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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Ukraine (Displaced People)

The Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and Minister with special responsibility for Refugees from Ukraine (Neil Gray): It has now been eight weeks since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine began. That dreadful act of aggression has triggered the biggest displacement of people in Europe since world war two within Ukraine and across Europe. The International Organization for Migration estimates that more than 7.1 million people have been internally displaced. Almost 5 million people fled Ukraine between 24 February and 18 April this year according to the United Nations refugee agency. ...

Given the UK Government's regrettable decision to insist that people escaping war had to

secure a visa to enter the UK, trying to cut out some of the other barriers was one of the key reasons for our supersponsor approach. However, until recently, the key blocker has been not only the requirement for displaced Ukrainians to have a visa to enter the UK but the on-going and serious issues around the speed with which visas and permission to travel are issued to applicants. We have consistently pursued that issue with UK Government ministers in meetings and in correspondence. Initial changes have now been made, but we are aware that delays are still occurring for a range of applicants across the various schemes.

The latest information that has been shared by the UK Government shows that 31,400 Ukraine family visas have been granted, with 13,200 people arriving in the UK. For the homes for Ukraine scheme, 25,100 visas have been issued at UK level, of which 570 visas have been issued naming the Scottish Government as the supersponsor and 1,050 have been issued naming a Scotland-based private sponsor. Across the UK, of the 25,100 sponsorship visa holders, 3,200 people have arrived so far ...

For those people who choose to come to Scotland and secure a visa, the welcome that they receive will be a warm one. ...

The welcome hub model, which is currently focused in Edinburgh, at Glasgow airport and in Dumfries and Galloway, provides vital initial support and an opportunity to begin to assess needs such as health, education, employment and translation services. It is important that the hubs offer a safe space and a place where people arriving under the supersponsor scheme can rest their heads and eat a warm meal as we work hard to secure longer-term accommodation options for them in Scotland.

The hub model is local authority led with local partners who are best placed to determine the right level of support and the right structures to meet the immediate needs of Ukrainian arrivals. ...

We have made a number of changes, at speed, to be ready to welcome people, despite the delays in getting people here. We have passed emergency regulations to allow specified groups coming to Scotland from Ukraine to access social security benefits from day 1. We have made changes so that, from 1 April, householders who accommodate a Ukrainian refugee will not lose their council tax single person discount.

Subject to parliamentary approval, displaced Ukrainian students settling in Scotland will be given access to free tuition and living costs support. Legislation has also been laid to put in place a safe, fast and free vetting system for those who open their homes to displaced Ukrainians. ...

With operational partners, we have produced bespoke public protection guidance to ensure that displaced people of all ages receive the necessary care and support and any required protection. ...

We have also produced initial guidance for local authorities on the supersponsor and homes for Ukraine routes, which includes information on the quality assurance of accommodation, and we have published an information document ... That is in addition to the information that is available on the Ready Scotland website. Support and information are also available through the NHS National Services Scotland's national contact centre helpline and on the mygov.scot website.

The UK Government has indicated that it will provide a £10,500-per-person tariff to the Scottish Government for those arriving through the supersponsor arrangements. ...

The newly announced Ukraine extension scheme goes some way to help existing Ukrainian residents in Scotland. The scheme will provide reassurance to many Ukrainians in Scotland, including seasonal workers, but others will be left out. Ukrainian seasonal agricultural workers play a vital role in soft fruit and vegetable production. As a result of the conflict, a range of issues are likely to be of concern to them, and it is essential that they receive support to navigate those. The Scottish Government has therefore committed £41,000 to fund a worker support centre to provide an enhanced package of advice and practical support to Ukrainian seasonal horticultural workers. ...

All those who flee conflict and seek refuge, wherever they are from—Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria or elsewhere—should get the care, compassion and sanctuary to which they are entitled. ...

Donald Cameron (Conservative): ... I note from the minister's statement that, in Scotland, almost twice as many visas have been issued to private individuals than visas under the supersponsor route. In the light of that, I ask him to comment on anecdotal reports that when potential sponsors select the Scottish Government as a supersponsor, that has the effect of slowing down the process because it does not count as an actual application. If that is true, what actions will the Scottish Government take to address it?

Reply from Neil Gray: ... The data that was published last week on private versus supersponsor routes will now be quite out of date. New data will be published this week ... I have no evidence to suggest that the supersponsor route in itself is a blockage, other than in respect of the visa system that is operated by the Home Office, which is the issue that has slowed matters down. If he has evidence, anecdotal or otherwise, that he would like to share with me, I would be more than happy to see it and to pass it on to the Home Office to ensure that processing happens as quickly as possible.

Sarah Boyack (Labour) ... I have heard of families that have had to return to Ukraine because underlying health conditions were not being supported as they attempted to travel to safety and waited for visa clearance. I have also heard about women and children becoming victims of sexual violence by invading soldiers, or being put at risk of sexual abuse during their lengthy and uncertain journeys, while waiting for their visas to be approved.

What dedicated support will be available to traumatised refugees, particularly victims of sexual violence, to access rape crisis centres and mental health support from the day that they arrive? What dedicated digital support will be available so that refugees are not excluded from accessing online support and connectivity? Will the minister commit to updating the frequently asked questions advice, because the tour of the websites that he sent is not what we or our constituents urgently need right now?

Reply from Neil Gray: ... we have also received anecdotal evidence of people either returning to Ukraine or choosing other options due to the delays in the immigration system that is operated by the UK Government...

When people arrive, we will do everything that we can to ensure that the support that they need in the areas that Sarah Boyack outlined is addressed. ...

On digital support, ensuring that we have translation and other services in place through local government partners will be a priority. ...

Michelle Thomson (SNP): ... I have been approached by a constituent who offered, and which offer has been accepted, a place in their home for a Ukrainian family using their own direct social media connections. I am aware that there will be considerations around ensuring safety and that various checks will be required, but my constituent is asking how they can proceed, which authorities should be made aware and whether they can self-match at all. Can the minister provide any advice to those in such situations and advise when he expects the system to be fully operational? ...

Reply from Neil Gray: The huge groundswell of compassion, generosity and support that has been shown for the people of Ukraine has been heartwarming to see. Those wanting to offer their homes to displaced people should contact and register their interest through the homes for Ukraine portal. I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is to ensure that people do that through that official channel rather than through informal correspondence. ...

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

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13696&i=124281#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers

Kaukab Stewart (SNP): I am proud of the record of Glasgow, and of Glasgow Kelvin in particular, of supporting asylum seekers. What is the First Minister's reaction to the sending of asylum seekers who arrive in the United Kingdom to a detention facility in Rwanda for processing?

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): That decision is utterly abhorrent—morally and ethically. It is a total abdication of the UK's moral and international responsibilities to asylum seekers and refugees, and will make it more challenging and prolonged for people to seek safety from war and persecution. In that decision, the UK Government is ignoring the welfare of extremely vulnerable people. For all those reasons, that policy has, rightly, been condemned by many. Given that we have heard Theresa May—who as Home Secretary sent “go home” vans around Glasgow—describe that policy in the House of Commons as morally, ethically and practically wrong, all of us have to realise how far the UK Government is going from any moral course on this issue.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13699&i=124315&c=2395793#ScotParlOR>

Refugees from Ukraine (Home Fee Status)

Carol Mochan (Labour) [S6o000977] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on what plans it has to offer home fee status to Ukrainian refugees in Scotland, or those displaced following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Reply from the Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training (Jamie Hepburn): On Thursday 14 April, I announced that displaced Ukrainian nationals settling in Scotland who have submitted an application to the homes for Ukraine scheme, the Ukraine family scheme or the Ukraine extension scheme will be eligible for home fee status and living cost support from the 2022-23 academic year. ...

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13699&i=124327#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

British National (Overseas) visa scheme

Ross Greer (Green) [S6W-07513] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-07058 by Neil Gray on 14 March 2022, whether it will provide further details of the steps that it has taken to ensure that Hong Kong residents coming to the UK through the British National (Overseas) visa scheme are encouraged to resettle in Scotland.

Alexander Burnett (Conservative) [S6W-07885] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-07058 by Neil Gray on 14 March 2022, whether it will provide further details of the steps that it has taken to ensure that Hong Kong residents coming to the UK through the British National (Overseas) visa scheme are encouraged to resettle in Scotland.

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07561] To ask the Scottish Government, further to the answer to question S6W-07058 by Neil Gray on 14 March 2022, whether it will provide further details of the steps that it has taken to ensure that Hong Kong residents coming to the UK through the British National (Overseas) visa scheme are encouraged to resettle in Scotland.

Reply from Neil Gray: Scotland has a long history of welcoming migrants and we are actively encouraging those from Hong Kong to make Scotland their first choice to resettle. The Scottish Government is committed to supporting their integration into our communities and we have also published a dedicated British National (Overseas) welcome pack, in both English and Cantonese, on our website. We have provided funding to COSLA who have a dedicated online Hong Kong Welcome Hub, intended for Hong Kong BN(O) migrants arriving in Scotland and Council Officers supporting their integration. Scottish Government officials continue to engage with third sector partners and our overseas hubs to identify ways of encouraging BN(O)s to choose Scotland as their first choice destination to resettle

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07513>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07885>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07561>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07058>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/pages/4/>

The Welcome Hub referred to above can be read at

<https://hongkongwelcomehub.migrationscotland.org.uk/>

The following five questions all received the same answer

Immigration: Hong Kong

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07557] To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to ensure that former Hong Kong residents who resettle in Scotland are successfully integrated into local communities.

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07558] To ask the Scottish Government how it has supported former Hong Kong residents who have resettled in Scotland.

Alexander Burnett (Conservative) [S6W-07880] To ask the Scottish Government what action it has taken to ensure that former Hong Kong residents who resettle in Scotland are successfully integrated into local communities.

Alexander Burnett (Conservative) [S6W-07881] To ask the Scottish Government how it has supported former Hong Kong residents who have resettled in Scotland.

Alexander Burnett (Conservative) [S6W-07886] To ask the Scottish Government what resources are provided to former Hong Kong residents who resettle in Scotland in order to ensure that they integrate safely.

Reply from Shona Robison: The Scottish Government is committed to supporting integration of former Hong Kong residents into our communities. We have published a dedicated British National (Overseas) welcome pack, in both English and Cantonese, on our website. On 9 February, we wrote with the Welsh Government to the UK Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Local Government requesting assurances that promised funding of £2.98m will be provided and that it can be carried forward to subsequent financial years in order to meet any current or future potential support needs. To date, no response has been received.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07557>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07558>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07880>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07881>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07886>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/pages/4/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Hong Kong

Ross Greer (Green) [S6W-07510] To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made and action it has taken to ensure that former Hong Kong residents who resettle in Scotland are not subjected to racism or discrimination.

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07559] To ask the Scottish Government what assessment it has made and action it has taken to ensure that former Hong Kong residents who resettle in Scotland are not subjected to racism or discrimination.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government is committed to upholding and advancing the rights of those that choose to make their life here in Scotland, including former Hong Kong residents. Racism and discrimination are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

The Scottish Government has worked closely with the UK Government, COSLA, Police Scotland and third sector partners to understand the needs and requirements of former Hong Kong residents to support their integration into our communities.

As well as publishing a dedicated British National (Overseas) welcome pack, in both English and Cantonese, we have also provided funding to COSLA, who have a dedicated online Hong Kong Welcome Hub intended for Hong Kong BN(O) migrants arriving in Scotland and Council Officers supporting their integration. Both resources include information on what to do if someone is the victim of racism or discriminatory practices.

We encourage anyone subjected to racism or discrimination to report it to the relevant authorities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07510>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07559>

The Welcome Pack referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-welcome-pack-british-nationals-overseas-hong-kong/pages/4/>

The Welcome Hub referred to above can be read at

<https://hongkongwelcomehub.migrationscotland.org.uk/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration: Hong Kong

Willie Rennie (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07560] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to meet with former Hong Kong residents who have resettled in Scotland in order to collect feedback on their experiences.

Alexander Burnett (Conservative) [S6W-07883] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it has taken to meet with former Hong Kong residents who have resettled in Scotland in order to collect feedback on their experiences.

Reply from Shona Robison: As part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement Scottish Government officials have spoken with individuals with lived experience of relocating to Scotland from Hong Kong to inform ongoing policy development on promoting Scotland as an attractive place to live.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07560>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07883>

Ukrainians: Further and Higher Education

Fiona Hyslop (SNP) [S6W-08073] To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support Ukrainian nationals already studying or who wish to study at college or university in Scotland.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Ukrainians who arrive in Scotland and wish to undertake a course of study in Further or Higher Education will be entitled to home tuition fee status and living cost support for the duration of their studies.

The Scottish Government has also established a new £1 million International Students' Emergency Fund, which will be open to all international students facing financial hardship as a result of a significant change of circumstances. Ukrainian students who are presently undertaking their course of study in Scotland will be eligible to apply.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08073>

Domestic abuse: Ukrainians living in Scotland

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-07418] To ask the Scottish Government what measures it will take to ensure the safeguarding of Ukrainians living in Scotland who experienced domestic abuse in Ukraine and are concerned that their former partner or family member may be given leave to remain in the UK as a result of the Russian invasion.

Reply from Neil Gray: Asylum and immigration are reserved to the UK Parliament and handled by the Home Office. This includes decisions relating to leave to enter and remain in the UK. The Scottish Government has no control of these processes. However, the Scottish Government is clear that all forms of gender based violence are completely unacceptable. We are committed to eradicating it within Scotland. We work to protect all women who flee abusive partners within Scotland and those who come here seeking refuge can expect the same level of protection that we provide to all women.

Police Scotland is committed to working with local authorities and partners to support the individuals and families who are fleeing the atrocities caused by the conflict in Ukraine. Where a report of domestic abuse is made, it will be taken seriously, victims will be listened to and it will be thoroughly investigated. This is a developing situation that requires a flexible approach, with examples of ongoing engagement including the:

- Creation and circulation of a Scots Law booklet translated to the Ukrainian

- language to advise on how, why and when to call the Police;
- Review of translation provisions to ensure we have Ukrainian language coverage;
- Participation in key strategic groups to ensure delivery of a coordinated response;
- Engagement with the Scottish Refugee Council to understand specific needs of displaced Ukrainians.

Within the first 100 days of this government we provided £5 million to rape crisis centres and domestic abuse services to help them cut waiting times, on top of £5.75 million we allocated in 2020-21 to help redesign frontline services. In addition, our Delivering Equally Safe (DES) Fund is providing £38 million over the next two years to organisations helping to prevent abuse and to aid recovery where it does happen. This includes funding to front line services across Scotland who provide a range of counselling, outreach and peer support to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07418>

Ukraine: Students

Fiona Hyslop (SNP) [S6W-08073] To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to support Ukrainian nationals already studying or who wish to study at college or university in Scotland.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: Ukrainians who arrive in Scotland and wish to undertake a course of study in Further or Higher Education will be entitled to home tuition fee status and living cost support for the duration of their studies.

