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

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The Scottish Parliament is in recess until 5 September 2022.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation)

Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6F-01293] To ask the First Minister what recent discussions the Scottish Government has had with the United Kingdom Government regarding the provision of accommodation for asylum seekers based in Scotland.

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government spoke to the UK Government immigration minister in April, when he set out a change in policy to assume one of full asylum dispersal across the UK. In May, the Home Office began an informal consultation on implementation, to which we will respond.

The Scottish Government supports widened asylum dispersal in principle—of course we do—but participation must be voluntary for local authorities, and the

Home Office must work in partnership with them, as well as support third sector support organisations that provide vital assistance to people who seek asylum. Although the funding for local authorities that has been announced is a positive step, it must be sustainable over the long term and be at a level that provides support for asylum seekers and local communities.

Maggie Chapman: The First Minister will be aware that there are now 450 refugees and asylum seekers who are housed in hotels in Aberdeen. She will also be aware of the dreadful acceleration in loss of life in the UK asylum accommodation system, whereby hotels are becoming institutional accommodation for vulnerable people.

Given that mental health and the investigation of deaths are devolved matters, will the First Minister support the design and implementation of a Scottish monitoring and lessons-learned system for all deaths in Scotland of people in asylum accommodation or immigration detention?

Additionally, will the First Minister commit her Government to participate fully in phase 2 of Baroness Helena Kennedy QC's inquiry into the Glasgow asylum seeker deaths, and signal her expectation that other Scottish public agencies will do likewise?

Reply from the First Minister: ... As is demonstrated in the actions that we take, this Government will always seek to use our devolved powers to the full to support asylum seekers, wherever and whenever we can.

Asylum and immigration are reserved matters, so we have raised a variety of issues directly with the UK Government on our real and growing concerns over the accommodation and treatment of asylum seekers. That includes accommodation and appropriate support, as well as adequate funding to public services.

We have repeatedly requested detail of any investigation that is undertaken by the Home Office following deaths in asylum accommodation in Glasgow, and we have requested an update on the status of recommendations in an internal Home Office report on asylum accommodation during the pandemic. The report appeared in the media in April, but has not yet been made public.

We have not yet received any approach to participate in the inquiry that is led by Baroness Kennedy, but should we do so we will, of course, respond positively and appropriately.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13857>

Information about the Baroness Kennedy inquiry referred to above can be read at <https://www.asyluminquiryscotland.com/>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Homes for Ukraine

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour) [S6W-09059] To ask the Scottish Government what consultation it has had with community-level organisations since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and the launch of its Super Sponsor scheme and the Homes for Ukraine scheme regarding the integration of, and support for, refugees and asylum seekers in Scotland.

Reply from Neil Gray: It has been heart-warming to see the groundswell of support from our communities, public services, third sector and partners for people fleeing Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. We have worked closely and collaboratively with partners to stand up our Warm Scots Welcome response, ensuring that all those arriving from Ukraine are accommodated and supported as soon as they arrive in Scotland.

In collaboration with the Scottish Refugee Council, we have delivered three public webinar sessions for hosts. Scottish Government officials regularly engage with community groups working to support people fleeing the war in Ukraine, and those

who have volunteered to host displaced people in their homes.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09059>

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

Information about Warm Scots Welcome, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/news/scheme-opens-for-displaced-ukrainians/>

Homes for Ukraine

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour) [S6W-09132] To ask the Scottish Government what guidance it is giving to local authorities in Scotland regarding its Super Sponsor scheme and the Homes for Ukraine scheme in order to ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are in place.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government has published guidance for local authorities which includes what safeguarding measures, such as disclosure checks, should be in place for people arriving through the Super Sponsor scheme and the private sponsor scheme. This guidance can be found on the Scottish Government website:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/super-sponsor-scheme-and-homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-local-authorities/pages/person-checks/>

In addition to the above, the Scottish Government has published Public Protection guidance for all practitioners involved in safeguarding of children and adults who are arriving in Scotland from Ukraine to identify and respond to risk and need, which can be found [here](#).

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09132>

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

Homes for Ukraine

Pam Duncan-Glancy (Labour) [S6W-09133] To ask the Scottish Government whether it has contacted or drawn upon existing frameworks and organisations, such as Room for Refugees, as learning examples for Ukrainian refugees coming to Scotland through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: Scotland has a wealth of experience and learning from previous refugee schemes and we have held discussions with experienced stakeholders including Room for Refugees. The New Scots strategy is providing the foundation for our response to Ukraine. It sets the clear principle that integration should begin and be supported from day one of arrival and has a tried and tested approach to integrating refugees into our communities, schools, and workplaces. We are working closely and collaboratively with partners to ensure we rapidly respond to opportunities and resolve challenges and issues as they emerge, and ensuring that stakeholders and the direct experiences of those arriving in Scotland feeds directly into continuing to improve our programme.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09133>

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

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6M-05116] 22nd Scottish Refugees Festival – That the Parliament celebrates the 22nd Scottish Refugee Festival; recognises that this year's message was about storytelling, allowing time to reflect on the life journeys that have led people to Scotland and their future ambitions; understands that this is an opportunity to raise awareness of the challenges faced by people seeking safety in Scotland and for Scotland to show its support in welcoming New Scots, and thanks the Scottish Refugee Council for the work it does alongside community groups, local organisations, artists and activists to bring people together and build stronger communities.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05116>

UK Parliament Debate

Windrush Review

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-29/debates/698E3CBD-60D1-4F71-9D67-AADBA41E21F8/WindrushReview>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Nationality and Borders Act 2022: Implementation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Tom Pursglove) [HVWS150] In April, the Nationality and Borders Act achieved Royal Assent. This landmark legislation will help to deliver a fair but firm asylum system; deterring illegal entry into the UK, breaking the business model of people-smuggling networks and speeding up the removal of those with no right to be here. In turn, this will free up the asylum system so we can better support those in genuine need of asylum through safe and legal routes.

Today, new measures from the Act will come into effect, including:

Amended criminal offences with increased maximum penalties for those attempting to arrive in the UK illegally—from six months to four years—and maximum life imprisonment for people smugglers, including pilots of small boats in the Channel and others who dangerously smuggle migrants into the UK. In addition, we have increased the maximum penalty for Foreign National offenders who return to the UK in breach of a deportation order from six months to five years;

A suite of asylum reforms, with the central principle that those seeking protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach. Our reforms also introduce a new differentiated approach, whereby those who did not come to the UK directly, did not claim without delay, or did not show good cause for their illegal entry or presence, may be given lesser entitlements than those who have complied with these requirements, for example refugees who have come to the UK via safe and legal routes. The different entitlements include a shorter grant of permission to stay—a minimum of 30 months instead of five years—no automatic right to settlement and access to family reunion only where a refusal would breach our international obligations.

An ability to impose visa penalties—this means slowing or stopping our services where countries pose a risk to international peace and security and those that refuse to take back their own citizens who have no right to be in the UK.

Nationality changes, creating fairer access to British nationality.

Changes to bail and returns, which includes strengthening the early removal scheme for Foreign National offenders to remove them sooner than was the case previously.

These reforms sit alongside other important changes, including a world-leading migration

and economic partnership with Rwanda. Further reforms from the Act will be implemented over the coming months and into next year as we seek to build and deliver a fair but firm asylum and immigration system.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-28/debates/22062854000015/NationalityAndBordersAct2022Implementation>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [23800] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's guidance entitled, Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3: eligibility for British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening Alumni, published on 13 June 2022, if she will make an assessment of the adequacy of the limit of 1,500 applicants to that pathway in meeting the needs of those eligible groups.

