



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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The UK Parliament is in recess until 11 October 2022.

Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Ukrainian Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat): To ask the First Minister when the Scottish Government will announce the outcome of its review into the pausing of the supersponsor scheme for Ukrainian refugees coming to Scotland. (S6F-01353)

Reply from the First Minister (Nicola Sturgeon): First, I report to the Parliament that more than 18,000 displaced Ukrainians are currently being accommodated in Scotland, which is almost 20 per cent of the total number in the United Kingdom. That includes almost 15,000 Ukrainians under the Scottish Government's supersponsor scheme, which compares to our initial commitment of 3,000. That is

something for everyone across Scotland to be very proud of, and it is an important part of our overall contribution to supporting and helping Ukraine in its hour of need. We are currently reviewing the operation of the sponsor programme and the warm Scots welcome to ensure that we can provide appropriate and sustainable longer-term support to those who are here, as well as to those who are still arriving and are due to travel. I can also confirm that we are providing a dedicated capital fund of up to £50 million, which will be available for registered social landlords to help them to bring sustainable accommodation into use and boost the housing supply for those who are fleeing conflict in Ukraine.

Alex Cole-Hamilton: The First Minister's boasting about numbers will be of cold comfort to those who have been living out of suitcases since February or who are coming to the end of their placements with no idea what happens next. That is not a new life; it is a new limbo. Furthermore, the mobilisations in Russia and the pretend referendums mean that there is no chance of early return for our Ukrainian guests.

A memo that was leaked to *The Herald* from the Government's rapid rehousing group has described confusion and increasing desperation. The Government has written good-will cheques that refugees cannot cash. Although the Government closed the scheme in July, it still has not acted on my call to re-issue the appeal for homes. In addition, we know that, if it is easier to travel, it is easier to find homes and jobs. Alongside the renewed call for homes, will the First Minister now extend free bus travel to all refugees?

Reply from Nicola Sturgeon: If those who are being temporarily accommodated in Scotland were not in temporary accommodation here, they would not have refuge, so it is important that we recognise that Scotland is more than playing our part. Almost 20 per cent of all displaced Ukrainians in the UK are being accommodated in Scotland, which is a good thing. It is good for Ukrainians and it is good for Scotland to be playing a positive part.

We continue to take steps to ensure that not just temporary accommodation is available but longer-term, more sustainable accommodation. In relation to temporary accommodation, we continue to support those who have offered private homes for use, and we continue to work to speed up the matching process. However, it is important that we make longer-term accommodation available, which is why the fund that I referenced earlier is an important part of that work.

We will continue to take all of those steps to make sure that we are playing our part in continuing to support Ukraine at what is a pivotal moment in the war—we are all happy to see Ukraine in the ascendancy, but we continue to be concerned about Putin and his intentions. Scotland will continue to play its part, and I hope that members across the chamber will give the Scottish Government and our local authority and third sector partners every support in doing so.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13896&i=125959#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018 to 2022

Sarah Boyack (Labour) [S6W-10574] To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made in relation to the New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018 to 2022, and how the impact of the strategy is being monitored.

Reply from Angus Robertson: The New Scots refugee integration strategy is built on partnership and collaboration, led by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the Scottish Refugee Council, and involves a wide range of partners across different sectors.

The strategy provides a clear framework for all those working towards refugee

integration in Scotland. It has also assisted in coordinating the work of the Scottish Government and its partner organisations to maximise impact and make the most of limited resources, placing Scotland in a strong position to respond to recent humanitarian crises.

The New Scots Core Group brings together key stakeholders and is responsible for monitoring and reviewing progress against the overarching outcomes of New Scots during the strategy implementation period. The Core Group is chaired by Professor Alison Phipps, UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts at the University of Glasgow.

The year one report for the New Scots refugee integration strategy 2018-2022 was published on 2 April 2019. The report can be found here: [New Scots refugee integration strategy 2018-2022: first year progress report](#).

The COVID-19 pandemic and work to support people arriving from Afghanistan and Ukraine have impacted delivery of the strategy and meant that it is has not been possible to produce the year two and three reports as originally planned. However, the New Scots Core Group continues to meet four times a year to monitor and review progress of the strategy, as well as identifying areas for collaboration.

Work is already underway to produce the final report of the current strategy, with the aim of publishing this in early 2023.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10574>

The Strategy referred to above can be read at

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

Afghan Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10230] To ask the Scottish Government what information it has on how many Afghan refugees have arrived in Scotland since 2021, and, of those, how many are currently in (i) permanent and (b) temporary accommodation.

Reply from Shona Robison: Under current constitutional arrangements in the United Kingdom immigration, including the Afghan resettlement schemes, are reserved to the UK Government and handled by the Home Office.

The UK Government has published statistics on the number of people who have arrived in the UK under the Afghan resettlement schemes since 2021, and have committed to providing more detailed data in their quarterly immigration statistics. [Afghan Resettlement Programme: operational data](#)

The latest published data (25 August) shows that across the UK 9,667 people are in temporary accommodation and 7,385 people are in settled accommodation. This does not include people who have made their own accommodation arrangements.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10230>

Super Sponsor Scheme

Stephen Kerr (Conservative) [S6W-10742] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide the gender breakdown by age grouping of Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Scotland under its Super Sponsor scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: The most recent published figures from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is available at: [Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme and Ukraine Family Scheme: Visa data by age and sex of applicant](#). This provides the sex breakdown by age grouping of displaced people from Ukraine who have arrived under the Super Sponsor Scheme.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10742>

Welfare: Ukrainian Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10453] To ask the Scottish Government which agencies are responsible for monitoring and inspecting the welfare of people onboard the cruise ship being used to house Ukrainian refugees in Leith.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government's priority continues to be ensuring the wellbeing and safety of displaced people from Ukraine. There are extensive procedures in place to ensure the welfare of those temporarily accommodated on the MS Victoria in Leith.

City of Edinburgh Council's resettlement teams have an ongoing and visible presence on-board the ship, alongside teams from the third sector. Regular drop in clinics and appointment bookings are available daily for all on-board guests held by various partners. Nominated public protection officers on board provide support and are the first point of contact for safeguarding issues arising when local authority professionals are not available.

Weekly meetings are held for all stakeholders and daily meetings are held between Council staff and other agencies on board to address and monitor any concerns arising. Joint Assurance Review (JAR) meetings are held monthly. Additionally, there are regular liaison meetings above and beyond what is in place for those in other temporary accommodation arrangements. Collaboration and open communication lines between the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council and third sector parties ensures high standards of welfare and care are maintained.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10453>

Welfare: Ukrainian Refugees

Alex Cole-Hamilton (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10454] To ask the Scottish Government which agencies it consulted with regarding the welfare of residents on the cruise ship being used to house Ukrainian refugees in Leith prior to its opening.

Reply from Neil Gray: The welfare of all displaced Ukrainians staying across the country is the Scottish Government's absolute priority. Before the first guests boarded the M/S Victoria, a full Joint Assurance Review was undertaken with City of Edinburgh Council and other stakeholders, covering issues like safeguarding and security. The Scottish Refugee Council and the Ukrainian Consul General were both consulted as part of preparations for displaced people to live aboard the ship. Local health partners were also closely involved in preparations for opening the ship as temporary accommodation. Additionally, in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, we engaged with key stakeholders, community groups and third sector partners, including Public Health Scotland, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council, Volunteer Edinburgh, Scottish Chambers of Commerce, and Capital City Partnership.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10454>

People Trafficking

Liam McArthur (Liberal Democrat) [S6W-10213] To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to the US State Department's *Trafficking in Persons Report July 2022*, which states that "Observers in Scotland noted an increase in the proportion of criminally exploited children who were charged with crimes and underscored that more trafficking victims faced criminal justice processes than traffickers".

Reply from Clare Haughey: Child trafficking and exploitation is abuse. When there is reason to believe that a child may have been trafficked or exploited an immediate child protection response is required and an inter-agency referral discussion (IRD)

should be undertaken. In cases where a child or young person has been subject to any form of exploitation or trafficking their safety and protection is paramount. Child trafficking and exploitation victims must be cared for and supported within the context of Scotland's child protection system and the national Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) approach.

In September 2021 Scottish Government published the revised [National Guidance for Child Protection](#) which includes detailed advice for all practitioners who support children and families on identifying and supporting victims of human trafficking and exploitation, including criminal and sexual exploitation.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 required the Lord Advocate to issue instructions regarding the prosecution of persons who are, or appear to be, the victims of trafficking, slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour and who have allegedly committed a criminal offence. The instructions set a strong presumption against prosecution of child victims who have committed an offence in the course of, or as a consequence of, being trafficked or exploited.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with operational partners to better understand what child protection procedures are followed in cases of trafficking and exploitation, and ensure that child protection procedures are activated immediately.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/written-questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-10213>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/22-00757-TIP-REPORT_072822-inaccessible.pdf

Scottish Parliament Motion

Bob Doris (SNP) [S6M-05880] How Will We Survive: Steps to Preventing Destitution in the Asylum System – That the Parliament notes the impact of the cost of living crisis on people seeking asylum in the Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn constituency, and across Scotland; further notes the research published by the British Red Cross and Refugee Survival Trust, *How Will We Survive? Steps to preventing destitution in the asylum system*; understands that the report was written by peer researchers with lived experience of the asylum system, through the Destitute Asylum Seeker Service; further understands that it outlines seven overarching recommendations, covering both the Home Office and Scottish Government, including that the Scottish Government should pilot a peer support system to ensure new arrivals through the asylum system can access support, guidance and friendship from people who have shared experiences of navigating the asylum system, that people with no recourse to public funds should have access to adequate support and increased access to health services, including mental health support, and that the Home Office should automatically grant people the right to work if they have been waiting for longer than six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim, or following the submission of further evidence, and that such a right should not be restricted to jobs on the shortage occupation list, and notes the view in the report that the Home Office should also offer an initial grant to asylum seekers to help them set up life in the UK, which it considers would lessen the likelihood of destitution.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05880>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/-/media/documents/about-us/how-will-we-survive-preventing-destitution-in-the-asylum-system.pdf>

UK Parliament Debate

Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-09-23/debates/ADB16857-18FF-4BBF-AD5E-A478A9C303FE/CampsfieldHouseImmigrationRemovalCentre>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [45539] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what budget was made available for advertising relating to the UK-Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership in the 2022-23 financial year; how much and what proportion of this budget has been spent as on 2 September 2022; and if she will make an assessment of the effectiveness of this spending.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Communications support the Department's work to implement the Nationality and Borders Act, deter the exploitation of people by organised criminal gangs. and explain key policies and provide up-to-date information.

