



MEMO is produced by the [Scottish Council of Jewish Communities \(SCoJeC\)](#) in partnership with [BEMIS – empowering Scotland's ethnic and cultural minority communities](#). It provides an overview of information of interest to minority ethnic communities in Scotland, including parliamentary activity at Holyrood and Westminster, new publications, consultations, forthcoming conferences, and news reports.

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

Please send information for inclusion in MEMO to MEMO@scojec.org and [click here](#) to be added to the mailing list.

The Scottish and UK Parliaments are in recess until 5 September 2022. The next three issues of MEMO will be published on 8 and 22 August, and 12 September.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Asylum: deaths in temporary accommodation

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-09507] To ask the Scottish Government what representations it has made to the UK Government to advocate for a comprehensive monitoring and review system for asylum seeker deaths in temporary hotel accommodation in Scotland.

Reply from Shona Robison: Asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Parliament. The Scottish Government has raised a variety of issues impacting people seeking asylum with the UK Government, including on asylum accommodation and the use of hotels to accommodate people seeking asylum.

Scottish Ministers have repeatedly requested detail of any investigation undertaken by the Home Office following deaths in asylum accommodation in Glasgow during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have also requested an update on the status of recommendations in an internal Home Office report on asylum accommodation during the pandemic, which appeared in the media in April but has not yet been made public.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09507>

Asylum: deaths in temporary accommodation

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-09508] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will commit, in partnership with local authorities, to publishing annual figures on loss of life of asylum seekers in temporary hotel accommodation in Scotland.

Reply from Shona Robison: Asylum is a matter reserved to the UK Parliament. The Scottish Government does not hold data on deaths of people seeking asylum in any type of accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09508>

Asylum: deaths in dispersal accommodation

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-09510] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it can take to ensure transparency around the loss of life in dispersal accommodation for asylum seekers and in immigration detention in Scotland.

Reply from Shona Robison: Asylum and immigration are reserved to the UK Parliament and handled by the Home Office. This includes the operation of asylum accommodation and support provision as well as immigration detention across the UK. The Scottish Government supports calls for a public inquiry into support provided for people seeking asylum accommodated by the Home Office during the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09510>

Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-09509] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will commit to full cooperation and participation in the 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.

Reply from Shona Robison: The Scottish Government is aware of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland. The Scottish Government has not yet received any request to participate in the Inquiry, but will respond positively and appropriately, should we do so.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09509>

Information about the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.asyluminquiryscotland.com/>

Scottish Parliament Motion

Kaukab Stewart (SNP) [S6M-05234] **Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland** – That the Parliament welcomes the establishment on 26 June

2022 of the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland, commissioned by Refugees for Justice and chaired by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, and congratulates them on a successful launch; believes, in line with the statement in the Foreword to the Commission's first publication, that "The asylum system is broken"; understands that the Commission has been set up primarily in response to what has become known as "the Park Inn tragedy", which took place in Glasgow in June 2020; notes reports that the experience of asylum seekers who were moved suddenly, and with little or no explanation, into hotel accommodation for an indefinite period of time, with no access to money, deprived of any sense of personal freedom or adequate care, was frightening, degrading, and damaging, regardless of the reasons for doing so; deeply regrets that no accountability has been taken for what it sees as these tragic events, nor, it believes, many lessons learnt; believes that successive Scottish Governments have actively sought to embed integration from day one of the arrival of "New Scots" in Scotland, in line with the stated objectives of the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy, and calls on the Scottish Government to engage positively with the inquiry and to bring pressure to bear on the UK Government and other relevant stakeholders to do likewise.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05234>

Information about the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Asylum Provision in Scotland, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.asyluminquiryscotland.com/>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

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

UK Parliament Debates

Rwanda Asylum Partnership: Removal of Unaccompanied Children

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-21/debates/987BB27E-4605-44FF-8A8F-5DFCB35EFDCE/RwandaAsylumPartnershipRemovalOfUnaccompaniedChildren>

Channel Crossings, Migration and Asylum

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-21/debates/1BFD5634-7D6C-4378-B16D-7AD7F5D376A5/ChannelCrossingsMigrationAndAsylum>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Changes to Immigration Rules

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Kevin Foster) [HCWS248] ... The changes reflect amendments to the Homes for Ukraine sponsorship scheme to allow children who are not applying with, or to join, their parent or legal guardian in the UK to qualify for a visa.

As the Government announced on 22 June 2022, these changes are designed to ensure, where a Ukrainian parent or legal guardian confirms it is their child's best interests for the child to come to the UK without them, there is a route for them.

In these cases, the sponsor will need to give a greater commitment to support the child for three years or until the child turns 18 (so long as the sponsorship lasts at least six months), whichever is soonest. The local authority will conduct safeguarding checks and pre-approval of the sponsor before the visa application can be made, and there will need to be parental consent which, in line with the Ukrainian Government's requirements, will need to be certified by an authority approved by the Ukrainian Government.

There have already been applications from children travelling without their parents. These

applications were on hold while the Government carefully worked through the challenges around allowing children to travel without a parent. On 15 July the Home Office published a concession to the immigration rules to allow these cases to be prioritised once they have the necessary approval from the local authority.

We have also introduced an additional safeguarding requirement to ensure if a sponsor is not approved by the local authority under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, they cannot sponsor the same or another child under this scheme or the Ukraine family scheme.

The Homes for Ukraine scheme will be opened to new child applicants applying without their parents or legal guardians on 10 August.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-20/debates/22072031000009/ChangesToImmigrationRules>

The announcement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/homes-for-ukraine-scheme-to-begin-processing-applications-from-unaccompanied-children>

The concession referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils-children-and-minors-applying-without-parents-or-legal-guardians>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy

Jeff Smith (Labour): What discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on the effectiveness of the Afghan relocations and assistance policy. (901122)

Elliot Colburn (Conservative): What discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on the effectiveness of the Afghan relocations and assistance policy. (901127)

Reply from the Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (James Heappey): The Afghan relocations and assistance policy scheme has had more than 100,000 applications. Although I appreciate the desperation of many who apply, the reality is that staff numbers and even names of those who worked with us in Helmand are being shared, so it is hard to identify individual applicants. To that end—the entitlement is bound; we know who worked for us—last week, I engaged a number of non-governmental organisations and charities to help us find the people on the list of those who actually worked with us, so that we can bring them to the front of the queue and get them out as quickly as possible.

Jeff Smith: Ministers confirmed last month that around 8,000 Afghans and their families could still be eligible for relocation to the UK under the ARAP scheme. The Minister says that it is hard to identify those people, so what specifically are Ministers doing to identify them, to establish pathways to get them here, and to process their applications as quickly as possible?

Reply from James Heappey: I think the hon. Gentleman might realise that I have answered that question in my original answer. We think that there are about 2,000 principals—people who actually worked with us—yet to bring out. Rather than going through tens of thousands of applications, we are asking those with networks in-country to help us find those 2,000 people on the list. We have the capacity and the routes to bring them out. The challenge is finding them when a huge number of applications are gaming the system, with dozens of applications coming in on the same staff number, which should be the individual identifier.

Elliot Colburn: I thank the MOD's Afghan relocation team who are working tirelessly to identify and process the huge number of applications ... How many individuals have made it to the UK under the ARAP scheme since Operation Pitting concluded?

Reply from James Heappey: A total of 9,962 people have come out under ARAP,

2,984 of whom have come out since Op Pitting.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op): We are now only a few weeks away from the one-year anniversary of the start of Operation Pitting, the evacuation from Kabul. A year on, thousands of Afghan citizens are still waiting for their applications to be properly processed, too many are still in temporary accommodation, and the promises made to many of them about relocation and family reunions have been left unhonoured. With the one-year anniversary a few weeks away, what will the Minister be doing to speed up this incredibly slow process, so the promises that this country made to those Afghans who worked with our armed forces can truly be honoured?

Reply from James Heapey: The hon. Gentleman probably just heard me answer the previous two questions. There are hundreds of thousands of applications, many of which are duplicates, and many of which are from people who have no eligibility under ARAP whatsoever. ARAP is a very tightly bound scheme. It is not the same as the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme or other mechanisms where each case might be judged on its merits. There is a list of people who worked with the British armed forces in Afghanistan, so our focus must be on finding the people on that list and bringing them out. We are doing so quickly.

