English language tests, and of course we support efforts to target cheating, but we must utterly condemn the blind eye that the Home Office turned to ETS's failings. Can the Minister therefore tell us why on earth the Home Office thought it appropriate to allow a discredited ETS to manage the initial investigation in 2014, and to rely on its deeply questionable data? Do the Government intend to continue to rely on ETS's claims? If so, how can the Home Office be sure the data is reliable? What action do the Government plan to take to right those wrongs? Will they continue to force migrants through the demeaning process of lengthy legal battles rather than resolving the matter internally? Will the Minister commit now, from the Dispatch Box, to a mechanism that will allow innocent students to clear their names? ...

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** ... I will not get drawn on the wider facts within the court case. We have already seen judgments and determinations up to and including the Court of Appeal saying that the evidence was sufficient to justify taking the actions we took at the time. I respect the fact that people have the ability to go to the courts, particularly now that people are getting leave under our private or family life rule; that is not a huge surprise, given that we are talking about people who entered the UK, in many cases, at least eight years ago.

Our position is that there are mechanisms, but we are awaiting the determination. We will be able to set matters out more fully then; I hope we all understand why it makes sense to get that particular tribunal determination and then announce and confirm our next steps, rather than speculating on what it might say.

**Stuart C McDonald (SNP):** ... Yes, there was significant fraud, but the Home Office must wake up to the fact that there was systemic injustice for innocent students. It came about because, despite its having been put under criminal investigation, that very same company, ETS, was asked by the Home Office to be judge and jury on tens of thousands of students and to mark its own tainted, dodgy homework.

That company's verdicts were accepted without question; no opportunity was given to students to provide their own evidence, or even to see or hear the evidence against them. It was not so much Home Office negligence as maliciousness, and one of the worst excesses of the hostile environment policy. The questions today are: what will be done to fix it and what lessons can be learned?

On fixing it, it is not good enough to hide behind out-of-country appeals or judicial reviews. Those are hopeless processes. The Minister needs to consult on a process that is

independent and fast and that can allow students to right the wrongs that have been meted out to them, and there will also have to be a compensation scheme. Finally, what has the Home Office learned from all of this, and is it not about time that this whole episode was also handed to Wendy Williams?

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The biggest lesson that was learned was the need to transform our student visa system from one that was all too often a flag of convenience for those looking to come to work in the UK rather than for those genuinely looking to study. As we have said, the system has been absolutely transformed. It is one of our most compliant routes. It has allowed us to bring in additional benefits such as the graduate route that we created last year, plus more simplified processes for those applying for a student visa in the UK, both of which are very much rooted in the excellent relationship that we now have with the sector. Let us be very clear, we got rid of more than 1,000 sponsors, who, it is safe to say, were not meeting the high standards that the sector more widely provides. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-09/debates/0F376270-AFA7-45AD-B79B-7ECA09E7D49E/TOEICEnglishLanguageTests>

## UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

### Immigration

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [119396] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the statement in the letter dated 1 February 2022 from her Department's MP Account Management Team to the hon. Member for East Ham that we have currently suspended the process of automatically requiring an applicant to complete 10 years on the family route, following the lifting of no recourse to public funds conditions and will instead review their situation in line with the immigration rules at their next application for Leave to Remain, what plans she has to update the online guidance to reflect that change.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** We are currently reviewing the policy whereby an applicant on the family route who submits a change of conditions application and receives recourse to public funds is then required to complete 10 years on the family route in order to qualify for settlement.

Pending this review we have currently suspended the process of automatically requiring an applicant to complete 10 years on the family route following the lifting of 'no recourse to public funds' conditions, and will instead review their situation in line with the Immigration Rules at their next application for leave to remain.

We are considering if changes to the online guidance are required.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119396>

*The letter referred to above is not available online.*

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### Immigration: Applications

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [117921] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of applications for further leave to remain her Department has responded to within its six-month target in the 12 months ending January 2022.

**Olivia Blake (Labour)** [117922] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has a six-month target in which to respond to applications for further leave to remain.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Home Office Migration Statistics do not specifically capture information on what proportion of applications for further leave to remain are responded to within six months. This information is collated alongside

applications for leave to remain. To obtain this data separately would require a manual trawl of cases and would exceed the cost threshold.

Data on our performance against published Service Level Agreement (SLA) can be found within our transparency data: [Migration transparency data](#)

Not all application routes have a six month SLA and certain routes do not have an SLA, this is due to the complexities of the applications submitted to us.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-03/117921>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-03/117922>

### **Overseas Students: EU Nationals**

**Neil Coyle (Labour)** [115930] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the economic impact of EU citizens not on Tier 5 visas who are studying in the UK not being permitted to work, including those undertaking work placements.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The new Student route was launched in October 2020 and streamlines and simplifies the previous Tier 4 route, making it simpler for international students to apply to study in the UK and significantly improves on our offer in the global marketplace.