The Scottish Government has also established a new £1 million International Students' Emergency Fund, which will be open to all international students facing financial hardship as a result of a significant change of circumstances. Ukrainian students who are presently undertaking their course of study in Scotland will be eligible to apply.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-08073>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6M-03993] **Extending Free Bus Travel to All Asylum Seekers Resident in Scotland** – That the Parliament commends the work of organisations that are supporting and amplifying the voices of asylum seekers in Scotland, including in Glasgow; considers that this includes organisations such as The VOICES Network, Refuweege, Maryhill Integration Network, Refugee Survival Trust and Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland amongst others, and notes the reported calls from these organisations for free bus travel to be provided to asylum seekers by extending the existing concessionary travel schemes to include all asylum seekers currently residing in Scotland regardless of age.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-03993>

UK Parliament Debate

Ukraine: Refugees

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-06/debates/8D81AC06-3AA2-47E2-B145-98F1B87CA4D7/UkraineRefugees>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement and Q&A

Global Migration Challenge

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Priti Patel): ... The United Kingdom has a long and proud history of offering sanctuary to refugees. In recent years alone, we have welcomed more than 185,000 people through safe and legal routes, including from Syria, Hong Kong, Afghanistan and, more recently, Ukraine. In addition, we have welcomed more than 40,000 people in recent years through our refugee family reunion routes. ...

But we cannot focus our support on those who need it most or effectively control our borders without tackling illegal migration, which is facilitated by people smugglers—serious organised criminals who profit from human misery, who do not care about people drowning in the channel or suffocating in the back of containers. We must break their lethal and evil business model by removing the demand for their repugnant activities. This type of illegal migration puts unsustainable pressures on our public services and local communities. Every day, the broken asylum system costs the taxpayer almost £5 million in hotel accommodation alone. The cost of the asylum system is the highest in over two decades at over £1.5 billion.

As the Prime Minister said last week: “We cannot sustain a parallel illegal system. Our compassion may be infinite, but our capacity to help people is not.”

That is why the new plan for immigration and its legislative vehicle—the Nationality and Borders Bill—are so vital. ...

At the heart of this Government’s approach is a simple principle: fairness. Access to the UK’s asylum system should be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers. More than 80 million people around the world are displaced. Others are on the move because they want a better life. There is a global migration crisis that demands innovative and international solutions, and this Government are taking firm action.

When we published the new plan for immigration back in March last year, we set out three very clear objectives: to increase the fairness and efficacy of our system so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum; to deter illegal and dangerous routes of entry to the UK, thereby breaking the business model of criminal smuggling networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger; and to remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here.

The Ministry of Defence has taken command of small boat operations in the channel. Every small boat incident will be investigated to determine who piloted the boat and could therefore be liable for prosecution. ...

A nationwide dispersal system will be introduced so that asylum pressures are more equally spread across local authorities. Currently, 53% of local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales do not accommodate asylum seekers under the dispersal system. It is simply unfair that a national burden should be felt disproportionately by certain areas of the country.

For the first time, the Government are building asylum reception centres to end the practice of housing asylum seekers in expensive hotels. A new reception centre in Linton-on-Ouse in North Yorkshire will open shortly. ...

Just last week, I signed a new world-leading migration and economic development partnership with Rwanda. Under this partnership, those who travel to the UK by illegal and dangerous routes, including by small boats across the channel, may be relocated to Rwanda, where they will have their asylum claims considered. Those in need of protection will be given up to five years of support, including education and employment training and help with integration, accommodation and healthcare, so that they can thrive there. The UK is supporting this investment in Rwanda over five years, boosting the Rwandan economy and increasing opportunities for people living there, further cementing the trading and diplomatic relationship between our countries.

This is a bespoke international agreement reached last week with Rwanda; I came to Parliament as soon as was reasonably practicable following the conclusion of that agreement. The agreement is compatible with all our domestic and international legal obligations. Rwanda is a state party to the 1951 United Nations refugee convention and the seven core United Nations human rights conventions, and has a strong system for refugee resettlement. The United Nations has used Rwanda for several years to relocate refugees, and of course it was the European Union that first funded that.

This agreement deals a major blow to the people smugglers and their evil trade in human cargo. Everyone who is considered for relocation will be screened and interviewed—that will include an age assessment—and will have access to legal services. In relation to accounting officer advice, contrary to reports in the newspapers, the permanent secretary did not oppose this agreement; nor did he assert that it is poor value for money. Rather, he stated in his role as accounting officer that the policy is regular, proper and feasible, but that there is not currently sufficient evidence to demonstrate value for money. ...

Existing approaches have failed, and there is no single solution to these problems ... Change is needed, because people are dying attempting to come to the UK by illegal and dangerous routes. This partnership is the type of international co-operation needed to make the global immigration system fairer, keep people safe and give them opportunities to flourish. This will help to break the people smugglers' business model and prevent loss of life, while ensuring protection for those who are genuinely vulnerable.

This Government are delivering the first comprehensive overhaul of the asylum system and of this type of illegal migration in decades. At the heart of this approach is fairness. Access to the UK's asylum system must be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers. The demands on the current system, the cost to British taxpayers and the scandalous abuses are increasing. The British public have rightly had enough. Our new plan for immigration will improve support for those directly fleeing oppression, persecution and tyranny through safe and legal routes. It will deter illegal and dangerous routes of entry to the UK, make it easier to remove those with no right to be in the UK and provide a common-sense approach to controlling immigration, both legal and illegal. ...

Yvette Cooper (Labour): ... There was no information from the Home Secretary about the costs today. Will she admit that the £120 million that she has announced does not pay for a single person to be transferred? ... The Home Office has briefed that it might be £30,000 per person to cover up to three months' accommodation, but that is already three times more than the ordinary cost of dealing with an asylum case in the UK.

The Home Secretary said in her statement that she would provide five years of costs. In Australia, offshoring costs £1.7 million per person, which is over 100 times more than the ordinary asylum cost here. ... On the Home Secretary's watch, the Home Office is taking only 14,000 initial asylum decisions a year, half as many as it was taking five years ago. ... The costs to the UK taxpayer have soared by hundreds of millions of pounds because the Home Secretary is not capable of taking basic asylum decisions—and because she is not capable of taking those decisions, she is trying to pay Rwanda to take them instead. ... The Home Secretary says that this policy will deter boats and traffickers, but the permanent secretary says otherwise: he says that there is no evidence of a deterrent effect, and that there has been a total failure to crack down on the criminal gangs that are at the heart of this problem. The number of prosecutions for human trafficking and non-sexual exploitation has fallen from 59 in 2015 to just two in 2020. The criminals will not be deterred because someone whom they exploited was sent to Rwanda. ...

The Home Secretary ... promised three years ago to halve the number of crossings, but it has increased tenfold, and this will make trafficking worse. The top police chief and anti-slavery commissioner has said that the Home Secretary's legislation will make it harder to prosecute traffickers. ... She is making things easier for the criminal gangs and harder for those who need support ...

Theresa May (Conservative): ... from what I have heard and seen so far of the removal

to Rwanda policy, I do not support it on the grounds of legality, practicality or efficacy. ... I understand that only young men, and not families, will be removed. The Home Secretary is shaking her head, so I have obviously misunderstood the policy in that sense. If it is the case that families will not be broken up—the Home Secretary is nodding—where is her evidence that this will not simply lead to an increase in the trafficking of women and children?

Reply from Priti Patel: ... First and foremost, the policy is legal and a memorandum of understanding has been published that states very clearly ... the legalities and the nature of the agreement. ... I am not going to speak about the eligibility criteria on the Floor of the House. ... those types of criteria are used by the smuggling gangs to exploit various loopholes in our laws to do with, for example, legal action to prevent removals. ...

Stuart C McDonald (SNP): This is a cruel and catastrophic policy. It will not hurt smugglers, but it will further seriously harm people who have fled persecution. It will do untold damage to the international system of refugee protection, and to what little remains of the UK's reputation for upholding international law. This is worse than temporary offshoring; it is offloading responsibility altogether. As the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said, people fleeing persecution should not be "traded like commodities", and in words of the Refugee Council, this is nothing short of cash for deportations. We know that 85% of refugees are in the developing or least developed countries, yet here is the wealthy UK offering them cash to take some more. So much for global Britain.

The only thing that is transparent about this policy is its dodgy timing and grubby political motivation. In the interests of proper transparency, will the Home Secretary finally publish a detailed estimate of how many billions this policy will cost? ... And for what are we paying this money? Can she say what percentage of asylum seekers coming to the UK will be subjected to this abysmal treatment? Reports from Rwanda suggest capacity for probably around 1%, but certainly less than 5%. Is that correct? We are told people will be screened before transfer, but how can a pathetic screening interview possibly pick out trafficking survivors, torture victims or LGBT people? Quite simply, it cannot, so is she happy to see those people subjected to this treatment?

Why are women and children within the scope of this policy? Will people going through the screening process be able to access legal advice? Why are we not allowed to see the criteria for deciding who will be sent? Where is the transparency in that? How will she monitor their treatment? Her Government have completely failed to stop abuses in UK detention centres, never mind in centres that are 5,000 miles away. ...

Reply from Priti Patel: ... Rwanda has successfully resettled more than 130,000 refugees. ... Rwanda is a safe and secure country with respect for the rule of law. ... Everyone considered for relocation will be screened and interviewed, they will have access to legal advice, and decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Nobody will be removed if it would be unsafe or inappropriate for them.

The hon. Gentleman is not the first hon. Member to mention legal obligations and the legalities. Rwanda is beholden to the same legal obligations on human rights as the United Kingdom and I make the point again that I think there is something really quite unpleasant about the undercurrent of the tone towards Rwanda. ...

To continue reading this very lengthy question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-19/debates/04A9FDC8-59F6-4CA9-BEBD-3B6F5850D707/GlobalMigrationChallenge>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Visas: Afghanistan

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [145988] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has plans to relax visa restrictions for people fleeing Afghanistan in line with those in place for people fleeing Ukraine.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The circumstances for Ukrainian nationals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine are very different to those in Afghanistan.

Our approach to visa requirements and the application process is guided by the advice we have received relating to both national security and safeguarding considerations. Based on this the Government has no plans to make changes to the visa regime for individuals fleeing Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-23/145988>

Visas: Afghanistan

Stephen Timms (Labour) [150070] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of offering a fee-waiver to people applying to come to the UK from Afghanistan using the Appendix FM route.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Those applying to come to the UK from Afghanistan using the Appendix FM route can apply for an overseas fee waiver.

The guidance for the discretion to waive a fee from overseas is being revised and is not currently operational. We expect to publish the new guidance by the Summer of 2022. The delay in publishing the new guidance has been caused by the need to develop a new online application system to meet the additional requirements of the affordability test for overseas applicants.

An applicant can still apply for a fee waiver, but their application will be put on hold pending the revised guidance. Consideration will be given as to whether the need to travel to the UK is urgent, and if so, the fee waiver application will be assessed. Each urgent case will be considered on its individual merits.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-30/150070>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [148278] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will enable local authorities and families to host Afghan refugees in the same way as Ukrainian refugees, to support progression out of bridging hotels.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [148279] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy that where a UK family wanting to host a refugee can find a match of an Afghan refugee currently in a bridging hotel, that family can host in equivalent terms to the Homes for Ukraine scheme, should DBS checks prove the home is safe.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The 'Homes for Ukraine' sponsorship scheme has been developed to meet the immediate needs of those fleeing from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We are providing funding to local authorities to support those who have come from Afghanistan. Where members of the public also wish to help Afghans or other refugees, we would encourage them to do so through working with their local authority, or through the Community Sponsorship scheme.

I refer the Hon Member to the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/help-afghanistan/helping-people-to-settle-in-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148278>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148279>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Jessica Morden (Labour) [138277] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that family members of Afghan interpreters are not separated into different bridging hotels upon arrival into the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Our hotel teams work to place families together in the same bridging hotels, unless there are safeguarding concerns which indicate this is not appropriate.

When family members arrive at a later date, we strive to reunite them with those already here. If there is not sufficient space within a hotel to allow this immediately, the teams look to source an alternative hotel which can accommodate all immediate family members together as soon as possible. The teams will also try to accommodate extended family members together but limited capacity in the bridging estate means this is not always feasible.

We will continue to work across-government, with local authorities and the voluntary sector to provide the best possible service to families whilst in bridging hotels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-11/138277>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [149344] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of food provision for refugees from Afghanistan who are accommodated in hotels.

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [149345] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of hotel accommodation for refugees from Afghanistan.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The UK Government undertook the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, helping over 15,000 people to safety from Afghanistan. Due to the scale and pace of the evacuation we have had to use hotels as a bridging measure pending enough offers of suitable long-term accommodation coming forward.

Bridging hotels are procured through Crown Commercial and contracting partners. We ensure they are fully compliant with all government and local legislation requirements. Proof of compliance must be produced before a contract can be agreed. Hotels must be a minimum of three stars and be safe and secure, we also provide 24/7 security presence on all sites. They should be within, or near to, major conurbations wherever possible so appropriate support and services can be more readily provided.

Residents are provided with three meals each day baby milk and food are also provided and Halal food certificates have been obtained from all hotels

Any issues with food on site are investigated and where necessary adjustments are made. Guests within the hotels are also provided with Universal Credit and are entitled to use this money to buy food outside of the hotel if preferred.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149344>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149345>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [134424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Ukrainian nationals have applied to come to the UK since 24 February 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The information is available in the public domain at the

following address. [Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: visa data](#) Future updates on Ukraine visa applications and grants will be published on a regular basis.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-04/134424>

Refugees: Ukraine

Patrick Grady (SNP) [148250] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support people from Ukraine wishing to apply to come to the UK who face a language barrier and require assistance with (a) translation and (b) interpreting.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office and its commercial partners have translated and published local guidance into Ukrainian for those requiring it. In addition, we have deployed several Ukrainian speaking staff to our operation in Poland.

Furthermore, the webpage for the Ukrainian Family scheme and the factsheet for Ukrainians looking to apply for the Homes for Ukraine Scheme are available in English, Russian and Ukrainian.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148250>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Visas: Ukraine

Caroline Ansell (Conservative) [137395] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her oral statement on 1 March 2022 on Ukraine, Official Report, column 916, that Ukrainian nationals already in the UK have been given the option to switch, free of charge, to a points-based immigration route or a family visa route, , what plans she has to extend similar rights to Ukrainian students in the UK who are not eligible for this sponsored route, to extend their visa for a fixed period, and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government will be launching a new Ukraine Extension Scheme on 3 May.

