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

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Immigration and Asylum

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

Ukrainian Refugees: Mental Health Support

Miles Briggs (Conservative) [S6W-11783] To ask the Scottish Government what mental health support it is providing for Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Neil Gray: The health and welfare of all displaced people from Ukrainian staying in Scotland remains our priority. The Scottish Government Mental Health directorate worked closely with our partners such as Heads of Psychology Scotland, NHS Scotland, COSLA, the Scottish Refugee Council, amongst others, to develop and then publish wellbeing packs for displaced people from Ukraine arriving in Scotland. There was a specific pack full of helpful resources and guidance for displaced people from Ukraine on physiological wellbeing – [Ukraine psychological wellbeing advice pack: guidance for Ukrainian arrivals](#).

We've amended legislation so there will be no charge for NHS Scotland services for people who have fled Ukraine, services such as maternity care, mental health services and treatment for specific conditions.

Anyone in Scotland, regardless of their nationality, residence status or length of time they will be in the country, is already entitled to receive emergency treatment at an A&E or casualty department, and can register with a GP Practice to receive general medical services, at no charge.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11783>

UK Parliament Debate

Asylum Accommodation: Novotel Ipswich

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-08/debates/BBBF42D8-608D-48B4-BE33-066B60DF8ADA/AsylumAccommodationNovotellpswich>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers Accommodation and Safeguarding

Roger Gale (Conservative): To ask the Minister for Immigration if he will make a statement about what steps he is taking to reduce overcrowding at the Manston asylum processing facility and about the safeguarding of minors, both at Manston and in hotels.

Reply from the Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick): We have set out on multiple occasions that the global migration crisis is placing unprecedented strain on our asylum system. Despite what they may have been told by many, migrants who travel through safe countries should not put their lives at risk by making the dangerous and illegal journey to the United Kingdom. We are steadfast in our determination to tackle those gaming the system and will use every tool at our disposal to deter illegal migration and disrupt the business model of people smugglers.

So far this year, our French colleagues have prevented over 29,000 crossings and destroyed over 1,000 boats. Furthermore, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will be speaking with President Macron this week about how, together, we can achieve our shared ambition to prevent further crossings.

Some 40,000 people have crossed the channel on small boats so far this year, and the Government continue to have a statutory responsibility to provide safe and secure accommodation for asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute. To meet that responsibility, we have had to keep people for longer than we would have liked at our processing facility at Manston, but we have been sourcing more bed spaces with local authorities and in contingency accommodation such as hotels.

I can tell the House that, as of 8 o'clock this morning, the population at the Manston facility was back below 1,600. That is a significant reduction from this point last week, with over 2,300 people having been placed in onward accommodation. I thank my Border Force officers, members of the armed forces, our contractors and Home Office staff, who have worked tirelessly to help achieve that reduction.

Before the high number of arrivals in September, Manston had proven to be a streamlined and efficient asylum processing centre, where biographic and biometric details are taken and assessed against our databases, asylum claims registered and the vulnerable assessed. We are determined to ensure that Manston is back to that position as soon as possible, and I am encouraged by the progress now being made. We must not be complacent. We remain absolutely focused on

addressing these complex issues so that we can deliver a fair and effective asylum system that works in the interests of the British people.

Roger Gale: First, may I thank my right hon. Friend for the endeavours that he has made since his appointment to reduce the numbers of people overcrowding the Manston facility? I believe that this problem was wholly avoidable. He has worked tirelessly, with the staff at Manston—I thank them too—who have done a superb job under very difficult circumstances.