A full impact assessment for the Student route was published on 10 September 2020 and can be found on gov.uk at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-changes-to-the-immigration-rules-hc-707-10-september-2020>

Student visa holders following a full-time course, including study abroad programmes in the UK, at degree level or above at a higher education provider with a track record of compliance are entitled to work 20 hours per week during term-time and can undertake work placements as an assessed part of their course. Full-time employment is permitted outside of term-time.

The Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange visa provides individuals with the opportunity to complete training, a work experience placement, English language course or conduct research for a period of up to two years and some of these schemes provide some form of financial reimbursement. A full list of schemes can be found at: Temporary Work – Government Authorised Exchange visa - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-01/115930>

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [116968] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applications for EU Settlement Scheme family permit are pending a decision.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The published statistics for EU Settlement Scheme family permits can be found at [Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons](#)

The Home Office publishes data on entry clearance visas in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on EEA Family Permit and EU Settlement Scheme family permit applications and outcomes are published in table Vis\_D01 and Vis\_D02 of the [entry clearance visa detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-02/116968>

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

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

### **Immigration: EU Nationals**

**Patrick Grady (SNP)** [116969] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the deadline for

Surinder Singh applications to the EU Settlement Scheme beyond 29 March 2022.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** In April 2019 the Government announced transitional arrangements for the family members of qualifying British citizens living in the EEA or Switzerland by 31 December 2020 to enable them to return to the UK under EU law terms. This means they have had nearly three years in which to decide whether to return to the UK on this basis.

Family members who apply by 29 March 2022 for an EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) family permit to return to the UK in order to apply to the EUSS will be considered to have reasonable grounds for applying to the EUSS in the UK after the deadline, provided they do so without delay. An application to the EUSS can also be made from outside the UK where the family member has previously returned here with the British citizen and is currently outside the UK within the absence periods permitted under the Scheme.

In the interests of fairness, it remains the Government's approach to align under the family Immigration Rules the family reunion requirements for all British citizens, wherever they and their families reside.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-02/116969>

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

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

### **Refugees: Afghanistan**

**Holly Lynch (Labour)** [119693] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether people who are eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), who already hold valid limited leave to remain in the UK, will be able to benefit from the ACRS; and if she will publish guidance on the necessary steps to take.

**Reply from Victoria Atkins:** The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) commenced on 6 January 2022 and will provide up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

Anyone resettled under the ACRS will receive Indefinite Leave to Remain. The ACRS policy statement can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119693>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**Catherine West (Labour)** [114856] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to continue to publish daily figures of the number of undocumented migrants who cross the Channel by small boat.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** We are currently considering advice from the UK Statistics Authority to make sure crossing stats are published in an orderly way, providing a clear picture of small boats data to the public.

The Home Office has announced statistics will be published on Irregular migration on a quarterly basis, which will include small boat data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-31/114856>

### **Undocumented Migrants: English Channel**

**John Healey (Labour)** [114636] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 27 January 2022 to Question 107455 on Undocumented Migrants: English Channel, what the maximum capacity is for housing migrants at the barracks at (a) Napier, (b) Penally and (c) Manston.

**Reply from Tom Pursglove:** Napier capacity is kept under review; currently the capacity is set at 308.

Penally is closed but could accommodate a Covid safe capacity of 234 when operational.

Manston consists of a variety of different accommodation facilities. These will be managed dynamically depending on numbers of arrivals, the makeup of those arrivals and the availability of onward accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-31/114636>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-19/107455>

### **Refugees: Employment**

**Chi Onwurah (Labour)** [113736] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 10 January 2022 to Question 98278, on Refugees: Employment, how her Department makes an assessment of the effectiveness of employment support for refugees when data on their employment outcomes is not available; and what steps her Department plans to take to obtain that data.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Home Office officials are currently exploring the potential of using existing administrative data to assess long-term integration outcomes in areas such as employment and education, and will continue to work with other government departments to facilitate this strand of work.

We will also independently evaluate the Refugee Transitions Outcomes Fund to better understand what works in supporting refugee integration and self-sufficiency. This is a new £14m cross-Government initiative which aims to increase the self-sufficiency and integration of newly granted refugees, including but not limited to, helping them to move into work and learn English.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-28/113736>

*The answer referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-05/98278>

*The following four questions all received the same answer*

### **Asylum**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [119397] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the UK's asylum system takes into account gender or trauma related needs.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [119400] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what comparative assessment she has made of the treatment of (a) men and (b) women in the asylum system.

### **Asylum: Females**

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [119398] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of women applying for asylum in the UK are given the option to be interviewed by a woman.

**Stephen Timms (Labour)** [119399] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has commissioned research on the first-hand experiences of women and girls seeking asylum in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The UK has a proud history of providing protection to the most vulnerable people in genuine need, including women, and this will not change. This government remains committed to delivering a gender-sensitive asylum system ensuring all those who seek asylum are treated with dignity and respect. The Nationality and Borders Bill will deliver the Government's New Plan for Immigration – the most comprehensive reform in decades, to fix the broken asylum system. The reformed asylum system will be sensitive to gender and trauma-related needs, for example continuing to provide the opportunity for all those claiming asylum to be interviewed by an individual of the same gender and a trauma informed approach to avoid re-traumatisation whilst an individual is in the asylum system.