The hon. Gentleman says that it has been nearly a year. That is correct, Mr Speaker, but it is not as if we can just wander around in Afghanistan and find these people. It is not straightforward. A lot of them are undocumented. He may want to speak to some of the charities that are working on this, as I know that some of his colleagues on the Back Benches do. When I spoke to them last week, they realised that the situation was exactly as I have said: it is not easy; people do not have documents; and we are working fast to get people out. We think we have found of way of doing so quicker, and we will be getting on with it now.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-18/debates/77392093-2BF3-4A5D-B709-D1D6573BAAB5/AfghanRelocationsAndAssistancePolicy>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Asylum: Rwanda

Caroline Nokes (Conservative) [31084] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she will take to measure the effectiveness of the UK and Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership.

Reply from Simon Baynes: The Migration and Economic Development Partnership will address the shared international challenge of illegal migration and is part of a suite of measures in the New Plan for Immigration to break the business model of people smugglers while maintaining a fair and robust immigration and borders system.

Recognising that the policy is still at an early stage, we are currently working on a monitoring and evaluation plan which will measure the effectiveness of this innovative arrangement. We will be able to set out more details on this in due course.

The European Court of Human Rights granted last-minute interim measures which prohibited the removal of three individuals set to be relocated to Rwanda on 14 June 2022. The European Court of Human Rights did not rule that the policy or removals were unlawful. Therefore, no individual has yet been relocated to Rwanda under this partnership however as with all policies its impact will be kept under review.

We strongly believe that this project meets our obligations under both national and international law. We cannot comment on ongoing legal proceedings, however we

have been clear from the start that we expect people to make legal challenges or barriers to removal. However, we will do what it takes to deliver this new partnership.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-05/31084>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [35835] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans have arrived in the UK under Pathway (a) 1, (b) 2 and (c) 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in each month since April 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Over 15,000 people were supported to come to the UK directly following the evacuation of Afghanistan, and a further 4,000 have since arrived. Around 6,500 people brought to safety in the UK during and after the evacuation are eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) under pathway 1.

Under the newly opened second pathway, we have now begun to receive the first referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) of vulnerable refugees who have fled Afghanistan for resettlement to the UK. Further detail can be found on the UNHCR website: [UNHCR UK Information and Links on Afghanistan Situation - UNHCR United Kingdom](https://www.unhcr.org/uk/information-and-links-on-afghanistan-situation)

The FCDO have also launched a third referral pathway, which will see eligible British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni considered for resettlement to the UK. Eligible individuals are able to express interest in UK resettlement via an online system until Monday 15 August 2022, when the online system will close. The FCDO have set out further information on how this works: [Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3: eligibility for British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening Alumni](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-pathway-3-eligibility-for-british-council-and-gardaworld-contractors-and-chevening-alumni)

Following the evacuation from Afghanistan – and subsequent arrivals - work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under both schemes are on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on ACRS and ARAP will be included in future editions of the Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-13/35835>

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>

Information about Pathway 3, 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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

John Healey (Labour) [31719] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of people who are eligible for the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will provide up to 20,000 women, children, and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle in the UK over the coming years.

The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised. However, we will exceed our initial aim to

resettle 5,000 people through the ACRS in the first year.

Those eligible for the ACRS will be prioritised and referred through one of three pathways as set out in a Statement to Parliament on 6 January 2022:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/oral-statement-on-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme>

There are around 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety through and after the evacuation and who are eligible for the ACRS. They include women's rights activists, journalists, and prosecutors, as well as Afghan families of British Nationals.

Under pathway two, we anticipate receiving referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway, although this number will be kept under review. We will continue to receive UNHCR referrals to the scheme in coming years.

Under pathway three, in the first year we will offer resettlement places to up to 1,500 people from the three identified cohorts (British Council and GardaWorld contractors and Chevening alumni).

Beyond the first year of pathway three, the government will work with international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

Resettlement figures for the ACRS will be published in line with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/31719>

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

Information about Pathways 2 and 3, referred to above, can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2022-06-13/debates/2206135000016/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemeLaunchPathways2And3>

Information about Pathway 3, 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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Caroline Lucas (Green) [35913] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to Answer of 12 July to Question 27570, when the final decision will be taken on each Expression of Interest (EOI); how long it is taking on average to process an EOI under ACRS Pathway 3; and how many EOI have been processed since the 13 June 2022.

Reply from Graham Stuart: We have so far received over 4500 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) under ACRS Pathway 3 since the online form was opened on 20 June. We are not yet in a position to say when final decisions will be taken on each of these EOIs, or to provide an average processing time. We are working as quickly as possible, processing EOIs in the order they are received. Those who are eligible and are referred for resettlement under the ACRS will be informed by email with advice on the next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-13/35913>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-29/27570>

Information about Pathway 3, 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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [33908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan families remain in temporary accommodation as of 20 July 2022.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [33912] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans have been resettled into permanent accommodation under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Kevin Foster: At 11 July 2022, we are providing temporary accommodation for c.9,400 individuals resettling in the UK under the ARAP or ACRS, whilst they await permanent accommodation. And we have moved, or are in the process of moving, over 6,700 people into homes since June 2021.

We are working across government - and with c.350 Local Authority partners - to move Afghan evacuees into permanent homes as soon as possible, so they can settle and rebuild their lives. Alongside our engagement with local authorities, we are reaching out to landlords, developers and the wider private rented sector to encourage further offers of properties, either directly to Local Authorities or through our Housing portal.

Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33908>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33912>

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

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [32626] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans have been resettled into permanent accommodation under the Afghan Citizen Resettlement Scheme as of 7 July 2022.

Reply from Kevin Foster: We have moved, or are in the process of moving, over 6,700 people into homes since the evacuation flights in June 2021.

We are working across government - and with c.350 Local Authority partners - to move Afghan evacuees into permanent homes as soon as possible, so they can settle and rebuild their lives. Alongside our engagement with local authorities, we are reaching out to landlords, developers and the wider private rented sector to encourage further offers of properties, either directly to Local Authorities or through our Housing portal.

Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-07/32626>

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>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [33020] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, with reference to the Answer to the Question from the hon. Member for Sheffield South East at Prime Minister's Questions on 6 July 2022, Official Report, column 873, when Ukrainian refugees will be able to move from the Ukraine Family Scheme to the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Eddie Hughes: More than 95,000 Ukrainians have arrived in the UK since Putin's invasion. The overwhelming majority of people are settling in well but in the minority of cases where a Family Scheme placement breaks down, councils have a duty to ensure families are not left without a roof over their head.

We are exploring all options for providing suitable accommodation for those impacted, including the possibility of using sponsors for the Family Scheme for people presenting homeless.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-08/33020>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-07-06/debates/D60848BC-D026-474D-943C-93136BC8D027/Engagements#contribution-162FEC25-EA4C-467B-8706-E4002F0B5C48>

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

Matt Vickers (Conservative) [26896] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent estimate he has made of the number of Ukrainian school pupils in classrooms across the UK.

Reply from Will Quince: The department has started collecting information from each local authority in England on school placements for children from outside of the UK. This includes data on the number of applications and offers made to children from Ukraine. Data relating to the 2021/22 academic year can be found at:

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

The data shows that between September 2021 and May 2022 there has been an estimated 9,900 school place offers made to Ukrainian children. The data relates to local authorities in England only.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26896>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Applications

Justin Madders (Labour) [33825] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications are awaiting a decision.

Justin Madders (Labour) [33826] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum applications where substantive interviews have taken place are outstanding.

Reply from Kevin Foster: Home Office published data shows as of 31 March 2022 there were 89,344 initial asylum applications awaiting a decision.

The Home Office are unable to state how many asylum applications where substantive interviews have taken place are outstanding because this data is not held in a reportable format.

Published data on the number of asylum applications awaiting an initial decision by duration, for main applicants only can be found in table Asy_04 of the published [Immigration Statistics: List of tables](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33825>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33826>

Asylum: Nigeria

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [33759] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people from Nigeria sought asylum in the UK in each of the last three years.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on the number of asylum applications by nationality are published in table Asy_D01 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to Q1 2022.

Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33759>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [38605] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to assess the number of hotels used for asylum accommodation in each local authority in England.

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [38607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of the number of hotels that have been procured for asylum accommodation in (a) Birmingham, (b) the West Midlands and (c) England in each of the last two years.