Under this route, Ukrainian nationals and their partner and children who had permission to stay in the UK on 18 March 2022 (or which has recently expired) will be able to stay in the UK under the Ukraine Extension Scheme. Eligibility for permission to stay will include those who were in the UK as Students.

Successful applicants will be granted permission to stay in the UK for 3 years with full access to work, study and public funds.

The Ukraine Extension Scheme will be free of charge with no requirement to pay any application fee or broader charges such as the Immigration Health Surcharge.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137395>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-01/debates/2BD3EE0E-5EF0-42E0-B9BE-3AA0D03BEF86/Ukraine>

Visas: Ukraine

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [142009] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the effect of the requirement for refugees from Ukraine to obtain visas to enter the UK on the level of risk to women and children from human traffickers.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Government has introduced two new schemes to

help Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion: the Ukraine Family Scheme launched on 4 March, and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme announced by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 14 March. These are the first of their kind to be operationalised anywhere in the world.

Since 15 March, Ukrainians with valid passports applying for either the Ukraine Family Scheme or Homes for Ukraine Scheme have not needed to go to a Visa Application Centre to give their biometrics before they come to the UK

Instead, once their application has been considered and the appropriate checks completed, they will receive direct notification they are eligible for the scheme and can come to the UK. Individuals will still need to provide their biometrics once safely in the UK within six months of their arrival.

The Government's approach to visas for Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion is based on the latest security advice and risk assessments. We have also built protections for vulnerable individuals into the design of the Schemes, for example requiring sponsors under Homes for Ukraine to undertake appropriate security and safeguarding checks. These checks help identify potentially concerning placements and allow us to intervene to protect women and children for the risk of human trafficking or other forms of exploitation

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-17/142009>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/8B28287A-F683-4F80-8A1F-AA1016D92B27/UkraineSponsorshipScheme>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Refugees: Ukraine

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [139535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to protect Ukrainian children who have been separated from parents and family.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We recognise the deeply troubling circumstances faced by all Ukrainians who are caught up in this conflict, including unaccompanied minors, and the role many countries will need to play to safeguard those children. Safeguarding and protection of these vulnerable children is paramount. It will generally be in the best interests of a child to reunite with their family members in the first instance, and we have held a number of discussions with leading international organisations who are working hard to ensure appropriate processes are put in place to process and safeguard unaccompanied minors who are fleeing Ukraine.

The Ukraine Family Scheme provides an immediate pathway for those Ukrainians, including unaccompanied minors, with family already settled in the UK to come to our country. They will be subject to relevant safeguarding checks. It is designed to allow as many people as possible to come to Britain and gives them immediate access to the support they need.

The routes and visa changes which we have announced so far follow extensive engagement with the Ukrainian Government to ensure they respond directly to their needs and asks. We will continue to work closely with them going forward.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-14/139535>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Visas: Ukraine

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [149402] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of altering the Ukraine Family Scheme visa application process to enable one form to be filled for one family.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is continually making efforts to simplify the application process for Ukrainian refugees and keeps this under regular review. However, the Department does not have plans to move to a single form for members of a single family.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149402>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Visas: Ukraine

Matt Rodda (Labour) [148347] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support is being provided to severely disabled individuals applying to the Ukraine Family Scheme, who meet the eligibility requirements for the scheme, but cannot attend a visa application centre in person as a result of their disability and do not have a Ukrainian international passport which would enable them to apply online.

Reply from Kevin Foster: In the event an applicant does not have a Ukrainian passport and cannot attend a visa centre, then they should apply online and set out their circumstances which will then be taken into consideration. This will allow the case working team to make special arrangements or, should this not be possible, have discretion of issuing a waiver to the biometric requirement which will be granted on a case-by-case basis, based on the circumstances faced by the individual concerned.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148347>

Visas: Ukraine

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [136599] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the viability of Ukrainian women travelling alone, with children or with elderly parents being able to undergo visa checks in the UK on arrival.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Since Tuesday 15 March, Ukrainians with valid passports applying for either the Ukraine Family Scheme or Homes for Ukraine Scheme have not needed to go to a Visa Application Centre to give their biometrics before they come to the UK

Instead, once their application has been considered and the appropriate checks completed, they will receive direct notification they are eligible for the scheme and can come to the UK. Individuals will still need to provide their biometrics once safely in the UK within six months of their arrival.

The visa application process includes checks to ensure the welfare of vulnerable applicants, including lone women and those aged under 18, is safeguarded.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-08/136599>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Emergency Travel Documents: Ukraine

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [138081] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will enable children under the age of 18 to travel from Ukraine to the UK without documentation in either the (a) family resettlement or (b) the humanitarian community schemes.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Allowing children to travel without documentation presents several safeguarding risks, in addition the Ukrainian Government has been clear unaccompanied Ukrainian Children should not be placed in the care of foreigners without their consent.

Eligible individuals for the Ukraine Family Scheme and the 'Homes for Ukraine' must therefore ensure they apply online and receive their visa or permission to travel letter prior to their travel to the UK. The visa application process includes several checks to ensure the welfare of applicants aged under 18 is safeguarded. Children under the age of 18 from Ukraine do not require a valid passport to submit an application, but if they have one they can take advantage of the fully online application system and are not required to attend a Visa Application Centre (VAC). Children over the age of five without a valid passport will be required to provide their biometric information (photograph and fingerprints) at a VAC, children under the age of five without a valid passport will only be required to have their photograph taken at a VAC.

If vulnerable children do not have a valid passport, UKVI staff will work with individuals and Border Force to facilitate their entry to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-10/138081>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Jamie Wallis (Conservative) [151277] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has plans to (a) enable businesses and community organisations, such as charities, to directly sponsor refugees under the Homes for Ukraine scheme and (b) provide financial support to those organisations for doing so.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The initial phase of the Homes for Ukraine scheme is designed for sponsors with a named Ukrainian beneficiary. We are exploring ways in which connections can be built between Sponsors and Ukrainians that do not yet know each other, including working with NGOs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/151277>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Families

Stuart C McDonald (SNP) [154023] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make it his policy to enable Ukrainians who arrive under the Ukraine Family Scheme but who cannot be housed by their family member to be housed under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: The Family and Homes for Ukraine Schemes are separate. If family members arrive under the Family Scheme and cannot be accommodated, they can access the housing element of Universal Credit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154023>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Refugees: Ukraine

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [137326] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what (a) financial support, (b) accommodation and (c) healthcare services are in place in the UK for refugees from Ukraine.

Reply from Kevin Foster: To support Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion, the Government has launched the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Under both schemes, those who apply successfully will be granted leave for three years, during which time they can work and access public services, including assistance from local authorities for housing, and they will have access to healthcare.

In addition, under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, sponsors are offered a thank you payment of £350 per month for up to twelve months. The Government will also provide funding of £10,500 per person to local authorities to enable them to provide support to families and integrate them into local communities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-09/137326>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Ukraine

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [133939] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral Statement of 1 March 2022, Official Report, column 915, whether family members normally resident in Ukraine are eligible to apply to the Ukraine Family Scheme if their relative in the UK is a (a) non British National, including Ukrainian citizens, with Indefinite Leave to Remain, (b) non British National on a work or study visa and (c) non British National on a visitor visa.

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [133942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral Statement of 1 March 2022, Official Report, column 915, whether the (a) aunts and uncles and (b) unaccompanied nieces and nephews of people living in the UK are eligible to come to the UK from Ukraine via a family migration visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: As set out in the Home Secretary's statement to the House on 1 March, a fee free, bespoke Ukraine Family Scheme has been introduced. The route allows both the immediate family members (spouse, civil partner, durable partner, minor children) and extended family members (parent, grandparent, adult children, grandchildren, siblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, in laws and their immediate family) to join their relatives in the UK. The UK-based sponsoring relative must be a British citizen, a person who is present and settled in the UK (including those with settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme), a person in the UK with refugee leave or with humanitarian protection or an EEA or Swiss national in the UK with limited leave under Appendix EU (pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme). This route was launched on 4 March.

People in the UK on work study or visit visas, who have not acquired settled status will not be permitted to sponsor a relative under the Ukraine Family Scheme. However, on 18 March the Government launched the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, which enables individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for Ukrainians, and their immediate family members, forced to escape their homeland. Ukrainian nationals resident in the UK with at least six months' leave can qualify to sponsor under this scheme if they are able to offer suitable accommodation and pass security checks.

Further information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme has been published here: <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Ukrainian nationals in the UK on visit visas will be able to sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, if they extend their stay under the new Ukraine Extension Scheme, which was announced on 29 March 2022. This scheme will launch on 3 May 2022 and will allow Ukrainian nationals and their partners or children who had leave to remain in the UK on 18 March 2022, or whose right to remain has expired since 1 January 2022, to apply to extend their stay in the UK for a period of three years. Further information on the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/support-for-family-members-of-british-nationals-in-ukraine-and-ukrainian-nationals-in-ukraine-and-the-uk#if-youre-ukrainian-and-are-already-in-the-uk>

We are setting no limit on the numbers of people who can come here. We will be glad to welcome as many Ukrainians as wish to come.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/133939>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/133942>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-01/debates/2BD3EE0E-5EF0-42E0-B9BE-3AA0D03BEF86/Ukraine>

Visas: Ukraine

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [123307] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her Department's guidance on applying for Ukraine Family Scheme visas, if she will make it her policy to include surrogate mothers who are carrying the children of British nationals in the list of eligible family members.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office has now made provision for this group, and their immediate family members, to be given permission to come to the UK based on their exceptional circumstances by granting entry visas outside the Immigration Rules. The surrogate mother, where the child is not yet born, and her immediate family will be able to enter the UK for a period of up to 36 months and will have access to public funds and employment. They will not be subject to any fees or an application fee or the Immigration Health Surcharge.

We also envisage cases in which the child will already have been born. In these cases we will grant visas outside the Immigration Rules on the basis of exceptional circumstances.

If the birth has taken place outside Ukraine, the British nationality status of the child may still not be fully resolved. In such circumstances we will establish a clear process for resolving this in the UK, to ensure the child can enter the UK using an immigration visa on the basis of such nationality as he or she may hold.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-04/134407>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Refugees: Ukraine

Drew Hendry (SNP) [133217] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to her oral statement of 1 March 2022 on Humanitarian support for Ukrainians, whether the humanitarian sponsorship pathway route will be open to the immediate families of Ukrainian students studying in the UK.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government has made clear its support for Ukrainians fleeing in fear for their lives. We have brought forward a bespoke humanitarian support package for the people of Ukraine, having listened carefully

to the Ukrainian Government.

The bespoke 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme allows individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety. This includes those individuals with no family ties to the UK.

Ukrainian students in the UK will be able to register their interest to become a sponsor of a named individual to come to the UK, as long as they meet the sponsorship eligibility criteria.

All sponsors must be over the age of 18 and be able to provide accommodation for at least 6 months. For those who are not a British citizen, they must have leave to remain in the UK for at least 6 months so they have the ability to provide at least 6 months' accommodation for those who they sponsor.

There will be no limit on the number of arrivals, and those who come to the UK on the scheme will have permission to live and work here for up to 3 years. They will also have access to healthcare, benefits, employment support and education.

For further information on the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be found here:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-02/133217>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-01/debates/2BD3EE0E-5EF0-42E0-B9BE-3AA0D03BEF86/Ukraine>

Visas: Ukraine

Amy Callaghan (SNP) [148394] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainians on a seasonal work visa as of 28 March 2022 will have the same access to Government support schemes intended for Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Ukrainians who are in the UK under the Seasonal Worker route are able to have their visa extended until 31 December 2022.

Ukrainian seasonal workers who are an immediate or extended family member of a person in the UK who is a British citizen, settled in the UK, or who has certain types of limited leave may be eligible under the Ukraine Family Scheme if they were resident in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022. Full details of which can be found here: [Apply for a Ukraine Family Scheme visa](#)

Ukrainian nationals who had permission to stay in the UK on 18 March 2022 (or those whose visa has recently expired) will be able to stay in the UK under the Ukraine Extension Scheme. Eligibility for permission to stay will include those who were in the UK before 18 March as seasonal workers.

The Seasonal Worker route remains open to all nationalities wishing to take up work in the horticulture sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148394>

Visas: Ukraine

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [149417] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to support Ukrainian citizens in the UK with seasonal worker visas following the invasion of that country.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have already taken steps to support Ukrainian nationals in the UK.

Ukrainians who are in the UK under the Seasonal Worker route can have their visa extended until 31 December 2022.

Ukrainian seasonal workers who are an immediate or extended family member of a person in the UK who is a British citizen, settled in the UK, or who has certain types of limited leave may be eligible under the Ukraine Family Scheme if they were resident in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022. Full details of which can be found here: [Apply for a Ukraine Family Scheme visa](#)

Ukrainian nationals who had permission to stay in the UK on 18 March 2022 (or those whose visa has recently expired) will be able to stay in the UK under the Ukraine Extension Scheme. Eligibility for permission to stay will include those who were in the UK before 18 March as seasonal workers.

The Seasonal Worker route remains open to all nationalities wishing to take up work in the horticulture sector.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149417>

Refugees: Ukraine

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [133941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral Statement of 1 March 2022, Official Report, column 915, whether the Government plans to provide financial support for partner organisations which sponsor people fleeing Ukraine through the humanitarian sponsorship pathway.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government has made its support for Ukrainians fleeing in fear of their lives clear. The Homes for Ukraine scheme was announced by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 14 March. To enable the scheme to commence swiftly, Homes for Ukraine is initially limited to sponsorship between named individuals. Sponsors will receive an optional £350 monthly payment from the government as a thank you for their generosity. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is working with NGOs, charities or other third-party organisations to stand up processes to facilitate matching of beneficiaries and sponsors where able / willing.

Organisations can register their interest at:

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-03/133941>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-01/debates/2BD3EE0E-5EF0-42E0-B9BE-3AA0D03BEF86/Ukraine>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Deidre Brock (SNP) [147060] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending eligibility for the Homes for Ukraine scheme to Ukrainian nationals who lived in Belarus prior to 1 January 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: This Government has made clear its support for Ukrainians fleeing in fear of their lives clear by introducing the Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety.

To qualify for the Scheme a person must be Ukrainian, or the immediate family member of a Ukrainian national, have been residing in Ukraine on or immediately before 1 January 2022 (including those who have now left Ukraine).

The Government has no plans to extend the eligibility beyond this cohort.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-25/147060>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Universal Credit: Refugees

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [148320] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether she plans to (a) disregard property in Ukraine from any capital calculations for Ukrainian refugees applying for universal credit and (b) provide further exemptions from any capital calculations for Ukrainian refugees applying for universal credit.

Reply from David Rutley: The emergency regulations laid on Monday 21 March 2022 ensure Ukrainian evacuees can access Universal Credit and jobs support immediately. Each claim for benefit will be assessed individually and as quickly as possible.