When the Migration and Economic Development Partnership was launched in April 2022, social media posts containing information on the policy were amplified on the Home Office's social media channels, using a budget of approximately £50,000.

The Home Office also is running a communications campaign outside the UK, which launched in June 2022 (although activity has been temporarily paused as a mark of respect following the passing of Her Majesty The Queen). This campaign provides factual information about the risks of illegal migration, including details on the dangers of illegal travel to the UK by boat, explains what happens if people arrive in the UK from a safe country, including the potential for relocation to Rwanda or another safe third country, and sets out the safe and legal options for coming to the UK.

Currently the Home Office plans to spend up to approximately £100,000 on the migrant communications campaign, and to date approximately £87,159.06 has been spent. However, this campaign is not solely used to publicise the Rwanda Migration and Economic Development Partnership, as its key messages cover the campaign's objective to inform potential migrants about all the risks of illegal migration, to discourage them from making dangerous Channel crossings.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45539>

Asylum: Rwanda

Naz Shah (Labour) [45127] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25th May 2022 to Question 5436, on Asylum: Rwanda, what criteria will be used to assess the mental and psychological health of persons seeking asylum when determining their eligibility for relocation to Rwanda.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Decisions on whether to relocate individuals to Rwanda are made on a case-by-case basis depending on the individual circumstances at the time, and in accordance with the inadmissibility guidance available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/inadmissibility-third-country-cases>

Everyone considered for relocation will be screened and have access to legal advice, and nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

No changes have been made to legal aid for asylum applications or appeals. Legal

aid has been, and will always be, available in asylum cases.

The Government is investing over £8m in legal aid through the Nationality and Borders Act, where legal aid will be available for potential victims of modern slavery and where individuals have been served with a priority removal notice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45127>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-19/5436>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: Boats

Catherine West (Labour) [51888] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent Review of Border Force by Alexander Downer, published in July 2022, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Border Force in tackling the issue of small boats arriving on UK shores.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government takes seriously the issue of illegal migration, and is particularly determined to stop the dangerous, unnecessary and illegal crossings made in small boats.

Advice will be provided to the Home Secretary upon which she can make a judgment on progressing the recommendations within the Downer review in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51888>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-border-force/an-independent-review-of-border-force-accessible-version>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [48293] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of small boat crossings in the English Channel between 6 September 2022 and 1 January 2023.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office does not make forecasts of numbers crossing, given the multiplicity of variables involved. However, in 2021 and 2022 a number of estimations were calculated to help ensure operational plans took account of *potential* levels of crossings. This included the development of best, central, and reasonable worst case scenarios for the numbers crossing by small boat. No likelihood or probability was attached to these scenarios.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48293>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Ruth Jones (Labour) [46044] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the reasons for the increase in the number of people reaching the UK via the English Channel in small boats since 2019.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: These dangerous and unnecessary crossings are facilitated by people smugglers, putting profits above the lives of vulnerable people. Since 2019, these organised criminal groups have expanded their tactics covering a wider stretch of French coastline, launching over longer timeframes and increasing crossing attempts in riskier weather conditions.

We are determined to tackle illegal migration and to render small boat crossings unviable. Our Nationality and Borders Act is breaking criminals' business model. We have introduced tougher sentences for facilitators of illegal entry and are

making arrests under the Act.

This year, over 19,000 crossing attempts have been prevented – around 85% more than to this point in 2021. Our work with the French and our Migration and Economic Development Partnership with Rwanda reflects the fact that this is an international problem requiring international solutions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46044>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Personal Property

Owen Thompson (SNP) [45941] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what systems are in place to keep track of the location of undocumented people who arrive in the UK by small boats' personal items that are taken into the custody of Home Office agents upon arrival.

Owen Thompson (SNP) [45942] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish data on the (a) number and (b) proportion of undocumented people's personal items, who arrive in the UK by small boats, that are taken into the custody of Home Office agents upon arrival that are (i) successfully returned to their owners and (ii) not returned to their owners.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Dry clothing is provided after arrival at Dover, with the consequence that people are parted from their wet clothing and possessions. These are bagged and logged, and go with the person during their journey through the reception process.

During the reception phase, people are searched for anything which might injure themselves or others, as well as for documentation related to their journey to the UK. These items are retained during the reception process but, if not contraband, are returned to the individual upon release into accommodation and our aim is to reunite people with their possessions as quickly as possible. Identity documentation is retained until such time as an individual is either granted leave to enter, or is removed from the UK. It should be noted no cash belonging to people arriving by small boat is retained by either HO staff or contractors, but is instead returned immediately unless the sum is of such a magnitude that an investigation into potential proceeds of crime is warranted.

Inevitably, with such large volumes of persons being processed and the challenging conditions in which journeys are made, items can be mislaid. Every effort is made to reduce the risk of this happening, and there is a lost property process to enable people to raise any concerns about missing possessions. The lost property cases which do occur represent a small percentage of overall arrival numbers, but there are no plans to publish this data at present.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45941>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45942>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Asylum: Afghanistan

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [52043] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the number of people in Afghanistan who are eligible to claim asylum in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: 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 travel to the UK to seek

asylum.

Whilst we sympathise with people in difficult situations around the world, we are not bound to consider asylum claims from the very large numbers of people overseas who might like to come here. Those who need international protection should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – that is the fastest route to safety.

Our bespoke relocation and resettlement schemes for Afghan people are, however, providing safe and legal routes for those affected by events in Afghanistan to start new lives in the UK.

Any current or former staff who worked for, or with, the UK Government and are assessed to be at serious risk of threat to life are eligible to apply for the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP). So far we have relocated around 10,300 eligible Afghan citizens and their family members under the ARAP scheme since it opened in April 2021.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/52043>

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>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rupa Huq (Labour) [52854] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of increasing the number of people allowed to resettle in the UK through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in the next 12 months.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: 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.

The ACRS is in addition to individuals relocated through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP). We have relocated over 7,000 eligible Afghan citizens and their family members under the ARAP scheme, which remains open. The ACRS is a bespoke scheme, which responds to a challenging and complex situation. The capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and difficult decisions have to be made on who will be prioritised for resettlement.

There are around 6,500 people in the UK who have been brought to safety during and after the evacuation and who are eligible for the ACRS under Pathway 1. They include women's rights activists, journalists, and prosecutors, as well as Afghan families of British Nationals.

Under Pathway 2, we anticipate receiving referrals from the UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway. We will continue to receive UNHCR referrals to the scheme in the coming years. Under Pathway 3, 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) and their eligible family members.

Beyond the first year of Pathway 3, the Government will work with our international partners and NGOs to welcome wider groups of Afghans at risk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51854>

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 2, referred to above, can be read at <https://help.unhcr.org/uk/afghanistan/>

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>

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [49057] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applications are awaiting an initial decision by his Department as of 7 September 2022.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 8 August 2022, there are 71,300 ARAP applicants awaiting a decision on their application. This figure varies from those previously issued because previous figures referred to applications not yet subject to any internal decision-making, rather than to applicants that had not yet received a decision. We estimate there to be approximately 6,000 ARAP eligible individuals (comprising around 1,350 principals plus their family members) still to be relocated to the UK. We are focussing our efforts on identifying those eligible individuals who are still awaiting a decision and relocating all those eligible to the UK. We estimate the vast majority of the outstanding 71,300 applicants to be ineligible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-07/49057>

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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [45172] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans nationals have arrived in the UK under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme as of 31 August 2022.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [46210] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals he estimates will be resettled in the UK under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme; and what his Department's anticipated timeline is for their arrival in the UK.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) launched in January, and this will provide up to 20,000 women, children, and others at risk with a safe and legal route to resettle and re-build their lives in the UK over the coming years.

The ACRS is not application-based. Instead, eligible individuals will be prioritised and referred for resettlement to the UK through one of three referral pathways.

Under ACRS Pathway 2, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will refer refugees - who have already fled Afghanistan - for resettlement to the UK. Those referred will be assessed for resettlement by the UNHCR, using their established processes.

We have now begun to receive the first referrals for resettlement under Pathway 2 of the ACRS – which opened in June – from the UNHCR. It is anticipated that we will receive referrals for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway, although this number will be kept under review – and we look forward to welcoming the first new arrivals under this pathway in due course.

Further information on UNHCR referrals is available at:

[UNHCR UK Information and Links on Afghanistan Situation - UNHCR United Kingdom](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45172>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46210>

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Caroline Lucas (Green) [49607] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 6 September 2022 to Question 40760 on Refugees: Afghanistan, how many of the 11,400 Expressions of Interests from individuals seeking resettlement to the UK under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme meet the eligibility criteria; how many of the 1500 places available in the first year under Pathway 3 have been allocated; how many of those places are for (a) individual applicants and (b) applicants' dependents; if she will make it her policy to (i) bring forward the Government's 20,000 resettlement commitment over five years under the Afghan citizens' resettlement scheme to one year and (ii) increase the UK's current resettlement commitment; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The UK has taken a significant and leading role in the international response to supporting at-risk Afghan citizens. Under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) the Government will welcome up to 20,000 people from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK over the coming years. Under ACRS pathway 3 we will offer resettlement places to up to 1,500 people from the three identified cohorts. This includes the principal applicant and their eligible family members. The number of places for each of the three cohorts under ACRS pathway 3 in the first year will be kept under review.

The FCDO received over 11,000 expressions of interest - for Pathway 3 - though many of the expressions of interest received are from individuals who do not meet the eligibility criteria for year one of the pathway.