We are taking into account commissioned research and experiences of those seeking asylum. Engagement through our stakeholder networks, including on the New Plan for Immigration, is already underway, as we build a system that is fair, but firm; safeguarding those who may be vulnerable and protecting against any unintended consequences.

We routinely publish breakdowns of asylum applications outcomes by gender which are publicly available on GOV.UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>  
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119397>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119400>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119398>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119399>

*The following three questions all received the same answer*

#### **Asylum: Legal Opinion**

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [119535] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance were made by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in 2021.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [119536] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests were made for legal assistance by asylum applicants in relation to their initial asylum application in 2021.

**Paul Blomfield (Labour)** [119537] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many requests for legal assistance by asylum applicants during the first instance procedure in 2021 resulted in a grant of legal assistance.

**Reply from James Cartlidge:** Information about the total number of requests for this type of legal assistance is not held. Such assistance, where provided by legal aid, is funded under the 'Legal Help' scheme. Decisions about eligibility for this form of services are delegated to legal aid providers. As such applications are not made directly to the Legal Aid Agency (LAA). Consequently, the LAA does not hold data regarding overall volumes of requests for assistance or the number of requests for assistance that are refused.

Some information regarding overall volumes of immigration and asylum cases funded under Legal Help is published in the LAA's official statistics at table 5.1-5.3.

The statistics can be accessed via the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/legal-aid-statistics-july-to-september-2021>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119535>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119536>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119537>

#### **Asylum: Children**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [119806] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average number of days taken to process claims for unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the UK is; and how many days her Department took to reach a decision on claims by children seeking asylum in (a) 2021, (b) 2020 and (c) 2019; and if she will make a statement.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office is unable to state what the average number of days taken to process claims unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the UK and how many days it took to reach a decision on claims by children

seeking asylum in 2021, 2020 and 2019 as this information is not collected in a format which can be published.

The Home Office has established two dedicated case working Hubs for deciding children's asylum claims which are now fully operational. The hubs have established improved focus on and greater control of children's cases, to build expertise, identify efficiencies and provide a consistency of decision making (and quicker outcomes) for our customers.

We continue to work collaboratively with Local Authorities nationally on the remote interview process for Accompanied and Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children and young people utilising digital interviewing video capabilities to complement in person interviews.

Since May 2021 we have increased Local Authority opt in for digital interviewing to 108 Local Authorities helping to speed up processes, reduce delays and the numbers of children and young people who have an outstanding claim.

We are continuing to recruit additional decision-makers who will be trained to process children's asylum claims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119806>

### **Asylum: Employment**

**Afzal Khan (Labour)** [119807] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to lift the ban on people seeking asylum having the right to work.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** The Home Office already allows asylum seekers the right to work in the UK if their claim has been outstanding for 12 months or more, through no fault of their own. Those permitted to work are restricted to jobs on the Shortage Occupation List, which is based on expert advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Being able to acquire a right to work simply by making an asylum claim would act as a significant incentive to lodge unmeritorious claims. Our policy is intended to deter people from undercutting the resident labour market and supports wider changes to fix the broken asylum system.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-07/119807>

### **Asylum: Mental Illness**

**Lisa Cameron (SNP)** [117802] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what training her Department is providing to its staff to enable them to identify asylum seekers arriving in the UK with mental health issues.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Border Force personnel receive training on identifying and helping vulnerable people at the UK border. All Home Office staff and contractors engaging with asylum seekers are trained to adopt a risk-based approach towards potential indications of vulnerability and to refer relevant cases onto the Safeguarding Hub, a dedicated resource assigned to identifying and safeguarding vulnerable asylum seekers. The Safeguarding Hub works closely with the statutory agencies to signpost vulnerable customers for support with their health and social care needs. Additionally, asylum seekers have full access to the advisory services provided by Migrant Help.

The Home Office continues to support conversations on improving the mental health of refugees and asylum seekers including through its National Asylum Seeker Health Steering Group, bringing together representatives from the Department of Health and Social Care, NHS, Devolved Administrations and Non-Governmental Organisations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-03/117802>

### **Asylum: Mental Health Services**

**Sarah Champion (Labour)** [114757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what mental health support the Government provides to (a) refugees and (b) asylum applicants in the UK.

**Reply from Kevin Foster:** Refugees and asylum seekers have access to free NHS medical services in the same way as British Citizens and other permanent residents. This includes mental health services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-31/114757>

## **UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer**

### **Hong Kong: Immigration**

**Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench)** [HL5600] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to amend paragraphs (1) HK 26.2, (2) HK 26.3, (3) HK 31.1, and (4) HK 31.2, of the Appendix to the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Immigration Rules, to allow Hong Kong citizens born on or after 1997 with British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) parents to register for the UK BN(O) Visa Scheme independently of their parents.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** The BN(O) route is an unprecedented and generous offer reflecting the UK's historic and moral commitment to the people of Hong Kong who chose to retain their ties to the UK by taking up BN(O) status. We are sympathetic to the circumstances of children born on or after 1 July 1997 with BN(O) parents and are considering what more can be done to support this cohort where they wish to build a permanent life in the UK.