Shabana Mahmood (Labour) [38608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers housed in hotels in (a) Birmingham, (b) the West Midlands and (c) England in the last 12 months.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The asylum accommodation system is under enormous pressure because of the significant and sustained increase in asylum intake over the last 12 months and the build-up of the population as a result of Covid-19 related measures, which is placing unsustainable pressure on a limited number of local authorities. This has resulted in the Home Office having to source temporary

contingency accommodation, such as hotels.

The use of hotel contingency is only ever a short-term solution and we are working with our accommodation providers to find appropriate dispersed accommodation across the United Kingdom to replace it.

The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/asylum-and-resettlement-datasets#asylum-support>

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 26 May 2022. The next quarterly figures are due to be released in August 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-18/38605>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-18/38607>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-18/38608>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [35096] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to ensure the welfare of asylum seekers in contingency accommodation in hotels; and for what specific aspects of the welfare of those asylum seekers (a) her Department, (b) Mears and (c) Migrant Help have responsibility under the relevant contracts.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [35097] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to asylum seekers who are in contingency accommodation in hotels, what training staff in those hotels receive to help them in dealing with traumatised people; and who is responsible for overseeing the treatment of residents by staff in those hotels.

Reply from Simon Baynes: The Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC), set out clearly what the Home Office requires of its accommodation providers, including requirements in relation to our customers welfare and needs. All of this is set out in the Statement of Requirements which can be found here:

[Schedule 2](#)

In addition to the AASC contracts, the Home Office also provides the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service, to act as a primary point of contact for asylum seekers, which is available 24 hours a day to provide advice, guidance, and support to asylum seekers whilst they are within our care. Details of the services that are provided under AIRE can be found here:

[AIRE Contract](#)

The Home Office monitors providers closely to ensure the requirements we set out in our contracts are being delivered, this includes physically inspecting contingency sites. In addition, the Independent Chief Inspector, in his recent inspection of contingency accommodation, also inspected contingency sites and found the providers were delivering the services we require of them.

Asylum seekers have access to health and social care services from the point of arrival in the UK and the Home Office and its contractors work closely with the NHS, Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations to ensure people can access the healthcare and support they need. All accommodation providers have a duty and requirement to assist people who need it to access healthcare. The ICIBI saw evidence in their recent inspections that accommodation providers were assisting people to access the support they need.

Details of the training requirements of all AASC provider staff are contained within the AASC Statement of Requirements and in addition to our assurance of provider training material the ICIBI saw evidence on their inspections that staff had received

the basic training and there was evidence face-to-face staff had received enhanced training.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/35096>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/35097>

Asylum: Hotels

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [35101] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what guidance is used to determine the quality and nature of meals to be provided to asylum seekers in contingency accommodation in hotels.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contracts (AASC) set out what we require of accommodation providers in relation to the provision of food in our accommodation. This includes providing three meals a day, refreshments, a food service for babies and small children, and options that cater for specific dietary needs or requirements. In addition accommodation providers should also ensure that each menu is validated by a suitably qualified nutritionist or health professional as being appropriate to the dietary needs of service users. Accommodation providers will also engage with supported asylum seekers in hotel accommodation to review provision of food and where appropriate amend the choices of food available. Where supported asylum seekers are unhappy with the food provided they are able to raise their concerns with operational staff within the contingency site, but also more formally via the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) helpline which operates on a 24/7 basis and is free of charge. The Home Office monitors providers closely to ensure the requirements we set out in our contracts are being delivered, this includes physically inspecting contingency sites and food provision.

Evidence submitted to the Independent Chief Inspector during his recent inspection of contingency accommodation showed that the accommodation providers were complying with the contractual requirement to have menus nutritionally validated and were providing a varied menu – usually rotating menus every 3 weeks. In addition, when physically visiting accommodation sites, inspectors noted menus on display at the sites appeared to be well balanced and showed food options were rotated to create variety. They also found all the properties that were required to supply meals provided the required number as stipulated in the contract requirements. Inspectors saw evidence specialist meals were provided and dietary needs were considered

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/35101>

The report of the inspection referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1074799/An_inspection_of_contingency_asylum_accommodation.pdf

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Care Leavers and Children in Care

John McDonnell (Labour) [33669] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if the Government will commit to hold an inquiry or research into any deaths of (a) unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the care of local authorities and (b) young adult care-leavers who were formerly unaccompanied asylum-seeking children.

Asylum: Suicide

John McDonnell (Labour) [34794] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will commission an independent inquiry into any deaths by suicide of (a) asylum-seekers living in Home Office-provided accommodation and (b) unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and young adult care-leavers in the care of local authorities.

Reply from Kevin Foster: The Home Office and its providers have robust processes in place to support those within the accommodation we provide.

As with the general population deaths can occur within Asylum Support accommodation, and our thoughts are with the families of those who pass away. In most cases these are as a result of existing and medical conditions or natural causes.

The Home Office does not routinely hold public enquiries into suicides that occur whilst someone is in receipt of asylum support. The Police and local coroner will investigate deaths in accordance with established processes and the Home Office will assist them to do so.

The Home Office supports the work of safeguarding boards and coroner services and complies with all enquiries and investigations they conduct.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33669>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/34794>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Channel Migrants

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Baroness Mobarik (Conservative) [HL1569] To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had with the government of France regarding an agreement to stop asylum seekers undertaking unsafe Channel crossings.

Baroness Mobarik (Conservative) [HL1570] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will negotiate with the government of France for centres in that country where asylum seekers can apply for asylum to the UK, rather than crossing the Channel to apply.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK maintains regular contact with the Government of France on our joint cooperation to tackle illegal migration at the shared border at Ministerial and official level. The UK has committed several funding packages to supporting this work, including a bilateral arrangement which was reached between the UK and France on 20 July 2021.

The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights. However, there is no provision within our Immigration Rules for someone to be allowed to travel to the UK to seek asylum or temporary refuge. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

France is a safe country, and, like the UK, it has an asylum system which provides protection to those who need it. People in France who need protection, can and should claim asylum there rather than refuse the chance to do so and travel illegally and dangerously to the UK instead.

It is for this reason that the UK Government will not negotiate to have centres in France where asylum seekers can apply for asylum to the UK. All asylum claims that are lodged from within the UK and admitted to the UK asylum system, are given full and careful consideration so that we do not remove anyone who faces persecution or serious harm on return to their country of origin.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-07/hl1569>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-07/hl1570>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Ukraine

Ukraine: Refugees

Baroness Sugg (Conservative) [HL1714] To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the cost of hosting refugees from Ukraine for the calendar year 2022; and whether this cost will be borne by the Official Development Assistance budget.

Reply from Baroness Penn: The cost of hosting refugees from Ukraine for the calendar year 2022 will be determined by the number of arrivals by year end. As of 14 July, total arrivals of Ukraine Scheme visa holders in the UK are 95,400, of which 29,700 have arrived under the Ukraine Family Scheme and 65,600 have arrived under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme.

Under the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme, the government is providing sponsors £350 per month per address for up to 12 months. Local Authorities will also receive an extra £10,500 for every arrival under this scheme. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has published Local Authority funding allocations for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland[1]. An extra tariff has also been agreed for children's education costs. Arrivals under both schemes have immediate entitlement to employment support, pensions, health provision, education and access to benefits.

Eligible costs will be reported as ODA and counted towards the 0.5% GNI ODA spending commitment. ODA eligible spend will be reported in the annual Statistics on International Development publication.[2]

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homes-for-ukraine-funding-march-to-may-2022>

[2] <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/statistics-on-international-development>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/hl1714>

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

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

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

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1507] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made, if any, of the long-term effect of the 'Life in the UK' test on promoting (1) British values, or (2) integration; and if they have not carried out such an assessment, what is their reason for not doing so.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Life in the UK test requires candidates to learn about the fundamental values and principles of the UK, which promotes awareness of our values amongst those seeking to live here permanently. The Test also requires candidates to learn and build an understanding of the culture, laws and history of the UK, which helps candidates to engage with and integrate into life in the UK.

The Test, in its current form, has been in place for nearly 10 years and the Home Office intends to set out plans to review the content of the handbook within the next 12 months. Any review will consider the impact the current test content has had in the past 10 years.