Reply from James Cleverly: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will build upon the UK's continuing efforts to support those at risk. Through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) over 9,500 eligible Afghan citizens and their family members have been approved for resettlement. The ACRS will see up to 20,000 people from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years. Under the third Pathway, up to 1500 people will be referred for resettlement in the first year from three specific cohorts - eligible at-risk Chevening alumni and British Council and Gardaworld contractors. The capacity of the UK to resettle people under this scheme is not unlimited. However, beyond the first year of the third pathway, the Government will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome other groups of Afghans at risk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/23800>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-pathway-3-eligibility-for-british-council-and-gardaworld-contractors-and-chevening-alumni>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

Information about the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [23801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that Afghan refugees accepted under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme receive their Biometric Residence Permits without undue delay.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Over 15,000 people were supported to come to the UK directly during Op Pitting. In the nine months since we have helped a further 4,000 people to safety in the UK via neighbouring countries. Those who arrived in the UK were granted limited leave to enter which allows access to public funds and employment.

We are continuing the process of granting Indefinite Leave to Remain to everyone who arrived during the evacuation, and who is eligible. Biometric Residence Permits are produced automatically, usually within a few weeks of people being granted Indefinite Leave to Remain.

We have made arrangements to ensure prospective employers and landlords can

contact the Home Office to confirm individuals' right to take employment and rented accommodation prior to them receiving a Biometric Residence Permit.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/23801>

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Mick Whitley (Labour) [9161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (a) what steps her Department is taking to prevent the exploitation of Ukrainian refugees being facilitated on social media sites and (b) what discussions her Department has had with social media companies regarding this issue.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Homes for Ukraine is a unique scheme which has been set up specifically to support those escaping the conflict in Ukraine who are not able to rely on family support. The scheme cannot be directly accessed through social media sites.

To access the scheme the sponsor and/or their prospective guest must apply for visas through the Home Office run website. This action initiates the first stage in the multi-layered safeguarding defence system which has been built into the scheme. Neither Facebook nor any other social media platforms are part of the scheme design.

The Government is committed to tackling all forms of exploitation, including those facilitated online by organised crime groups and we will continue to clamp down on those who exploit vulnerable people while providing tailored support for victims to help their recovery.

We are working both domestically and internationally to minimise the risk of trafficking and exploitation to the Ukrainian people through the routes they take to the UK and once they arrive here.

To address the domestic risk, we are working with the Department for Housing, Levelling Up and Communities and the NCA to ensure that law enforcement bodies are linked into the scheme to assess potential risks around those looking to exploit the vulnerable and assist with any safeguarding enquiries and that local authorities are aware of who to work with, on the ground, to help mitigate those risks.

To address the international risk, we are providing funding, improving agency capability and pivoting our existing projects in neighbouring countries.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-25/9161>

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

The following three questions all received the same answer

Refugees: Ukraine

Carol Monaghan (SNP) [20266] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of altering the rules of the Ukraine visa schemes, to make it possible for people to transfer from the Ukraine Family scheme to the Homes for Ukraine scheme in those cases where circumstances change so that family support becomes unavailable to them after they have arrived in the UK.

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [23783] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of differential treatment on Ukrainian refugees arriving via the Homes for Ukraine scheme and those arriving through family visas.

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [23784] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what financial support her Department is providing for Ukrainian refugees arriving in the UK through family visas.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Ukraine Family Scheme was set up to ensure family members were able to reunite with family fleeing Ukraine Ahead of the development of the Homes for Ukraine scheme It is based on family visa routes which existed before the Ukraine conflict, where public services are funded out of council budgets and the same principle is applied here. The UK-based family member is expected to provide support and accommodation for those coming to join them, who in turn benefit from the wider integration advantages in joining an existing family network. Ukrainian nationals coming to the UK under the Ukraine Family Scheme are given access to work, benefits and public services as laid down in Appendix Ukraine to the Immigration Rules, details of which can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-ukraine-scheme>

Homes for Ukraine on the other hand is a unique scheme which has been set up specifically to support those escaping the conflict in Ukraine who are not able to rely on UK based family support. The Government is providing additional funding to local authorities which includes resource to enable them to carry out sponsorship-specific functions such as safeguarding checks and property checks, administering payments, as well as providing support such as English language training to help their integration into communities.

We continue to keep the UK Government's support under review and will adapt and develop the visa routes in place to ensure they keep pace with the situation in Ukraine.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-17/20266>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/23783>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-23/23784>

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

Anne Marie Morris (Conservative) [18910] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how long a Ukrainian national in resident in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can return to Ukraine for before the payment to the UK sponsor of that person ceases.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: Lead sponsors are eligible to claim the £350 "thank you" payment for a full month if their guests were residing at their accommodation for at least half of the month before they left. Payments are paid monthly in arrears and paused payments can resume within the remaining 12 month period of sponsorship when guests return to live with their sponsor.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18910>

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

Voluntary Work: Refugees

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22481] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital,

Culture, Media and Sport, whether she has had discussions with representatives of the voluntary sector on the potential opportunities that exist for Ukrainian refugees to volunteer in a field that they are able to contribute to.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22482] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if she will facilitate volunteering support for Ukrainian refugees for the purposes of enabling people to contribute to civil society while learning English.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: Volunteering can play a role in building social connectedness, and can support volunteers to learn new skills or develop existing ones, including learning English. DCMS is focusing its efforts on removing barriers to participation in volunteering and supporting a more inclusive volunteering experience, including for those arriving from Ukraine. Through the £7.4 million Volunteering Futures Fund volunteering opportunities are being created to remove barriers to participation in the arts, culture, sports, civil society, youth and heritage sectors.

The Government recognises that civil society has, and continues, to play a crucial role in the response to Ukraine. Since May 2020, DCMS has funded the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP) to help build capacity in the voluntary sector in responding to emergencies. The VCSEP and its partners have been active in assisting those arriving from Ukraine, including supporting the development of the Homes for Ukraine programme and targeted support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22481>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22482>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Ukraine

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22468] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what guidance her Department is providing to job centres on the difficulty of obtaining job references for Ukrainian refugees.

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22469] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if she will take steps to help remove requirements for Ukrainian refugees to provide references for previous employment when applying for a job.

Reply from Mims Davies: DWP is aware of the challenges those fleeing Ukraine may face in providing references for previous employment.

Jobcentres do not place requirements on customers to provide references when applying for vacancies. However, to address the challenges Ukrainian citizens may face in providing references for previous employment, DWP are working with BEIS to encourage employers and sector regulators to consider adopting a pragmatic approach to requirements for job references and checkable work histories for Ukrainian evacuees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22468>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22469>

Refugees: Ukraine

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22480] To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what (a) pension and (b) pension credit entitlements are pension-age refugees from Ukraine able to access in the UK.

Reply from Guy Opperman: The UK State Pension is payable without regard to nationality to those who meet the qualifying conditions. Entitlement is based on an individual's National Insurance record.

In March 2022 DWP laid regulations which enabled those who were residing in Ukraine immediately before 1 January 2022, and who had fled in response to the

Russian Invasion on 24 February 2022, to access Pension Credit, and other means-tested benefits from day one of their arrival in the UK. To be eligible for Pension Credit, people need to be over State Pension age and on a low income.