We will inform the House once a way forward has been established.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-24/hl5600>

*The Immigration Rules referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-hong-kong-british-national-overseas>

## **New Publications**

**The Windrush Compensation Scheme: Government Response to the Home Affairs Committee Report**

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmhaff/1098/report.html#heading-1>

**EU Settlement Scheme statistics, January 2022**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2022/eu-settlement-scheme-statistics-january-2022>

**Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) welcome programme**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hong-kong-uk-welcome-programme>

**Care and management of post detention age claims**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/managing-age-dispute-cases-in-the-detention-estate/care-and-management-of-post-detention-age-claims-accessible-version>

**Short films offer New Scots a warm welcome**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/new-videos-offer-a-warm-welcome-to-scotland/>

## News

### **The English test that ruined thousands of lives**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60264106>

### **Home Office says delays will not affect UK citizens returning with EU families**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/feb/06/home-office-says-delays-will-not-affect-uk-citizens-returning-with-eu-families>

### **UK may extend visa scheme to young Hongkongers seeking refuge**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/11/uk-may-extend-visa-scheme-to-young-hongkongers-seeking-refuge>

### **France to use UK funds for CCTV network to stop Channel migrant crossings**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/10/france-creates-uk-funded-cctv-network-stop-channel-migrant-crossings/>

### **UK funds cameras in France to catch people smugglers**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-funds-cameras-in-france-to-catch-people-smugglers-hhrzkb95f>

### **Push back of migrant boats 'courts disaster', warns former chief prosecutor**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/push-back-migrant-boats-disaster-b2011003.html>

### **The Home Office narrative over Channel crossings should concern us all**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/news-analysis/channel-migrants-priti-patel-home-office-b2012256.html>

### **Channel migrants: Dover processing hub shut before new facility ready**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/channel-migrants-dover-processing-hub-shut-before-new-facility-opens-sgf6jdnjn>

### **Church of England Synod calls for more protection of child trafficking victims**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/uk-government-government-general-synod-english-channel-house-of-lords-b2011575.html>

### **What could the anti-refugee bill mean for survivors of trafficking?**

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/what-could-the-anti-refugee-bill-mean-for-survivors-of-trafficking/>

### **Home Office blocks vulnerable children from reuniting with refugee sister in UK**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/family-reunion-children-ethiopia-home-office-uk-b2010510.html>

### **'Welcome to England. How are you doing?': the artist who holds out a hand to refugees**

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2022/feb/12/welcome-to-england-how-are-you-doing-the-artist-who-holds-out-a-hand-to-refugees>

### **'I enjoy my Hong Kong-Scottish dual identity'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-60302591>

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## Equality

### Scottish Parliament Time for Reflection

**Time for Reflection: Hazel Peters (College Student, Greenock)**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13574&i=123173#ScotParIOR>

### News

**Rights watchdog 'should lose status' over trans row**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-60331962>

**More students from ethnic minority backgrounds studying for degrees**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/asian-bame-black-british-higher-education-statistics-agency-more-b2012488.html>

**Miscarriage: 'I was in pain and they did not listen'**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-60243152>

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## Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

#### Business of the House

*col 1102* **Thangam Debbonaire (Labour):** ... This is Race Equality Week. Hate crime is rising in Britain. Race is now a factor in more than seven out of 10 hate crimes recorded in England. Can the Leader of the House explain what the Government are doing to tackle this? Religious hate crime is also rising, particularly against British Muslims, so can the right hon. Gentleman also demonstrate his personal commitment to tackling that by scheduling in Government time a debate on Islamophobia? ...

**Reply from Mark Spencer:** ... I think everybody in the House will recognise that race crime is a terrible offence, and we should all do our part in condemning anyone who is involved in racial crimes. I wholly accept the point that she makes. I would be delighted to work together, in any way we can—we have a responsibility not only as Members of Parliament, but as citizens, to call out racial hatred whenever we see it in all its forms. ...

*col 1110* **John Cryer (Labour):** ... May I support the plea from my hon. Friend the shadow Leader of the House for a debate in Government time on racism and anti-racism? The figures for attacks on Jewish and Muslim communities in particular are rocketing for all sorts of reasons, and many of us, including me, represent both communities.

**Reply from Mark Spencer:** This is an important issue, and, as I have said, we all have a responsibility to try to ensure that we get our language right in the House. Hate crime of any nature should not be tolerated. I think it is always a good thing to debate it at any point and to highlight and condemn it, as well as working with our law enforcement officers who are out there on the frontline dealing with it on a daily basis. ...