Given the intention to review the handbook content, the Home Office has not sought to carry out any additional in-depth assessment of the effects of the test on promoting values and integration.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-05/hl1507>

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1534] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of conducting 'Life in the UK' tests in (1) Welsh, and (2) Scots Gaelic, with only a handbook in English; and what plans they have to produce handbooks in those languages.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1535] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have for including Cornish (1) culture, (2) history, and (3) language, in the 'Life in the UK' test.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Life in the UK test requires candidates to learn and build an understanding of the culture, laws and history of the UK, which helps candidates to engage with and integrate into life in the UK. Applicants taking the test in Wales can opt to sit the test in Welsh, and those taking the test in Scotland can sit the test in Scottish Gaelic.

The Test, in its current form, has been in place for nearly 10 years and the Home Office intends to set out plans to review the content of the handbook within the next 12 months. Any review will consider the impact the current test content has had in the past 10 years, including the languages which the test can be taken and the materials provided.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/hl1534>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/hl1535>

Immigration

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1649] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the integration of immigrants in UK society; and what plans they have to improve this integration.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: The Government takes the integration of immigrants into UK society very seriously and this is reflected in our specific resettlement and welcome programmes for arrivals from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong. These programmes are all designed to support new arrivals in understanding life in our country, their responsibilities, and the opportunities that exist for them.

Through bespoke resettlement and welcome packages for arrivals from Ukraine, Afghanistan and Hong Kong, the Government continues to monitor the integration needs of new arrivals, working closely with local authorities and other organisations to gather data and inform policy development.

All refugees to the UK have immediate access to the labour market and to mainstream services that support their integration, including benefits and healthcare. We ask local authorities to provide monitoring data on refugees who arrive via a UK Resettlement Scheme, which covers their first year in the UK. The data covers key areas such as education, employment, health and English language.

The Government also understands the vital role that education plays in promoting integration and preparing our children and young people for life in a modern and diverse Britain. All schools must promote community cohesion; and are required to actively promote our shared values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance for those of different faiths and beliefs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/hl1649>

General Practitioners: Migrant Workers

Lord Naseby (Conservative) [HL1613] To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in the negotiations between the Department of Health and Social Care and the Home Office regarding the approximately 1,000 foreign GPs working for the NHS who are threatened with deportation because they do not meet the requirements of the skilled worker scheme.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Deportation relates to the removal from the UK of Foreign Nationals who are serious or persistent criminal offenders. It is wrong to suggest 1,000 foreign national GPs fall within this category or to imply they have been threatened with this by the Home Office. We therefore would not be having any negotiations with the Department for Health and Social Care on this basis.

General Practitioner (GP) is a role which qualifies for the Skilled Worker Visa, in particular the Health and Care visa which makes it easier, cheaper, and quicker for health workers – including GPs - to come to the UK to work compared to other immigration routes. This route also exempts them from the need to pay the Immigration Health Surcharge.

The Home Office works with employers in the sector to ensure they can recruit under the Skilled Worker route by becoming a licensed sponsor, with tens of thousands of employers having done so, including many small and medium size businesses. Those who are licensed sponsors can recruit for any role which qualifies for the Skilled Worker Visa.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-08/hl1613>

Refugees: Middle East and Ukraine

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1583] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many refugees from (1) Ukraine, (2) Afghanistan, and (3) Syria, have been helped through either (a) the Homes for Ukraine scheme, (b) the Ukraine Family Scheme, (c) the Afghans Citizens' Resettlement Scheme, (d) the Afghans Relocation and Assistance Policy, or (e) the Syrian Resettlement Programme, since each of those respective schemes began.

Reply from Lord Harrington of Watford: Information on the number of visas granted under the Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine Scheme can be found in our published data on the GOV.UK webpage: Ukraine Family Scheme and Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) visa

Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the ARAP and ACRS on case working systems. Once this work concludes, statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in future editions of the Immigration Statistics.

The Home Office publishes data on resettlement in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release'. Data on refugees resettled in the UK by scheme can be found in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relate to the year ending March 2022. Data for June 2022 will be published on 25 August 2022. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

[Table Asy-D02](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-07/hl1583>

Asylum: Middle East

The Marquess of Lothian (Conservative) [HL1083] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they will list all the safe and legal routes for asylum seekers from (1) Afghanistan, (2) Syria, and (3) Yemen, which would allow them to claim asylum in the UK (a) on arrival, or (b) prior to their departure from their country of origin.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK welcomes refugees and people in need of protection through its existing resettlement schemes. The government encourages eligible individuals to use established safe and legal pathways. These include the UK Resettlement Scheme, Community Sponsorship, Mandate Resettlement Scheme, the Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme and the Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

In addition to our refugee resettlement schemes, family reunion policy allows a spouse/partner and children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country. With worldwide displacement now standing at around 80 million people we cannot help everyone. We will, however, continue to maintain clear, well-defined safe, and legal routes for people who need protection. Access to the UK's asylum system should be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers. Those already in a safe country should claim asylum there.

While we do not allow asylum claims from abroad, all asylum claims lodged from within the UK and admitted to the UK asylum system are given full and careful consideration so that we do not remove anyone who faces persecution or serious harm on return to their country of origin.

Our guidance for considering asylum claims is available on GOV.UK.

More information on safe and legal routes is available via the link below:

[Nationality and Borders Bill: Factsheet Safe and Legal Routes](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1083>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1086137/Assessing_credibility_and_refugee_status_post_28_June_2022.pdf

Asylum: Middle East and Somalia

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour) [HL1132] To ask Her Majesty's Government what they consider safe, legal routes to be for asylum seekers from (1) Afghanistan, (2) Iraq, (3) Iran, and (4) Somalia.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The UK welcomes refugees and people in need of protection through its existing resettlement schemes. The government encourages eligible individuals to use established safe and legal pathways. These include the UK Resettlement Scheme, Community Sponsorship, Mandate Resettlement Scheme, the Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme, and the Afghanistan Relocations and Assistance Policy.

Individuals from the listed countries may be eligible for resettlement through these existing schemes.

In addition to our refugee resettlement schemes, family reunion policy allows a spouse/partner and the children under 18 of those granted protection in the UK to join them here if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled their country.

Since 2015, we have resettled more than 27,000 refugees through safe and legal routes directly from regions of conflict and instability – around half of whom are children.

With worldwide displacement now standing at around 80 million people, we cannot help everyone. We will, however, continue to maintain clear, well-defined safe, and legal routes for people who need protection. Access to the UK's asylum system should be based on need, not on the ability to pay people smugglers. Those already in a safe country should claim asylum there.

More information on safe and legal routes is available on GOV.UK

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-21/hl1132>

The information referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-safe-and-legal-routes-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-factsheet-safe-and-legal-routes>

Asylum: Applications

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1284] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to improve (1) accountability, (2) transparency, and (3) value for money, in recording the average time it takes to process asylum seeker applications from the initial claim to the date of final interview.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Home Office remains committed to routinely publishing information which shows the number of cases in the entire asylum system outstanding to improve accountability, transparency and value for money. However, some data we are unable to provide as it is not easily aggregated, can only be obtained at disproportionate costs or not held in a reportable format.

Data on case age and Asylum Operations costs and productivity can be found in ASY_03 and ASY_04 of the published Transparency data (also attached)

[Immigration and protection data: Q1 2022](#)

Whilst there are a number of older outstanding cases in the system, these are more complex cases which generally have barriers that causes delays in the time taken to process an asylum seeker application from the initial date of claim to the date of final interview. These barriers are often varied and require time to clear, but our teams are actively working to clear and progress these enable the final interview to take place.

[Published Transparency Data](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/hl1284>

Asylum: Housing

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1504] To ask Her Majesty's Government (1) how many, and (2) what percentage, of asylum seekers are housed in private accommodation; and what the costs were for housing them in private accommodation for each month in (a) 2021, and (b) 2022 so far.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The United Kingdom has a statutory obligation to provide destitute asylum seekers with accommodation and other support whilst their application for asylum is being considered. Private accommodation is sourced through our Asylum Accommodation and Support Services contracts (AASC) providers.

The latest published Immigration Statistics detail the number of asylum seekers accommodated in each local authority area. These statistics can be found at

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

Data is published on a quarterly basis, with the latest information published 24 May 2022.