Available capital in the form of savings and investments will be taken into account in the normal way. Legislation already provides for capital assets held overseas only to be taken into account on the basis of their market value: clearly assets such as property owned in Ukraine have no market value at the current time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148320>

Refugees: Ukraine

Diana Johns (Labour) [151012] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether his Department plans to set up a centrally run, national system for Ukrainian refugees to log any complaints or safeguarding concerns.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Councils must ensure that guests know how to raise a concern about their welfare or wider safeguarding issues, and who to contact at their local council. Guidance and information on safeguarding checks for councils has been published at

www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/151012>

Refugees: Ukraine

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [148276] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what discussions she has had on the support available for children arriving under the Ukraine Family Scheme visa for funding for their education.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Ukraine Family Scheme (UFS) provides for Ukrainians to join their family members in the UK for three years, during which time they can work and access public services. This includes access to education services and benefits. These conditions have always been a part of the UFS since its inception on 4 March.

The routes and visa changes which we have announced so far follow extensive engagement with the Ukrainian Government to ensure they respond directly to their needs and asks. We will continue to work closely with them going forward. We are committed to working with local government and the devolved administrations to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148276>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Children: Ukraine

Daniel Zeichner (Labour) [151148] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he would issue guidance on the arrangements for supporting schools and other educational institutions that will be welcoming the children of Ukrainian refugees who have recently come to the UK as soon as possible.

Reply from Robin Walker: The department stands with Ukraine and continues to work across government to ensure we are supporting all Ukrainians entering the UK. On the 1 April, my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Education, wrote a letter to local chief executives and directors of children's services. The letter confirms that all school-aged children and young people who arrive from Ukraine will have the right to access suitable education and childcare whilst in the UK. The letter can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/secretary-of-state-letter-to-local-authorities-about-children-arriving-from-ukraine>

The Secretary of State has reminded local authorities that they are able to use flexibilities to admit above the published admission number and exceed the infant class size limit, as well as using the in-year Fair Access Protocol (FAP) to ensure all school-aged children can access suitable education. Guidance on the FAP can be accessed here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1012993/FAP_Guidance.pdf

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has published:

- Guidance for local authorities on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

- A frequently asked questions resource, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

- A welcome pack for families arriving in the UK from Ukraine, available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

The department has also updated the guidance on school access rights for pupils from overseas, published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-admissions-applications-from-overseas-children>

and are adding some questions and answers to DLUHC's Homes for Ukraine frequently asked questions page, published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions>

The above pieces of guidance were also communicated directly to local authorities on the 1 April 2022 via the department's daily sector bulletin email.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/151148>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

Rwanda: Immigration Controls

Lyn Brown (Labour) [153843] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that allocations of ODA to Rwanda promote efficacy and value for public money in the implementation of UK development goals; and if she will publish evidence to demonstrate that offers of (a) ODA and (b) other development funding to Rwanda were not made as part of negotiations to establish a migrant deportation policy.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Under the Migration and Economic Development Partnership between the UK and Rwanda, we have announced a new Economic Transformation and Integration Fund to boost the development of Rwanda. Rwanda will be responsible for allocating this funding to achieve its development goals, including creating jobs, improving livelihoods, increasing productivity, boosting trade and ensuring long-term sustainable development.

The funding for the Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda is separate from, and additional to, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget. It complements the UK and Rwanda's existing collaboration on a range of priorities including girls' education, building back from COVID-19 and climate change, and it will bolster our longstanding development partnership focused on green growth and trade, building human capital and supporting effective, accountable institutions.

Funding will be provided separately to support the delivery of asylum operations, accommodation and integration, similar to the costs incurred in the UK for these services.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153843>

Asylum: Rwanda

Dawn Butler (Labour) [153797] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the cost of processing a male asylum seeker in Rwanda under her proposed arrangements; and if she will publish a breakdown of those costs.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Any person who has arrived in the UK illegally, or by dangerous or unnecessary methods from safe countries since 1 January 2022, will be considered for relocation to Rwanda.

The UK is providing substantial investment to boost the development of Rwanda, including jobs, skills and opportunities to benefit both migrants and host communities. This includes an initial investment of £120m as part of a new Economic Transformation and Integration Fund.

The UK is also funding the processing costs for each person relocated, such as caseworkers, legal advice, translators, accommodation, food, healthcare, and for those granted protection, a comprehensive integration package to help them put down roots and start a new life.

Every person's needs are different, but we anticipate the amount would be comparable to processing costs incurred in the UK. Funding is only provided while a person remains in Rwanda.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153797>

Rwanda: Immigration Controls

Lyn Brown (Labour) [153842] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what discussions she has had with (a) the International Organisation for Migration, (b) states neighbouring Rwanda and (c) the African Union in relation to the impacts of the Government's plans to establish a migrant deportation policy with Rwanda; and what assessment she has made of the impact of the Government's plans to establish a migrant deportation policy with Rwanda on perceptions of the UK across the continent of Africa.

Reply from Amanda Milling: Due to the need for discretion during sensitive policy, legal and financial negotiations, no discussions on the Migration and Economic Development Partnership were held with the International Organisation for Migration, States neighbouring Rwanda, or the African Union.

This new Migration and Economic Development Partnership is a world first and a major milestone in breaking the business model of people smuggling gangs. Rwanda and the United Kingdom are likeminded partners in their desire to tackle the global migration crisis and their track record in hosting refugees. There is a global responsibility to prioritise the safety and well-being of migrants, and Rwanda welcomes this partnership with the United Kingdom to host asylum seekers and migrants, and offer them legal pathways to residence. This is about ensuring that people are protected, respected, and empowered to further their own ambitions and settle permanently in Rwanda if they choose.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153842>

Visas: Applications

Deidre Brock (SNP) [149302] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure visa applications are processed within the service standard.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Performance and efficiency of visa processing is

continually reviewed to ensure performance is as strong as possible.

Information on our immigration routes with service standards and whether they have been processed against these standards is available as part of our transparency data, at: [Migration transparency data](#)

We are, however, currently flexing resources across all routes to ensure a robust response to the Ukrainian crisis while still processing standard applications within service standard wherever possible. As a result, individuals with standard applications in study, work, and family routes may experience some temporary impact to the processing of their application.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149302>

Visas: Afghanistan and Syria

Drew Hendry (SNP) [151184] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending the visa application regime for Ukrainian refugees to refugees from (a) Syria and (b) Afghanistan.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Ukraine Family Scheme and Homes for Ukraine Scheme have been developed in response to the very specific circumstances of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and are designed to help Ukrainians fleeing the conflict.

The Ukrainian Schemes have been designed in light of very different circumstances to those which led to the Government's Syrian and Afghan resettlement schemes. The Government has no plans to extend eligibility for its Ukrainian Visa Application Schemes to refugees from Syria or Afghanistan.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/151184>

Visas: English Language

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [153951] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the basis is for granting an exception to applicants from (a) Barbados, (b) Jamaica and (c) Trinidad and Tobago from a requirement to take International English Language Testing System exams for UK Visas and educational programmes; for what reason that exception does apply to applicants from Nigeria; how many Nigerians applied for the International English Language Testing System over the last five years; what the pass rate was in each of those years; and on what basis the charge for that test was calculated.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Those who come from a country which is on the Majority English Speaking Countries list (MESC list) are not required to provide evidence of English language ability.

To be included on the MESC list, the Home Office must have evidence over half the population in the country being considered speaks English as a first language. If a country meets this criteria it means it is more likely than not any individual applicant from that country can speak English with the level of fluency required to integrate in the UK and complete the course they are coming to study or job they are coming to do.

We do not have evidence that Nigeria meets this criteria. We regularly check whether new evidence is publicly available which shows a country meets the criteria to be included in the MESC list.

As an alternative to language testing, applicants can also rely on other types of proof of their language ability:

- having met the requirement at the required level in a previous immigration application; or
- holding a degree-level qualification which was taught in English; or
- having their chosen university or other Higher Educational Institution self-certify their level of English ability if they are applying as a student; or
- meeting the requirements for professional regulation as a doctor, dentist,

- nurse, midwife or veterinarian if they are sponsored as a skilled worker; or
- having a GCSE, A-level, Scottish National Qualification at level 4 or 5 or, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher, in English following education at a UK school begun when they were under-18.

Information on how many Nigerians applied for the International English Language Testing System over the last five years and what the pass rate was in each of those years is not information held by the Home Office.

The fee for the Secure English Language Testing (SELT) test is set by the relevant SELT Provider. To allow for a fair pricing system, the SELT Provider is required to ensure that customers are being charged a comparable fee for the same or similar test. Once set, any increases to the fee can only be made with the agreement of the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153951>

Free School Meals: Migrants

Sarah Olney (Liberal Democrat) [150248] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will take steps to ensure that the provision of free schools meals is extended to children from immigrant families.

Reply from Will Quince: The department will be extending free school meal (FSM) eligibility to children from all households with no recourse to public funds. Further information is available at:

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-03-24/hcws714>

This builds on the department's existing benefits-related criteria which ensures 1.7 million children receive a free nutritious school meal each day, and the universal infant FSM policy which has been in place since 2014, benefitting a further 1.3 million infant children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-30/150248>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Free School Meals: Migrants

David Simmonds (Conservative) [149455] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will publish the review of free school meals to children from families with no recourse to public funds.

Children: Migrants

David Simmonds (Conservative) [149459] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether his Department holds data on the impact of the extension of free school meals to children in families with no recourse to public funds on the educational attainment of those children.

Reply from Will Quince: The work that has been done on reviewing the relationship between the no resource to public funds (NRPF) condition, and access to free school meals (FSM) will not be published.

FSM eligibility will be extended to children from all groups with NRPF from the start of the summer term, with guidance for schools being published shortly. Information on the number of children who received a free meal, and attracted pupil premium funding under the temporary extension of free school meal eligibility to some NRPF households in the 2021/2022 financial year can be found in the third document here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022\(opens in a new tab\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2021-to-2022(opens%20in%20a%20new%20tab)).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149455>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149459>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Dan Carden (Labour) [154330] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to recommendation 3 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, how many formal reconciliation events her Department has hosted.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Grassroots engagement has been key to delivering our messages to the people we know we need to reach.

Since 2018, we have held over 200 engagement and outreach events across the country. These events include 120 one-to-one surgeries to help people apply for documentation to the Windrush Scheme and over 80 public community engagement events to raise awareness of the Windrush Schemes.

In addition to our ongoing programme of engagement and outreach, we are working with an external mediation organisation who are consulting a wide range of stakeholders to design an effective programme of events in response to recommendation 3 of Wendy William's Windrush Lessons Learned Review. Once this consultation phase ends, we expect to roll out the events later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154330>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876336/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_LoResFinal.pdf

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Dan Carden (Labour) [154332] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Recommendation 6 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review, what progress her Department has made on a comprehensive learning and development programme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Responding to the findings of the Wendy Williams review is a departmental priority. The Home Office sought to address both the letter and the spirit of Wendy's findings, by developing a bespoke learning offer, rather than purchasing 'off-the-shelf learning products' or relying on centrally available learning products. This is a complex programme which has necessitated an extensive programme of activity to deliver alongside a thorough learning needs analysis.

Recommendation 6 learning materials are in the final stages. The training will cover the history of the UK and its relationship with the rest of the world, including content on migration and its history, legacies of empire and colonialization. It will be delivered to staff via a blend of online materials and a workshop, accompanied by supporting reflective materials.

We have taken the time to robustly test the learning via pilots last year and content is being iterated to reflect the findings prior to its launch from Spring / Summer 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154331>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876336/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_LoResFinal.pdf

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [148247] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the total number of persons who are entitled to claim compensation under the Windrush Compensation Scheme as (a) primary claimants, (b) close family members and (c) estate claimants.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office's planning assumptions for the Windrush Compensation Scheme are based on 4000-6000 eligible claims. These

assumptions are not broken down into the sub-categories requested. However, as at the end of February 2022, 3,618 claims had been received, broken down as follows:

Primary claim 2,756

Close Family Member claim 577

Deceased Estate claim 285

We believe the current planning assumptions more accurately reflect the number of eligible claims we are likely to receive, a range has been adopted to reflect the inherent uncertainty. The Home Office monitors the latest data and insights to inform this analysis.

The Home Office is committed to ensuring all affected members of the Windrush generation make a claim and receive the maximum compensation to which they are entitled.

To ensure no one is prevented from making a claim if they are eligible, simply because a deadline has passed, or because we have received more claims than we had planned for, we have removed the formal end date of the scheme.

There is no cap on the amount of compensation we will pay out or the number of claims we will accept.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/148247>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [149300] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the reasons for the discrepancy in the rise in the number of (a) claimants under the Windrush Compensation Scheme and (b) preliminary offers made in the year to the end of February 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Those eligible under the terms of the scheme will receive a minimum Impact on Life payment of £10,000. This is paid as a new early preliminary payment, so people don't have to wait for their whole claim to be assessed.

Within six weeks of eligibility for the Windrush Compensation Scheme being confirmed, an initial assessment of each claim is conducted to determine whether we can offer a preliminary award of £10,000.00, under the 'Impact on Life' category. In this initial assessment, we use the information and evidence provided to date, to determine whether, on the balance of probabilities, the claimant suffered detrimental impacts because they were unable to demonstrate their lawful status. We are constantly reviewing processes to ensure necessary information and evidence is available at the earliest point possible, including sign-posting individuals to We are Digital who provide support to submit applications to the Scheme.

This initial assessment does not represent a full assessment of the claim, and it does not mean a final decision about entitlement for compensation has been made. Claimants who do not initially receive a preliminary award offer will have the opportunity to provide further evidence for consideration of a preliminary award during the claim process. Our intent is to ask for the minimum evidence necessary to reduce the burden on individuals, whilst maximising the offers we can make at the earliest possible point. We want people to get the maximum compensation to which they are entitled and will work with individuals to support them with this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149300>

Information about the Windrush Compensation Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Refugees: Children

David Simmonds (Conservative) [149458] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to protect children who have been separated from parents and family on arrival in the UK.

Reply from Will Quince: The department takes the welfare of all unaccompanied children extremely seriously and is committed to ensuring they are properly safeguarded. Statutory duties placed on the local authority in respect of unaccompanied children will apply to any child arriving in the UK who has been separated from their parents and family.

In England Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 (CA89) imposes a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of 'children in need' in their area. Section 20 CA89 imposes a duty to accommodate children in need if they meet the relevant criteria.

Generally, once a child has been accommodated by a local authority continuously for more than 24 hours, they become a looked after child and should be safeguarded and have their welfare promoted in the same way as any other looked after child, taking account of their particular needs. Any child separated from their parents and family would likely remain accommodated by the local authority, until such time as they can be re-united when possible and appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-29/149458>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [153992] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers living in contingency accommodation have been there for (a) 35 days or less, (b) more than 35 days, (c) more than three months, (d) more than six months, (e) more than 12 months, (f) more than 18 months and (g) more than two years.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [153993] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many of the asylum seeking children living in contingency accommodation have been there for (a) 35 days or less, (b) more than 35 days, (c) more than three months, (d) more than six months, (e) more than one year and (f) more than two years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#).