*col 1117* **Sarah Owen (Labour):** ... My constituents are concerned by the rising incidence

of Islamophobia, backed up by worrying new findings from the University of Birmingham that Britons are three times more likely to discriminate against Muslims than any other faith group. Their fears are all compounded by reports of Islamophobia at the heart of this Government. ... Will people's legitimate concerns be addressed in Government time, yes or no?

**Reply from Mark Spencer:** The hon. Lady is right to highlight all forms of hate crime and racial discrimination, and I am committed to assisting her in any way I can to try to diminish, reduce or eradicate racial hatred and racial crime. It is an appalling crime and it should be condemned at all levels. If I can assist her in any way in doing that, I would be delighted to do so. ...

*col 1118 Anum Qaisar (SNP):* ... Will he make time, on the Floor of the House, for a debate on Islamophobia? I have spoken previously on the Floor of the House about my experiences of Islamophobia and racism. Does he agree that an individual's religion, or indeed no religion, should never be a barrier to them in the workplace?

**Reply from Mark Spencer:** I wholly agree with the hon. Lady that someone's religion, sexuality, sex or age should not be a barrier to their career. ...

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-10/debates/8BCD7CDB-2DB2-43CF-B045-42A39627B98E/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-B2586184-4213-4EA8-988D-7183F4A3F7D4>

### **Diversity: National Cricket Teams**

**Kim Johnson (Labour):** What steps the Government are taking to ensure diverse representation in (a) women's and (b) men's national cricket teams to help tackle racism in that sport. (905560)

**Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Nigel Huddleston):** We must ensure that cricket, and indeed all sports, are accessible to people from all backgrounds. National team selection is not something the Government have control over—that is for governing bodies to decide—but I am sure we can all agree that the primary basis should be talent. We need that diverse pool of talent. I have had positive conversations with the England and Wales Cricket Board and the county clubs on ensuring that talent pathways are fully open to the diverse range of people who play the game at grassroots level.

**Kim Johnson:** The Minister makes some interesting points, but does he agree that actions speak louder than words? The game has been described as institutionally racist. Can a review of dressing room culture, being undertaken by Clare Connor, fix the deeply entrenched under-representation of black women cricketers when Ebony Rainford-Brent, the first black member of the women's cricket team, said she had never been made to feel different until she entered the cricket world?

**Reply from Nigel Huddleston:** I agree with the hon. Lady on those concerns. There is a lot more to do in cricket and across sport as a whole. I have met the county chairmen and Lord Patel, as well as having dialogue with the ECB. I believe progress is being made, but I agree completely with her: I want to see actions, not just words.

**Julian Knight (Conservative):** ... Does my hon. Friend share my disquiet that Lord Patel, Yorkshire's new chair, has been forced to publicly call out a group of individuals for seeking to delay and derail vital reforms of the club in order to combat the scourge of racism? Does my hon. Friend agree that, in order to support Lord Patel in his fight, the ECB should state that international cricket can return to Headingley but on the strict proviso that members back Lord Patel's reforms, we see a dilution of the power of the Graves Trust, and that they ignore the siren calls of those who wish to retain the shameful status quo?

**Reply from Nigel Huddleston:** I thank the Chair of the Select Committee for his and the Committee's work in this area. The decision to bring internationals back to Yorkshire is for the ECB and I have to respect that, but I have met Lord Patel, even

just yesterday, and personally I am somewhat comforted and assured about the progress being made in Yorkshire. Indeed, I have seen good progress being made in cricket overall, but I want to see a lot more. I reiterate that the decision is for the ECB, but I am sure that it will have heard my hon. Friend's comments.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-10/debates/2C04A43E-7A88-42AB-9FC9-C3DEFFFE72905/DiversityNationalCricketTeams>

## UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

*The following two questions both received the same answer*

### **Cricket: Racial Discrimination**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5723] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to introduce an independent regulator for cricket to oversee the progress the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) makes to tackle racism in that sport.

### **Cricket: Equality**

**Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated)** [HL5725] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of diversity in the administration of English cricket; and what plans they have to support or require the England and Wales Cricket Board to increase levels of diversity as a condition of receipt of future public funding.

**Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay:** Racism has no place in cricket, sport, or wider society. The Government is committed to ensuring sport does all it can to tackle racism and all forms of discrimination.

The Government believes that sports should be given every opportunity to run their own affairs wherever possible. However, as the Minister for Sport stated in front of the DCMS Select Committee on 18 November, if other actions do not result in meaningful change, independent regulation remains an option that the Government would consider as part of a range of wider measures to address governance and regulation.

We welcome the recent action on tackling racism in cricket from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). We will continue to monitor its actions, including the implementation of the ECB's new [plan for diversity and inclusion](#). One of the key commitments of this plan is to improve diversity in leadership and governance positions across cricket.

Sport England funding is explicitly linked to the development and implementation of robust diversity and inclusion policies and plans. This has been made clear to the ECB, who have responded positively and constructively.