We are now nearly back to where we need to be, with the Manston processing centre operating efficiently. Will my right hon. Friend confirm his understanding, shared with the Home Secretary and with me last Thursday when she visited the site, that Manston is a processing centre, not an accommodation centre? Does he therefore agree that the temporary facilities that were erected while he and I were both present there a week ago on Sunday will be demolished, and can he confirm that additional accommodation will be provided so that the spike in November that is anticipated—which will happen, as it happened last year—will be catered for so that we will not have a repetition of the clogging-up of the facilities at Manston?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: First, may I praise my right hon. Friend, who is an exemplary Member of Parliament? It has been my privilege to work alongside him over the past 10 days. He has consistently raised concerns expressed by his constituents, and also our joint desire that Manston should operate as a humane and decent facility that provides compassionate care to those who arrive at the United Kingdom's borders. The population is now back at an acceptable level, which is a considerable achievement. It is essential that it remains so, and he is right to say that the challenge is far from over. Last year, for various reasons, November proved to be the largest month of the year for arrivals in the UK, so we have to be aware of that and plan appropriately. We are doing just that, and we are ensuring that there is now further accommodation so that we can build up a sufficient buffer, so that those arriving at Manston stay there for the legal period of 24 hours or thereabouts, and are then swiftly moved to better and more appropriate accommodation elsewhere in the country.

I support my right hon. Friend's view that Manston should always be a processing centre, not a permanent home for migrants arriving in the UK. I have taken note of his comment that he would like the temporary facilities there to be dismantled. I do not think that is possible right now, because the prudent thing is to ensure that we maintain the level of infrastructure that we have in case there is a significant increase in the number of migrants arriving in the weeks ahead, but it is certainly not my intention, or the Home Secretary's intention, that Manston is turned into a permanent site for housing immigrants.

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): ... The Home Secretary has stated that after 12 years of Conservative government the asylum system is "broken". We agree, and it is the Conservative party that has broken it. The Government are processing just half the number of asylum claims that they were processing in 2015, and as a result the British taxpayer is footing a £7 million hotel bill every single day. Their failure to replace the Dublin agreement on returning failed asylum seekers, their failure to crack down on the criminal gangs, and their failure to get agreement with France have also increased the backlog.

This catalogue of chaos has led to the overcrowding in Manston, for which the right hon. Member for North Thanet (Sir Roger Gale) has directly blamed the Home Secretary. The previous Home Secretary revealed today that on 20 October he received legal advice that Manston was "being used, or in danger of being used, as a detention centre", and he took emergency measures to work within the law. However, the current Home Secretary met officials on 19 October, just before she was forced to resign for breaching the ministerial code. Can the Minister please confirm that the Home Secretary refused to take those same emergency measures, and can he explain why she ignored the advice that she was

repeatedly given over a period of several weeks? The Home Secretary told the House just a week ago that she did not ignore legal advice. Can the Minister tell the House now whether he believes that statement to be correct? The key question on Manston is whether legal advice was followed or not. Given the Minister's unlawful approval of a Tory donor's housing project in his previous brief, is he really best placed to make that judgment? We know that 222 children have gone missing from asylum accommodation. What are the Government doing to find those missing children, to prevent more children from going missing, and to meet their legal obligations to vulnerable children?

Reply from Robert Jenrick: ... my right hon. and learned Friend the Home Secretary has consistently approved hotel accommodation. More than 30 hotels have been brought on line in the time for which my right hon. and learned Friend has been in office, which has ensured that thousands of asylum seekers have been able to move on from the Manston site and into better and more sustainable accommodation. And look at her record over the course of the last week! The population at Manston has fallen from 4,000 to 1,600 in a matter of seven days. That is a very considerable achievement on the part of the Home Secretary and her officials in the Home Office, and I am proud of it.

Craig Mackinlay (Conservative): The Minister will be well aware that previous student accommodation at Canterbury Christchurch University—86 rooms—has been taken up by a company called Clearsprings, one of many outsourced companies around the country that have been trying to find accommodation. He may also be aware that Thanet District Council had been in correspondence with the Home Office in August, saying how unsuitable the site would be because of its close proximity to both primary and secondary schools that were a few hundred yards away, and because it was in a residential area. Is it not the case that outsourced companies such as Clearsprings and Serco are simply running roughshod over planning consents, local authorities and local consultation? I am very concerned about this example. The Home Office must get involved when these large sites are selected, rather than big outsourced companies just doing as they please.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: My first duty has been to ensure that Manston can operate in a legal and decent manner, and we are well on the way to achieving that. The second task is ensuring that the Home Office and its contractors procure accommodation—whether it be hotels, spot bookings or other forms of accommodation—in a sensible manner, taking into account many of the factors that my hon. Friend has just described, such as safeguarding, the impact on the local community and the likelihood of disorder, whether there is already significant pressure on that community, and whether it is a tourist hotspot. Those criteria need to be followed carefully.