Costs are subject to change depending on numbers being accommodated within the asylum system. Accommodation costs are considered to be commercially confidential, therefore the Home Office does not publish this information. However, total expenditure on asylum is published in the Home Office Annual Report and Accounts, available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ho-annual-reports-and-accounts>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-05/hl1504>

Asylum: Hotels and RAF Linton-on-Ouse

Lord Newby (Liberal Democrat) [HL1090] To ask Her Majesty's Government what they expect the cost to be of (1) converting RAF Linton so that it will be suitable as a large-

scale reception centre for 1,500 asylum seekers, (2) running such a large-scale reception centre, and (3) accommodating 1,500 asylum seekers in hotels; and whether they plan to publish estimates of the capital and running costs of RAF Linton as a large-scale reception centre alongside a cost-benefit analysis.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The sharp increase in small boat crossings and the pandemic has meant increased use of contingency accommodation to meet our legal duty to provide accommodation to destitute asylum seekers, which is costing the UK taxpayers almost £5million a day, every day.

The Home Office is looking at proposals to establish a new asylum accommodation centre at RAF Linton-On-Ouse, North Yorkshire. This would support our response to the increasing pressures on the UK asylum system.

Ministers have not taken any final decision to accommodate asylum seekers at RAF Linton. Should it be progressed, the site would provide safe and cost-effective accommodation to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute

We will be able to assess value for money once we have received firm bids for the provision of the service, but we anticipate being able to generate cost savings.

It would not be appropriate to comment further while planning is ongoing.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-20/hl1090>

Offenders: Deportation

Lord Parekh (Labour) [HL1532] To ask Her Majesty's Government whether citizens of Commonwealth countries may be deported after serving custodial sentences for criminal offences in the UK; and if so, what assessment they have made of the effect of this policy on UK residents who arrived from Commonwealth countries before 1973 and may therefore be without documentation of their residential status.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: Commonwealth citizens convicted of a crime in the UK and given a prison sentence will be considered for deportation at the earliest opportunity. Deportation will be pursued where it is conducive to the public good including where a person receives a custodial sentence of 12 months or more, commits an offence that caused serious harm or is a persistent offender. Section 7 of the Immigration Act 1971 provides an exemption from deportation for Commonwealth citizens resident in the UK on 1 January 1973 and ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 5 years before the decision to make a deportation order. The onus is on the person claiming an exemption under section 7 to prove they meet the criteria.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/hl1532>

Deportation

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1537] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many charter deportation flights took place in 2021; and how many deportees were on each of those flights.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: This Government's priority is keeping the people of this country safe, and we make no apology for seeking to remove dangerous foreign criminals. Foreign nationals who abuse our hospitality by committing crimes should be in no doubt of our determination to deport them.

Charter flight operations are an important means to return disruptive individuals or where they are limited scheduled routes, particularly during the global Coronavirus pandemic. We manage the charter programme flexibly, balancing it with the use of scheduled flights to best respond to operational needs.

In the calendar year 2021 – The Home Office operated 63 flights removing 1365 individuals.

FLIGHT DATE	DESTINATION	NUMBER OF PEOPLE REMOVED
13/1/21	Romania	25
19/1/21	Lithuania	23
26/1/21	Poland	Less than 10
4/2/21	Romania	34
11/2/21	Lithuania	16
18/2/21	Poland	16
25/2/21	Hungary & Bulgaria	15
2/3/21	Romania	20
9/3/21	Lithuania	Less than 10
18/3/21	Poland	13
24/3/21	Romania	12
31/3/21	Lithuania	20
8/4/21	Hungary & Bulgaria	11
13/4/21	Romania	30
15/4/21	Poland	23
19/4/21	Albania	20
21/4/21	Vietnam	27
27/4/21	Romania	29
29/4/21	Poland	15
6/5/21	Hungary & Bulgaria	Less than 10
11/5/21	Lithuania	22
13/5/21	Albania	30
18/5/21	Poland	18
20/5/21	Albania	29
25/5/21	Romania	30
27/5/21	Albania	24
3/6/21	Albania	31
10/6/21	Albania	Less than 10
15/6/21	Lithuania	15
17/6/21	Albania	19
22/6/21	Poland	18
24/6/21	Romania	20
1/7/21	Albania	37
6/7/21	Spain & Portugal	Less than 10
13/7/21	Romania & Lithuania	30
15/7/21	Albania	12
21/7/21	Zimbabwe	14
28/7/21	Vietnam	20
3/8/21	Poland	13
5/8/21	Albania	22
10/8/21	Jamaica	Less than 10
17/8/21	Poland & Romania	22
19/8/21	Albania	27

25/8/21	Zimbabwe	Less than 10
1/9/21	Nigeria & Ghana	Less than 10
14/9/21	Poland & Romania	33
16/9/21	Albania	34
28/9/21	Lithuania	18
30/9/21	Albania	39
5/10/21	Poland & Romania	29
7/10/21	Albania	22
13/10/21	Albania	16
21/10/21	Albania	29
27/10/21	Lithuania	18
2/11/21	Romania	19
4/11/21	Albania	35
10/11/21	Jamaica	Less than 10
16/11/21	Poland	14
18/11/21	Albania	13
30/11/21	Romania	30
2/12/21	Lithuania	10
9/12/21	Albania	28
14/12/21	Poland	16
16/12/21	Albania	21
21/12/21	Lithuania	16

The Home Office has obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation Act 2018 and in law generally to protect personal data. This exempts personal data if disclosure would contravene any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/hl1537>

Human Trafficking

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL1536] To ask Her Majesty's Government what data they hold on the route of travel of people illegally trafficked into the UK.

Reply from Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Government is resolute in its commitment to tackle Organised Immigration Crime. In the closely related crimes of people smuggling and human trafficking, our law enforcement partners bear down on the Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) who facilitate illegal travel to the UK and who exploit vulnerable migrants, often treating them as commodities and knowingly putting people in life-threatening situations.

We work closely with international law enforcement partners to share intelligence data and dismantle these networks to disrupt the illegal movement of people and the various routes they take to enter the UK.

We have a dedicated Organised Immigration Crime Taskforce, led by the National Crime Agency (NCA), committed to dismantling OCGs engaged in immigration crime. The Taskforce is active in 17 countries worldwide, and its activities include supporting judicial and intelligence capacity building in source and transit countries, and intelligence sharing in key near Europe countries to disrupt people smuggling. We also share information about criminality around small boats between agencies. This includes the Joint Intelligence Cell in France and international networks of both NCA and Home Office. Since July 2020, the Joint Intelligence Cell has taken down

17 small boat OCGs and secured over 400 arrests – taking the criminals behind these crossings off the street. Our cooperation with the French has also prevented more than 23,000 migrant crossing attempts.

Alongside our efforts to tackle organised immigration crime we continue to strengthen our efforts to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking. The UK works with partner countries and international law enforcement authorities to disrupt criminal networks and protect potential victims from being trafficked and exploited in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-06/hl1536>

Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Family Migration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/10621/html/>

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [320] Reopening of Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre – That this House strongly opposes plans by the Home Office to re-open Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre in Kidlington, Oxfordshire; notes that, following the recommendations of the Shaw Report, and a long campaign by local residents opposed to the practice of indefinite detention, the site was shut down in 2018; further notes with great sadness the tragic suicide of a 19-year-old Ramazan Komluca while residing at Campsfield House in 2005; raises concerns about inhumane and cruel conditions across the detention estate; notes that seeking asylum is not a crime; believes that £227 million of taxpayer money could be spent in a more effective way to handle asylum cases humanely; calls on the Home Office to reverse this decision and ensure that it remains closed; also calls for an end to the practice of indefinite detention for asylum seekers; and supports local residents and campaigns in their fight against the reopening.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/60027>

Press Releases

Chief Inspector increasingly frustrated with Home Office publication delay to his small boats report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chief-inspector-increasingly-frustrated-with-home-office-publication-delay-to-his-small-boats-report>

Inspection Report Published: An inspection of the initial processing of migrants arriving via small boats at Tug Haven and Western Jet Foil December 2021 – January 2022

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inspection-report-published-an-inspection-of-the-initial-processing-of-migrants-arriving-via-small-boats-at-tug-haven-and-western-jet-foil-december-2>

Support continues for Hong Kongers building new lives in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/support-continues-for-hong-kongers-building-new-lives-in-the-uk>