As well as help with daily living costs of up to £182.60 per week for single people and £278.70 for couples, Pension Credit also opens up access to other support, such as help with rent and council tax, heating bills, free NHS dental care and free TV licenses for the over-75s. The easiest way for Ukrainian nationals to apply for Pension Credit is by phone and the department has made translation services available to help new arrivals with their applications. The Freephone number: 0800 99 1234, is available Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

DWP staff are also delivering additional face-to-face assistance to those who need it, including advice on benefit eligibility and support with online applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22480>

Pupils: Refugees

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [25987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many school age children have (a) arrived in the UK via the (i) Ukraine Family Scheme and (ii) Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and (b) have secured a school place as of 27 June 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We estimate that as of 27 May 9,900 offers have been made to children from Ukraine from the two sponsorship schemes. This data is published here:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/school-placements-for-children-from-outside-of-the-uk/2022-may>

The Department for Education's second monthly data collection for Local Authorities to submit data to update the numbers of school places offered to children from outside of the UK will be open between 29 June and 5 July. DfE intends to publish this data mid-July.

Information on the number of visas granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and arrivals in the UK of relevant visa holders can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage:

[Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme \(Homes for Ukraine\) visa data](#)

We are not however able to provide a breakdown to show how many of those arriving in the UK under either scheme were school age children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25987>

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/>

Pupils: Refugees

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [23443] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, when will schools who offer places to Ukrainian refugees receive additional per pupil funding for those children.

Reply from Robin Walker: For children who have arrived via the Homes for Ukraine scheme, the department has advised local authorities that funding will be on a per pupil basis for the three phases of education. This bespoke scheme enables individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to volunteer accommodation and provide a route to safety for people fleeing from Ukraine.

Eligible local authorities will receive full tariff amount for each child from Ukraine who has arrived under the Homes for Ukraine scheme up to and including 31 May

2022. This payment will be made in July 2022. Further funding allocations for children that arrive in a local authority from June 2022 onwards will be made at a later date.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/23443>

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

Holiday Play Schemes: Refugees

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [22484] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, if he will make provision for Ukrainian refugee children to attend holiday clubs over summer 2022 (a) in general and (b) in order that their parents are able to attend language courses.

Reply from Will Quince: Ukrainian children eligible for benefits-related free school meals (FSM) will be able to access the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. This holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related FSM.

Local authorities have discretion to also provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of benefits-related FSM but who the local authority believe could benefit from HAF provision, which could include Ukrainian children who may not be eligible for FSM or are in the process of having their FSM claims assessed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22484>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants: Children

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [22445] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent estimate she has made of the number of children living in poverty in the UK with parents who are subject to No Recourse to Public Funds.

Migrants: Universal Credit

Kirsten Oswald (SNP) [22446] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will hold discussions with Cabinet colleagues on amending the immigration regulations governing No Recourse to Public Funds to enable emergency access to Universal Credit for parents who become unable to work due to (a) ill-health or (b) caring responsibilities.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office is committed to further exploring data availability on No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and migrant poverty, including children in poverty, while recognising the challenges posed in identifying and gathering the relevant data.

Published correspondence between the Home Office and UK Statistics Authority sets out our proposals for further work to investigate data on migrant poverty:

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/jon-simmons-to-ed-humpherson-enhancing-data-on-statistics-about-those-subject-to-no-recourse-to-public-funds-nrpf-update/>

There are no plans to amend the regulations governing NRPF to enable emergency access to Universal Credit for parents who become unable to work due to ill-health or caring responsibilities.

Temporary immigration status holders are generally required to support themselves and any accompanying family members, including children, in the UK without recourse to public funds. This is a well-established principle which prevents access to taxpayer-funded public services from being the basis of migration to this country.

The general expectation is temporary immigration status holders who can no longer financially support themselves and their families in the UK will return to their home country.

Safeguards exist to ensure people receive support where they are destitute, at risk of destitution, or have community care needs, including issues relating to human rights or the wellbeing of children. For example, people with leave under the family and human rights routes, and those who have been granted leave on the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa route as a British National (Overseas) status holder or a family member of a British National (Overseas) status holder, can apply, for free, to have their NRPF condition lifted by making a 'change of condition' application if they are destitute or at risk of destitution, if the welfare of their child is at risk due to their low income, or where there are other exceptional financial circumstances. Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support, regardless of immigration status, if it is established there is a genuine care need that does not arise solely from destitution.

People who have made the necessary national insurance contributions can also claim contributory benefits such as contribution-based Jobseekers Allowance, statutory sick pay and state pension.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22445>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22446>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Migrants

Stephen Timms (Labour) [24532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many applicants who had leave to remain in the UK renewed applied successfully for a Change of Conditions in the same quarter in each quarter since 2017.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [24533] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people had their leave to remain in the UK renewed and consequently no longer had the No Recourse to Public Funds condition applied to them in each quarter of the last five years.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Following previous questions and the commitment given to UK Statistics Authority (UKSA), Change of Conditions information is now part of the transparency data which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-and-protection-data-q1-2022>

The relevant data is in tab CoC_01.

The department is committed to further explore data availability on No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). The published correspondence between the Home Office and UK Statistics Authority sets out our proposals for further work to investigate data on migrant poverty.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24532>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24533>

Migrant Workers: Graduates

Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Labour Co-op) [21253] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, for what reason international students who graduated from British universities prior to September 2020 are unable to apply for the UK post-study work visa.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Graduate route demonstrates our commitment to attract the brightest and best talent from around the world to study and work in the UK.

The route was introduced in 2021 to help new graduates who have successfully

completed a relevant qualification in eligible UK universities get a head-start on their career by allowing these graduates to work or look for work for up to three years immediately following their graduation.

Those who graduated and whose leave expired before the Graduate route was introduced do not meet the requirements of the route. Most of these students had commenced their course prior to the announcement of the route, and therefore had no expectation of benefitting from such a route when they applied to study in the UK. However, these students are able to apply for other routes from overseas, including the Skilled Worker route, if they meet the requirements.

The expansion of the Skilled Worker route to include roles at RQF3 and above in December 2020 significantly increased the number of roles they could consider applying for in the UK which would qualify.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21253>

Immigration: Windrush Generation

Angela Crawley (SNP) [21232] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the report commissioned by her Department entitled, The Historical Roots of the Windrush Scandal; and if she will make a statement on that report.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Historical Roots of the Windrush Scandal report was commissioned by the Home Office to form part of an internal learning resource to improve understanding of the historical development of immigration policy, in response to Recommendation 6 of the Windrush Lessons Learned Review by Wendy Williams.

The report was written by a historian who was independent from the Home Office and does not represent government policy. The views included in the report are those of the author.

We have already made good progress against Wendy Williams' recommendations. She highlighted many achievements, including the work we have put into becoming a more compassionate and open organisation. Yet we know there is more to do. Many people suffered terrible injustices at the hands of successive Governments, so we will continue working hard to deliver a Home Office worthy of every community we serve.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21232>

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

Asylum: Finance

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [24611] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what proportion of asylum seekers awaiting an initial screening interview are in receipt of section 98 support.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers on Asylum Support. These statistics can be found at:

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

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of these statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers awaiting an initial screening interview are in receipt of section 98 support. 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/2022-06-24/24611>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [17925] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to publish her Department's lessons learned review of the transition to ASPEN cards for asylum seekers in summer 2021.