Those who are eligible and are referred for resettlement under ACRS Pathway 3 will be informed by email from the FCDO with advice on the next steps. We have now begun to inform individuals of the outcome of their expression of interest and we will continue to communicate the outcomes to individuals throughout autumn 2022, as each expression of interest has been considered on a case-by-case basis. It would not be appropriate to provide numbers until we have communicated the outcome of expressions of interest to all the individuals concerned.

We must bear in mind that the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and therefore difficult decisions about who will be prioritised for resettlement have to be made.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-08/49607>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-20/40760>

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

Anne McLaughlin (SNP) [45695] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan child refugees have arrived in the UK since 15 August 2021.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Afghans resettling in the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will be supported in accessing accommodation and the vital health, education, and support into employment they need, to fully integrate into society.

The Department for Education have confirmed that individuals resettling under these schemes who wish to access higher education, are eligible for home fee status and student support from the 2022/23 academic year – putting them on the same footing as refugees. At this time, the Home Office is working to improve the data it holds on those who have accessed higher education among those being temporarily accommodated in hotels.

All children who were evacuated during Op Pitting have been enrolled in school - and school places are offered on a rolling basis, as more children arrive in the UK. As stated in the recently published, '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)' factsheet, at 12 August 2022, the UK:

- Has welcomed 21,450 people to the UK from Afghanistan - or a neighbouring country - since June 2021. Whilst we believe that around half of this number are children, we are unable, at this time, to provide an accurate breakdown of arrivals by age, in order to determine how many children are in full-time education.
- Is providing temporary accommodation for 9,667 people in hotels.

Officials are working at pace to assure information relating to the individuals resettling in the UK under our bespoke schemes for Afghans on case working systems. Once this work concludes, the Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its [quarterly Immigration Statistics publications](#).

Until then the factsheet will be updated every quarter – with the next iteration scheduled for publication on 24 November 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45695>

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

Neil Coyle (Independent) [45840] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, if he will make an assessment of the potential impact of his Department's policies on the provision of support for Afghan refugees on trends in levels of homelessness for that group.

Reply from Paul Scully: Thanks to an enormous collaborative effort across the public and private sector, we have welcomed over 21,000 Afghans and continue to receive more families each month. Work is continuing across Government to ensure the Afghans who stood side by side with us in conflict, their families and those at highest risk who have been evacuated, are supported as they now rebuild their lives in the UK. We are encouraging all councils to work alongside us to provide accommodation and support for Afghans in need of our compassion and support to rebuild their lives in the UK. 6,700 Afghans have now been moved into permanent accommodation.

We have announced a £25.5 million Housing Costs fund to help meet the costs of housing. The additional housing support is being provided to enable local authorities to come forward with offers of accommodation to larger families as soon as possible. For example, it can be used to provide a top up payment, where it is needed to meet the gap between market rent and the Local Housing Allowance, or to help meet shortfalls which impact on a family's ability to cover their rent.

In the longer-term, the provision of affordable housing is a key element of the Government's plan to end the housing crisis, tackle homelessness and provide aspiring homeowners with a step onto the housing ladder. Our £11.5 billion

Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) will provide up to 180,000 new homes across the country, should economic conditions allow. Around half the homes will be for affordable and social rent and we will deliver more than double the amount of social rent compared to the current programme, with around 32,000 social rent homes due to be delivered.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45840>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Neil Coyle (Independent) [45841] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what criteria are used to assess whether accommodation is appropriate for offer as accommodation to Afghan refugees; and for how long her Department will continue to offer hotel accommodation to Afghan refugees should offers of permanent accommodation not be taken up.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We have been working hard to support Afghan families into homes of their own, so that they can settle into their local communities, feel safe and independent and rebuild their lives in the UK.

We have made improvements to the accommodation matching process, which took effect from 9 May. Before we match individuals and families to accommodation, we will talk to them to make sure we have all the necessary information about their circumstances to enable us to make an appropriate offer of accommodation, taking in to account education, health and faith needs, as well as employment, family links and caring responsibilities. We will ensure also that the accommodation offered will meet all relevant health and safety requirements, be in a good state of repair and will be furnished. Where necessary, adaptations to the property will be made before the household move in to ensure that it is accessible for any residents with a known disability. The accommodation will be available for a minimum of 12 months. It will be affordable for the household, considering the financial resource available to them, including any Government support for which they are eligible. Accommodation will be of suitable size to accommodate all household members. The length of time that a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on several factors including the availability of appropriate housing. We encourage families to accept appropriate properties as quickly as possible and urge local authorities to continue to do all they can to help house people.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45841>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Alex Sobel (Labour Co-op) [51934] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan arrivals to the UK were placed in bridging hotels in each month between 1 January and 31 August 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Through Operation Warm Welcome, Afghans resettling in the UK under the ARAP and ACRS will be supported in accessing accommodation and the vital health, education, and support into employment they need to fully integrate into society.

The number of people temporarily residing in hotels changes weekly, as new arrivals enter the UK – some of whom have made their own living arrangements - and as others move into settled accommodation.

At 12 August 2022, 9,667 people were living in temporary hotel accommodation. However, the number of new residents in hotels, broken down by month, is not available in a quality assured and reportable format.

We don't want to see Afghan families in temporary accommodation for any longer than is necessary – and we have been working as fast as possible to support Afghan families into homes of their own, so that they can settle into their local communities, feel safe and independent and rebuild their lives in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51934>

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>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [49201] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she plans to take to enable Afghan refugees to move out of bridging hotels into permanent accommodation; and what her timetable is for achieving that.

Refugees: Hotels

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [49202] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to move non-Afghan refugees out of bridging hotels and into communities.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We are working at pace towards moving people out of bridging hotels into settled accommodation and have moved – or are in the process of moving - over 7,000 people into homes since June 2021.

There is a huge effort underway to support the families into permanent homes as soon as we can so they can settle and rebuild their lives, and to ensure those still temporarily accommodated in hotels are given the best start to their life in the UK. The length of time that a family will remain in bridging hotels is dependent on a number of factors including the availability of appropriate housing. We strive to allocate the right families into the right accommodation to ensure that their integration into their new communities in the UK is as smooth as possible. To achieve this, we triage and prioritise families to ensure the settled accommodation provides the best possible match, taking into consideration date of arrival into the UK, family size, vulnerability and integration factors.

Where local authorities or employers are able to offer accommodation in greater volume and more quickly, this overall timescale will reduce. We would like to encourage local authorities who have not yet pledged support to consider offering to do so.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have also introduced the Find Your Own Accommodation scheme which empowers Afghan families to source their own accommodation, rather than the Home Office. They will need to secure agreement, from their new local authority, that they will continue to receive ongoing integration support from them, once they have moved into their new home.

Some of the arrivals during Operation Pitting were British Nationals - approximately 4000-5000 British Nationals and their families arrived under OP Pitting.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-07/49201>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-07/49202>

Refugees: Afghanistan

Alison McGovern (Labour) [45411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 18 July 2022 to Question 38652 on Refugees: Afghanistan, what steps the Government is taking to work with local authorities across the UK to identify more opportunities for people being housed in bridging hotels to move into permanent accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We continue to work at pace with over 350 local authority partners to meet the demand for housing and have moved – or are in the process of moving - around 7,400 people into homes since June 2021.

Both the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Home Office have teams which engage with local authorities and Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) to encourage local authorities to pledge support.

We are providing funding to local authorities who support people through the Afghan Citizen's Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) or Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) scheme to the value of £20,520 per person, over 3 years, for resettlement and integration costs. There is also an additional housing costs fund available over three years to provide a top-up to help councils meet the costs of renting properties of three bedrooms or more in recognition of the need to find larger homes for families for those evacuated from Afghanistan.

Local authorities and health partners who resettle families will also receive up to £4,500 per child for education, £850 for English language provision for adults requiring this support and £2,600 for healthcare.

We are also 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45411>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-18/38652>

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>

Pupils: Refugees

Naz Shah (Labour) [45441] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps he is taking to help ensure that school staff are adequately equipped to support the mental health of Afghan refugee children.

Reply from Kelly Tolhurst: This financial year, the government is offering 7,800 schools and colleges in England grants to train a senior mental health lead in their setting. The training will equip senior mental health leads with the knowledge and skills to implement effective processes for identifying students, or specific groups, who need additional mental health support. Furthermore, we have provided additional funding to accelerate the roll out of Mental Health Support Teams linked to schools and colleges, who provide early intervention on mild to moderate mental health issues, to cover approximately 35% of pupils in England by 2023.

For those who need immediate access to specialist support or help, all NHS Mental Health Trusts are providing 24/7 support. Furthermore, to help parents and carers, front line workers and volunteers support children and young people in emergency or crisis situations, the UK Health Security Agency, formally Public Health England, has developed a psychological first aid e-learning training package. The training aims to support those working directly with children and young people to help them access appropriate support needed during and after crisis situations:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/psychological-first-aid-for-children-and-young-people>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45441>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

The following three questions all received the same answer

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [45623] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether it is his policy to increase the level of funding local authorities receive for each person on the Homes for Ukraine scheme, in the context of the decision to extend payments to hosts to up to 12 months.

John Penrose (Conservative) [48297] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how long he plans for the scheme of giving £350 per month payments to households hosting Ukrainian refugees to last; and what plans his Department has to update or modify that scheme in the event that the war in Ukraine continues for more than a year.

Catherine West (Labour) [48465] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the (a) additional financial challenges that will be experienced by sponsors under the Homes for Ukraine scheme over the winter 2022-23 and (b) potential merits of increasing the monthly thank-you payment to hosts to help cover rising energy bills.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: We are overwhelmed by the response we have received to the Homes for Ukraine programme and thank sponsors for their support. Lead sponsors can receive monthly £350 'thank you' payments for up to 12 months of Homes for Ukraine sponsorship per address. These payments are funded separately to the £10,500 of funding available to local authorities for 12 months per person.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45623>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48297>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48465>

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

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Paul Blomfield (Labour) [45624] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many Homes for Ukraine placements have (a) broken down, (b) resulted in a rematching and the refugees being placed with a new host household, (c) resulted in refugees being placed in social housing, (d) resulted in refugees being placed in hotels and (e) resulted in refugees living in the private rented sector.