New consultation on civil penalties to tackle illegal migration

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-consultation-on-civil-penalties-to-tackle-illegal-migration>

New Publications

An independent Review of Border Force

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092485/BF_Independent_Review_v2_FINAL_WEB_002_002.pdf

New Plan for Immigration: Legal Migration and Border Control

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092488/CCS204_CCS0722436296-001_Plan_for_Immigration_E-Laying.pdf

An inspection of the initial processing of migrants arriving via small boats at Tug Haven and Western Jet Foil

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1092487/E02726679_ICIBI_Tug_Haven_and_Western_Jet_Foil_Web_Accessible.pdf

[Government] response to the ICIBI's report on the initial processing of migrants arriving via small boats at Tug Haven and Western Jetfoil (December 2021 to January 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-icibi-report-on-small-boat-arrivals-at-tug-haven-and-western-jetfoil/a-response-to-the-icibis-report-on-the-initial-processing-of-migrants-arriving-via-small-boats-at-tug-haven-and-western-jetfoil-december-2021-to-jan>

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee: Channel crossings, migration and asylum

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/23102/documents/169178/default/>

Ukraine Family Scheme, Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (Homes for Ukraine) and Ukraine Extension Scheme visa data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukraine-family-scheme-application-data/ukraine-family-scheme-and-ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-homes-for-ukraine-visa-data--2>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme: Visa data by country, upper and lower tier local authority

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-visa-data-by-country-upper-and-lower-tier-local-authority>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Rwanda migrant scheme: No evidence that UK policy deters migrants, say MPs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62192527>

'No clear evidence' Rwanda plan deterring migrant crossings – MPs

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/no-clear-evidence-rwanda-plan-deterring-migrant-crossings-mps-3771377>

Attorney general Suella Braverman contradicted by own department on legality of Rwanda deportations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rwanda-deportation-suella-braverman-attorney-general-b2129316.html>

UK officials raised concerns over Rwanda policy, documents show

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/19/uk-officials-raised-concerns-over-rwanda-policy-documents-show>

Home Office in fresh row with UNHCR over Rwanda asylum policy

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/jul/17/home-office-in-fresh-row-with-unhcr-over-rwanda-asylum-policy>

UK high commissioner feared Rwanda migrants would be forced into army

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/uk-high-commissioner-feared-rwanda-migrants-would-be-forced-into-army-gm56wxjfj>

Rwanda was 'initially excluded' from migrant scheme on human rights grounds

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/19/rwanda-initially-excluded-migrant-scheme-human-rights-grounds/>

Rwanda can accommodate just 200 Channel migrants – and can't stop them returning to Britain

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/07/22/rwanda-can-hold-just-200-channel-migrants-cant-stop-returning/>

Rwanda cannot stop migrants leaving and attempting fresh journeys to UK

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/rwanda-deal-migrants-uk-smuggling-b2129767.html>

UK could lose £120m if Rwanda deal ruled unlawful

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/rwanda-priti-patel-african-downing-street-uk-government-b2129197.html>

Afghan refugees who fled Taliban and Ukraine war fear UK deportation to Rwanda

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghans-taliban-rwanda-uk-asylum-b2101776.html>

Asylum seekers selected for Rwanda removal identified as possible trafficking victims

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-asylum-seeker-human-trafficking-b2127288.html>

News: Channel Migrants

Arrivals by boat sail pass 15,000

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/arrivals-by-boat-sail-pass-15-000-xs5kpnwtg>

Report: UK clearly overwhelmed by surge in migrant crossings

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/ap-english-channel-london-home-office-priti-patel-b2128424.html>

Watchdog frustrated with Home Office as Channel crossings exceed 15,000 for year

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-priti-patel-rwanda-uk-government-b2126675.html>

Priti Patel's Rwanda asylum plan may have led to increase in Channel crossings

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/07/18/priti-patels-rwanda-asylum-plan-may-have-led-increase-channel/>

Migrant crisis: Border Force may have made it worse - report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62244679>

Asylum seekers diverting Border Force from blocking drugs and guns, says report
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/asylum-seekers-diverting-border-force-from-blocking-drugs-and-guns-says-report-wgnwlv975>

Channel migrants allowed into UK without checks to identify potential terrorists
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/21/channel-migrants-allowed-uk-without-checks-identify-potential/>

National security threat as Channel migrants vanish
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/handling-of-channel-migrant-crisis-a-national-security-risk-qsx0fcmv6>

Children smuggled with fake families
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/children-smuggled-with-fake-families-l70srtfwj>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

SNP accused of 'posturing' on help for refugees
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20285600.snp-accused-posturing-help-refugees/>

Tory leadership: Truss and Sunak promise crackdown on migration
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-62281041>

Sunak's hardline immigration plan includes a cap on refugees and floating detention centres for asylum seekers
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/sunak-immigration-asylum-conservative-leadership-b2129820.html>

Rishi Sunak vows to cap refugee numbers under 'common sense' asylum system
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/07/23/rishi-sunak-vows-cap-refugee-numbers-common-sense-asylum-system/>

Rishi Sunak says as PM he would cap number of refugees UK accepts
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/23/rishi-sunak-says-as-pm-he-would-cap-number-of-refugees-uk-accepts>

Cruise ship 'not suitable' to house Ukrainian refugees long-term
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cruise-ship-not-suitable-to-house-ukrainian-refugees-long-term-8jgl3tz7k>

Unlawful Home Office detentions 'rising at alarming rate' with record-high compensation paid
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/immigration-detention-unlawful-compensation-record-b2129207.html>

Taxpayers footing £3m a day hotel bill for asylum seekers
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/20/taxpayers-footing-3m-day-hotel-bill-asylum-seekers/>

Family of Afghan boy stranded in France condemn Priti Patel's 'false promises'
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/france-afghan-priti-patel-family-jalalabad-b2129567.html>

Home Office 'mistakes and delays' mean girl, 4, must stay trapped in Ukraine

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jul/24/home-office-mistakes-delays-alika-trapped-children-kharkiv-ukraine>

Girl, 12, split from rest of family for years due to Home Office delay

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/girl-visa-delay-home-office-guinea-uk-b2129165.html>

TOP

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Pay: Ethnic Groups

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [33893] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of the trends in the level of pay among people of different ethnicities.

Reply from Jane Hunt: The ONS publish official data on ethnicity pay. Data for 2019 is available here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/articles/ethnicitypaygapsingreatbritain/2019>

There is also detailed information on ethnicity pay at the following link:

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/work-pay-and-benefits/pay-and-income/average-hourly-pay/latest>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33893>

Health Services: Equality

Feryal Clark (Labour) [36948] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether research his Department has undertaken into the specific causes of ethnic disparities in healthcare.

Reply from James Morris: Through the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), the Department has funded research to understand the causes of health disparities in ethnic communities. The NIHR's Policy Research Programme is currently funding the study 'Digital interventions for cardiometabolic disease in South Asians - a case study for opportunities, risks and inequalities in digital health', to explore the causes of differential uptake, use and effectiveness of digital health interventions between ethnic groups and how this can be addressed. The NIHR welcomes funding applications for research into any aspect of human health, including the causes of ethnic disparities in healthcare. Applications are subject to peer review and judged in open competition, with awards being made on the basis of the importance of the topic to patients and health and care services, value for money and scientific quality.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-14/36948>

Maternity Services: Equality

Feryal Clark (Labour) [37621] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if his Department will take steps to ensure that people involved in the training of health care professionals are aware of disparities in maternity outcomes.

Reply from James Morris: NHS England funds MBRRACE-UK which raises awareness of the disparities in maternity outcomes for women from different ethnic backgrounds. These findings are incorporated into training schemes developed by

NHS England.

Training for maternity staff includes the importance of addressing health inequalities experienced by mothers and babies from ethnic minority groups and those living in the most deprived areas through the Safety Culture training programme for Maternity and Neonatal Board Safety Champions and Non-Executive Directors; the Perinatal Leadership Development Programme for senior leaders in maternity and neonatal services; and the Midwifery Continuity of Carer training package offered to maternity services in 2021/22.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-15/37621>

Information about MBRRACE-UK, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/mbrance-uk>

Maternity Services: Ethnic Groups

Feryal Clark (Labour) [37616] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if his Department will create an annual maternity survey specifically for Black women.