My third priority, beyond that, is our exit from this hotel strategy altogether. It is not sustainable for the country to be spending billions of pounds a year on hotels. We now need to move rapidly to a point at which individuals are processed swiftly so that the backlog in cases falls and we disperse people fairly around the UK to local authority and private rented sector accommodation where appropriate. We also need to look into whether other, larger sites that provide decent but not luxurious accommodation might be available, so that we do not create a further pull factor for people to come to the UK. ...

Stuart C McDonald: ... Surely we have now reached the point where the Home Office can no longer be left responsible for the safety of those children. Hundreds are missing and thousands more are stuck in hotels outside the child protection system. Children are reportedly pressurised to claim to be adults and are increasingly misidentified as adults. There have been harrowing accounts of assault and rape; there is general evidence of fear and depression; and adults are not even being properly disclosure checked. Can we have a cross-Government taskforce, headed by the Prime Minister, to get children into local authority care instead of into more hotels?

Progress in moving people out of Manston is welcome, but it massively begs the question why that was not possible last month. To help the Minister to free up accommodation, will he prioritise the outstanding claims of the 15,000 or so Syrians and Afghans, who should be comparatively easy to identify as refugees and to award their status? Will he suspend the pointless process that saw staff identify just 83 inadmissible claims out of 16,000 cases? ...

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The hon. Gentleman is wrong to suggest that the UK Government pressurise any individual to falsely identify as a child. It is the people smugglers who do that; we are doing everything we can to clamp down on it. I have been to Western Jet Foil at Dover to meet the Border Force staff who try to make those assessments. At times, up to 20% of the adult males who arrive at Western Jet Foil claim to be under 18, when clearly the number is substantially less than that. We have already changed the law, which I think the SNP voted against, to change the way in which those tests are administered, and if we need to make further legal changes, we will.

The hon. Gentleman is right to say that it is wrong that many children, in particular unaccompanied children, are in hotel accommodation. I want to change that. The way to do that is to encourage more local authorities throughout the United Kingdom to accept those individuals and to help them into private or state foster parenting arrangements. We have put in place a significant financial package of about £52,000 a year per foster carer per child to ensure that can happen, plus a £6,000 up-front payment to the local authority to help to accommodate that. The financing is available, so I want to ensure that more local authorities step up. If he can encourage those run by his SNP colleagues in Scotland to do so, I would be happy to support him. ...

To read this extremely long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-11-07/debates/B903624C-F400-4519-B10D-DFD6519A89CC/AsylumSeekersAccommodationAndSafeguarding>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [77548] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many people have applied to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy since its launch.

Reply from James Heapey: There have been 127,795 applications to the ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy) scheme since the scheme began on 1 April 2021. Of these, a significant portion are duplicates.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77548>

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>

Afghanistan: Refugees

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [77549] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications to the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy have been successful.

Reply from James Heapey: As of 3 November, over 11,600 eligible individuals (including their family members) have been successfully relocated to the UK under the ARAP (Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy) scheme. This number includes 5,000 ARAP eligible individuals (including their family members) who were relocated during OP PITTING.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77549>

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

Christopher Pincher (Independent) [77411] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of the people who were evacuated from Afghanistan in 2021 are in hotel accommodation as of 2 November 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Through Operation Warm Welcome, Afghans resettling in the UK under the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) are being supported in accessing accommodation alongside the vital health, education, and support into employment they need, to fully integrate into society.