Reply from Andrew Stephenson: The information requested is not held centrally. As of 19 September 2022, 90,351 guests have arrived in the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme (out of 134,190 visas granted) and 35,509 have arrived under the Ukraine Family Scheme (out of 51,832 visas granted). Over 17,000 are continuing to live in the UK under Ukraine Extension Scheme or domestic Ukraine Family Scheme applications.

We are helping Ukrainians to live independently, for example by supporting them in developing necessary language skills and finding jobs, while also ensuring that robust safeguarding measures are in place. There is ongoing work across Government to look at what more can be done on employment opportunities and wider support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45624>

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

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

Refugees: Ukraine

Richard Foord (Liberal Democrat) [46219] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to help Ukrainian refugees find independent housing.

Reply from Paul Scully: The updated guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#four-to-6-months-after-guests-have-moved-to-your-area>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46219>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lee Anderson (Conservative) [46143] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps his Department is taking to support Ukrainian refugees to find housing after their six month sponsorship ends who are not able to provide either a down-payment for a deposit or a six month credit history.

Reply from Paul Scully: Guidance for Ukrainian refugees on 'How to rent in England' can be accessed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent>

Councils have reported that some landlords are refusing households that do not have guarantors and others because of a lack of credit history. In some instances, councils are managing this problem by running schemes in which the council acts as a guarantor for the household.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46143>

Refugees: Ukraine

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [48195] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether the Government has made an assessment of the potential merits of providing training and support for Ukrainian refugees in (a) medicine, (b) construction, (c) leadership, (d) education, (e) social care and (f) other areas that will help them rebuild their country after their eventual return to Ukraine.

Reply from Paul Scully: We continue to review and develop plans to support guests to access economic opportunities, informed by engagement with other government departments, local councils, Voluntary and Community Sector organisations, sponsors, and guests. We have been working across government to explore wider training and support options.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48195>

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

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality: Assessments

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [45833] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 July 2022 to Question HL1710 on British Nationality: Assessments, how many and what proportion of Life in the UK test centres undertook checks that individuals waited at least seven days since their last test in the latest period for which data is available; and what steps her Department is taking to monitor this.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [45834] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 July 2022 to Question HL1710 on British Nationality: Assessments, how many and what proportion of individuals who sat the Life in the UK test did so without waiting at least seven days since their previous test in the latest period for which data is available; and what steps her Department is taking to monitor this.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Life in the UK testing is provided and hosted by PSI Services (UK) Limited who operate a self-booking process. Candidates are able to book tests in multiple slots; they are not limited by the system as to how frequently a test can be taken and there is no requirement for customers to wait seven days before taking a test again. Therefore, no checks are conducted by test centres, or the online booking system, on the length of time a candidate has waited for their test. Guidance on gov.uk is being updated to reflect that there is no requirement to wait seven days.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45833>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45834>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/hl1710>

British Nationality: Assessments

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [45835] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 25 July 2022 to Question HL1710 on British Nationality: Assessments, if her Department will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the guidance that requires that a Life in the UK test be sat no more than once every seven days; and when this requirement was introduced.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: There has never been a formal requirement for customers to wait seven days before taking a test again, so no assessment will be made. The seven day wait before re-taking a test is a suggestion in order to aid candidates' personal preparation.

Guidance on gov.uk is being updated to reflect that there is no requirement to wait seven days.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45835>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/hl1710>

Naturalisation: Applications

Dan Carden (Labour) [46007] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, (a) what the average processing time is for a naturalisation decision from her Department and (b) how this compares to each year since 2016.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Department publishes data on naturalisation applications made and completed every quarter on the Gov.uk website.

The most recent data set was published on 25 August 2022 and links to older migration transparency data and it can be found through the link below:

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46007>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Home Office: Fees and Charges

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [51456] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how decisions on fee waiver applications are communicated to applicants.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Kevin Brennan (Labour) [51457] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of applications for leave to remain expired because applicants had not responded to decisions sent by email relating to fee waiver requests in the latest period for which data is available.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Applicants wishing to apply for an entry clearance fee waiver must do so by submitting an online application form. Once assessed, a decision on the fee waiver application is sent by email to the email address specified on the application form by either the applicant or their representative.

Applications for Leave to Remain fee waivers are mandated to be completed online, to receive a decision by email. However, in exceptional circumstances leave to remain fee waiver applications can be submitted on a paper form, in which case we will offer the applicant the choice of a paper or electronic decision.

Child Citizenship fee waiver applications can also be submitted on paper or online. These decisions may be despatched by email or post accordingly.

It is the applicant's (or their representative's) responsibility to monitor their email inbox and 'spam' folder in anticipation of our decision email.

Information on the number of applicants whose leave to remain expired following the issue of a fee waiver decision of which the applicant was not aware, is not captured. To recover this information would require a manual examination of each individual case and would thus incur disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51456>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-20/51457>

Migrants: English Language

Stephen Timms (Labour) [48196] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on what date her Department adopted the policy that nobody should be refused leave to remain in the UK solely on the grounds of having been accused by ETS of cheating in its TOEIC English language test.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The former Home Secretary, The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, announced in a Written Ministerial Statement on 23 July 2019:

"I have therefore asked officials to review our guidance to ensure that we are taking the right decisions on these cases to ensure we are properly balancing a belief that deception was committed some years ago against other factors that would normally lead to leave being granted, especially where children are involved."

The ETS casework guidance first issued on 09 March 2020 (latest update was 18 November 2020) which made clear that using deception in an English language test is not a mandatory ground to refuse an application, but must be balanced against all relevant aspects of the application, including any human rights claim.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48196>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2019-07-23/hcws1803>

Visas: Skilled Workers

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [46155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to amend the Skilled Worker Visa to enable visa holders to have a second job outside of their permitted occupation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Government has no plans to change the supplementary employment rules. The rules were put in place to protect migrant workers from exploitation. In their main employment, migrant workers must be sponsored by a registered sponsor.

A migrant may undertake supplementary employment of up to 20 hours per week

in a job which is in the same occupation code and at the same level as their main job, or in a shortage occupation.

If they wish to work more hours, or in a different qualifying role, they can apply to vary their permission to stay so that both jobs are with Home Office approved sponsors.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/46155>

Visas: English Language

Drew Hendry (SNP) [47576] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential merits of extending the length of time an English language test pass is valid for a visa application, in the context of passport application delays.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We do not have any current plans to extend the length of time for which a Secure English Language Test (SELT) result is valid for the purpose of a visa application. It is important that people show they have the level of English required to work, study and integrate in the UK. An accurate and reliable SELT process ensures that people coming to work and study have the skills they need to complete the activity they are coming to the UK to undertake. Applicants can rely on the test result for 2 years from the date of the test, and can choose when they take the test before making their visa application.

As part of our work to simplify the immigration rules, we have extended the ways an applicant can prove their English language ability other than providing a valid SELT certificate. They can now meet the language requirement by:

- Having a GCSE, A Level, Scottish National Qualification level 4 or 5, Scottish Higher or Advanced Higher in English, gained through study at a UK school that they began when they were under 18;
- Having a degree taught or researched in English;
- Their education provider self-assessing their English ability if they are applying for a student visa.

Applicants also now only have to prove their language ability once, and can rely on having met the requirement in a previous visa application for future applications.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/47576>

The following two questions both received the same answer

British Nationality and Visas: Domestic Abuse

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [49649] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to support victims of domestic violence who are applying for (a) visas and (b) citizenship from within the UK.

Visas: Domestic Abuse

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [49650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of (a) the number of domestic violence victims applying for visas and (b) the length of time those victims are waiting for visas to be granted and issued.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for this Government and we are committed to supporting all victims of domestic abuse. Anyone who has suffered domestic abuse must be treated as a victim first and foremost, regardless of their immigration status.

The Destitute Domestic Violence Concession (DDVC) allows for eligible migrant partners to apply for the lifting of the no recourse to public funds condition associated with their leave, enabling the victim to access welfare benefits while their application for indefinite leave to remain as a victim of domestic abuse (DVILR) is made and considered. We aim to consider all DVILR applications within six months and applicants have access to public funds and permission to stay in their

own right, until a decision on their application is made. This removes the need for them to remain with their sponsor on whom they may have been financially dependent or reliant on for their permission to stay in the UK.

To be eligible for DVILR an individual's last grant of leave must have been on a spouse, civil partner, unmarried partner or same sex partner visa in a relationship with a British citizen or settled person. Other cohorts, such as those with refugee leave or the partners of those with pre-settled status via the EU Settlement Scheme, are also eligible to apply for DVILR. Applicants who are destitute are exempt from paying a fee for this application.

Data on the number of applications and performance under the DV route are published quarterly, with the latest quarter available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/visas-and-citizenship-data-q2-2022>

Following the Government's review of support for migrant victims in 2020, last year we launched the Support for Migrant Victims Scheme.

The 12-month pilot, run by Southall Black Sisters and their delivery partners, and supported with £1.5 million of Government funding, has provided wraparound support services for migrant victims of domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds. Support includes: accommodation, subsistence, and counselling.

The pilot and independent evaluation aims to ensure that we have a robust evidence base to inform future policy decisions surrounding our support for migrant victims. The evaluation will be producing a final report later in 2022.

In the interim, we will provide £1.4 million in 2022-23 to continue to fund support for migrant victims of domestic abuse, whilst we take on board vital lessons learned from the pilot to inform future policy decisions.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-08/49649>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-08/49650>

Visas: Applications

Caroline Lucas (Green) [45506] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many family reunion applications waiting to be processed as of 2 September 2022 have exceeded the 60-day service standard for a decision; what the average processing time for those applications was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We are currently working outside the 60 day service standard for refugee family reunion applications and processing times are approximately double the expected service standard timeframe.

We are working hard to recover our decision-making timescales and are looking to streamline our processes and secure additional resource to support this work.