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 24 February 2022. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in May 2022. The Home Office does not publish a breakdown these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific accommodation. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153992>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153993>

Immigration: Detention Centres

Kate Osborne (Labour) [151286] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 March 2022 to Question 137441, how many people were detained between 13 January and 9 March 2022 at (a) Brook House, (b) Tinsley House, (c) Yarl's Wood, (d) Dungavel, (e) Harmondsworth, (f) Colnbrook and (g) Derwentside immigration removal centres.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes statistics on people

entering and in detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. The number of people entering detention in each quarter can be broken down by place of initial detention in table Det_D01 of the '[Detention detailed tables](#)'. The number of people in detention at the end of each quarter can be broken down by current place of detention in table Det_D02 of the '[Detention detailed tables](#)'. The latest data goes up to the end of December 2021. Data for January to March 2022 will be published on the 26 May 2022.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/151286>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [154122] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers detained for arriving in the UK by boat have been transported to Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre as of 1 April 2022.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [154123] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans her Department has for the continued use of Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre for the processing of clandestine arrivals by boat.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [154124] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, where asylum seekers are sent once their claims for asylum are processed at Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We operate the immigration removal estate in a flexible manner and in line with the Short Term Holding Facility (STHF) Rules 2018 and the Detention Centre Rules 2001, as appropriate.

In order to support the management of the arrival of migrants by boat, we have temporarily accommodated people under the provisions of the STHF Rules 2018, in a small number of immigration removal centres (IRCs) including Dungavel House. Dungavel IRC is only considered when capacity is exceeded at other facilities, or contingencies are exhausted and has not been used for processing Channel migrants since November 2021.

Following initial processing and screening, asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute are able to access statutory support and accommodation from the Home Office in accordance with the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 whilst their application for asylum is being considered. Individuals who are eligible for such support are provided with transportation to asylum accommodation.

The Home Office publishes statistics on immigration detention in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. This includes data on people:

- Entering detention by initial place of detention in table Det_02a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.
- Leaving detention by last place of detention published in table Det_04c of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.
- In detention by current place of detention in table Det_03a of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.
- Entering, leaving and in detention by asylum related-cases in table Det_01 of the '[Detention summary tables](#)'.

Data on those entering detention, by place of detention, relate to the place of initial detention. An individual who moves from one part of the detention estate to another will not be counted as entering any subsequent place of detention.

Last place of detention does not show where an individual spent their time in detention. In some cases, an individual may have spent a period of time detained elsewhere before being moved to their last place of detention.

Asylum-related cases refer to those where there has been an asylum claim at some

stage prior or during detention. This will include asylum seekers whose asylum claims have been refused, and who have exhausted any rights of appeal, those returned under third country provisions, as well as those granted asylum/protection, but detained for other reasons (such as criminality).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154122>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154123>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154124>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7172] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan citizens have been resettled under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and what target number, if any, they are aiming for resettlements.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme opened on 6th January, providing up to 20,000 women, children and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK.

There are around 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety during and after the evacuation who are eligible for the ACRS through pathway one. The first Afghan families have already been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain under the scheme, and we are continuing to grant Indefinite Leave to the remainder. .

Due to the success of our emergency evacuation and the larger than anticipated number of people brought over to the UK, we plan to exceed our initial aim of 5,000 people in the first year of the ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7172>

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

Visas: Refugees

Baroness Goudie (Labour) [HL7699] To ask Her Majesty's Government why Ukrainian refugees are able to have their visa biometrics taken upon entry to the UK but Afghan refugees are not; and what steps they are taking to relax this rule for refugees from Afghanistan.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Biometrics, in the form of a facial image and fingerprints, underpin the UK's immigration system to support identity assurance and suitability checks on foreign nationals who are subject to immigration control. They enable us to conduct comprehensive checks to prevent leave being granted to those who pose a threat to national security or are likely to breach our laws. Our approach in terms of both Afghanistan and Ukraine is based on advice relating to national security we have received.

Eligible Ukrainians with valid international Ukrainian passports who apply to the Ukraine Family Scheme, or the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, do not currently need to go to a Visa Application Centre (VAC) to give their biometrics before they come to the UK.

Vital security checks will continue on all cases. This decision was made exceptionally as a temporary arrangement to ensure VACs across Europe could focus their efforts on helping Ukrainians without valid passports. It will be kept under review if the security situation changes and it becomes necessary to make further changes to protect the people of the UK.

We remain committed to supporting Afghan nationals through the Afghan

Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme to come to the UK, as set out in the Afghanistan resettlement and immigration policy statement published on 13 September 2021.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-resettlement-and-immigration-policy-statement>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-05/hl7699>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Baroness Goudie (Labour) [HL7632] To ask Her Majesty's Government when Afghan refugees who have been placed in unsuitable accommodation in hotels will be rehoused and properly settled in the UK.

Baroness Goudie (Labour) [HL7633] To ask Her Majesty's Government what (1) notice, and (2) information, is being given to Afghan refugees and their relatives when a family is moved to another address.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: The UK Government undertook the biggest and fastest emergency evacuation in recent history, helping over 15,000 people to safety from Afghanistan. Due to the scale and pace of the evacuation we have had to use hotels as a temporary measure.

We do not want to keep people in temporary accommodation for any longer than is absolutely necessary. We have moved – or are in the process of moving - over 6,000 people into homes since June 2021. There is a huge effort underway to support the families into permanent homes as soon as we can so they can settle and rebuild their lives, and to ensure those still temporarily accommodated in hotels are given the best start to their life in the UK.

The length of time that a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on a number of factors including the availability of appropriate housing. We are working at pace across government and with over three hundred Local Authority partners to allocate the right families into the right accommodation to ensure that their integration into their new communities in the UK is as smooth as possible.

Families are given seven days' notice of their move to settled accommodation. During this time, they can prepare for their move and discuss any concerns with their Home Office Liaison Officer. They are provided with the contact details of their new local authority, so that they can talk to the people who will be supporting them with their move and providing them with long term assistance with integration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-04/hl7632>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-04/hl7633>

Housing: Refugees

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7583] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to house refugees currently living in hotels.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Work is continuing across Government to ensure the Afghans who stood side by side with us in conflict, their families and those at highest risk who have been evacuated, are supported as they now rebuild their lives in the UK.

We are working closely alongside all councils to provide accommodation and support for Afghans in need of our compassion and support to rebuild their lives in the UK.

We are conscious of pressures on the housing market across the country. That said, we think by working closely with councils we can work effectively to continue to support moves into settled accommodation.

One example of the work we are doing is a new private rented sector (PRS)

accommodation route. This route is being scoped to support people to source their own accommodation. Our engagement with Afghan families has suggested that there is appetite amongst the cohort for independent house-hunting, with the right support. Options are being defined and tested, including working with local government partners to consider what role they might play in supporting this more independent property sourcing pathway.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/hl7583>

Pupils: Afghanistan

Baroness Goudie (Labour) [HL7634] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Afghan children are currently in school in the UK; and how many are waiting for a place in education.

Reply from Baroness Barran: All school aged children who arrived as part of the Operation Pitting airlift from Afghanistan are now in school. Those children who have arrived since then are either in school, or being placed in schools, as quickly as possible. We continue to monitor the position in local authorities with bridging hotels. All are continuing with the process of placing children in schools and none have reported problems with doing so. However, they are at different stages in the process depending on the date of new arrivals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-04/hl7634>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL6566] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the proposals by the International Rescue Committee on Ukrainian refugees; and in particular, the proposal to offer visa-free access more widely than at present.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign, democratic state. We stand with Ukraine.

Visa waivers are not the solution to allow those fleeing the conflict to come to the UK.

The UK has responded quickly and made changes to the immigration system, to support those affected by the conflict. The Ukraine Family Scheme has been set up which allows family members of British nationals, UK settled persons and certain others to come to or stay in the UK.

From 15 March Ukrainians, who are eligible for the family scheme with passports have been able to apply and get permission to come to the UK, fully online, from wherever they are; and will be able to give their biometrics once in the UK.

In addition, the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme allows Ukrainian nationals and their family members to come to the UK if they have a named sponsor under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-02/hl6566>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7171] To ask Her Majesty's

Government how many Ukrainian refugees are being accommodated in each of the UK's four nations as a result of the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: I refer the noble Lord to the initial data published at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data>

Additional data is currently being quality assured and it remains my intention to publish this data shortly. This is further to my answer to the Noble Lord Ponsonby during my statement to the Lords on the issuing of visas on 31 March 2022, where I reiterated my intention to write to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee with details of the number of arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

[Ukraine Family Scheme Data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7171>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-31/debates/A4D2840E-FAEC-4067-9E2D-03E785BD07DB/UkraineRefugeeVisas#contribution-DD2CCCD3-8B6C-4CDB-94E1-7F7905585ABE>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Lord Field of Birkenhead (Crossbench) [HL7271] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many households signed up to the Homes for Ukraine scheme are currently subject to the under-occupancy penalty.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Potential sponsors who sign up to record their interest in the Homes for Ukraine scheme are not required to provide details of whether they are in receipt of Housing Benefit. The UK government is ensuring 'thank you payments' do not affect benefit entitlement and will remain tax-free.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-23/hl7271>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Lord Field of Birkenhead (Crossbench) [HL7272] To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to writing to households who are subject to the under-occupancy penalty, inviting them to sign up to the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: This is a huge humanitarian crisis, and we are urging all members of the British public to come forward and help where they can. There will be no limit or cap on the sponsorship route. Anyone in the UK with a spare room or home can use this service, as long as they can offer accommodation for at least 6 months which we know is a significant ask. Potential sponsors can register their interest at:

www.gov.uk/register-interest-homes-ukraine

We are exploring further steps we can take to promote the scheme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-23/hl7272>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL7300] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will accept expired forms of government identification if a Ukrainian applicant to the Ukrainian Family Scheme and the Ukrainian Sponsorship scheme has no other form of identification.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We will accept an expired UKR international passport with a formal extension stamp issued by the Ukrainian

government. If customers do not hold a valid passport, they will need to attend a visa application centre to provide their biometric information, but are still able to apply to the two schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-23/hl7300>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about Ukrainian Sponsorship Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL7004] To ask Her Majesty's Government what help and advice, if any, they are giving to sponsors of Ukrainian refugees regarding the possible impact on sponsors' mortgages, tenancy agreements, equity release, building insurance, and other related issues.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Government departments are engaging with key partners in the finance, letting and insurance sectors. There are published FAQs available online at

www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-frequently-asked-questions

which includes a link to a statement from the Association of British Insurers, whom we have consulted with at length to seek to ensure nobody generously sharing their accommodation are penalised in any way.

[Homes for Ukraine Guidance for Councils](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/hl7004>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7309] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to provide Ukrainian refugees coming to the UK access to (1) education, and (2) language, services.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Ukrainians arriving under Homes for Ukraine Scheme will have access to education on the same footing as UK nationals and we are providing local authorities with £10,500 per person to help support them to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into our communities.

Councils are required to provide school places for children of school age and will be paid additional funding to support this. Details of the funding has been published online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

Ukrainians aged 19 or over will be able to access adult education, including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The Welcome Guide for Ukrainian guests provides information on education courses:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064315/Ukraine_Welcome_Guidance.pdf

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-23/hl7309>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Storey (Liberal Democrat) [HL7177] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much funding they will provide (1) to local authorities, and (2) to other partners, to ensure that Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK receive psychological therapy that is (a) culturally sensitive, and (b) appropriate for people who may have suffered trauma.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the government is providing funding to local authorities at a rate of £10,500 per person to enable them to provide support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into communities.

Local authorities will be central in helping families access public services and other support, including access to trauma counselling. The £10,500 funding under the Homes for Ukraine scheme will be un-ringfenced, enabling local authorities to use it as they see best to target local needs. Guidance has been published online at: www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils

If Ukrainian arrivals experience symptoms of poor mental health, they can access evidence-based mental health treatment via their GP or local Improving Access to Psychological Therapies services. A welcome guide for Ukrainians arriving in the UK, which includes information on accessing Mental Health Services and is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian, has been published at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk

[Homes for Ukraine Guidance for Councils](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7177>

Employment: Refugees

Lord De Mauley (Conservative) [HL7130] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to match Ukrainian refugees wishing to come to the UK with job opportunities matching their specific (1) skills, (2) training, and (3) experience.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: The Government's new Ukraine Family Scheme and 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme will help thousands of Ukrainian families and individuals to enter the country. DWP is working closely with the Home Office to understand potential demand.

Under these schemes Ukrainian evacuees will have the right to work here from day one, as well as immediate access to the benefit system and our existing employment offer, including our £30 billion Plan for Jobs. Ukrainian evacuees who claim benefits like Universal Credit will have access to direct, personalised employment support from experienced Jobcentre Plus work coaches, who will help them to find and move into employment, with extra support available through DWP's Flexible Support Fund. Translation services are available to help new arrivals with phone applications, with Work Coaches in DWP Jobcentres on hand to support people making claims online. DWP staff are also delivering additional face-to-face assistance to those who need it – including tailored support to find work and advice on benefit eligibility – and will continue to do so.

DWP's National Employer Partnerships Team (NEPT) has received a number of approaches from employers relating to Ukrainian evacuees.

Timeframes are still being finalised and there is regular discussion with Other Government Departments. Refugee Employment Network are also linked into activity and will be involved in sharing opportunities.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7130>

Information about the Ukrainian Family Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-ukraine-family-scheme-visa>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7002] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to allocate social workers to support households that become foster carers to Ukrainian refugee children.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: We are doing everything we can to support those most in need, but we must act on the wishes of the Ukrainian government who wrote to the UK Government on 7 March 2022, stating that: "any

Ukrainian child who is currently outside Ukraine may not be adopted or placed in the care of foreigners without the consent of Ukraine". The current rules in relation to unaccompanied children therefore respect this position.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-15/hl7002>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord McCrea of Magherafelt and Cookstown (DUP) [HL7211] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they will take to ensure that adequate provisions are made to protect Ukrainian (1) orphans, and (2) unaccompanied children, who come to the UK.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The department is committed to supporting those fleeing from Ukraine.

It is generally in the best interests of a child to be reunited with family members when possible. The Ukrainian government has also been clear that children should not be taken into care without their agreement.

The department takes the welfare of all unaccompanied children extremely seriously and is committed to ensuring they are properly safeguarded. Statutory duties placed on the local authority in respect of unaccompanied children will apply to any unaccompanied or orphaned Ukrainian children arriving in the UK.