The Government will continue to liaise with the cricket authorities on tackling racism and hold them to account on this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-26/hl5723>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-26/hl5725>

*A transcript of the Committee meeting referred to above can be read at*

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3017/html/>

## Press Releases

### **Antisemitic Incidents Report 2021**

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2022/02/10/antisemitic-incidents-report-2021>

**Equality and Human Rights Commission work with the England and Wales Cricket Board to tackle racism in sport**

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/our-work-england-and-wales-cricket-board-tackle-racism-sport>

## **New Publication**

**Antisemitic Incidents Report 2021**

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/f/f/Incidents%20Report%202021.pdf>

## **News**

**Nicola Sturgeon told Green ministers are 'blind spot' on tackling anti-Semitism**

<https://www.scottishdailyexpress.co.uk/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-told-green-ministers-26212055>

**'I'll name names if Tories open fresh investigation', says ex-MEP who claims minister was Islamophobic**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sajjad-karim-islamophobia-tory-party-investigation-b2008020.html>

**Islamophobia probe into Boris Johnson ally handed to PM's ethics adviser**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mark-spencer-islamophobia-geidt-johnson-b2011124.html>

**Labour MP Neil Coyle suspended over racist comment claim**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-60347836>

**Labour MP Neil Coyle has party whip suspended following alleged racist remarks**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/02/11/labour-mp-neil-coyle-has-party-whip-suspended-following-alleged/>

**Labour suspends whip from Neil Coyle after allegations of racist comments**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/feb/11/labour-suspends-whip-from-neil-coyle-after-allegations-of-racist-comments>

**Neil Coyle: Labour MP has whip suspended over claims of racist comments**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/neil-coyle-labour-racist-suspended-b2012957.html>

**Labour suspends Neil Coyle over 'racist slur' in Commons bar**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/neil-coyle-loses-labour-whip-for-racist-slur-in-commons-bar-j02vrw0xn>

**Union to withdraw from Cabinet Office race review over 'flawed' process**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/pcs-union-cabinet-office-race-review-b2011190.html>

**Black civil servant handed six-figure payout amid warning of 'systemic' race issues in Whitehall**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/civil-servant-race-discrimination-whitehall-b2007705.html>

**Anti-Semitic hate incidents at new high in 2021, charity**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60322106>

**Zoombombings help fuel 'shocking' record high in anti-Semitic hate incidents**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/10/zoombombings-help-fuel-shocking-record-high-anti-semitic-hate/>

**Rise in antisemitic 'Zoom-bombing' attacks**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rise-antisemitic-zoom-bombing-attacks-jkb050k8q>

**Anti-Jewish hate incidents hit record high in UK**

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/feb/10/anti-jewish-hate-incidents-hit-record-high-in-uk>

**Antisemitic abuse in UK hit record high in 2021, new figures show**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/antisemitism-record-2021-b2011701.html>

**Man shouts 'heil Hitler' and makes 'Nazi salute' at Jewish mother and children**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/12/mother-two-children-subject-anti-semitic-abuse-followed-nazi/>

**Add genocide of Gypsies to national curriculum, say charities**

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/09/add-genocide-of-gypsies-to-national-curriculum-say-charities?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/09/add-genocide-of-gypsies-to-national-curriculum-say-charities?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

**Roma and Sinti genocide must be on curriculum after Jimmy Carr comments, say charities**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/roma-sinti-genocide-holocaust-jimmy-carr-b2012222.html>

**Jimmy Carr's joke about Roma people 'deeply disturbing', says No 10**

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/feb/07/boycott-jimmy-carr-over-horrid-joke-about-roma-people-says-sajid-javid>

**Jimmy Carr Holocaust joke is 'indefensible', says 'close friend' David Baddiel**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/news/david-baddiel-jimmy-carr-netflix-b2008681.html>

**Ban culturally insensitive wigs, says black barrister with afro**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ban-culturally-insensitive-wigs-says-black-barrister-with-afro-hairstyle-ksm6x9vp>

**Church of England is taking action on racism**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/church-of-england-is-taking-action-on-racism-jqv6zxdf5>

**Hamlet holds 'racist' views of black people, Globe claims in drive to decolonise Shakespeare's work**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/02/11/hamlet-holds-racist-views-black-people-globe-claims-drive-decolonise/>

**Black Britons in documentary still boxed in by race, report finds**

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2022/feb/09/black-britons-in-documentary-still-boxed-in-by-race-report-finds>

**Probe into assault and racism claims at Crieff High School**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-60293759>

**Dillibe Onyeama, whose memoir of racist abuse at Eton shook the establishment**

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/feb/11/dillibe-onyeama-memoir-racist-abuse-eton-shook-establishment>

**Anti-lockdown activist Tahra Ahmed jailed over Facebook post blaming Jews for Grenfell fire**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/anti-lockdown-activist-tahra-ahmed-jailed-over-facebook-post-blaming-jews-for-grenfell-fire-0nm0m0kwh>