As stated in the recently published, '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)' factsheet, at 12 Aug 2022:

- The UK has welcomed 21,450 people to the UK from Afghanistan - or a neighbouring country - since June 2021.
- Of these, around 15,000 individuals were evacuated during the Operation Pitting military evacuation in August 2021.
- Since the end of Op PITTING, we have brought around 5,000 more individuals, affected by the crisis in Afghanistan, to the UK.
- The UK is currently providing temporary accommodation for 9,667 people in hotels while they await settled accommodation.

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

The Home Office will also include Afghan resettlement statistics in its [quarterly Immigration Statistics publications](#), in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77411>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [74929] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what regulation is in place where hosts under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme are employing their Ukrainian guests.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Guests under the Ukraine schemes have the same rights and responsibilities as British employees at work for the duration of their permission to stay. The Department for Work and Pensions has a single point of contact for all businesses expressing an interest in employing people from Ukraine. Information is available [here](#). Legislation is in place which exempts those arriving from Ukraine from the Habitual Residence Test and Past Presence Test, giving them immediate access to benefits and employment opportunities. The Homes for Ukraine guidance for sponsors can be accessed [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74929>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [74930] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether hosts under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme who are employing their Ukrainian sponsorees are permitted to charge the accommodation offset against the National Minimum Wage in addition to receiving the Government payment for hosting.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: No, lead sponsors are not eligible for the monthly thank you payment if they are charging rent from their guests.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74930>

Information about the Homes for Ukraine Scheme, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Manston Asylum Processing Centre

Detention Centres: Manston

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [77595] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, if he will make an estimate of the time that the Army will be in control of the Manston immigration short-term holding facility.

Reply from James Heapey: The Home Office assumed occupation of the former Defence Fire Training and Development Centre in Manston via a Memorandum of Transfer of Occupation in December 2021. The Manston facility is therefore under the control of the Home Office and not the Ministry of Defence. Defence has, however, agreed to loan Lieutenant General Stuart Skeates to the Home Office to provide advice and coordination on their cross-Channel migration programme and this may include support on the challenges at Manston

Under Defence primacy for small boats crossings of the English Channel, military personnel provide limited support to the Border Force whilst they conduct initial assessment and screening of new arrivals at Manston. Decisions on detention timings are the responsibility of the Home Office.

Military primacy for managing small boat crossings of the Channel will operate until 31 January 2023, at which point responsibility will revert to the Home Office and Border Force.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77595>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Manston

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [77594] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Armed Forces personnel are on secondment to Manston immigration short-term holding facility as of 2 November 2022.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [77598] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Armed Forces personnel are on secondment at the Manston immigration facility.

Reply from James Heapey: Armed Forces personnel are not seconded to the Manston site and are instead working as part of Defence's operation for military primacy for small boat crossings of the English Channel.

At any time, between 13 and 19 military personnel, all from the Army, are assigned to the Manston site. Across three shifts, the total assigned to support Border Force at Manston is 43 military personnel. These personnel assist with logistics and the initial triage of migrants upon arrival at the site.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77594>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77598>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Manston

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [77602] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when she expects to revert command and control of the Manston immigration facility from the Armed Forces to Border Force.

Luke Pollard (Labour Co-op) [77603] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the potential impact of military personnel being based at the Manston processing centre on the mental health of asylum seekers based at that facility.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: It was always the case that Defence support to the Home Office will continue until January 2023, at which point the operational and wider arrangements will be reviewed.

Military personnel at the Manston site support the operation primarily through logistics and command and control. They do not routinely carry out duties that bring them into contact with people held at the facility.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77602>
and
<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77603>

Detention Centres: Manston

Ruth Jones (Labour) [74908] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the (a) cleanliness and (b) safety at Manston asylum processing centre.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We take the safety and welfare of those in our care extremely seriously.

We provide for all the basic needs of people who will have arrived tired, cold, in wet clothing and who may not have eaten during their journey.

We provide suitable welfare provisions including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities, sanitary packs and medical care.