We will prioritise applications where there is a particularly urgent or compelling reason to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45506>

Visas: Applications

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [48337] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what support her Department provides for people who may lose their (a) jobs and (b) housing due to delays exceeding six months for the renewal of Leave to Remain visas.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Under section 3C of the Immigration Act 1971, a person whose application for further leave is outstanding when their existing leave expires will have that leave extended until the application is either decided or withdrawn. Any conditions attached to the original leave will continue. No one should lose their job or their housing simply because of a delay in renewing their visa.

Visas: Applications

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [48366] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of delays in processing visa applications on (a) people and (b) employers renewing Tier 2 visas.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office had been prioritising Ukraine visa schemes applications in response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Staff from other Government departments, including DWP and HMRC, have been surged into the department to help with Ukraine work and enable normal visa routes to return to normal service levels in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48336>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Windrush Compensation Scheme

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [48445] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times did the Home Office not accept and implement the recommendation of the independent person following a Tier 2 review decision of a Windrush Compensation Claim, in each month from April 2019 to September 2022.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [48446] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many times did the Home Office not accept and implement the recommendation of a Senior Reviewer following a Tier 1 review decision of a Windrush Compensation Claim, in each month from April 2019 to September 2022.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [48447] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants rejected the outcome of a Tier 1 review decision in each month from April 2019 to September 2022.

Kate Osamor (Labour Co-op) [48448] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Windrush Compensation Scheme claimants rejected the outcome of a Tier 2 review decision in each month from April 2019 to September 2022.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: From April 2019 to date, the Windrush Compensation Scheme has accepted and implemented all recommendations made by the Independent Adjudicator, following Tier 2 review decisions.

From April 2019 to date, the Windrush Compensation Scheme has accepted and implemented all recommendations made by an internal independent person who had not previously been involved in the claim, following a Tier 1 review.

Windrush Compensation Scheme published data shows that between April 2019 and July 2022, 188 individuals submitted a Tier 2 review request following a Tier 1 review decision.

A full breakdown including dates can be found at tab WCS_09: [Transparency Data](#). The Adjudicator's Office is a separate organisation, independent of the Home Office. More information about how the Adjudicator's Office administers an independent Tier 2 review of Windrush Compensation Scheme decisions is available [here](#).

If an individual remains dissatisfied with the service or decision of the Adjudicator's Office, even where they choose to accept that Tier 2 decision, they can ask their MP to send their review request or complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

When the Ombudsman receives a complaint, they will initially conduct a primary investigation and where further information is required, the Ombudsman may launch a full investigation.

Up to the end of August 2022, the Ombudsman had investigated 14 cases relating to Tier 2 reviews. All investigations up to December 2021 have been closed. 7 claims received from January 2022 onwards remain open. No complaints relating

to Tier 2 review outcomes have progressed to a full investigation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48445>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48446>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48447>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48448>

Information about the Windrush Compensations Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-windrush-compensation-scheme>

Undocumented Migrants

Jim Shannon (DUP) [47535] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the volume of illegal immigration since December 2021.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office publishes data on the number of people recorded being detected on, or shortly after, arrival to the UK on various routes in the [Irregular Migration to the UK](#) quarterly report. The latest data on selected methods of entry are published in table Irr_01 of the [Irregular migration to the UK data tables](#). The latest data go up to the end of June 2022.

These statistics should not be used to infer the size of the irregular population in the UK, nor the total number of people entering the UK irregularly. For a number of reasons, it is not possible to know the exact size of the irregular population, or the number entering irregularly, and so we have not produced any official estimates for this number.

This is because:

- some irregular migrants will successfully evade border controls and remain in the UK undetected
- some migrants who enter the UK regularly may subsequently become 'irregular' migrants – for example if they overstay a visa (it should be noted that there are a number of ways in which a migrant's departure from the UK may legitimately not be recorded on the system)
- the data sources available count the number of recorded detections - in some instances the same person may be detected multiple times, either on the same route or across different routes (such individuals will be counted multiple times in the statistics)
- some migrants who enter the UK irregularly may subsequently become 'regular' migrants – for example, following a successful asylum application

Figures on detections may be impacted by the levels of operational activity at the border and overseas, so should not be used to infer levels of irregular migration. Changes in detection could be a result of changes in operational activity, as well as changes in the number of people attempting to enter the UK irregularly and recording practices.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/47535>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [45173] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many community sponsorship applications have been (a) submitted and (b) approved in the last 12 months; and how many applications were pending as 1 September 2022.

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [45178] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to promote Community Sponsorship programmes to support refugee resettlement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Community Sponsorship enables local volunteer groups including charities and faith groups, to directly welcome and support refugees, helping with accommodation and integration support.

Between the 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, 67 applications were submitted by groups wishing to sponsor refugees, and 62 applications have been approved during that period of time. To note, those approved may not necessarily be the same as those submitted during the year reported.

More than 790 refugees have been resettled through Community Sponsorship since the scheme began in 2016. Details of the number of refugees resettled through community sponsorship each quarter are published in the quarterly immigration statistics. The latest release is available at:

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

Through the New Plan for Immigration, the Government has committed to increase the number of resettled refugees supported through Community Sponsorship, encouraging stronger partnerships between local government and community groups.

The Government funds Reset, a capacity building organisation to increase the number and diversity of Community Sponsorship groups and catalyse the growth of the scheme. This includes campaign work targeting the recruitment of new sponsor groups, and a toolkit which supports others to help raise awareness of Community Sponsorship.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45173>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45178>

Asylum

Emma Hardy (Labour) [47637] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers are there currently in the UK who would previously have been returned to the first country they arrived in under the Dublin Agreement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Until 31 December 2020, the UK was bound by, and participated in, the EU's Dublin arrangements for assigning EU Member State responsibility for considering asylum claims. These arrangements included use of the Eurodac fingerprint database, which assisted identifying an individual's earlier presence in another Member State. Responsibility for claims was determined according to a referral mechanism between Member States and the application of a hierarchical criteria to the particular facts of each case.

Since the UK no longer participates in the Dublin arrangements, these specific considerations and referral mechanisms no longer operate as they did. There are therefore no statistics available to show how many people who have claimed asylum in the UK would, or could, have been identified and considered for action within Dublin were it to have continued, or how many of those we would have removed.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/47637>

Asylum: Applications

Caroline Lucas (Green) [45768] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to set a target time for processing outstanding claims for asylum made before the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 came into force on 28 June 2022; how many such claims are pending; what the earliest submission date is for those pending claims; if she will make it her policy to expedite older claims by date of submission; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office does not currently have a target

time for processing applications for asylum, but are committed to ensuring that asylum claims are considered without unnecessary delay.

Asylum Operations are working to reintroduce a service standard for the processing of asylum applications. It is our intention to reintroduce a service standard aligning with the recommendation from the recent Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's (ICIBI) published report - An inspection of asylum casework (November 2021).

We have already made progress in prioritising claims with acute vulnerability and those in receipt of the greatest level of support, including Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. Additionally, we are prioritising older claims and those where an individual has already received a decision, but a reconsideration is required.

Information regarding how many initial asylum claims are pending and the earliest submission date is published as part of the Government's transparency agenda, the latest release of which can be found at table Asy_04 of the Asylum Migration Data June 2022: [List of tables](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45768>

Asylum: Applications

Dan Carden (Labour) [45144] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help ensure that asylum seekers awaiting a decision on an asylum application are not drawn into modern slavery.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: We understand many asylum seekers have experienced challenging circumstances when making their way to the UK and we take our responsibility towards vulnerable asylum seekers seriously, ensuring that staff are trained to identify and support the most vulnerable as they make their way through their asylum journey.

A key objective of the asylum process is to create a secure and positive environment that supports claimants to disclose as much relevant information as possible, including medical conditions, disabilities, or experience of trauma that may make the person vulnerable.

Asylum claimants are directly asked about their physical and mental health throughout the asylum process. If the responses provided, or the claimant's general demeanour, indicate that they may be a victim of trauma, this information is recorded to ensure appropriate onward routing and management. Depending on the extent of their vulnerability, they may also make a referral to the Asylum Safeguarding Hub.

We work closely with authorities with statutory responsibility for vulnerable asylum seekers, including local authorities and medical practitioners. We make referrals to those agencies where there is a clear need and encourage all asylum seekers to access mainstream healthcare, including mental health provision as appropriate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45144>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Claire Hanna (SDLP) [53560] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if it will establish an independent complaints mechanism for asylum seekers in contingency accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: The Home Office introduced the Advice Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) service in September 2019, as operated by Migrant Help, to provide an independent resource for asylum seekers to request help, report issues and property defects, provide feedback or make complaints.

Asylum seekers are able to contact Migrant Help 24/7 by telephone, webchat or email, and there are strict service level agreements in place to resolving contacts, dependent on issue type. Accommodation providers are contractually obligated to

respond to complaints within 5 working days of receipt. In the rare event that this timeframe is not honoured, or where an asylum seeker is dissatisfied with the response received, the complaint is escalated to the authority for comprehensive review and response. Where a complaint is upheld, the information is shared with the department's Service Delivery Managers for discussion at contract management meetings with the providers to influence continuous improvement to the service. The complaints data is regularly monitored and analysed to identify trends in issues and feedback which can further enhance these conversations and maintain standards.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-21/53560>

Asylum: Housing

Catherine West (Labour) [48461] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to help transition asylum seekers from hotel accommodation into permanent accommodation.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Accommodation provided to asylum seekers is temporary whilst their claim for asylum is considered. When moving from initial and contingency accommodation into dispersed accommodation, service users are afforded with an induction to both their property and the local area.

On 13 April we moved to full dispersal with every local authority in England, Scotland and Wales participating in asylum dispersal. Since April, accommodation providers have expanded procurement of beds in new areas. This move is hoped to end the use of contingency accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48461>

Asylum: Hotels

Rupa Huq (Labour) [48444] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the use of hotel accommodation for asylum seeking families that include children with severe mental health issues or autism; and if she will review the use of hotel accommodation in such circumstances.