Asylum

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [17926] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the implications for her policies of the findings of AsylumMatters' November 2021 report, Lessons Learned: How government contracts failed people seeking asylum, again.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government is aware of the report. The vast majority of service users have now received and activated their new Aspen card since the service went live on Monday 24th May 2021.

These cards are working and are being used successfully to make purchases or withdraw funds (dependent on asylum seeker support type). Where replacement cards have been requested, they are being actioned swiftly and are being dispatched to service users accordingly. Card activation rates continue to increase. We are proactively working with partners to ensure that any eligible service users receive their new Aspen card and activate it successfully. In the interim, emergency cash payments (ECPs) are being provided to support their critical needs.

There are no plans to publish the department's lessons learned review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-14/17925>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-14/17926>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://asylumatters.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2021/11/Asylum-Matters-Lessons-Learned-Report-A4-RGB.pdf>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Electronic Tagging

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [24612] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 23 June 2022 to Question 21222 on Asylum: Electronic Tagging, what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the pilot programme establishing whether electronic monitoring is an effective way to improve and maintain regular contact management with asylum claimants who arrive in the UK in order to progress their immigration case.

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [24613] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to Answer of 23 June to Question 21222, what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the pilot scheme to electronically monitor asylum claimants who arrive in the UK per person, per month.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The estimated cost for the pilot is £5.942m. This is an allocated sum for the duration of the pilot and not an annual budget. It will be reviewed at the conclusion of the pilot.

Given the uncertainty on the exact number of individuals who will be suitable for tagging and the duration in which they will be subject to electronic monitoring, we are unable to provide a breakdown of costs at this time.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24612>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-24/24613>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21222>

Asylum: Beaconside

Theo Clarke (Conservative) [19020] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will reconsider the Government's proposal to relocate approximately 500 single male asylum seekers to Beaconside in Stafford.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Due to the unprecedented demand to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, we have had to use temporary accommodation such as hotels and other large-scale sites to manage demands on the asylum estate. We are committed to working with local authorities to move to a fairer distribution of asylum seekers and bring an end to the use of hotels as contingency accommodation.

The Home Office has therefore announced all local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales will be expected to participate in a new system of full dispersal to allow us to move away from hotels to less expensive and more suitable accommodation. We have also announced funding of approximately £3,500 per bedspace procured in this financial year to recognise the pressures of accommodating asylum seekers on Local Authority areas.

The Beaconside has been identified as a potential new site for Initial Accommodation as the current site in the West Midlands is due to close shortly. Our accommodation provider, Serco, are proceeding with the consultation on planning and once this is concluded we will convene a Multi-Agency Forum to discuss operations on site. The Multi-Agency forum will be made up of Home Office officials, along with the accommodation provider and representatives from Stafford County Council, the police service, NHS, and Public Health along with others from the voluntary sector. These meetings are an opportunity for all members to discuss any ongoing issues and to share best practice.

Ministers have also met with the Hon Member for Stafford who has expressed her concerns about and opposition to the proposal.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/19020>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Offenders: Deportation

Mark Harper (Conservative) [22366] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many attempted deportations by her Department of foreign national offenders have been successfully challenged in each year over the last 10 years.

Mark Harper (Conservative) [22367] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of attempted deportations of foreign national offenders by her Department have been successfully challenged on Article 8 ECHR grounds in each year over the last 10 years.

Mark Harper (Conservative) [22368] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many challenges of deportations of foreign national offenders by her Department have been successful for offenders with sentences of (a) less than one year custodial sentence, (b) one to four years custodial sentence and (c) more than four years custodial sentence in each year over the last 10 years.

Mark Harper (Conservative) [22369] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of challenges to deportations of foreign national offenders by her Department have been successful in each year over the last 10 years.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The British public should be in no doubt of this Government's determination to remove criminals to protect both their victims and to make our streets safer and is fully committed to discharging the obligation under the UK Borders Act 2007, which is that a non-British citizen convicted of an offence in the United Kingdom and sentenced to 12 months or more imprisonment, and to whom an exception does not apply, be deported from the UK. All FNOs are

provided an opportunity to make submissions against their deportation which are fully considered and determined upon before deportation, including, where applicable, via the Courts. We have recently brought forward the Nationality and Borders Act to help end the cycle of last-minute claims and appeals that can delay removals

The Ministry of Justice routinely publishes data relating to all appeals lodged with the First-tier Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber (FTTIAC). The latest statistical quarterly release can be found here:

[Tribunal Statistics Quarterly: January to March 2022](#)

Additionally, the Home Office published a one-off statistical note release on 22 February 2022, which relates to human rights appeals brought by foreign national offenders (FNOs) and specifically those allowed on human rights grounds at the First-tier Tribunal. The data includes information management between April 2008 and June 2021.

[Statistical note: FNO appeals lodged and allowed on human rights grounds, 2008 to 2021](#)

Published research shows that most FNOs who left detention in 2017, having claimed asylum while in immigration detention, did not have their claim upheld - only 2% of asylum applicants were granted leave to remain at the initial decision, whereas 92% were not and 5% are awaiting a decision.

[Issues raised by people facing return in immigration detention](#) These figures reveal a system open to abuse and are clear evidence of the need for reform. That is why the Nationality and Borders Act makes provisions to streamline the appeals process by introducing an expanded one stop process aimed at reducing the extent to which people can frustrate removals through sequential or unmeritorious claims, appeals or legal action.

Further information can be found in the [New Plan for Immigration: policy statement](#) and the factsheet [Nationality and Borders Bill: factsheet](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22366>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22367>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22368>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/22369>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Asylum: Offshoring

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL903] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the remarks by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 14 April that they "remain firmly opposed to arrangements that seek to transfer refugees and asylum seekers to third countries in the absence of sufficient safeguards and standards".

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Safeguards and assurances were considered throughout the development of the Migration and Economic Development Partnership between the UK and Rwanda, and have been included in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). For example, the MoU provides for the creation of a Joint Committee and a Monitoring Committee to oversee the Partnership and provide ongoing assurances.

The Home Office Country Policy and Information Team also carried out an

assessment of Rwanda's asylum system and investigated potential human rights issues. More information on its findings can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rwanda-country-policy-and-information-notes>

It should be noted that the UNHCR said, in a 2020 press notice, that Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for over two decades. It added that the country offers a safe and protective environment to all asylum seekers and refugees.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl903>

The remarks referred to above can be read at

<https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2022/4/62585e814/un-refugee-agency-opposes-uk-plan-export-asylum.html>

The press notice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.unhcr.org/rw/14609-rwanda-the-first-large-group-of-refugees-evacuated-from-libya-resettled-to-sweden.html>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

<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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Rwanda

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL920] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers will be on board the deportation flight to Rwanda on 14 June; and what was the cost per head.

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL921] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether there was any parliamentary approval regarding the agreement reached with Rwanda in relation to asylum seekers.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: We will not provide a running commentary on operational planning for a charter flight. Information will be provided in due course.

The UK has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Rwanda for the provision of an asylum partnership arrangement and to address the shared challenge of illegal migration. This has been published on GOV.UK. The Migration and Economic Development Partnership fully complies with all national and international law, including the UN Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (Section 10) enables the Home Office to remove persons unlawfully in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl920>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl921>

The Memorandum of Understanding referred to above can be read at

<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>

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

Immigration: Appeals

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL918] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Home Office immigration decisions have been overturned on appeal in the past five years.