Reply from James Morris: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertakes a regular maternity survey of women giving birth in all National Health Service acute trusts providing maternity services. In 2021, respondents could complete an online questionnaire, which increased the response rate, including from Asian and Asian British women and from those describing themselves as having 'no religion' or 'Muslim'.

In preparing the 2023 survey, the CQC has engaged with other bodies to increase responses from black women and women from minority ethnic backgrounds. The CQC will also undertake engagement and communications activity to improve the survey's profile and completion rate amongst ethnic minority groups with lower survey completion rates. The survey responses are analysed at a national level by ethnicity and other factors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-15/37616>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Travellers: Caravan Sites

Peter Gibson (Conservative) [36889] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make a nationwide assessment on the provision of authorised traveller sites for the Gypsy Romany Traveller community.

Peter Gibson (Conservative) [36890] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of (a) the potential merits of a national strategy to provide a nationwide network for authorised traveller sites for the Gypsy Romany Traveller community and (b) whether every local authority is meeting its obligation to provide (i) socially, (ii) environmentally, and (iii) economically sustainable sites.

Reply from Marcus Jones: Under section 8 of the Housing Act 1985 (as amended by section 124 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016) local housing authorities have a duty to consider the housing and accommodation needs of all persons who reside in and resort to their area, including those that live in caravans and houseboats.

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (or PPTS), read in conjunction with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policy for traveller sites. Planning policy is clear that local planning authorities should assess the need for traveller accommodation and identify land for sites.

Local authorities are best placed to make decisions about the number and location of such sites locally, as part of their plan and decision making duties. Paragraph 13 of the PPTS sets out that when plan making, local authorities should ensure that traveller sites are sustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

Authorities are encouraged to work collaboratively to develop effective strategies to meet need through the identification of land for development.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-14/36889>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-14/36890>

The Planning Policy for Traveller Sites, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites/planning-policy-for-traveller-sites>

The National Planning Policy Framework, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf

Pupils: Travellers

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [26744] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what recent assessment his Department has made of educational attainment for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller pupils.

Reply from Will Quince: The department recognises the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people, and how schools and others can make a positive difference.

The department has invested in research into academic progress over the 2020/21 and 2021/22 academic years with Renaissance Learning and the Education Policy Institute. Our data and research consider the impacts on pupils with particular characteristics, as well as considering regional disparities and area-level deprivation.

The department knows that the most significant factor affecting pupil attainment, which cuts across all ethnicities, is economic disadvantage. That is why we have consistently targeted support at the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, with schools continuing to receive additional funding through the pupil premium. Total pupil premium funding will increase to over £2.6 billion this financial year (2022/23), from £2.5 billion last year. On top of this funding, schools serving pupils from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds are likely to attract funding through additional needs factors in the schools national funding formula, specifically through the mobility factor.

We are also working closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and will learn any lessons from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Education Area pilots.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26744>

Literacy: Travellers

Matthew Offord (Conservative) [26746] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to help improve literacy rates in adult Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller populations.

Reply from Andrea Jenkyns: The department recognises that literacy rates in the adult Gypsy, Roma and Traveller population is a barrier to a range of activities in their everyday lives and in supporting their children's education.

The £1.3 billion Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the 2021/22 academic year fully funds or co-funds skills provision from pre-entry to level 3 and this includes statutory entitlements to fully funded courses in English and mathematics, up to and including level 2, for eligible adult learners, including those from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller populations, who have not previously attained a GCSE grade C/4 or higher.

In the 2021/22 academic year, approximately 60% of the AEB has been devolved to 9 Mayoral Combined Authorities and the Mayor of London, acting where

appropriate through the Greater London Authority . These authorities are now responsible for the provision of AEB-funded adult education for their residents and allocation of the AEB to providers. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for the remaining AEB in non-devolved areas.

The ESFA AEB also includes Community Learning funding which enables more flexible tailored programmes of learning to be made available, which may or may not require a qualification, to help eligible learners engage in learning, develop their skills, including literacy skills, build confidence and/or enhance their wellbeing. Providers are required to prioritise this funding on disadvantaged learners which could include Gypsies, Roma's and Travellers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26746>

Press Release

Maternity Disparities Taskforce discusses faith and human rights recommendations

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/maternity-disparities-taskforce-discusses-faith-and-human-rights-recommendations>

News

UK businesses must do more on race after Black Lives Matter promises, London deputy mayor says

<https://www.independent.co.uk/politics/uk-race-equality-black-lives-matter-london-b2123943.html>

Black children deserve better than teachers who tell them to dream small

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/education-discrimination-black-children-b2129068.html>

UK people of colour four times more likely to live in areas 'at higher risk from heatwaves'

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/20/uk-people-of-colour-four-times-more-likely-to-live-in-areas-at-higher-risk-from-heatwaves>

Countryside: Who really has access to the great outdoors?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-62053555>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Employment: Religious Discrimination

Jim Shannon (DUP) [39852] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what recent assessment her Department has made of the prevalence of religion and belief discrimination in the workplace.

Reply from Amanda Solloway: The prevalence of any alleged discrimination by employers because of religion or belief is not routinely monitored by government. However, there are clear provisions set out in the Equality Act 2010 which prevent employers from discriminating against an employee, or a prospective employee,

because of religion or belief (including any lack of religion or belief).

The Government sponsors the Equality Advisory & Support Service, which is a free service offering help and advice to anyone who feels that they have suffered discrimination, and the EASS statistics for contacts to the service relating to religion or belief discrimination within employment over the last five years are:

Year	Number of contacts	% of all contacts to the service
2018	150	0.83%
2019	179	0.97%
2020	110	0.71%
2021	193	1.17%
2022 (to date)	59	0.84%

The year 2021 saw an increase in contacts, partly due to a number of people claiming that it was their philosophical belief to object to having a vaccination against Covid. Such concerns would be registered by the service under the 'religion or belief' protected characteristic category.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-19/39852>

Pupils: Discrimination

Alexander Stafford (Conservative) [26925] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to support (a) pupils and (b) families who are the victims of discrimination in schools.

Reply from Will Quince: The government condemns and strives to tackle all forms of 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 published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Advice can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools?msckid=9ce22dddcc5d11ec9a0a2d6e2fd0a666>

The department is also making sure that all children in England will learn about respectful relationships, in person and online, as part of mandatory relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). The curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, as well as the importance of valuing difference. Guidance can be found here:

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

The department is also providing over £2 million of funding, between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. This includes projects targeting bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate-related bullying.

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 Educate Against Hate website, available at:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-28/26925>

Pupils: Discrimination

Jim Shannon (DUP) [36765] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to help support pupils and families who have been victims of discrimination in schools.

Reply from Brendan Clarke-Smith: Education is a devolved matter, and the

response outlines the information for England only.

Under the Equality Act 2010, schools have a duty to take steps to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations across all protected characteristics. The department has published advice to support schools to fulfil their duties under the Equality Act 2010.

The department is also making sure that all children in England learn about respectful relationships, in person and online, as part of mandatory relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). The curriculum has a strong focus on equality, respect, the harmful impact of stereotyping, and on the importance of valuing difference. Guidance can be found at:

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

The department is providing over £2 million of funding between 10 August 2021 and 31 March 2023 to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools with tackling bullying. This includes projects aimed at eradicating the bullying of particular groups, such as those who are victims of hate-related bullying.

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 its Educate Against Hate website. One of these resources is the Respectful School Communities toolkit. This is a self-review and signposting tool to support schools to develop a whole-school approach that promotes respect and discipline. This can help to combat bullying, harassment and prejudice of any kind, including hate-based bullying. The website also hosts information for parents and carers through the Parents' Hub.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-14/36765>

The website referred to above can be read at

<https://educateagainsthate.com/>

The toolkit referred to above can be read at

https://educateagainsthate.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/6.4953_DFE_Respectful-schools_signposting-tool_FINAL_Fillable_Client_Cop....pdf

Yorkshire County Cricket Club: Discrimination

Rachel Hopkins (Labour) [35108] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, if her Department will make an assessment of the implications for its policies of claims of racism and discrimination at Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

Reply from Nigel Huddleston: The Government was extremely concerned by the reports of racism at Yorkshire County Cricket Club. We are absolutely clear that racism has no place in cricket, sport, or wider society, and we expect all sports to take this seriously.