Reply from Tom Pursglove: Hotels are an appropriate means of providing adequate accommodation in order to meet our legal obligations to support asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. Our published asylum support healthcare needs and pregnancy dispersal policy sets out that if an applicant's healthcare need requires the urgent provision of dispersal accommodation, the application for support should be prioritised wherever possible. This guidance also provides guidelines on dispersal for those with mental health issues.

The guidance can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496911/new_Healthcare_Needs_and_Pregnancy_Dispersal_Policy_EXTERNAL_v3_0.pdf

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48444>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Blunkett (Labour) [HL2072] To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of the 20,000 individuals who crossed the channel in small boats in order to seek asylum from the beginning of 2022 have been identified as being Albanian citizens.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office publishes quarterly statistics on irregular migration, including the nationalities of those arriving by small boat on

gov.uk.

12,747 people crossed the Channel by small boat in the first six months of this year, and 17% of those were declared as Albanian nationals.

Figures on irregular migration to the UK up to the end of September 2022 will be published on 24 November 2022. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar' on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2072>

The quarterly statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2022/irregular-migration-to-the-uk-year-ending-march-2022#how-many-migrants-were-detected-arriving-in-the-uk-via-small-boats>

The Research and Statistics Calendar, referred to above, can be read at

https://www.gov.uk/search/research-and-statistics?content_store_document_type=all_research_and_statistics&order=updated-newest

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL2169] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many persons have been accepted to date in the UK under the Afghanistan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) will see up to 20,000 people from Afghanistan and the region resettled to the UK, over the coming years.

Under pathway one of the ACRS, individuals being resettled will be some of those already evacuated and in the UK. They include women's rights activists, journalists, and prosecutors, and Afghan family members of British Nationals.

At 12 Aug 2022, the UK has welcomed 21,450 people to the UK from Afghanistan - or a neighbouring country - since June 2021. However, we are unable, at this time, to provide a breakdown of how many people have been granted resettlement specifically under the ACRS.

Officials are working at pace to assure information relating to the individuals resettling in the UK under the ACRS on case working systems. Once this work concludes, the Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its quarterly Immigration Statistics publications.

Until then the factsheet will be updated every quarter – with the next iteration scheduled for publication on 24 November 2022.

We have now begun to receive the first referrals for resettlement under pathway 2 of the ACRS – which opened in June - from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). We anticipate receiving referrals from the UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees, who have already fled Afghanistan, during the first year of this pathway - although this number will be kept under review - and we look forward to welcoming the first new arrivals under this pathway in due course.

Finally, the FCDO also launched a third referral pathway, in June, which will see up to 1,500 eligible British Council and GardaWorld contractors, Chevening alumni - and their dependents - in Afghanistan, considered for resettlement to the UK.

The window for expressions of interest (EOIs) to resettle under the ACRS pathway 3 closed on 15 August 2022. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office is in the process of reviewing all EOIs in the order in which they were received.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2169>

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

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

The factsheet referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data/afghan-resettlement-programme-operational-data>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Lord Turnberg (Labour) [HL2191] To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they plan to offer Ukrainian refugees housed with British families when the initial six month period of the Homes for Ukraine scheme ends.

Reply from Baroness Bloomfield of Hinton Waldrist: As we move towards the next phase of the programme, we have set out options and support available to sponsors and guests that are coming to the end of their initial six-month sponsorship. Updated guidance is published on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for sponsors, guests, and local councils. This includes information on rematching, and helping guests to live independently by providing guidance on the UK housing market, support in developing necessary language skills and finding jobs.

The guidance for the Homes for Ukraine guests, hosts and councils setting out all the support options available to them can be accessed (attached) here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homes-for-ukraine-guidance-for-councils#four-to-6-months-after-guests-have-moved-to-your-area>

[Four to six months after guests have moved area](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2191>

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

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

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

The following six questions all received the same answer

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2171] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 26 July (HL2043), how many test centres were administering Life in the UK tests each month in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, (3) 2021, and (4) to date in 2022.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2172] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 26 July (HL2043), how many Life in the UK tests were sat each month in (1) 2019, (2) 2020, (3) 2021, and (4) to date in 2022.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2173] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 July 2022 (HL 1710), how many Life in the UK test centres have been checking that individuals had waited at least seven days since their last test; and what methods they have been using to monitor this.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2174] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 July 2022 (HL 1710), how many individuals have sat the Life in the UK test without waiting at least seven days since their last test.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2175] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 July 2022 (HL 1710), what assessment they have made of the requirement that a Life in the UK test be sat no more than once every seven days; and when this requirement was introduced.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2176] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 25 July (HL1710), what assessment they have made of the discrepancy between the use of the words "must" and "should" in the Home Office Guide AN: Naturalisation Booklet: The Requirements and the Process, published on 28 June, which states that individuals must wait seven days after failing a citizenship test, and the GOV.UK website which states that individuals should wait seven days.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Life in the UK testing is provided and hosted by PSI Services (UK) Limited who operate a self-booking process. Candidates are able to book tests in multiple slots; they are not limited by the system as to how frequently a test can be taken and there has never been a formal requirement for customers to wait seven days before taking a test again. The seven day wait before re-taking a test is a suggestion in order to aid candidates' personal preparation. Given there is no requirement, no checks are conducted by test centres, or the online booking system, on the length of time a candidate has waited for their test. Guidance on gov.uk is being updated to reflect that there is no requirement to wait seven days.

Information on the number of test centres administering Life in the UK tests each month and the number of Life in the UK tests sat each month in 2019 – 2022 is not available in a reportable format. However the number of tests taken each quarter in relation to citizenship and settlement applications can be found on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2171>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2172>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2173>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2174>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2175>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2176>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-21/hl2043>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/hl1710>

The booklet referred to above can be read at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088489/Guide AN Naturalisation - Revised - 06.07.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088489/Guide_AN_Naturalisation_-_Revised_-_06.07.pdf)

British Nationality: Assessments

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL2244] To ask Her Majesty's Government, with regard to the Life in the UK test, whether the test still asks applicants about information in the official test handbook third edition on (1) the UK's membership of the EU, (2) the number of EU Member States, and (3) the names of all EU Member States; and if not, when the material was removed.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: All questions on the EU in the Life in the UK test were removed on our departure from the EU on the 31 January 2020 at 23.00. An errata slip was added to existing stock of the official test handbook third edition to confirm that customers would not be asked any questions on the EU, or the UK's relationship with the EU as part of the Home Office approved test. The relevant sections were then removed from subsequent prints of the handbook.

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL2139] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 6 July (HL Deb cols 1067–1071), how many applications for the discretionary fee waiver on grounds of non-affordability have been received; how many of those applications (1) were successful, and (2) were rejected; and what other options were considered with reference to the fee itself in advance of the final stage impact assessment.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Following introduction of the discretionary fee waiver for child citizenship registration applications on 16 June 2022, the Home Office will be carrying out regular review of the number of applications received, as well as the proportion of applications that have been successful or rejected. Information to support this review is currently in the process of being collated, reviewed and assured, and we are therefore not in a position to share figures at this time. We are however considering the best mechanism for updating Parliament with this information and will do so at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

A range of options were considered in relation to the child citizenship registration fee prior to the final stage impact assessment, including a fee reduction. As the then Minister for Safe and Legal Migration outlined in his Written Ministerial Statement of 26 May, the department's view, having considered the different options, is that the introduction of a fee waiver based on affordability represents the most effective means of better facilitating children's access to citizenship, while protecting the sustainable funding of the borders and migration system. This funding supports delivery of the department's key functions, while reducing reliance on the UK taxpayer.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2139>

The remarks referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-06/debates/96F32F44-5B43-4400-AA50-37252FF4838D/ImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Regulations2022#contribution-2D80AA88-06D9-4564-8A06-0EACB0C35B5C](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-06/debates/96F32F44-5B43-4400-AA50-37252FF4838D/ImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Regulations2022#contribution-2D80AA88-06D9-4564-8A06-0EACB0C35B5C)

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2022-05-26/hcws65>

British Nationality: Children

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour) [HL2227] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Baroness Williams of Trafford on 6 July (HL Deb cols 1067–71), what discussions they have had with the Project for the Registration of Children regarding the criticisms made of the (1) guidance, and (2) application process, for the discretionary waiver; and what further consideration they have given to (a) the deletion from the guidance of reference to the impact on the funding of the immigration system, and (b) how to report to Parliament on the ongoing monitoring of the application of the waiver.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Whilst no discussions have taken place with the Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens on the guidance and application process for the discretionary fee waiver for child registration applications to date, the department is open to feedback on where improvements could be made. It is actively undertaking its own evaluation of this new service to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

Regarding the reference in the guidance to the impact on the funding of the immigration system, as noted in Baroness Williams' remarks of 6 July, nationality fees are part of a system of fees and funding that was established through the

Immigration Act 2014 and the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Order 2016, that underpins the overall policy of minimising the reliance on the UK taxpayer. The department maintains the view that the reference in the guidance is a relevant consideration in the overall affordability assessment undertaken by caseworkers. The Home Office is monitoring the numbers of applications received, approved or rejected. It is considering the best mechanism for updating Parliament with this information at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/hl2227>

The remarks referred to above can be read at

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-06/debates/96F32F44-5B43-4400-AA50-37252FF4838D/ImmigrationAndNationality\(Fees\)\(Amendment\)Regulations2022#contribution-2D80AA88-06D9-4564-8A06-0EACB0C35B5C](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-06/debates/96F32F44-5B43-4400-AA50-37252FF4838D/ImmigrationAndNationality(Fees)(Amendment)Regulations2022#contribution-2D80AA88-06D9-4564-8A06-0EACB0C35B5C)

Visas

Lord Alton of Liverpool (Crossbench) [HL1887] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many emergency visas have been issued by the Home Office, in accordance with the discretionary powers of the Secretary of State, in the last five years.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The UK does not have an emergency visa system. The Home Secretary has discretion to grant Leave Outside The Rules (LOTR) on compelling compassionate grounds; however, we do not maintain a record of those granted LOTR.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-19/hl1887>

Refugees: Climate Change

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL2237] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the decisions by the governments of Canada, Finland and Sweden to broaden their definition of refugee to include people affected by climate change; and what plans they have, if any, to amend their definition similarly.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The UK has a proud record of providing protection for people who need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Every asylum claim is carefully considered on its individual merits by assessing all the evidence provided by the claimant against a background of country information from a wide range of credible sources.