Reply from Lord Bellamy: For the period April to March in each of the years set out below the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal allowed the following number of appeals against Home Office decisions:

- a) 25,692 appeals in 2017 to 2018
- b) 23,573 appeals in 2018 to 2019
- c) 19,797 appeals in 2019 to 2020
- d) 5,778 appeals in 2020 to 2021
- e) 13,408 appeals in 2021 to 2022

The latest release of Official Statistics for Tribunals (Tribunal Statistics Quarterly – January to March 2022) published on 9 June 2022 can be found at the link below:
www.gov.uk/government/statistics/tribunal-statistics-quarterly-january-to-march-2022

The percentage Allowed/Granted in the Official Statistics for Immigration and Asylum (FIA3) are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl918>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Windrush Generation: Government Assistance

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL886] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking, if any, to ensure that members of the Windrush generation are supported in their retirement.

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL887] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the support provided to members of the Windrush generation in their retirement.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: For people of State Pension age, there is a contributory State Pension based on an individual's National Insurance record. It is supported by further measures for older people including Pension Credit which provides means-tested support for those most in need.

We are putting in place arrangements across Government to ensure where members of the Windrush generation have been denied access to employment because they were unable to demonstrate their lawful status, their National Insurance position is corrected so the period of the loss does not impact their State Pension entitlement.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl886>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl887>

Windrush Generation: Government Assistance

Lord Jones of Cheltenham (Liberal Democrat) [HL1000] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to support members of the Windrush generation in their retirement.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: For people of State Pension age, there is a contributory State Pension based on an individual's National Insurance record. It is supported by further measures for older people including Pension Credit which provides means-tested support for those most in need.

We are putting in place arrangements across Government to ensure where

members of the Windrush generation have been denied access to employment because they were unable to demonstrate their lawful status, their National Insurance position is corrected so the period of the loss does not impact their State Pension entitlement.

Work on this issue is ongoing, and we continue to work with other government departments to finalise this area of work. As soon as arrangements are finalised, we will write again to explain what this will mean for affected individuals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/hl1000>

Asylum: Age

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL919] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many Home Office decisions on the age of migrant asylum seekers have been (1) disputed, and (2) needed to be reassessed, in the past five years.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release', which can be found on gov.uk.

Data on age disputes raised can be found in table Asy_D05 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)', which is also attached. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relate to the year ending March 2022. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)' section, on gov.uk (year ending June 2022 will be released on 25 August 2022)

The Home office does not publish a breakdown on the number of age assessments disputed or reassessed.

[Asy_D05](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl919>

Asylum: Housing

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL899] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the recommendation by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists that they should set minimum standards for asylum accommodation for pregnant woman and their babies.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Our Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC) govern the relationship between the Home Office and the three companies contracted to provide asylum accommodation. They contain a detailed list of requirements for accommodation, including initial accommodation, dispersed accommodation and required accommodation standards. These requirements all meet or exceed the Government's Decent Homes Standard for the private rented sector. In contracting with our accommodation providers, we are ensuring that pregnant women are dispersed into accommodation suitable for both the mother and the baby, both before and after birth. This is in line with our existing published guidance on healthcare needs and pregnancy dispersal.

Accommodation provider performance in relation to accommodation standards is monitored on a regular basis and we have tight timescales in which accommodation providers must resolve issues within our accommodation.

Detailed specifications on the services which have to be provided are set out in a published Statement of Requirements for the contracts.

Additionally, the Home Office meets regularly with health colleagues, including a Maternal Health Sub Group, with relevant clinicians, to discuss further improvements to the asylum support system for women with maternal health needs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl899>

Asylum: EU Countries

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL901] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the circumstances in which refugees who arrive in the UK after passing through an EU country can still, under certain circumstances, be returned to the first EU country they entered, under the Dublin Regulation (EU Regulation No 604/2013).

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK is no longer bound by the Dublin Regulation and as such no longer returns asylum seekers under these provisions.

The UK is in discussions regarding the returns of asylum seekers to European Union Member States; however, it would not be appropriate to provide a running commentary on these negotiations.

Returns may also be agreed with partner countries on a case-by-case basis without formal agreements. This happened historically, outside of the former Dublin arrangements, and will continue to be part of the approach we apply.

Our inadmissibility provisions in the Immigration Rules give us the legal basis to declare an asylum claim as inadmissible where a person has a connection to, or has passed through, a safe country. The first returns on inadmissibility grounds have been successfully carried out.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-13/hl901>

New Publications

Ukraine Psychological Wellbeing Advice Pack: Guidance for Ukrainian Arrivals

<https://tinyurl.com/2p97zzyc>

Ukraine Psychological Wellbeing Pack: Guidance for Host Families

<https://tinyurl.com/hwxdfz96>

Ukraine Refugee Psychological Wellbeing Pack: Guidance for services

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

Justice and Home Affairs Committee Findings: Life in the UK test

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/22850/documents/167769/default/>

An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the higher education sector October 2021 – March 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086952/An_inspection_of_the_immigration_system_as_it_relates_to_the_higher_education_sector_October_2021_March_2022.pdf

The Home Office response to the ICIBI's report on an inspection into the immigration system as it relates to the higher education sector (October 2021 to March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-report-on-immigration-and-the-higher-education-sector/the-home-office-response-to-the-icibis-report-on-an-inspection-into-the-immigration-system-as-it-relates-to-the-higher-education-sector-october-2021>

A re-inspection of Napier Barracks March 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1087021/A_re-inspection_of_Napier_Barracks_March_2022.pdf

The Home Office response to the ICIBI's report on a re-inspection of Napier Barracks (March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-report-on-a-re-inspection-of-napier-barracks/the-home-office-response-to-the-icibis-report-on-a-re-inspection-of-napier-barracks-march-2022>

Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland, with particular reference to failings in the provision of care to New Scots during the Covid pandemic: Part One

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62af1289a666c80e00b17253/t/62b40ddf7dc09c37ecf7d954/1655967637524/AIS+Phase+1+Report.pdf>

News

Home Office must urgently fix 'joke' UK citizenship test, committee says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/life-in-the-uk-citizenship-test-home-office-b2112337.html>

Calais migrant crisis: 15 arrested over Channel tragedy

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61996698>

Migrant crossings hit monthly record of more than 3,000

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrant-crossings-hit-monthly-record-of-more-than-3-000-ttj3m3zz3>

Ten people held over Channel migrant disaster that killed 27

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ten-people-held-over-channel-migrant-disaster-that-killed-27-9838znbm>

Calls for more funding for English classes for Ukrainian refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/30/calls-for-more-funding-for-english-classes-for-ukrainian-refugees>

Independent inquiry into Scottish lockdown asylum seeker treatment

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-61944811>

Independent inquiry into treatment of asylum seekers during lockdown in Scotland

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/independent-inquiry-into-treatment-of-asylum-seekers-during-lockdown-in-scotland-3745908>

Independent inquiry into treatment of asylum seekers during pandemic launched

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/glasgow-home-office-covid-scotland-sudan-b2109830.html>

We need help for those arrested in the battle of Kenmure Street

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20243455.rhiannon-spear-need-help-arrested-battle-kenmure-street/>

More than 1,500 refugees invited to Wimbledon for centenary event

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/jul/01/more-than-1500-refugees-invited-to-wimbledon-centre-court-for-centenary>

Women with children in UK face deportation to Nigeria and Ghana

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jun/26/women-with-children-in-uk-face-deportation-to-nigeria-and-ghana>

Deportations of foreign murderers at record low thanks to human rights challenges

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/06/29/deportations-foreign-murderers-record-low-human-rights-challenges/>

Human traffickers 'using UK universities as cover'

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2022/jul/03/human-traffickers-using-uk-universities-as-cover>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Government Departments: Ethnic Groups

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [23368] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what discussions she is having with her Cabinet colleagues on ensuring that ethnic minority communities are able to choose the terminology used by the Government to indicate their community.