In England, section 17 of the Children Act 1989 imposes a general duty on local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need in their area, and to accommodate them if they meet the relevant criteria.

Generally, once a child has been accommodated by a local authority continuously for more than 24 hours, they become a looked after child and should be safeguarded. Their welfare should be promoted in the same way as any other looked after child, taking account of their particular needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-22/hl7211>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7404] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage Ukrainian refugees under the Homes for Ukraine scheme to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Ukrainian beneficiaries will have full and unrestricted access to healthcare and other support on the same footing as UK nationals. Councils should provide advice and referrals to specialist public health services as appropriate. I refer the Noble Lord to the guidance for local authorities which contains further details and has been published at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils>

The Welcome Guide for Ukrainian guests informs Ukrainians how to get vaccinated if they are not already:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/hl7404>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7403] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support Ukrainian refugees who will no longer be sponsored by their host after the proposed six-month time frame.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: We have been working closely with local authorities in the lead up to the launch of the scheme as they have a vast amount of knowledge and experience of welcoming new arrivals and supporting their long-term integration. We are providing £10,500 per person to local authorities to enable them to provide much wider support to families to rebuild their lives and fully integrate into our communities. Ukrainian guests will be able to access benefits,

healthcare, employment, and other support. After leaving their initial accommodation they will be able to rent a property and the local authorities can support them in finding alternative accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-28/hl7403>

Students: Ukraine

Lord Blunkett (Labour) [HL7534] To ask Her Majesty's Government what waivers they have agreed, if any, in relation to eligibility for (1) financial support in the form bursaries and loans, and (2) UK residency rules, in respect of fee levels for Ukrainian refugees wishing to continue their studies in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The department has been working closely with the education sector and across government more widely to ensure that Ukrainian students are supported during this difficult time. In March 2022, my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Higher and Further Education convened the higher education (HE) taskforce, bringing together representatives from across the sector to discuss how we can work together to facilitate the progression of Ukrainian students to HE.

The department is also providing support through the Strategic Priorities Grant to support Ukrainian nationals and Ukrainian-domiciled students studying at English HE providers. We have asked the Office for Students to use up to £4 million of funding in the 2022/23 financial year for providers to support Ukrainian nationals and Ukrainian-domiciled students whose usual financial support has been impacted by events in Ukraine.

The difficulties facing Ukrainian nationals and Ukrainian-domiciled students studying in England, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, are unique. Whilst providers are already making their own student hardship funds available to Ukrainian students who need financial assistance, we are providing this funding to ensure there is additional support available to support these students to complete their courses.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-31/hl7534>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Other Immigration and Asylum

Asylum and Refugees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7208] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to speed up the processes for (1) applications for asylum and refugee protection, and (2) visas for entry and leave to remain in the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: To help reduce the number of outstanding claims for protection we are investing in a programme of transformation and business improvement initiatives that will speed up and simplify our processes, reduce the time people spend in the asylum system and decrease the number of people who are awaiting an interview or decision.

These initiatives include conducting shorter, more focused interviews or omitting interviews where it is appropriate to do so, streamlining decision templates and focusing on improving quality to ensure decisions are right first time. We have introduced specialist Decision Making Units, providing greater ownership and management of cohorts of asylum cases. Additionally, we have extensive ongoing recruitment and training plans in place, including career progression options that will aid the retention of staff.

We are continuing to develop existing and new technology to help build on recent improvements such as digital interviewing and move away from a paper-based

system. We are streamlining and digitising the case working process to enable more effective workflow, appointment booking and decision-making.

The UK keeps its visa system and processes under regular review, and UKVI uses continuous improvement and stakeholder feedback to improve its services. For example, it recently introduced the biometric deferral process for Ukrainian nationals, enabling them to travel to the UK urgently and enrol biometrics in country, and it also launched new digital application forms that enable customers to prove their identity remotely without needing to submit documentation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-22/hl7208>

Immigration: Employment

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7142] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to end the legal requirement for employers and others to check a person's immigration status; and what guidance they provide to those responsible for such checks.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: In common with other comparable countries, the UK has in place a framework of laws, policies and administrative arrangements to ensure access to work, benefits and services is only permitted for those who are lawfully present in the UK who have the right to access them.

The public expects us to enforce immigration laws approved by Parliament as a matter of fairness to those who abide by the rules and to protect tax-payer funded services. As such, the government has no plans to end the legal requirement for eligibility checks on those accessing work, benefits and services.

Specific guidance is available on GOV.UK for those who are responsible for checking a person's immigration status, such as employers and landlords, including how to undertake checks and avoid discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7142>

Asylum: Employment

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL7236] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to increase the number of asylum seekers who can work in the UK whilst their claims are being processed.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office 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.

A review of asylum seeker right to work policy has been concluded. We are retaining our policy with no further changes. A Written Ministerial Statement was made on 8 December, setting out the Home Office's findings and rationale: [Asylum Seekers: Right to Work Policy](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-22/hl7236>

Migrants: Finance

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7145] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many migrants with no recourse to public funds have (1) applied successfully to have this restriction lifted, and (2) had their application refused.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Data on how many migrants on family and human rights routes with no recourse to public funds who have applied successfully to have their restriction lifted and those who have had their application refused is published quarterly as part of the Immigration and Protection Data.

The most recent data for Q4 2021 can be accessed from gov.uk, and is attached.

[Q4 2021](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7145>

Homelessness: Undocumented Migrants

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7144] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of how many migrants who lack full documentation have become homeless in each of the last two years for which figures are available.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: As part of the Homelessness Case Level Collection data (H-CLIC), local authorities are required to collect details of the nationality of those they have assessed as homeless. Local authorities are not required through H-CLIC to collect data on the documentation held by non-UK nationals who are homeless and rough sleeping.

As part of our annual rough sleeping snapshot, we also collect data on the nationality of those sleeping rough. Latest data reported that 25% of those found to be rough sleeping on a single night in 2021 were non-UK nationals - 20% (500) were from the EU and 5% (110) were non-EU. The nationality of 8% (200) was unknown.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7144>

Immigration: Detainees

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL7147] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons were held in immigration detention centres at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic; and how many persons are being held in such centres at present.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes statistics on people entering, leaving and in detention in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', which can be found on Gov.uk. The number of people in detention at the end of each quarter can be broken down by place of detention in table Det_D02 of the 'Detention detailed tables' - which is attached. The latest data relate to those in detention at the end of December 2021.

Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook.

[Detention detailed tables](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-21/hl7147>

UK Parliament Early Day Motions

Stephen Timms (Labour) [1168] **Care provision for pregnant migrant women** – That this House welcomes the publication by the Royal College of Midwives of its position statement and accompanying pocket guide for midwives and maternity support workers on caring for pregnant migrant women; notes these women are at higher risk of experiencing poor outcomes for themselves and their babies, and that midwives and maternity support workers have a duty of care to all women, regardless of their immigration status; believes that a woman's immigration status should not be the deciding factor as to whether she can access maternity care; further believes that workforce and service planning should take into account the particular needs of pregnant migrant women for compassionate support, effective communication and continuity of care, which are essential to reduce inequality of outcomes; calls for such women not to be relocated by the immigration authorities after 20 weeks of pregnancy and for women to be settled into suitable accommodation as early as possible in pregnancy to minimise disruption during this critical time; is concerned that charges for maternity care deter some women from seeking maternity care; and calls on the Government to revoke all maternity-related NHS charges without delay.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59675>

The position statement referred to above can be read at

https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/5869/rcm_position-statement_cfmw.pdf

The guide referred to above can be read at

<https://www.rcm.org.uk/media/5868/caring-for-vulnerable-migrant-women-pocket-guide.pdf>

Christine Jardine (Liberal Democrat) [1158] Skills development for Afghan refugees

– That this House recognises Parker Enterprise for its commitment to providing vital support and high-skilled job opportunities for Afghan refugees in Edinburgh; calls for the Government to continue this effective programme and go further in approving more Afghan asylum seekers in Edinburgh and throughout the UK; and calls on the Government to provide further Afghan refugee housing, benefits and employment support.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/59665>

Press Releases

World first partnership to tackle global migration crisis

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-first-partnership-to-tackle-global-migration-crisis>

Free tuition for displaced Ukrainian students

<https://www.gov.scot/news/free-tuition-for-displaced-ukrainian-students/>

New Publications

Prime Minister's speech on action to tackle illegal migration: 14 April 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-on-action-to-tackle-illegal-migration-14-april-2022>

Memorandum of Understanding between the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the government of the Republic of Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/memorandum-of-understanding-mou-between-the-uk-and-rwanda/memorandum-of-understanding-between-the-government-of-the-united-kingdom-of-great-britain-and-northern-ireland-and-the-government-of-the-republic-of-r>

Home Secretary's speech on UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/home-secretarys-speech-on-uk-and-rwanda-migration-and-economic-development-partnership>

Migration and economic development partnership: ministerial direction

Letter from Matthew Rycroft to Rt Hon Priti Patel

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-and-economic-development-partnership-ministerial-direction/letter-from-matthew-rycroft-to-rt-hon-priti-patel-accessible>

Response from Rt Hon Priti Patel to Matthew Rycroft

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-and-economic-development-partnership-ministerial-direction/response-from-rt-hon-priti-patel-to-matthew-rycroft-accessible>

EU Settlement Scheme statistics, March 2022

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

Statistical data set: Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats>

Supporting displaced people from Ukraine
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/supporting-displaced-people-from-ukraine/>

Welcome! Guide for Ukrainians arriving in the UK
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1064315/Ukraine_Welcome_Guidance.pdf

Visas issued for Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme by country, upper and lower tier local authority (19 April 2022)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1069949/Ukraine_sponsorship_scheme_visas_issued_19_April_2022.ods

The use of Napier Barracks to house asylum seekers: regret motion
<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/the-use-of-napier-barracks-to-house-asylum-seekers-regret-motion/>

Report on review of weekly allowances paid to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers: 2021
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/report-on-review-of-cash-allowance-paid-to-asylum-seekers/report-on-review-of-weekly-allowances-paid-to-asylum-seekers-and-failed-asylum-seekers-2021>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

UK to give asylum seekers one-way ticket to Rwanda
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-61097114>

UK to send asylum seekers to Rwanda for processing
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/13/priti-patel-finalises-plan-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda>

Boris Johnson: Tens of thousands could be sent to Rwanda under asylum seeker relocation plan
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/04/14/boris-johnson-says-tens-thousands-could-sent-rwanda-asylum-seeker/>

Boris Johnson confirms plans to send thousands of migrants to Rwanda, saying those arriving by illegal routes face 'swift' removal
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-uk-rwanda-migrants-plan-b2057913.html>

Boris Johnson vows to take on 'politically motivated lawyers' opposing Rwanda asylum seekers plan
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/04/14/boris-johnson-take-politically-motivated-lawyers-oppose-rwanda/>

Rwanda asylum critics have no solutions, says Patel
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61137081>

Home Secretary Priti Patel challenges Rwanda plan critics to come up with a better idea
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20075661.home-secretary-priti-patel-challenges-rwanda-plan-critics-come-better-idea/>

Priti Patel believes Rwanda migrants deal could be model for other countries
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-rwanda-denmark-council-of-europe-home-secretary-b2059115.html>

Patel warned of uncertainty over Rwanda plan's deterrent effect
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-61133983>

Priti Patel told there was 'not sufficient evidence' Rwanda plan would deter asylum seekers
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/17/priti-patel-told-not-sufficient-evidence-rwanda-plan-would-deter/>

Sending UK asylum seekers to Rwanda will save money, claims minister
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/15/sending-uk-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-will-save-money-says-minister>

Sending migrants to Rwanda will save UK money in the long term, says minister
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/andrew-mitchell-rwanda-uk-parliament-people-ministry-of-justice-b2058689.html>

Stay in France if you don't want to go to Rwanda, minister tells asylum seekers
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-asylum-seekers-france-patel-b2061365.html>

Minister denies UK is 'outsourcing' migrant responsibilities to Rwanda
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/roger-gale-greg-hands-rwanda-god-rowan-williams-b2059996.html>

Rwanda migrant plan 'a cataclysmic waste' of taxpayers' money, SNP say
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20074418.rwanda-migrant-plan-a-cataclysmic-waste-taxpayers-money-snp-say/>

Sending migrants to Rwanda 'a cataclysmic waste' of taxpayers' money, says SNP
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-stuart-mcdonald-priti-patel-snp-westminster-b2059513.html>

Rwanda migration policy breaches international law, says UN refugee agency
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-asylum-seekers-uk-priti-patel-b2059064.html>

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-61110237>

Priti Patel faces Home Office mutiny over Rwanda migrants plan
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/04/15/priti-patel-faces-home-office-mutiny-rwanda-migrants-plan/>

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<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/home-office-staff-rwanda-asylum-priti-patel-uk-b2063481.html>

Home Office staff threaten mutiny over 'shameful' Rwanda asylum deal

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/20/home-office-staff-threaten-mutiny-over-shameful-rwanda-asylum-deal>

Home Office chief questions whether Rwanda plan will deter asylum seekers

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/17/home-office-chief-doubts-sending-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-will-be-a-deterrent>

Home Office top civil servant raised objections over Rwanda asylum policy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-asylum-seekers-patel-home-office-b2058823.html>

Rwanda asylum seeker policy: Ex-PM Theresa May criticises government plan

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61153677>

UK Rwanda plan for asylum seekers decried as inhumane, expensive and deadly

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/14/uk-rwanda-plan-for-asylum-seekers-decried-as-inhumane-deadly-and-expensive>

160 charities and campaign groups condemn 'shamefully cruel' migrant plans

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/government-boris-johnson-uk-government-prime-minister-priti-patel-b2058404.html>

"Sickening, inhumane": UK Government slammed by charities over Rwanda asylum plans

<https://tfn.scot/news/sickening-inhumane-uk-government-slammed-by-charities-over-rwanda-asylum-plans>

Scottish Refugee Council response to the UK Government's offshoring plans for refugees

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/our-response-to-the-uk-governments-offshoring-plans-for-refugees/>

'Very significant risk' child refugees will be inadvertently shipped to Rwanda

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/child-refugees-rwanda-asylum-seekers-home-office-uk-b2060127.html>

Rwanda asylum seekers: UK could send first people 'within weeks'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61115638>

Boris Johnson wants first Rwanda migrant flights in weeks

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/boris-johnson-wants-first-rwanda-migrant-flights-in-weeks-80xhtrhs>

Nicola Sturgeon names UK government plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda 'despicable' and 'shameful'

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/nicola-sturgeon-names-uk-government-plan-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-despicable-and-shameful-3654289>

Humza Yousaf brands UK ministers 'institutionally racist' over Rwanda asylum seeker plan
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/humza-yousaf-brands-uk-ministers-institutionally-racist-over-rwanda-asylum-seeker-plan-zdwzws77>