Refugee status is granted when someone has a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. They must show that they cannot seek protection from the authorities in their country and cannot reasonably move to another part of their country to avoid persecution.

Climate change is not covered in the Refugee Convention as grounds for a well-founded fear of persecution and we do not have any plans to broaden this definition. We recognise however, that climate change will increasingly become a significant factor in driving migration. Evidence shows that climate extremes and environmental degradation are often amplifiers of other principal migration drivers. For those who do not have a well-founded fear of persecution for a convention reason, we consider whether they are at risk of serious harm and are in need of protection on humanitarian grounds. This ensures that we do not remove anyone who faces persecution or serious harm on return to their country of origin. If protection is not required, we consider if there are any family or private life reasons, medical reasons, or other exceptional circumstances that would warrant a grant of leave.

Decisions to migrate can have several causes and we regularly engage with our

international partners in other countries on this important issue. We recognise the importance of providing people with options for sustainable livelihoods that do not compel them to migrate. As climate change increases its impact on migration it is imperative that efforts are redoubled to limit warming and to help vulnerable people to adapt to change. Climate change is a reality that requires greater and more coordinated adaptation and mitigation planning.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/hl2237>

Refugees: Housing

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL2170] To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they take to ensure that adequate housing is available for all refugees throughout the UK.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Our resettlement schemes offer a safe and legal route to the UK for vulnerable refugees in need of protection. We work on a daily basis with local government to ensure we meet our international and statutory obligations to provide accommodation for all refugees.

Before committing to offer resettlement places, a local authority needs to think about whether they have, or are able to put in place, the accommodation and support needed to ensure the appropriate care and resettlement of people in need of our help.

For all Afghan nationals seeking accommodation through the various Afghan refugee pathways, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) have created a Housing Portal to make it easier for councils to assess the suitability of properties prior to contacting landlords. Offers of property are triaged by DLUHC and sent directly to councils. We are also looking at ways to make more suitable homes available in the private rental sector by engaging with landlords, letting agencies and industry bodies to promote the housing portal and encourage participation in the resettlement programme. We are also working with the estate agent, Rightmove, to identify potential properties available in the private rental sector.

DLUHC have also introduced the Find Your Own Accommodation scheme which empowers Afghan families to source their own accommodation, rather than the Home Office. They will need to secure agreement, from their new local authority, that they will continue to receive ongoing integration support from them, once they have moved into their new home.

Migrant Help provide support to service users following a positive decision via the AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) contract. Positive move on advice is designed to help service users to integrate into the UK. Migrant Help provide advice and information on the steps service users need to take to secure access to accommodation, mainstream welfare payments and employment, when someone leaves Home Office support and/or accommodation, following a grant of asylum or some other form of leave. Migrant Help offer both telephone and face to face appointments to help service users understand their circumstances and signpost to relevant organisations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2170>

Asylum

Baroness Hoey (Non-affiliated) [HL1899] To ask Her Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers have reached the UK having first registered in a Council of Europe country in each of the last five years; of those asylum seekers, how many first registered in Ireland; and from where did the asylum seekers who first registered in Ireland originally travel.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Home Office does not hold data on asylum seekers who have previously registered in a Council of Europe Country.

However, data is available through the Eurodac system for asylum seekers who have previously made an asylum claim in EU+ (EU, Norway, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Switzerland) countries and then made a further claim in UK. This data is only available for the period prior to the UK leaving the EU and the Eurodac system. The relevant available data has been extracted and presented in the table below. It is subject to the same caveats as the Eurodac system from which it is derived. As such, it is a count of Eurodac 'hits', not individuals or claims. For example, an individual applying once in the UK, who has previously applied once each in Germany, France and Italy, would produce 3 hits, one for each prior application. Data on where journeys began is unfortunately unavailable.

Year	Eurodac hits linked to EU+	Eurodac hits linked to Ireland	Source
2020	19,599	948	Eurodac Annual Report 2020
2019	13,089	703	Eurodac Annual Report 2019
2018	10,057	355	Eurodac Annual Report 2018
2017	7,079	253	Eurodac Annual Report 2017

Note: Category 1 data against category 1 data only

The United Kingdom and Ireland have a regular dialogue relating to the operation of the Common Travel Area where issues such as border security risks and shared immigration challenges are discussed.

Those who fear persecution should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach – this is the fastest route to safety. Ireland is a safe country and, as such, it would not be appropriate for individuals to travel to the UK from Ireland to claim asylum.

The Government has previously raised with Ireland concerns about individuals exploiting the Common Travel Area generally to reach the United Kingdom to seek asylum, most recently in May of this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-19/hl1899>

Human Trafficking and Refugees: Children

Lord Hylton (Crossbench) [HL2128] To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans, if any, they have to end the practice of placing unaccompanied refugee, migrant, or trafficked children in hotels without supervision.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The UK is experiencing an unprecedented increase in the number of people making life-threatening journeys to cross the Channel. These boats are often carrying unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), which have placed unprecedented pressure on the National Transfer Scheme. Out of necessity with the children's best interests in mind, we have arranged for UASC to be accommodated on an emergency and temporary basis in hotels whilst placements with local authorities are being vigorously pursued.

The rise in dangerous small boats crossings means there are significant challenges on local authority care places. The Government has had no alternative but to urgently use hotels to give UASC arriving in the UK a roof over their heads. The Government wants to stop using these hotels but the Home Office cannot do this alone. We are working round the clock with councils to boost the number of long-term care spaces available, through the New Plan for Immigration, and are offering them additional funding in addition to existing monthly funding.

The National Transfer Scheme (NTS) enables a more equitable distribution of responsibility for UASC between local authorities across the UK. However, the high number of UASC arrivals, particularly as a result of small boat crossings, continues to place unprecedented pressure on the NTS.

In November 2021, we took the decision to move to a directed NTS, in addition to the package of NTS improvements implemented in July 2021. Since 15 February

all local authorities with children's services in the UK have been directed to participate in the NTS. However, intake remains very high, and the situation remains challenging.

We continue to take action to ensure the NTS works effectively so that children are transferred promptly and to end the use of hotels.

On 24 August 2022, we wrote to all UK local authorities and devolved equivalents with children's services, announcing changes to the NTS. We have increased the threshold up to which councils have to accept UASC into their care from the previous level of 0.07% to 0.1% of their general child population, halved the transfer deadline to five working-days for all UASC not currently in the care of a local authority, and for UASC awaiting transfer into local authority care, we will provide councils with an additional £2000 per child per month for 3 months.

It is not the case that these children are unsupervised. UASC temporarily accommodated in hotels are supported with wrap-around care, including from professional care workers, social workers, and nurses.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-05/hl2128>

Detention Centres: Construction

Lord Roberts of Llandudno (Liberal Democrat) [HL2241] To ask Her Majesty's Government why they have announced plans for a new immigration detention centre creating an additional capacity for 400 men.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure that the Home Office has sufficient resilience, geographical footprint and capacity for the men and women it proves necessary to detain for the purposes of removal, while providing value for money.

As the previous Prime Minister said in April, the Government is expanding its immigration detention facilities to remove those with no right to remain in the UK. In June 2022, the Home Office announced the first stages of procurement to operate a new immigration removal centre (IRC) on the site of the former Campsfield House, Oxfordshire. Our plans for the site of the former Campsfield House IRC are part of that expansion. The new IRC, which will be a secure facility and will accommodate around 400 men, will not be operational until at least late 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/hl2241>

Press Releases

Call for cross-party support for Rural Visa Pilot

<https://www.gov.scot/news/call-for-cross-party-support-for-rural-visa-pilot/>

Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics/>

Homes for displaced people from Ukraine

<https://www.gov.scot/news/homes-for-displaced-people-from-ukraine/>

New Publications

Updated overview of the immigration system

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/overview-of-the-immigration-system>

Summary of latest statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/summary-of-latest-statistics>

How many people come to the UK each year (including visitors)?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/how-many-people-come-to-the-uk-each-year-including-visitors>

Why do people come to the UK? To work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-work>

Why do people come to the UK? To study

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-to-study>

Why do people come to the UK? For family reasons

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/why-do-people-come-to-the-uk-for-family-reasons>

How many people do we grant asylum or protection to?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/how-many-people-do-we-grant-asylum-or-protection-to>

How many people continue their stay in the UK or apply to stay permanently?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/how-many-people-continue-their-stay-in-the-uk-or-apply-to-stay-permanently>

How many people are detained or returned?