Reply from Kemi Badenoch: On 17 March 2022 I published 'Inclusive Britain'. It includes an action for the Cabinet Office Race Disparity Unit to lead work to engage with people from different ethnic groups to better understand the language and terminology with which they identify.

This work, which is being delivered in partnership with the Office for National Statistics, is underway and I will report back to Parliament on progress with this, and the other 73 actions in Inclusive Britain, in March 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-22/23368>

Inclusive Britain, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-britain-action-plan-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities/inclusive-britain-government-response-to-the-commission-on-race-and-ethnic-disparities>

Prisoners: Ethnic Groups

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [20285] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps his Department is taking to improve outcomes for prisoners from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Reply from Kit Malthouse: We want people to have confidence in a justice system that is fair and open, where no person suffers discrimination of any kind. The over-representation of ethnic minorities in prisons, and in the justice system more widely, is a real concern and we continue to prioritise understanding and tackling any disparities they face.

Our commitment to tackling race and ethnic disparity is clear, as set out in the government's Inclusive Britain strategy (published in response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities). It laid out a clear and broad set of steps we are taking in relation to improving outcomes in criminal justice, and built on the extensive work undertaken in response to the 2017 Lammy Review, a detailed overview of which can be found in the *Tackling Racial Disparity* updates published in 2018 and 2020.

Our work to tackle disparities focuses on not just the initial actions committed to in

response to the Lammy Review, such as significant efforts to ensure a more representative HMPPS workforce, but also builds on these steps, going further where we can, By way of example, we launched a Stewardship Fund of over £1.5m to better support grassroot, ethnic minority-led and specialist voluntary or community sector organisations. Through the provision of informed services to ethnic minority offenders, they help turn their lives around, reduce reoffending, and improve outcomes for them and wider society.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-17/20285>

The Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/643001/lammy-review-final-report.pdf

The updates referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/747335/tackling-racial-disparity-criminal-justice-system-2018-update-web.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881317/tackling-racial-disparity-cjs-2020.pdf

Domestic Abuse: Ethnic Groups

Feryal Clark (Labour) [21329] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps the Government is taking to capture the lived experiences of Black and minority survivors of domestic abuse to inform health responses.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: NHS England and NHS Improvement are collaborating with the Royal Colleges to create learning materials on domestic abuse, working with trusted peer advocacy services for culturally sensitive groups of victims and survivors, such as Karma Nirvana and Black Sisters. This is in addition to training for nurses and health visitors on domestic abuse and providing trauma care for patients, informed by representatives with lived experience. From March to June 2021, the Department sought views on women's health issues and women's experiences of the healthcare system in England through a call for evidence. The health impacts of violence against women and girls will be addressed within the forthcoming Women's Health Strategy, which we aim to publish in summer 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21329>

Suicide: Travellers

Cat Smith (Labour) [21221] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether the Government's suicide prevention strategy considers the needs of the gypsy, Roma and traveller communities.

Reply from Gillian Keegan: While the 2012 Suicide Prevention Strategy does not make specific reference to the the gypsy, traveller and Roma (GTR) communities, the 'Preventing suicide in England: Fifth progress report of the cross-government outcomes strategy to save lives' refers to the needs of these communities. This encourages local areas to reflect the specific requirements of the population in suicide prevention plans, including GTR communities where relevant.

The Department and NHS England and NHS Improvement also encourage local services and organisations to engage with the voluntary sector on best practice in supporting specific communities. We will publish a new, long-term plan for suicide prevention later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21221>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Roma Community: Levelling Up

Baroness Bakewell (Labour): To ask Her Majesty's Government how their levelling up plans take into account the needs of the Roma community.

Reply from the Minister of State, Home Office and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (Lord Greenhalgh): The Government have set out 12 national levelling-up missions which are already beginning to drive real change across the United Kingdom, including for our Roma communities. They include investing £1.4 million in targeted educational support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. We will continue to work across government to tackle inequalities.

Baroness Bakewell: I am aware of the Government's plans to deal with the Roma community, but two weeks ago the submissions from local government closed. What guarantee is there that the funding going via local authorities will be ring-fenced for the Roma community and that it will not bring them into conflict with the new extended police power to move people on?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: It is for local authorities to work on their own local housing need. While tackling unauthorised encampments, we have recognised the need also to provide more opportunities for stopping sites. That is why we have invested £10 million in enabling both more permanent and temporary provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, an investigation by the Education Select Committee into the achievement of Gypsy and Roma children is under way. Only 8.1% of those children achieve a grade 5 or higher pass at GCSE English and Maths, compared to 49.9% of other pupils. What percentage of Gypsy and Roma children currently attract pupil premium funding? Is there a case that the level of funding should be higher, akin to that which looked-after children attract?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: More than 14,000 Gypsy, Roma, Traveller or Irish heritage pupils are eligible for free school meals, representing over 40% of GRT pupils. GRT pupils do not attract the pupil premium per se, but the Government have increased the amount of money to £2.6 billion in 2022-23. I will look at and discuss with my noble friend in the Department for Education the level set for GRT pupils. ...

Baroness Brinton (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, mission 7 of the Government's White Paper on levelling up in the UK aims to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy by 2030. However, there is no mention in it at all of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. Given that the life expectancy of GRT people is 10 to 25 years less than that of the general population, can the Minister say what the Government are doing to target this disparity?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The levelling-up White Paper does not mention specific communities; it sets the overall ambition. However, it is fair to say that the Government, through the Health and Wellbeing Alliance, have commissioned health guidance for Roma communities. The guidance has been developed by the Roma Support Group, which is part of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance and NHS England, and this will be published as part of the migrant health guide.

Baroness Whitaker (Labour): My Lords, in 2019 the noble Lord, Lord Bourne, the Minister's very effective predecessor, announced a cross-departmental strategy to level out the horrendous inequalities faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people. I know the Minister is sympathetic to the strategy, but nothing has been announced—no plan, no strategy, no aims, no actions, no lines of accountability—since 2019. Indeed, since then the Education Select Committee, the House of the Lords Public Services Committee and the Joint Committee on Human Rights have all commented on the severe disparities in all the outcomes. What are the Government going to do about the cross-departmental

strategy? Does it still exist?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, I recognise that we have not yet published the strategy but I take issue with the idea that we have not moved forward. We have made progress: we have launched the £10 million Traveller site fund for 2022-23; we have invested £1.4 million in targeted programmes, with various pilot projects to improve educational outcomes; and, as I said in response to a previous question, we are developing specific guidance to improve health outcomes in the Roma community. So, while we do not have a strategy, the Government have taken tangible steps to level up and benefit the GRT community.