**Tottenham urge fans to ‘move on’ from using Y-word after review**

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2022/feb/10/tottenham-urge-fans-to-move-on-from-using-y-word-after-review>

**Tottenham call for fans to ‘move on’ from the Y-word**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/tottenham-antisemitism-y-word-b2012055.html?amp>

**Tottenham Hotspur ask fans to stop using Y-word**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tottenham-hotspur-ask-fans-to-stop-using-y-word-krv35t233>

**As a Tottenham fan I’ve changed my mind. It’s time for the Y-word to go**

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/as-a-tottenham-fan-ive-changed-my-mind-its-time-for-the-y-word-to-go-s6p0nglrx>

**Chelsea settle historical racist abuse case brought by four ex-youth players**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/lawyers-high-court-premier-league-royal-courts-of-justice-b2009229.html>

**Azeem Rafiq to help PCA draw up anti-racism guidelines for cricketers**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/02/08/azeem-rafiq-help-pca-draw-anti-racism-guidelines-cricketers/>

**Azeem Rafiq: PCA admits failings over racism allegations**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/azeem-rafiq-racism-yorkshire-pca-b2010071.html>

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## Other Scottish Parliament and Government

### Press Release

**A Parliament for All**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117592.aspx>

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## Other UK Parliament and Government

### UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

#### **Sickle Cell Diseases: Health Services**

**Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [117857]** To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to improve sickle cell patient care in response to avoidable deaths and failures of care for sickle cell patients in secondary care.

**Reply from Maria Caulfield:** The Department is taking several steps to improve sickle cell patient care. These are in line with the recommendations of the report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia, published in November 2021, titled 'No One's Listening'. The Department has been commissioned to coordinate a cross system action plan, as part of the health disparities white paper, about how we can work to address each of these recommendations. Additionally, the England Rare Diseases action plan, due for publication in February, will detail steps towards meeting the priorities of the 2021 UK Rare Diseases Framework, including actions to improve awareness of rare diseases, such as sickle cell, amongst healthcare professionals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-02-03/117857>

*The report referred to above can be read at*

<https://www.sicklecellsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/No-Ones-Listening-PDF-Final.pdf>

### UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

#### **Radicalism: Islam**

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL5588]** To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answers by Baroness Barran on 18 January (HL5056 and HL5057), what steps they take to ensure that radical Islamism is not being promoted in mosques in the UK; whether they have any evidence that radical Islamism is being promoted in mosques; and if not, what further steps they intend to take.

**Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford:** Muslims make an enormous contribution to British Society and have done for centuries. Islam is a religion observed peacefully by over a billion people worldwide and we remain clear that Islamist extremism is not true Islam. Whether through Islamism or any other ideology, the Government is committed to tackling those who spread views that promote violence and hatred against individuals and communities in our society, and that radicalise others into terrorism.

We assess all evidence of those that radicalise others though their support for or justification of violence and will not tolerate those who spread divisive and harmful narratives.

We continue to work with law enforcement agencies and multi-agency partners to increase our understanding of new and emerging radicalising threats to society. Any violent threat is assessed and managed by the police and security services based on the threat that it is deemed to pose.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-01-20/hl5588>

*The answers referred to above can be read at*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5056>

*and*

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-16/hl5057>

## New Publication

### Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller ethnicity summary

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/summaries/gypsy-roma-irish-traveller>

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## Health Information: Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### NHS

#### Coronavirus helpline

People living in Scotland who don't have any symptoms but are looking for general information can call the coronavirus helpline. If you're a non-English speaker you can still use this service. Phone 0800 028 2816, tell the call handler that you need an interpreter, give the name of your preferred language and you will be connected to a Language Line interpreter. You will not have to pay for this.

#### 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>

#### Book a coronavirus booster vaccination

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking>

#### Get a record of your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination status

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status>

#### Protect-Scot contact tracing app

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

#### 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 Government Press Releases

**Expiry date of Covid regulations extended**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/expiry-date-of-covid-regulations-extended/>

**COVID-19 school rules to be eased**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-school-rules-to-be-eased/>

**Views sought on impact of COVID pandemic on young people**

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/newsandmediacentre/117593.aspx>

## Scottish Government Publications

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): daily data for Scotland**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19): trends in daily data**

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

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement – 8 February 2022**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-update-first-ministers-statement-8-february-2022/>

## UK Government Publication

**The R value and growth rate**

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-r-value-and-growth-rate>

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## New Publications

**Scotland's top charity leaders: how diverse are they?**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/59b82ed532601e01a494df34/t/61f9373a5520be0d7a86d36e/1643722571578/Scotland's+top+charity+leaders%3A+how+diverse+are+they%3F.pdf>

**European Court of Human Rights: Thematic Factsheet – Roma and Travellers**

<https://rm.coe.int/thematic-factsheet-roma-travellers-eng/1680a551a6>

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## Bills in Progress

\*\* new or updated this week

### Scottish Parliament

**\*\* Scottish Local Government Elections (Candidacy Rights of Foreign Nationals) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill>