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/how-many-people-are-detained-or-returned>

Asylum claims on the basis of sexual orientation 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/asylum-claims-on-the-basis-of-sexual-orientation-2021--2>

Statistics on Ukrainians in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/immigration-statistics-year-ending-june-2022/statistics-on-ukrainians-in-the-uk>

Migrants detected crossing the English Channel in small boats - weekly data

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/migrants-detected-crossing-the-english-channel-in-small-boats-weekly-data>

EU Settlement Scheme quarterly statistics, June 2022

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

Updated Asylum and resettlement datasets

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

Letter from Tom Pursglove to Diana Johnson regarding plans to redevelop the site of the former Haslar Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) in Gosport (Hampshire) and to open an IRC with capacity for up to 600 adult males

[https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2022-0770/Minister to HASC Chair-Haslar Immigration Removal Centre.pdf](https://data.parliament.uk/DepositedPapers/Files/DEP2022-0770/Minister%20to%20HASC%20Chair-Haslar%20Immigration%20Removal%20Centre.pdf)

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

Government sent Rwanda deportation warnings to asylum seekers during national mourning over Queen's death

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-asylum-seekers-queen-death-b2172952.html>

News: Channel Migrants

Channel crossings to the UK in 2022 pass 30,000

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/priti-patel-rwanda-government-english-channel-mod-b2172970.html>

Channel migrants now top 30,000 a year

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/21/channel-migrants-now-top-30000-year/>

Record 30,000 migrants have arrived in small boats across Channel this year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/failure-to-discuss-channel-baffling-972zxl38h>

Channel migrants: More than 1,100 people arrive in small boats

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-63004640>

Police catch people-smuggling gang behind 50 Channel crossings

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/22/police-catch-people-smuggling-gang-behind-50-channel-crossings/>

News: Ukraine

Nicola Sturgeon announces £50m homes fund for Ukrainian refugees after searing criticism

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/22563864.nicola-sturgeon-announces-50m-homes-fund-ukrainian-refugees-searing-criticism/>

Anger as 'confused' SNP response for Ukrainian refugees hits homeless services

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/22325408.anger-confused-snp-response-ukrainian-refugees-hits-homeless-services/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Liz Truss's plan for more migrants to boost growth

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/liz-truss-plan-for-more-migrants-to-boost-growth-j2bl2lsnz>

6,000 refugees living in hotels and on ships

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/6-000-refugees-living-in-hotels-and-on-ships-phrpnzcj5>

Home Office refuses to speed up visa case of woman with terminal cancer

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/sep/19/home-office-immigration-visa-case-further-leave-to-remain>

Swapping Hong Kong for Crewe: 'We won't go back'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62658669>

It's been a year since my Home Office asylum interview. I'm not allowed to work so I'm studying

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/sep/21/year-home-office-asylum-interview>

'I miss my hometown, my friend – and my mum's delicious food': the cookbook made by refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/food/2022/sep/20/i-miss-my-hometown-friend-and-mums-delicious-food-the-cookbook-made-by-refugees>

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Community Relations

News

Leicester disorder: Women call for unity over city unrest

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-63020966>

Did misinformation fan the flames in Leicester?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-trending-63009009>

Leicester: Why the violent unrest was surprising to many

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63009571>

Leicester residents 'scared to go out' due to Hindu-Muslim clashes as tensions spread to Birmingham

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/leicester-religious-tensions-hindu-muslim-b2172017.html>

'People are scared': Leicester at sudden crossroads after violence ends 50 years of harmony

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/leicester-riots-muslims-hindus-protests-b2173443.html>

Islamist preacher accused of 'stirring up hatred' in Leicester

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/24/islamist-preacher-accused-stirring-hatred-leicester/>

Leicester violence could spread beyond city, warns local MP Claudia Webbe

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/sep/20/leicester-violence-could-spread-beyond-city-says-mp-claudia-webbe>

Ongoing clashes between Muslims and Hindus 'could spread all over Britain'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/09/21/leicester-muslim-hindu-clashes-spread-smethwick/>

What is Hindu nationalism and how does it relate to trouble in Leicester?

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/20/what-is-hindu-nationalism-and-who-are-the-rss>

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Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Dementia: Ethnic Groups

Bob Blackman (Conservative) [45685] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that accurate data is collected on the number of Black, Asian, and minority ethnic people who are diagnosed with dementia.

Reply from Neil O'Brien: The monthly Recorded Dementia Diagnoses data includes counts of patients with a diagnosis of dementia on their general practitioner patient record by sub-integrated care board location, which also records ethnicity. Monthly data releases are available at the following link:

<https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/recorded-dementia-diagnoses>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45685>

Dementia: Ethnic Groups

Bob Blackman (Conservative) [45780] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, if he will make it his policy to provide dedicated community link workers to help improve (a) awareness and understanding of dementia and (b) access to dementia services in ethnic minority communities.

Reply from Neil O'Brien: Integrated care boards (ICBs) are responsible for services and support for people with dementia, including the provision of community link workers. NHS England expects ICBs to commission services which take into account relevant guidance, including the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's guidelines and the Dementia Care Pathway, to improve the delivery and quality of care and support.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-02/45780>

Energy Bills Rebate: Travellers

Mary Kelly foy (Labour) [48494] To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 20 June 2022 to Question 18990 on Energy Bills Rebate, whether he is taking steps to help ensure that Gypsies, Travellers and other nomadic households will receive the £400 energy bills rebate; and if he will hold discussions with voluntary sector organisations on identifying groups that could be excluded from the scheme.

Reply from Graham Stuart On 29 July the Government set out further details of the Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS) and confirmed that further funding will be available to provide equivalent support of £400 for energy bills for the small percentage of domestic energy consumers not reached by EBSS. This will include those who do not have a domestic electricity meter or a direct relationship with an energy supplier. The government will be announcing details later in the autumn on

eligibility and on how these households will receive the £400 payment. This support will be provided alongside the 'Energy Price Guarantee' which will mean a typical UK household will pay, on average, no more than £2,500 a year on their energy bill for the next two years.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-09-06/48494>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18990>

Information about the Energy Bills Support Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-bills-support/energy-bills-support-factsheet-8-september-2022>

News

Britons of black and south Asian origin with dementia die younger, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/sep/18/britons-of-black-and-south-asian-origin-with-dementia-die-younger-study-finds>

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Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Press Release

Civil servant's race discrimination case settled

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/civil-servant's-race-discrimination-case-settled>

News

Crown Office civil servant's large payout in race discrimination case

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/crown-office-civil-servants-large-payout-in-race-discrimination-case-w0vvtqvb>

Firms join forces to combat racism in chemistry

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-62824163>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Pam Gosal (Conservative) [S6M-05935] First Daily Sikh E-Newspaper Launches in Scotland – That the Parliament commends the efforts of journalist Mandeep Khurmi Himmatpura on the launch of the UK's only daily Punjabi e-newspaper Punj Darya, which translates as Five Rivers; appreciates what it sees as the cultural and inclusive nature of the paper, which reports on Scottish, UK-wide and international stories that matter to Sikh communities, and understands that the newspaper, which runs in conjunction with an

online radio and web channel and has been very well received by all age groups, plans to expand its offering in the very near future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-05935>

Press Release

Rosh HaShanah message from the First Minister

https://scojec.org/news/2022/22ix_rh/fm.html

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Rosh HaShanah message from the Prime Minister

<https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1573971109963337729>

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Death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Scottish Parliament Debate

Tributes to Her Late Majesty the Queen

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=13889&i=125877#ScotParlOR>

Scottish Parliament and Government Press Releases

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/the-death-of-her-majesty-queen-elizabeth-ii>

Her Majesty The Queen laid to rest

<https://www.gov.scot/news/her-majesty-the-queen-laid-to-rest/>

Deputy First Minister observes National Moment of Reflection

<https://www.gov.scot/news/deputy-first-minister-observes-national-moment-of-reflection/>

Presiding Officer to represent Parliament at State Funeral for Her Majesty The Queen

<https://www.parliament.scot/about/news/news-listing/state-funeral-for-her-majesty-the-queen>

News

This was history - solemn, spectacular and intense

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62961080>

Funeral honours Queen's 'lifelong sense of duty'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62952004>

Scotland joins in Queen's final farewell

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-62949458>

Watch moments from the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-62957322>

MSPs gather in Holyrood to pay final tribute to late monarch

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/22317816.msps-gather-holyrood-pay-final-tribute-late-monarch/>

Queen's funeral: King Charles 'deeply touched' by public's support

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-62948816>

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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) (No.2) 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

Equity in medical devices (closing date 6 October 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/equity-in-medical-devices-independent-review-call-for-evidence>

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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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

** *this week!*

Working with Interpreters

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

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

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

<https://tinyurl.com/puykxxnu>

** *this week!*

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 Resources Launch

28 September 2022 (online, 4.00–5.00)

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust launch of resources to help mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 in a meaningful way, and launch of the [Extra] Ordinary Portraits art competition for young people to create a portrait of someone affected by the Holocaust or genocide, or a victim of identity-based persecution. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mscxphx4>

**** this week!**

Black History Month

28 September to 31 October 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Black History Month is a time to campaign and raise awareness on issues of Black history and present day racism. This includes highlighting the histories and legacies of empire, colonialism and slavery that continue to shape Scottish society. For information and a full programme of events see <https://tinyurl.com/2h7pwceu>

**** this week!**

Islamophobia, Migration Policy + Discourse

29 September 2022 (online, 6.00)

Migrants Rights Network and MEND event to discuss how Islamophobia institutionally manifests itself through policies and systems. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yuyua6sp>

Lifecycle of a charity - day to day running

5 October 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what you need to know to run a charity successfully and sustainably, including key events such as moving into premises, taking on staff and entering into contracts. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mtcnh6a2>

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>

Tackling Hate Through Education

13 October 2022 (Glasgow, 6.00–8.15)

Annual Interfaith Scotland lecture presented by Michael Haines, Director of Global Acts of Unity. For information contact admin@interfaithscotland.org / 0141 558 0778

Introduction to Working with Religious Diversity

26 October 2022 (online, 10.30–12.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course where delegates will improve their confidence in discussing and responding to the religion and belief of those they work with. The course will explore guiding 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

Lifecycle of a charity – the trustee journey

9 November 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at what excellence looks like for a trustee, and what key skills you need to have, including how to develop and build those skills and what you need to know legally and practically. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/222y9myy>

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>

Scottish Interfaith Week

13–20 November 2022 (Scotland-wide)

Interfaith Scotland community-led festival to celebrate religious and cultural diversity. The theme this year is Storytelling, to tie in with Scotland's Year Of Stories. For information, and to see the full calendar of events, see <https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/>

Intention versus impact – exploring challenges around group labels and unintended offence

6 December 2022 (online, 1.30–3.30)

Interfaith Scotland short course exploring the language used to describe groups of people, particularly in relation to Protected Characteristics like race, disability, religion and belief. The course will also consider how we can respond to unintended interpretations, confusion or offence by exploring the difference between the speaker's intention and the impact on the listener. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/k9hz52pk> or contact Jamie Spurway jamie@interfaithscotland.org

Lifecycle of a charity - when is the right time to wind up?

7 December 2022 (online, 1.00–2.00)

SCVO webinar looking at how to recognise when it's the right time to wind up and dissolve a charity. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2kvfvd7>

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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/>*



*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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