Baroness Bakewell of Hardington Mandeville (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, Roma used to be able to travel the land finding work as casual agricultural workers and stopping in traditional, unofficial places. The police and crime Bill will now prevent this, but local authorities are not required to provide legally serviced sites for them. The Roma are the last group in society to whom equalities do not appear to apply. Is the Minister not ashamed of the appalling inequalities that these citizens suffer constantly?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: The Government made a manifesto commitment to tackle unauthorised encampments, but we recognise that not all of them cause harm or disruption. We recognise the financial costs to communities, businesses and landowners of clearing up sites and repairing damages. That is why we have announced the £10 million fund, which has been well oversubscribed. There are opportunities for local authorities to access that fund as well as the £10.5 billion affordable homes fund, but it is the local planning authorities' duty to work out what they should be providing.

Baroness Blackwood of North Oxford: My Lords, can the Minister set out in specific terms what steps he is taking, working with the Department of Health and Social Care, to improve health outcomes for the Roma community, especially as the health disparities White Paper is being prepared and the ICBs are being established?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: We set out a clear mission in the levelling-up White Paper to narrow the gap in healthy life expectancy by five years. We are creating clear guidance for the community, as I have already mentioned, and I am sure that more of the plan will be revealed in the health disparities White Paper in due course.

Baroness Hayman of Ullock (Labour): My Lords, my noble friend asked about the national strategy and progress, but surely one of the problems is the Government's ongoing resistance to cross-departmental strategies on race equality issues. How will the levelling-up Bill address this? How will it get that resistance sorted and get departments to genuinely work together to improve outcomes for the Roma community?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: My Lords, we have a lead Minister who is responsible for equalities matters and has taken on the brief as Communities Minister. My honourable friend Kemi Badenoch is charged with those duties and I am sure will bring forward plans in due course.

Baroness McIntosh of Pickering (Conservative): My Lords, will my noble friend explain what happens to the funding awarded to a Gypsy, Traveller or Roma child if that child fails to complete the academic year, which is disruptive not just for that child but for all the children in that class?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: I guess I will have to write to my noble friend on the specific point about what happens to funding, but the Government's focus is on ensuring that we improve provision and keep more GRT children in mainstream schooling.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, the original Statement about the strategy referred to entrenched inequality, and last year we were told that the strategy would be published in due course. Why has it not yet been published? Is there no strategy?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: For a great period of time when I held the brief before my colleague Kemi Badenoch, we were working on a clear set of plans,

some of which have already been announced. Irrespective of whether or not there is a document, we have a plan around improving temporary and permanent site provision, which is why we have announced the fund. We have plans around improving educational opportunities for GRT children by leading with five pilots with local authorities. I am sure that more will be announced in due course.

The Lord Bishop of Durham: My Lords, in a recent conversation with Billy Welch, who organises the Appleby Horse Fair and lives in Darlington, he asked—while recognising the deep problems that have been highlighted in all these questions—that we please start talking about the positive contributions that GRT communities make. Would the Minister like to comment on his view?

Reply from Lord Greenhalgh: Yes, we recognise that GRT communities make a positive contribution. There is a clear commitment to support them in carrying on their way of life and nomadic traditions. That is why we have announced the fund to give them more opportunities for stopping sites and make it easier for them to live the way that they want to live.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-06-27/debates/64DECF35-4DED-4D0A-B198-7D3FB715D2F6/RomaCommunityLevellingUp>

The White Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1052706/Levelling_Up_WP_HRES.pdf

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-national-strategy-to-tackle-gypsy-roma-and-traveller-inequalities>

New Publications

Scottish Government: Open letter to the Gypsy/Traveller community in Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/open-letter-to-the-gypsy-traveller-community-in-scotland/>

Delivering racial equality in medicine

<https://www.bma.org.uk/media/5745/bma-delivering-racial-equality-in-medicine-report-15-june-2022.pdf>

News

Ethnic minorities less likely to take up Covid vaccine

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-61983960>

Universities to defy government pressure to ditch race equality group

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2022/jun/30/universities-to-defy-government-pressure-to-ditch-race-equality-group>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Schools: Racial Discrimination

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [21291] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what guidance the Government has issued on racial justice work and workshops in schools.

Munira Wilson (Liberal Democrat) [21292] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what funding the Government has allocated to support racial justice work and workshops in schools.

Reply from Robin Walker: The government condemns and strives to tackle all forms of racial discrimination, prejudice, and harassment. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including between people of different ethnic backgrounds.

The department has not provided specific guidance or funding to schools to deliver racial justice work and workshops. Schools have flexibility over how they deliver subjects, so they can develop an integrated approach that is sensitive to the needs and background of their pupils. The department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010, which is available here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/315587/Equality_Act_Advice_Final.pdf

As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies. This includes learning how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. The curriculum offers many opportunities for schools to do this, notably through citizenship education and relationships education, which is now compulsory in all schools and has a clear focus on the importance of valuing difference. The history curriculum also gives teachers the flexibility to include the contribution of black and minority ethnic history into lessons. This aligns with the school's duty to promote and foster good relations across all protected characteristics, including race.

Guidance on the implementation and teaching of the relationships, sex and health education curriculum is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/teaching-about-relationships-sex-and-health>

The national curriculum content for citizenship can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-citizenship-programmes-of-study>

The department continues to publish information, guidance and support for teachers and school leaders on how to challenge radical views, including racist and discriminatory beliefs, on the website Educate Against Hate, which is available at:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

One of these resources is the 'Respectful School Communities' toolkit, a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach which promotes respect and discipline. This can combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying. This toolkit is available here:

<https://educateagainsthate.com/resources/respectful-school-communities-self-review-signposting-tool-2/>

It is important that schools take full responsibility for ensuring lessons and materials are age appropriate, suitable, and politically impartial, particularly when using materials produced by external organisations. The department published the

guidance, 'Political impartiality in schools', to support schools to meet their duties in this area, which is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/political-impartiality-in-schools>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21291>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/21292>

Health Professions: Racial Discrimination

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [25850] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care,

with reference to the British Medical Association's report entitled, Delivering racial equality in medicine, what steps he is taking to (a) protect and support medical professionals from racist abuse and (b) help ensure Black and Ethnic Minority groups are not dissuaded from pursuing medical careers.

Reply from Edward Argar: The National Health Service Civility and Respect programme aims to tackle discrimination, bullying and harassment in the NHS and to create positive workplace cultures.

The NHS is improving recruitment processes and career opportunities for all staff, including medical professionals, from ethnic minority backgrounds. The Medical Workforce Racial Equality Standard report in 2020 showed that the number of black and minority ethnic doctors increased by 21.1% compared to 2017. We have accepted the recommendations from the 'Leadership for a collaborative and inclusive future' review into health and social care leadership in full. The recommendations include embedding inclusive leadership practice as the responsibility of all and promoting equal opportunity and fairness standards to tackle discrimination.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/25850>

The reports referred to above can be read at

<https://www.bma.org.uk/media/5745/bma-delivering-racial-equality-in-medicine-report-15-june-2022.pdf>

and

https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MWRES-DIGITAL-2020_FINAL.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Broadcasting: Racial Discrimination

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL1016] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to establish an independent racism reporting body for the broadcasting industry.

Reply from Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay: Her Majesty's Government believes that there is no place for prejudice or discrimination in the media or anywhere else and is committed to supporting the broadcasting sector to ensure it is a place which offers opportunities for people from all backgrounds to contribute and succeed. This can only be achieved through a diverse workforce which reflects modern Britain.