Ian Blackford calls UK government's plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda "evil"
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/ian-blackford-calls-uk-governments-plan-to-send-asylum-seekers-to-rwanda-evil-3654087>

Rwanda asylum policy: Priti Patel 'overruled' concerns of top Home Office civil servant
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20073485.rwanda-asylum-policy-priti-patel-overruled-concerns-top-home-office-civil-servant/>

UK may send first migrants to Rwanda within 'weeks'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20071523.uk-may-send-first-migrants-rwanda-within-weeks/>

Channel migrants to be sent to Rwanda
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/04/13/channel-migrants-sent-rwanda/>

Rwanda asylum plans are cruel but far from unusual for Tories
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20071037.rwanda-asylum-plans-cruel-far-unusual-tories/>

Priti Patel has 'misunderstood' church's role, says bishop after Rwanda migrant deal row
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/04/18/priti-patel-misunderstood-churchs-role-row-rwanda-deal-says/>

Boris Johnson criticism of archbishop of Canterbury 'a disgraceful slur'
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/20/boris-johnson-criticism-of-archbishop-of-canterbury-a-disgraceful-slur>

Boris Johnson hits back at archbishop for criticism of Rwanda asylum plan
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boris-johnson-rwanda-asylum-welby-b2061144.html>

Johnson takes a swipe at Welby over Rwanda plan criticism
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/pm-takes-a-swipe-at-welby-over-rwanda-plan-criticism-brjcrftbh>

UK's Rwanda asylum plan the 'opposite of nature of God' - Welby
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61130841>

Rwanda refugee plan is ungodly, says Justin Welby
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/04/16/rwanda-refugee-plan-ungodly-says-justin-welby/>

'Opposite of the nature of God': British archbishops criticise Rwanda asylum seekers plan
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2022/apr/17/archbishop-canterbury-justin-welby-criticism-rwanda-asylum-seekers-video>

STUC comment on Government plans on refugees and Rwanda
<https://stuc.org.uk/media-centre/news/1653/stuc-comment-on-government-plans-on-refugees-and-rwanda>

Rwanda migrant plan 'about saving this Government's skin', says charity
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20073943.rwanda-migrant-plan-about-saving-governments-skin-says-charity/>

'I don't want to be isolated in another country' says Syrian refugee of Rwanda asylum scheme
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/i-dont-want-to-be-isolated-in-another-country-says-syrian-refugee-of-rwanda-asylum-scheme-3655502>

'I will die here, I can't go back to Africa': migrants respond to Rwanda removal
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/15/i-will-die-here-i-cant-go-back-to-africa-migrants-respond-to-rwanda-removal>

'This is not the answer': asylum-seeker in UK slams Rwanda plans
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/14/there-was-no-way-to-come-here-legally-asylum-seeker-in-uk-slams-rwanda-plans>

Immigration laws 'will have massively detrimental impact'
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20076110.immigration-laws-will-massively-detrimental-impact/>

For all its flaws, Priti Patel's Rwanda scheme could curb illegal immigration
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20076166.andrew-mckie-flaws-priti-patels-rwanda-scheme-curb-illegal-immigration/>

A radical strategy to curb immigration
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/14/radical-strategy-curb-immigration/>

Rich Britain sending refugees to Rwanda isn't 'burden-sharing'. It's shameful exploitation
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/15/rich-britain-refugees-rwanda>

Don't assume being 'hard' on asylum is popular. Britons will recoil at the Rwanda plan
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/17/priti-patel-so-out-of-touch-thinks-deporting-asylum-seekers-is-what-britain-wants>

News: Ukraine

UNHCR calls for better oversight of UK 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1116162>

'No cap on Ukrainian refugees arriving' despite accommodation challenges
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/government-ireland-republic-of-ireland-accommodation-rte-b2062449.html>

Ukraine refugees: Patel apologises for UK visa delays
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-61028712>

Minister admits embarrassment over visa delays for Ukrainian refugees
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukraine-war-visa-delays-are-disgrace-i-dont-disagree-minister-f8ws6xsxc>

Ukrainian refugees can claim permanent asylum in the UK

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/04/ukrainian-refugees-can-claim-permanent-asylum-uk/>

We've been giving Ukrainian refugees wrong guidance, admits Home Office

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/05/home-office-admits-giving-wrong-call-centre-guidance-ukrainian/>

Fears Scotland's 'super-sponsor' scheme 'slower' than other routes

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20081458.fears-scotlands-super-sponsor-scheme-slower-routes/>

Ukraine-Russia: Scottish Government condemns 'glacial pace' of UK visa scheme for refugees as new figures show 566 visas granted for Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/ukraine-russia-scottish-government-condemns-glacial-pace-of-uk-visa-scheme-for-refugees-as-new-figures-show-566-visas-granted-for-scotland-3647336>

Scottish 'super sponsor' scheme for Ukrainian refugees sees 570 visas granted

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-scottish-government-homes-scots-uk-government-b2058007.html>

16,400 people have arrived in UK under Ukraine visa schemes

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/scottish-government-homes-ukraine-welsh-government-priti-patel-b2057871.html>

Homes for Ukraine: Visa silence unwelcoming, Cardiff peer says

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61057170>

Ukraine-Russia: People fleeing to UK will have visa applications processed within 48 hours, promises key minister

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/world/ukraine-russia-people-fleeing-to-uk-will-have-visa-applications-processed-within-48-hours-promises-key-minister-3638783>

Less than 3% of Homes for Ukraine scheme applicants have arrived in UK, figures show

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-uk-arrivals-b2053862.html>

Tiny UK village offers homes to dozens of Ukraine refugees – but visa delays prevents anyone coming

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-refugees-rothbury-homes-b2053077.html>

UK hosts frustrated by delays to approvals for Ukrainian refugees – 16 days after applying

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/03/uk-hosts-frustrated-delays-approvals-ukrainian-refugees-16/>

I haven't seen UK government feuding over refugees, says minister

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-61010746>

'Concerning increase' in Ukrainian refugees becoming homeless after UK arrival

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/homes-local-government-association-british-red-cross-government-dwp-b2053976.html>

UK opens more welcome hubs for Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/03/uk-opens-more-welcome-hubs-for-ukrainian-refugees>

Ukraine war: Refugees Welcome campaign reaches milestone 250,000 signatures

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/ukraine-refugees-petition-landmark-help-b2058286.html>

Prince Charles hails Britons taking in refugees who face 'soul-destroying sorrow'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/04/17/prince-charles-hails-britons-taking-refugees-face-soul-destroying/>

Using Windrush to justify UK visa rule for Ukrainian refugees baffles experts

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/08/using-windrush-to-justify-uk-visa-rule-for-ukrainian-refugees-baffles-experts>

Family barred from hosting Ukrainian refugees because home has bare floorboards

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/07/family-barred-hosting-ukrainian-refugees-home-has-bare-floorboards/>

Council says my mansion is unsuitable for refugees

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/council-says-my-mansion-is-unsuitable-for-refugees-5mlf0hm90>

Scots host families 'frustrated' at slowness of visas for Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/families-people-nicola-sturgeon-scottish-government-scots-b2050412.html>

'Homes for Ukraine' is just a slogan – as I found out by trying to welcome a refugee

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/apr/05/homes-for-ukraine-refugee-britain-hosts>

Ukraine: Teen refugee finds home with Scots family she met online

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-61059965>

Ukrainian family abandon UK move after visa delays

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-61014365>

Dovercourt woman's bid to house Ukrainian family in caravan rejected

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-61127404>

Ukrainian families reflect on their fresh start in Somerset

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-somerset-60993669>

First Ukrainian refugees arrive in 'very beautiful' Oxfordshire village

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/oxfordshire-b2054145.html>

First day at British village school for Ukrainian refugee children

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/first-day-village-school-ukrainian-refugees-kharkiv-bqwvhv5tb>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

65,000 migrants are coming to our shores this year, warns Priti Patel

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/65-000-migrants-are-coming-to-our-shores-this-year-warns-priti-patel-lxsr8tvzx>

About 6,000 migrants have crossed Channel to UK in small boats so far this year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/english-channel-mod-nigel-farage-people-royal-navy-b2059281.html>

More than 1,000 migrants have arrived in UK since Patel announced Rwanda plan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-asylum-seekers-english-channel-b2060898.html>

MPs vote once again on Borders Bill proposals

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/mps-vote-once-again-on-borders-bill-proposals/>

Priti Patel's plan to criminalise English Channel refugees at risk after peers reject law for second time

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/patel-refugees-asylum-lords-law-b2051136.html>

Government vows to jail asylum seekers for steering dinghies across English Channel despite UN warning

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/english-channel-crossings-prosecutions-patel-b2061511.html>

Navy sends four boats to the Channel during first 'red day' in charge

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/14/royal-navy-sends-four-boats-channel-first-red-day-charge/>

Priti Patel accused of 'hypocrisy' over plans to place asylum seekers in rural village

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/priti-patel-asylum-seekers-reception-centre-linton-ouse-kevin-hollinrake-uk-b2063215.html>

'Ghost town' North Yorkshire village will become UK's Channel migrant hub

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/14/ghost-town-north-yorkshire-village-will-become-uks-channel-migrant/>

'Why have we been forgotten?' Afghan refugees housed in UK hotel hit out at 'rat-infested' dining areas

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/afghan-ukraine-war-refugees-home-office-b2056242.html>

Lone child refugees suffering neglect in UK hotels, charities say

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/apr/18/lone-child-refugees-suffering-neglect-in-uk-hotels-charities-say>

Napier Barracks: 'Fundamentally unsuitable' asylum camp 'must close with immediate effect' MPs say

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/napier-barracks-asylum-camp-close-b2053912.html>

Refugee pupils with no school places have lessons in Manchester car parks
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/apr/08/refugee-pupils-no-school-places-lessons-manchester-car-parks>

South Asian diaspora recall gnawing loneliness in post-war Britain
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-60988410>

From corner shops to chain stores, migrants helped build this country
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/harry-wallop-from-corner-shops-to-chain-stores-migrants-helped-build-this-country-nrsjxvhct>

TOP

Community Relations

News

Human libraries, where you can 'borrow a person', could help tackle prejudice and other preconceived ideas
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/human-libraries-where-you-can-borrow-a-person-could-help-tackle-prejudice-and-other-preconceived-ideas-karyn-mccluskey-3656336>

St Mungo is more than a museum - it's a living symbol of religious diversity that must always be protected
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/st-mungo-is-more-than-a-museum-its-a-living-symbol-of-religious-diversity-that-must-always-be-protected-prof-rina-arya-3643032>

Are 'Black Out' performances really the answer to British theatre's race problem?
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/theatre/what-to-see/black-performances-really-answer-british-theatres-race-problem/>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Intersectional Equality Data

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour) [S6W-07684] To ask the Scottish Government what action it is taking to improve the collection of data on intersectional discrimination.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government currently publishes a range of intersectional equality data, for example Scottish Household Survey data can produce a variety of intersectional breakdowns where sample sizes allow. However, there remain many costs and challenges to collecting, analysing, and reporting this. Despite improvements in recent years, there remain gaps in Scotland's equality evidence base.

The Scottish Government launched the Equality Data Improvement Programme (EDIP) in April 2021 to address these gaps. The EDIP is aligned with the Scottish Government's wider Mainstreaming Equality and Human Rights Strategy which is currently under development and aims to make intersectional equality data more wide-ranging and robust, enabling policy makers to develop sound, inclusive policy.

Work is underway to produce equality data improvement plans for each Analytical Service Division (ASD) across the Scottish Government. These plans will be shaped by equality stakeholders and will form the basis of the next iteration of Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy. Better data will in turn help identify intersectional discrimination.

To share learning and good practice, the Scottish Government led an evidence review which focused on how to apply the concept of intersectionality to public sector analysis and policymaking. This review showcased examples of how organisations have collected data on intersectional discrimination and was published in March 2022.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07684>

Information about the Scottish Household Survey, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-household-survey/>

Information about the Mainstreaming Equality and Human Rights Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcwxntf>

Scotland's Equality Evidence Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/rbxaujza>

The evidence review referred to above can be read at

<https://tinyurl.com/bdcpnp9c>

Press Release

Human Rights Act reforms would weaken human rights protections in the UK

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/165379/human-rights-act-reforms-would-weaken-human-rights-protections-in-the-uk/>

New Publications

Joint Committee on Human Rights Report: Human Rights Act Reform

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/9597/documents/162420/default/>

Separate and single-sex service providers: a guide on the Equality Act sex and gender reassignment provisions

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/separate-and-single-sex-service-providers-guide-equality-act-sex-and-gender>

Towards Race Equality: A survey of Black, Asian and minority ethnic prisoners, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller individuals and foreign nationals across the women's estate in England

https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-10cod6bqky0vo/uploads/2022/04/Towards-race-equality_IMB_Report-1_FINAL-1.pdf

Towards Race Equality: A survey of HMPPS equality managers in women's prisons in England

https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/imb-prod-storage-10cod6bqky0vo/uploads/2022/04/Towards-race-equality_Report-2_FINAL-1.pdf

News

Wales council elections: Call for ethnic minority candidate quotas

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61170767>

Black households three times more likely to be food insecure than the national average

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/black-cost-living-households-food-b2051285.html>

The teacher trying to add 'black joy' into lessons

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-61024474>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Publicly funded bodies: definition of antisemitism

Michael Marra (Labour) [S6W-07575] To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to promote the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism among publicly funded bodies.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in June 2017. The Scottish Government and its agencies have been expected to adhere to the definition since June 2017.

While it is not legally binding, the Scottish Government would encourage publicly funded bodies to similarly adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, noting however that it is up to these bodies to make this decision for themselves.

Adopting the IHRA definition demonstrates a determination to tackle antisemitism and sends a strong message that it is entirely unacceptable in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-07575>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answer

Business of the House

Robert Largan (Conservative): Recently the Egyptian-born hate preacher Omar Abdul Kafi went on a UK tour, giving lectures at Finsbury Park mosque in London and a number of venues in Leeds, Liverpool and Mayfair. Abdul Kafi has previously given sermons about killing Jews and advanced antisemitic conspiracy theories, and he is known to have directly inspired the Stockholm suicide bomber, Taimour Abdulwahab. Given these facts, can we have a debate on how on earth such an individual was allowed to enter the country and how that is compatible with the Government's wider Prevent strategy?

Reply from Mark Spencer: ... Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society. We expect anyone involved in spreading hate to face the full extent of the law, which is why the UK has robust hate crime tools to support the investigation and prosecution of those who incite racial and religious hatred. I am aware that the individual has made shocking remarks in the past, and I will raise my hon. Friend's concerns with the Home Secretary.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-21/debates/417E47EB-152A-49EF-B23D-7EC749F32E9D/BusinessOfTheHouse#contribution-D3314C94-DB3A-4C10-BE0C-DC066D841C0C>

Teachers: Training

Diane Abbott (Labour) [153697] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether he plans to take specific steps to promote and encourage teachers to undertake training on racial bias, discrimination and anti-racism.