We welcome the steps taken so far by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and YCCC but expect to see clear and sustained evidence of cultural change across the sport resulting from these actions and will hold them to account on this. The Government will continue to work with the Sports Councils, national governing bodies and sector partners on eradicating racism from sport.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/35108>

New Publications

Confronting injustice: racism and the environmental emergency

<https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/challenges/environmental-justice/race-environmental-emergency-report/>

Does the Muslim penalty in the British labour market dissipate after accounting for so-called “sociocultural attitudes”?

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01419870.2022.2097887?cookieSet=1>

Covid, Conspiracies & Jew-Hate: Antisemitism in the Covid-19 conspiracy movement

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/0/9/Antisemitism%20in%20the%20Covid%20Conspiracy%20Movement.pdf>

News

Black Labour staff suffer under party’s ‘hierarchy of racism’, Forde report finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/forde-report-labour-party-racism-b2126627.html>

Anti-Semitism used as factional weapon within Labour, says report

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-62226042>

Antisemitism used 'as a factional weapon' in Labour

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/20289681.antisemitism-used-as-factional-weapon-labour/>

Antisemitism issue used as ‘factional weapon’ in Labour, report finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/jul/19/antisemitism-factional-weapon-labour-party-forde-report-finds>

Antisemitism ‘used as weapon’ by Jeremy Corbyn’s friends and foes

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemitism-used-as-weapon-by-jeremy-corbyns-friends-and-foes-jxzv80qtk>

Secret report tells of bullying and racism by judges

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/secret-report-bullying-racism-judges-wh3zm2n36>

Muslims’ high unemployment rate ‘not due to cultural and religious practices’

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/jul/17/muslims-high-unemployment-rates-not-due-to-cultural-and-religious-practices>

Covid, Conspiracies & Jew-Hate: Antisemitism in the Covid-19 conspiracy movement

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2022/07/19/covid-conspiracies-jew-hate-antisemitism-in-the-covid-19-conspiracy-movement>

Police inspector ‘made racial slurs to PC’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-inspector-made-racial-slurs-to-pc-mb5vxpk57>

It's high time for the police to finally stop recording 'non-crime hate incidents’

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/07/22/high-time-police-finally-stop-recording-non-crime-hate-incidents/>

Causing offence isn’t a crime, police told

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/causing-offence-isnt-a-crime-police-told-pjtc7mlsw>

Cricket Scotland board resigns over racism report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-62283600>

'Truly sorry': Cricket Scotland board resigns before report into racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/jul/24/cricket-scotland-board-resigns-in-advance-of-report-into-racism>

Cricket Scotland board resigns ahead of independent report into racism release

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/cricket/cricket-scotland-racism-report-resign-b2130024.html>

Cricket Scotland board resign before publication of racism report

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cricket-scotland-board-resign-before-publication-of-racism-report-7bk7x3kdj>

Scots cricket institutionally racist, review finds

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-62277613>

Cricket Scotland risks losing nearly half a million in funding after review finds 'institutional racism'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2022/07/24/cricket-scotland-board-resigns-ahead-damning-racism-report/>

Cricket Scotland offer racism apology

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cricket-scotland-offer-racism-apology-7bk7x3kdj>

RFU launches investigation after Luther Burrell's racism in rugby revelations

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2022/jul/23/rfu-launch-investigation-luther-burrell-racism-in-rugby-revelations>

RFU will open investigation into racism at Newcastle Falcons after Luther Burrell claims

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/rugby-union/2022/07/23/rfu-will-open-investigation-racism-newcastle-falcons-luther/>

Rugby authorities to seek racism feedback in wake of Luther Burrell allegations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/bill-sweeney-luther-english-rugby-football-union-newcastle-b2129881.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

COVID-19: supporting communities

Anas Sarwar (Labour) [S6W-09786] To ask the Scottish Government what engagement it has had or plans to have with (a) ethnic and religious minority communities, and (b) refugees and asylum seekers, in order to improve how it can support these communities following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government recognises that a number of Scotland's communities have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19, and are committed to engaging effectively with communities to ensure they are supported following the pandemic.

The Covid Recovery Strategy focusses on addressing systemic inequalities that were exacerbated during the pandemic. The strategy was informed by a series of engagement sessions with a range of partners, including the Scottish Refugee

Council and Expert Reference Group on COVID-19 and Ethnicity.

The Scottish Government continues to engage with minority ethnic communities as part of our ongoing work on race equality and developing anti-racist infrastructure. Furthermore, the Scottish Government funds 14 race equality organisations, who undertake engagement and consultation with communities as part of their work.

We will also continue to engage with refugee and asylum seeking communities as part of our work to support integration from day one. We have committed to work with our partners to develop the next New Scots refugee integration strategy, and will identify opportunities to enable refugees and people seeking asylum to engage in that process and inform the next strategy.

A faith and belief representatives group now meets on a monthly basis to identify areas of common interest and consider input to policy development on a wide range of topics. A new Faith and Belief Engagement Strategy is currently being developed to foster deeper understanding between government and faith and belief communities, which will empower faith and belief communities to be active partners in Covid recovery.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-09786>

The Covid Recovery Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/covid-recovery-strategy-fairer-future/>

The New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

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

New Publication

Lord Advocate's Written Case: whether the question for a referendum on Scottish Independence contained in the proposed referendum Bill relates to reserved matters

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/reference-to-the-supreme-court-publication-of-the-lord-advocates-written-case/>

News

Supreme Court date for indyref2 case set for 11 October

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-62250988>

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New Publication

Time Well Spent: Impact of covid-19 on the volunteer experience

<https://beta.ncvo.org.uk/ncvo-publications/time-well-spent-research-impact-of-covid-19-on-the-volunteer-experience/>

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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>

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>

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>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations ** new or updated this week

Scotland's Census (closing date 24 August 2022)

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

**** Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme** (closing date 12 September 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/clandestine-entrant-civil-penalty-scheme>

**** Family migration** (closing date 15 September 2023)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/2706/>

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

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

Race & Inclusion in Art Education (closing date 31 October 2022)

https://assets.website-files.com/61488e50132da098d2dd729b/62c6bf3339659acfccfb61c2_Visualise-Race%20and%20Inclusion%20in%20Art%20Education.pdf

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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

**** closes this week!**

Multicultural Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Closing date for applications: 31 July 2022

BEMIS Scotland, Scotland on Tour, and Edinburgh Fringe Festival will award ten grants of £5,000 to provide an opportunity for Scotland's diverse multicultural organisations to deliver bespoke fringe festival events in their own communities to mark the 75th anniversary of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. For information and to apply see

<https://bemis.org.uk/fringe/>

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!**

Police Scotland BME Recruitment event

28 July 2022 (Edinburgh, 6.00–9.00)

Police Scotland acknowledges that the communities they serve are incredibly diverse, and believes their workforce should reflect this diversity in order to maintain, and strengthen their relationship with the public. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/47xcd9b7>

End of Life Choices – Personal is political

11 August 2022 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 10.30–12.00)

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics panel discussion about end-of-life choices, ethics, morals and the role of the media in the personal politics of social change. For information see <https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot/events/end-of-life-choices>

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. This course will 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

Twenty-first Century Migration and Asylum Policies

12 August 2022 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 10.30–12.00)

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics panel discussion about challenging the negative rhetoric about asylum seekers and migrants. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/339cnhfc>

Scotland, racism and the legacy of a transatlantic slavery trade

12 August 2022 (Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, 4.15–5.30)

Scottish Parliament Festival of Politics panel discussion about the relationship between the industrial revolution and the wealth accumulated through Scotland's role in the transatlantic slavery trade makes for uncomfortable exploration. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2ur7n6uz>

Promoting an Anti-Racist Culture in your Organisations

18 August 2022 (online, 11.00–12.30)

CEMVO Scotland session to explore and develop tools for change through understanding and implementing anti-racist practices within the workplace. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yy4vcard>

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 interactions and relationships. Participants will consider ways to become more aware of readings as they form, and more cautious about their accuracy, and 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 for delegates to improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. The course will explore principles behind working with religion and belief diversity, and 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 course exploring language used to describe groups of people, in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief, and how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Disclosure Scotland <https://www.mygov.scot/disclosure-types>

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/>

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



gov.scot

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

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