Bill as introduced

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill/introduced/spbill11s062022.pdf>

Explanatory Notes

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill/introduced/spbill11ens062022accessible.pdf>

Policy Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill/introduced/spbill11pms062022accessible.pdf>

Financial Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill/introduced/spbill11fms062022accessible.pdf>

Delegated Powers Memorandum

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/scottish-local-government-elections-candidacy-rights-of-foreign-nationals-bill/introduced/spbill11dpms062022accessible.pdf>

## UK Parliament

### **Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2995>

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2918>

### **Asylum Seekers (Permission to Work) (No. 2) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3003>

### **Asylum Seekers (Return to Safe Countries) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2961>

### **Barnett Formula (Replacement) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2982>

### **Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3002>

### **Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2953>

### **Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2963>

### **Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2986>

### **Immigration (Health and Social Care Staff) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3005>

## **Modern Slavery (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2892>

## **\*\* Nationality and Borders Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023>

Committee Stage, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-08/debates/1AB52848-6E2A-49BE-9D95-9221298E14C3/NationalityAndBordersBill>  
and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-10/debates/77D527E6-362A-4F96-9CDD-1BDD25FFA5EA/NationalityAndBordersBill>

and

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-02-10/debates/F81A145A-6B3B-4824-894E-B0676740954E/NationalityAndBordersBill>

Notice of amendments

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/45246/documents/1414>

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

Ministerial Statement

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-02-07/debates/22020743000011/OnlineSafetyBillPriorityOffences>

Reaction to the draft Online Safety Bill: A reading list

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9243/CBP-9243.pdf>

## **Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2883>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated this week

**Draft Northern Ireland Refugee Integration Strategy** (closing date 21 February 2022)

<https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/draft-refugee-integration-strategy>

**Coronavirus (Recovery and Reform) (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 25 February 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/covid19/recovery-bill/>

**Review of the operation of the Public Sector Equality Duty in Scotland**

(closing date 7 March 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/2hpz9wu9>

**\*\* How to measure the inclusion of migrants in Wales** (closing date 25 March 2022)

<https://gov.wales/consultation-how-measure-inclusion-migrants-wales-html>

**\*\* COVID 19: The Impact on Children & Young People** (closing date not stated)

<https://engage.parliament.scot/group/12474>

**Fearless Scotland – National Youth Survey** (closing date not stated)  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fearless-Scotland>

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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

### **Workplace Equality Fund**

*Closing date for applications: 11 April 2022*

Scottish Government funding to support employers in identifying, addressing, and diminishing longstanding barriers facing particular priority groups in entering and progressing within the labour market. The central goal of the fund is to incentivise and support collaborative projects that aspire to reduce employment inequalities and cultivate positive, fair, and inclusive workplace practices, with the intention of improving employment opportunities and progression policies within Scottish workplaces; particularly for the identified priority groups, improving knowledge, skills, and practices with respect to addressing employment inequalities; thereby engendering significant improvement for priority groups, and create and maintain an inclusive working environment through employees and employers working in partnership. For information and to apply see

<https://equalityadvice.scot/>

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## **Events, Conferences, and Training**

\*\* new or updated this week

**\*\* this week!**

### **Supporting Refugee Integration**

15 and 16 February 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

28 and 29 April 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

11 and 12 October 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

15 and 16 December 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to understand the principles of a refugee-led integration framework, understand how dependency is created and how to build on people's resilience, and feel confident to facilitate refugee-led integration effectively. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ukvn5rs5>

### **Rights and Entitlements of EEA Nationals**

2 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH training on 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

## **Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

9 March 2022 (online, 10.00–12.30)

PAiH 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 see <https://tinyurl.com/24ba4stk>

## **Working with Interpreters**

15 and 16 March 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

27 and 28 September 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

24 and 25 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day courses to enable participants to understand the legal context and qualifications governing interpreters in the EU, UK and Scotland, know the different types of interpreting, identify the differences between an interpreter and a bi-lingual support worker, and who to use when, and recognise when it is inappropriate to use a family member, a friend or a community member to interpret. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

## **Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement**

29 and 30 March 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

16 and 17 June 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

6 and 7 September 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

27 and 28 October 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course drawing on the experiences of people seeking asylum and people who have been resettled in the UK, to examine why people might need to flee their own country, how they seek asylum in the UK, and what opportunities exist for rebuilding their lives here in the UK. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/jd2tey6w>

## **Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children**

21 and 22 April 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

10 and 11 November 2022 (online, 11.30–3.30 both days)

Scottish Refugee Council 2-day course to enable participants to recognise the legal difference between children seeking asylum, children who have been trafficked, refugees and migrants, appreciate the journeys that children have made to be in the UK including being trafficked, understand the Age Assessment process, identify the rights and entitlements of separated children, and become familiar with the statutory responsibilities of the Scottish Guardianship Service. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3fedr5xn>

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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>

**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/disclosure-types>

**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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