Reply from Robin Walker: Racism has no place in education and providers have a responsibility to ensure they take a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of racism towards staff and students. All educational institutions should be inclusive and welcoming for students and staff from all backgrounds.

To be awarded qualified teacher status, trainees must demonstrate all of the Teachers' Standards at the appropriate level, including Teacher Standard One, which requires teachers to have a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils and set goals that stretch and challenge young people of all backgrounds and abilities. Section 2 of the Teachers' Standards' is also clear that teachers must treat all pupils with dignity, building relationships rooted in mutual respect; and show tolerance and respect for the rights of others.

Once teachers pass initial teacher training, they enter into two years of funded support through the Early Career Framework, which requires early career teachers to be trained and supported to develop their understanding of maintaining fair and inclusive school environments. This is supplemented by a reformed suite of National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) to provide training and support for teachers and school leaders at all levels to improve outcomes for young people, including a specialist NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture that focuses upon the skills and knowledge required to have a positive impact on the wellbeing, motivation and behaviour of their pupils and create a school culture of high-expectations.

Beyond training, school leaders are responsible for ensuring their workforce has appropriate training to meet the needs of all pupils, which is in line with the department's position on school autonomy and school leaders being best placed to assess the needs of their pupils and workforce.

The Public Sector Equality Duty also requires public bodies, including maintained schools and academies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010; advance equality of opportunity for people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and foster good relations across all characteristics. The department has published guidance for schools on how to comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010 at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153697>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Children: Body Searches

Diane Abbott (Labour) [153698] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review into the search of Child Q, what steps she has taken to help ensure that race and ethnicity do not influence the decision to strip search (a) a child and (b) an adult.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [153699] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what plans she has to tackle race disproportionality in the use of strip searches on children.

Diane Abbott (Labour) [154537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure that children are not strip-searched without a parent, guardian or appropriate adult present.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: Strip search is one of the most intrusive powers available to the police and its use should not be a routine occurrence. The Police

and Criminal Evidence Act Codes of Practice govern how the police should deploy this power. If the police judge it operationally necessary, then any strip search conducted on a child must be carried out by officers of the same sex, in private and with an appropriate adult present unless both the child and the appropriate adult agree otherwise and in line with safeguarding procedures.

Nobody should be stopped and searched because of their race or ethnicity and safeguards exist to ensure that this does not happen, including statutory codes of practice, use of body worn video to increase accountability and extensive data collection. It is critical that we maintain public confidence in policing and as part of this we will be looking carefully at strengthening the system of local community scrutiny and the value of body-worn video, because transparency is vital.

The MoJ are supporting a project with the National Police Chief's Council with the aim of addressing the difference in experience of ethnic minority children and adults in police custody. A wide range of agencies and independent advisors have contributed to this work, which engages a number of police forces across the country and builds on existing initiatives in the workplace, including a dedicated Independent Strip Search Scrutiny Panel (ISSSP) in Norfolk & Suffolk Police.

From December 2022 we will be including more detailed custody data in the annual Police Powers and Procedures statistical bulletin which will include data on whether an appropriate adult was called out for a detained child and the number of strip searches & Intimate searches carried out, broken down by age, gender, ethnicity, and offence type.

Further work is underway for the collection of data during stop & searches on the use of strip search. Currently, the Independent Office for Police Conduct is investigating this incident and it is vital we await their findings. However, we will consider all recommendations made for the Home Office as a result of these investigations very carefully.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153698>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/153699>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-14/154537>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Islamophobia

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL7678] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made in tackling Islamophobia.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: This Government has taken strong steps in tackling anti-Muslim hatred in our society. These have included providing TellMAMA with over £4m between 2017 and 2022 to support Muslim victims of hate crime. We have ensured the Protective Security Grant has supported over 84 Mosques to receive enhanced protection measures. Most recently, we have held a roundtable discussion with key stakeholders from the field of countering anti-Muslim hatred to discuss how we can build on this success.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-05/hl7678>

Islamophobia

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL7679] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made with reaching a definition of Islamophobia since their statement on 23 July 2019 that "there needs to be a formal definition of Islamophobia to help strengthen our efforts against anti-Muslim hatred".

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: This Government remains committed to stamping out anti-Muslim hatred and all forms of religious hate crime. It is unacceptable for anyone to feel unsafe while practicing their religion and we continue to take a zero-tolerance approach to anti-Muslim hatred. The adoption of a definition of Islamophobia by the Government remains under consideration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-05/hl7679>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-expert-appointed-to-tackle-islamophobia>

Islamophobia

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth (Conservative) [HL7680] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to their appointment on 23 July 2019 of an independent expert to advise on a definition of Islamophobia, when they intend to appoint a second independent adviser to work with Imam Qari Asim.

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We will outline our next steps with the review on the Definition of Islamophobia in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-04-05/hl7680>

Information about the appointment referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/independent-expert-appointed-to-tackle-islamophobia>

Press Release

Protective security grant funding for Jewish institutions to continue

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/protective-security-grant-funding-for-jewish-institutions-to-continue>

News

SNP race row candidate in Stirling forced to apologise

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20047261.snp-race-row-candidate-stirling-forced-apologise/>

SNP MP reveals racial profiling and calls for improved disability access

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/snp-mp-reveals-racial-profiling-and-calls-for-improved-disability-access-3647097>

Government and CPS face legal action over 'racist' joint enterprise law

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/government-joint-enterprise-law-sued-b2052462.html>

Asian staff called 'slted-eyed blokes' as racism reported at large NHS trust**

<https://www.independent.co.uk/student/student-life/health/asian-staff-racism-nhs-b2051901.html>

Black and Asian women in prison detail racism in landmark report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/black-asian-women-prison-racism-b2053323.html>

Nadhim Zahawi warns of 'systemic antisemitism' within NUS

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/apr/20/nadhim-zahawi-warns-of-systemic-antisemitism-within-nus>

Education committee chief calls for inquiry into NUS over antisemitism claims
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/nus-robert-halfon-national-union-of-students-jewish-charity-commission-b2055644.html>

Ex-presidents of NUS warn student body it must address antisemitism concerns
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/apr/11/ex-presidents-of-nus-warn-student-body-it-must-address-antisemitism-concerns>

NUS may be cast out over antisemitism allegations
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nus-may-be-cast-out-over-antisemitism-allegations-cw9vcs9xv>

BBC guide tells parents to 'examine their biases' if their toddler only has white friends
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/04/11/bbc-guide-tells-parents-examine-biases-toddler-has-white-friends/>

Church of England procedures on racial injustice 'inadequate', says Cambridge college
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/12/c-of-e-procedures-on-racial-injustice-inadequate-says-cambridge-college>

Liverpool Against Racism: Stars unite to tackle prejudice
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-61178039>

What is the reality of racism in Scotland?
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-60928666>

Sabina Nessa: We were treated differently due to ethnicity, family says
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-61065432>

Neo-Nazi terrorist group co-founder saw UK ban as 'obstacle to overcome'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/national-action-ban-alex-davies-b2062702.html>

Preston man encouraged terrorism against Jews and Muslims
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-61043995>

Preston teenage neo-Nazi Thomas Leech jailed for two years for encouraging far-right terrorism
<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2022-04-08/teenage-neo-nazi-jailed-for-encouraging-far-right-terrorism>

Colourism has always plagued me as a black woman – this summer will be a real test
<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/black-women-colourism-racism-skin-b2060115.html>

Up to 12 current and former Yorkshire staff 'face charges' over Azeem Rafiq racism row
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/04/12/12-current-former-yorkshire-members-staff-face-charges-azeem/>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-03878] Wishing a Happy Vaisakhi to All Sikhs in Scotland and Around the World – That the Parliament wishes all Sikhs in Scotland and around the world a Happy Vaisakhi, the holiest day in the Sikh Calendar, marking the birth of the Khalsa; understands that, after a difficult few years due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, these celebrations and Nagar Kirtans that will be held across Scotland in Gurdwaras will be a momentous occasion for all Sikhs, and acknowledges that the Sikh community will be commemorating the birth, in 1699, of the Khalsa Siri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and will also be raising the Nishaan Sahib at Gurdwaras across Scotland and the rest of the UK.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-03878>

Press Releases

Proposals for new Bill to tackle misogyny

<https://www.gov.scot/news/proposals-for-new-bill-to-tackle-misogyny/>

First Minister's Easter message (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1515646317728571393>

First Minister's Vaisakhi message (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1514548810445434882>

First Minister's Pesach message (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1514921535106174980>

New Publications

Recorded Crime in Scotland: March 2022

<https://tinyurl.com/328vebnk>

Misogyny – A Human Rights Issue

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/misogyny-human-rights-issue/>

Misogyny and Criminal Justice Working Group recommendations: Scottish Government response

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/misogyny-and-criminal-justice-working-group-recommendations-scottish-government-response/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Releases

Prime Minister's Easter Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1515586415849054216>

Prime Minister's Vaisakhi message (video)

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1514521781683597316>

Prime Minister's Pesach Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/BorisJohnson/status/1514961600310136838>

New Publication

Female genital mutilation: updated resource pack

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack/female-genital-mutilation-resource-pack>

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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 Release

Use of face coverings

<https://www.gov.scot/news/use-of-face-coverings/>

Scottish Government Publications

Covid-19 Daily Dashboard

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/phs.covid.19/viz/COVID-19DailyDashboard_15960160643010/Dailyupdate

Daily COVID-19 Cases in Scotland

<https://www.opendata.nhs.scot/dataset/covid-19-in-scotland>

UK Government Publications

The R value and growth rate

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

Updating ethnic contrasts in deaths involving the coronavirus (COVID-19), England

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/articles/updatingethniccontrastsindeathsinvolvingthecoronaviruscovid19englandandwales/10january2022to16february2022/pdf>

News

Covid in Scotland: What is the current advice?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53166816>

Covid in Scotland: The latest cases

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-53511877>

Covid in Scotland: Wedding and funeral mask rules end

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-60974672>

Face masks: Time is right to remove legal restriction says Humza Yousaf

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-61132938>

Who can still get free Covid tests across the UK and can I buy LFTs?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-51943612>

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**** All census forms must be submitted by 1 May 2022 ****

News

Quarter of Scottish households not yet completed census

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-61184663>

One week left for remaining 700,000 households

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/one-week-left-for-remaining-700000-households>

Scots risk being fined

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/scots-risk-being-fined-as-census-enters-final-weeks>

Completing the census is a legal responsibility

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/news/2022/completing-the-census-is-a-legal-responsibility>

About Scotland's Census 2022

Scotland's Census 2022

<https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/taking-part-in-the-2022-census/scotland-s-census-2022/>

Complete Scotland's Census now

<https://www.census.gov.scot/>

MEMO+ Scotland's Census 2022

https://www.scojec.org/memo+/2022/22iii_scotlands_census_2022.pdf

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Getting the right things out, starts with filling it in

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tC2plmy827c>

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What am I filling in and why does it matter?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8AjE_2z2Kg

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What exactly is Census Day?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypmk4F3rLhs>

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. What do I need to know about filling it in?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8e_Kza2XpM

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Am I legally required to fill it in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZm1By8Al2g>

Video: Scotland's Census 2022. Can I get help filling it in?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsF1UZBeXgY>

Video: How to complete your census online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TQA9yKSpfA>

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Other News

Ramadan campaign launched to provide food parcels for people in poverty in Glasgow
<https://tfn.scot/news/ramadan-campaign-launched-to-provide-food-parcels-for-people-in-poverty-in-glasgow>

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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>

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>

Ping Pong: House of Lords consideration of House of Commons amendments

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-04-04/debates/D26CD065-8F0A-4F98-9641-D2A7C7CA2AF5/NationalityAndBordersBill>

Ping Pong: House of Commons consideration of House of Lords message

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-20/debates/928E4063-939E-4DD2-9E5D-8CAE431145EB/NationalityAndBordersBill>

**** Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Second Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-04-19/debates/F88B42D3-BFC4-4612-B166-8D2C15FA3E4E/OnlineSafetyBill>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill (closing date 16 May 2022)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ehrcj/gender-recognition-reform-bill/consult_view/

Free early education for disadvantaged 2-year-olds: eligibility for NRPF

(closing date 20 May 2022)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/2-year-old-early-education-entitlement-team/free-early-education-for-disadvantaged-2-year-olds/>

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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**** this week!**

Ukraine Family Scheme: Your Rights

Thursday 28 April 2022 (online, 10.00)

Scottish Refugee Council session to provide essential information on rights, how to access essential services and meet people's immediate needs, including information about immigration status and documentation, housing, benefits, accessing urgent health care, schools, and English language classes. For information see

<https://forms.office.com/r/tAvaazU0k7>

**** this week!**

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

Debiasing our systems, debiasing ourselves – an introduction to tackling unconscious bias

3 May 2022 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the evidence of unconscious bias and methods for reducing its impact on our decisions, behaviour and processes. The session will also describe the steps that we can take to become more aware of potential bias and how to reduce its impact on our interactions with colleagues, service users and others. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/y67cy5x8> or contact Jamie Spurway

jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with People from Diverse Religious Backgrounds

9 June 2022 (online, 1.00–4.30)

Interfaith Scotland course on improving our confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those we work with. We learn about the core beliefs and cultural practices of the main faiths, and the individual needs that may arise from a person's faith or belief identity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ye2ntnpv> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

Advantage is invisible – understanding unintentional discrimination

6 July 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring why discrimination is common even when our intentions are to work fairly with all staff and service users. The role of the dominant identity in shaping our working culture and practices will be discussed, and we will consider the

persistent pattern that advantage tends to be hidden from those that have it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2d5zwje9> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Interpreting culture – improving cross-cultural communication

11 August 2022 (online, 11.00–1.00)

Interfaith Scotland course on cultural diversity. Our cultural background has a profound influence on each of us. It shapes our behaviour, values and beliefs. It even affects our thought processes and how we perceive the world. In this course we 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/yckbt9hs> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Our lives are ruled by the stories we tell ourselves – how interpretation shapes interaction

13 September 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

Interfaith Scotland course exploring the impact of our inner narratives - our meaning-making - on our interactions and relationships. We will consider ways we can become more aware of our readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy. We will also discuss tools for more authentic conversations. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/m63kxvrm> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Interpreters

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>

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course where delegates will improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. We explore guiding principles behind working with religion and belief diversity. Then we take a closer look at the core beliefs and cultural practices of Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p88vnps> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Working with Unaccompanied Refugee Children

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>

Intention versus impact – exploring challenges around group labels and unintended offence

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. We also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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



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

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