Ofcom, as the independent communications regulator, has a duty to promote equality of opportunity in relation to employment in the broadcasting sector and has powers to ask broadcasters to provide information about their diversity policies and the make-up of their workforce. Her Majesty's Government is committed to working together with the industry and with Ofcom to support greater diversity and inclusion. Her Majesty's Government has no plans to establish an independent racism reporting body for the broadcasting industry.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/hl1016>

News

Doctors brand BMA union sexist and racist

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/doctors-brand-bma-union-sexist-and-racist-lmlcks2qz>

Pembrokeshire man accused of starting racist podcasts

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-61978511>

Man goes on trial accused of distributing ‘racist and antisemitic’ podcasts

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/ian-wright-swanse-crown-court-pembrokeshire-jews-adolf-hitler-b2112021.html>

University lecturer who called Sikhs ‘you lot’ and colleague’s turban ‘a bandage’ struck off

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/sikh-religion-turban-racial-harassment-b2086402.html>

Met Police officers ‘shared Meghan Markle golliwog joke in racist, sexist and homophobic Whatsapp group’

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/metropolitan-police-meghan-markle-golliwog-whatsapp-b2111776.html>

Metropolitan Police trio shared racist abuse of Meghan on WhatsApp group

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/metropolitan-police-trio-shared-racist-abuse-meghan-bgkz08n28>

Racism and ‘colonial legacies’ rife at world’s leading sexual health organisation, leaked report reveals

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/racism-and-colonial-legacies-rife-at-world-s-leading-sexual-health-organisation-leaked-report-reveals-b2111926.html>

Royal Navy promoted sailor despite joining neo-Nazi group

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jul/03/royal-navy-promoted-sailor-despite-joining-neo-nazi-group>

Old racists like Nelson Piquet must catch up or get off the road

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/old-racists-like-nelson-piquet-must-catch-up-or-get-off-the-road-x7w9sz0nh>

Racism is wrong – and so is the rush to judge Michael Vaughan

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/racism-is-wrong-and-so-is-the-rush-to-judge-michael-vaughan-wbv5fd5t>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Foyso Choudhury (Labour) [S6M-05178] Eid al-Adha 2022 – That the Parliament notes the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, starting on the evening of 9 July 2022, depending on the moon sighting; understands that the four-day celebration includes the sacrifice of livestock animals, to represent the lamb offered by Allah in recognition of the Prophet

Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail; further understands that a third of the resulting meat is eaten by a family, another third donated to friends and relatives, and the final third donated to those in need; notes that the holiday is celebrated with friends and relatives and involves the giving of gifts and the preparation of special food; expresses its hope that Muslims worldwide are able to celebrate this occasion in peace and security, and wishes the Muslim community in Scotland, and around the world, Eid Mubarak.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05178>

Press Releases

Recorded Crime in Scotland: 2021-2022

<https://www.gov.scot/news/recorded-crime-in-scotland-2021-2022/>

Next steps in independence referendum set out

<https://www.gov.scot/news/next-steps-in-independence-referendum-set-out/>

New Publications

Recorded Crime in Scotland: 2021-2022

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/statistics/2022/06/recorded-crime-scotland-2021-2022/documents/recorded-crime-scotland-2021-22/recorded-crime-scotland-2021-22/govscot%3Adocument/recorded-crime-scotland-2021-22.pdf>

Scottish Parliament Information Centre Briefing: A second independence referendum

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2022/06/29/a-second-independence-referendum/>

Independence referendum: First Minister's statement – 28 June 2022

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ministerial-statement-independence-referendum/>

Letter from the First Minister to the Prime Minister on Independence Referendum

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/letter-from-the-first-minister-to-the-prime-minister-on-independence-referendum/>

Scottish Independence Referendum Bill (Pre-Introduction)

<https://tinyurl.com/3t3utyw9>

News

Election win should trigger Scottish independence, says Sturgeon

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61980405>

Scottish independence: 19 October 2023 proposed as date for referendum

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61968607>

The indyref2 questions facing the Supreme Court

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61974087>

Nicola Sturgeon reveals new independence plan and says 'the people's will must prevail'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20239433.nicola-sturgeon-reveals-new-independence-plan-says-the-peoples-will-must-prevail/>

UK Supreme Court to proceed with Nicola Sturgeon's Indyref2 case

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20241840.uk-supreme-court-proceed-nicola-sturgeons-indyref2-case/>

Nicola Sturgeon gears up for court battle as she unveils proposed date for second independence referendum

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/nicola-sturgeon-gears-up-for-court-battle-as-she-unveils-proposed-date-for-second-independence-referendum-3748388>

Scottish independence: Is there a mandate for another referendum?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-61953614>

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Other News

Closure of NHS 24 Covid helpline

The NHS 24 Covid-19 helpline has now closed as a result of changes in guidance about public testing, and staying at home advice. General information about Covid-19 is still available online, at www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

Met Police put into a form of special measures

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-61970399>

Met Police put in special measures by watchdog

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/met-police-to-be-put-under-special-measures-by-watchdog-mncvrhr63>

Six police forces in England placed in special measures

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-wiltshire-61993621>

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Bills in Progress ** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

**** Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

Evidence sessions, Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-22-06-2022?meeting=13847&iob=125556>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/official-report/what-was-said-in-parliament/EHRCJ-28-06-2022?meeting=13858&iob=125660>

UK Parliament

Asylum Seekers (Accommodation Eviction Procedures) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3257>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3263>

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

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3304>

First Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-29/debates/3EDDFA6F-FA48-4A31-9FE2-5C2B7D632A9A/AsylumSeekers\(PermissionToWork\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-06-29/debates/3EDDFA6F-FA48-4A31-9FE2-5C2B7D632A9A/AsylumSeekers(PermissionToWork))

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Housing Standards (Refugees and Asylum Seekers) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3264>

Human Trafficking (Child Protection) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3248>

Human Trafficking (Sentencing) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3249>

Illegal Immigration (Offences) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3282>

**** Online Safety Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Bill as amended in Public Bill Committee

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/220121.pdf>

Notice of amendments

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0630.pdf

and

https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0121/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0704.pdf

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3164>

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** *closing date extended***

Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament (closing date 22 July 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

**** Scotland's Census** (closing date 24 August 2022)

https://yourviews.parliament.scot/ceeac/scotlandscensus/consult_view/

**** Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25** (closing date 23 September 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

National Voluntary Youth Organisations Support Fund

Closing date for applications: 22 July 2022

Scottish Government funding to support workforce development within the voluntary youth work sector. In addition to the main fund, funding is also available for specialist equalities focused voluntary youth work organisations. For information and to apply see

<https://www.youthlinkscotland.org/funding/national-voluntary-youth-organisations-support-fund/>

CashBack for Communities

Closing date for applications: 12 August 2022

Scottish Government funding focusing on young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and the communities most affected by crime. Funded projects will support young people most at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour offending or reoffending; provide person-centred support for young people, parents and families impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma; support young people to improve their health, mental health and wellbeing; and support people, families and communities most affected by crime. For information and to apply see

<https://cashbackforcommunities.org/phase6/>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Dandelion Festival

continues until September 2022 (Scotland-wide – various locations)

Dandelion, a creative celebration of growing, music, and community, is holding a wide range of free events across the country throughout the summer. For information see bemis.org.uk/dandelion-events and <https://dandelion.scot/whats-on/>

**** this week!**

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

Refugees: Asylum and Resettlement

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>

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 bilingual 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>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

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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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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