The safety of our officers and those arriving by small boat is our utmost priority and risk assessments are under constant review as the situation changes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74908>

Detention Centres: Manston

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [75906] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment has she made of the potential impact of overcrowding at Manston Processing Centre on people at that facility, including on the spread of infections.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has increased the operating capacity of the facility as the number of individuals held on-site has increased.

The facility provides suitable welfare provisions including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities and sanitary packs. 24/7 medical care is provided and any instances of communicable disease are handled in line with public health guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75906>

Detention Centres: Manston

Diana Johnson (Labour) [77331] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 01 November to Question 72951 on Detention Centres: Manston, what is the maximum length of time the Secretary of State can legally authorise an individual to be detained at Manston for.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Rule 6 of the Short Term Holding Facility Rules 2018 states that a detained person must not be detained in a holding room for a period of more than 24 hours. The Secretary of State may authorise this period to be extended if she determines that exceptional circumstances require it. Further information is available in published guidance on the Short Term Holding Facility Rules 2018.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77331>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-27/72951>

The Rules referred to above can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/409/contents/made>

Detention Centres: Manston

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78790] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to help ensure that people do not remain at the Manston immigration centre for more than 24 hours.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are taking every step to ensure that any period of detention is as brief as possible, arrivals are processed quickly and, where appropriate, given initial asylum accommodation. We have been sourcing more bed spaces with local authorities and in contingency accommodation such as hotels. Since the start of October, over 13 new hotels providing over 1,850 additional hotel bedspaces have been brought into use.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78790>

Detention Centres: Manston

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [75803] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she has made an assessment of the possible compensation due to asylum-seekers as a result of the conditions at Manston asylum centre.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Decisions to detain people are not taken lightly. We will robustly defend decisions subject to legal challenge, when appropriate to do so, with a decision to defend or concede based on the merits of the individual case. The facility at Manston provides suitable welfare provisions including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities, sanitary packs and medical care. It provides for all the basic needs of people who will have arrived tired, cold, in wet clothing and who may not have eaten during their journey. We will continue to innovate to provide for the basic needs of those in our care and to ensure the safety of everyone at Manston as a priority.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75803>

Detention Centres: Manston

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the causes of the spread of disease at the Manston asylum centre.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Crossing the Channel is often part of an extended international journey. People arrive tired, cold, in wet clothing and may not have eaten during their journey. Our reception and processing facilities provide suitable welfare provisions, including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities, sanitary packs and medical care.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78792>

The following four questions all received the same answer

Detention Centres: Manston

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [77525] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent assessment she has made of the mental health of individuals detained at the Manston detention centre.

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [77526] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the impact of overcrowding at the Manston detention centre on the mental health of the individuals detained there.

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [77527] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals detained at the Manston detention centre have sought support for their mental health.

Rosena Allin-Khan (Labour) [77528] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many individuals detained at the Manston detention centre have been identified to have a diagnosable mental health disorder.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Home Office does not hold the data in the format requested. We are working with partners in Kent NHS to improve access to mental health professionals. Home Office staff on site are trained to identify and deal with vulnerable people and in the event of a mental health crisis we work closely with existing health providers to ensure appropriate onward referral.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77525>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77526>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77527>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77528>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Detention Centres: Manston

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78779] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to provide additional (a) mental health and (b) wellbeing support for people leaving Manston Immigration Processing Centre.

Asylum: Location

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78788] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to help place people who are moved from Manston Immigration Processing Centre in locations close to family and friends in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Due to the continuing unprecedented high volume of small boats arrivals and the historical pressure from COVID-19 on the asylum system it has been necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers.

The Asylum Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC), set out clearly what the Home Office expects of its accommodation providers, including requirements in relation to our customers' welfare and needs as well as accommodation standards, as set out in Schedule 2.

We ensure that rooms are an appropriate size for the number of occupants and the occupancy in each bedroom does not exceed that specified in the appropriate space standard, as defined in relevant legislation and/or in Local Authority licensing requirements, as well as ensuring that we adhere to Public Health England guidance where applicable. The average length of stay in our contingency hotels is 6 to 12 months due to the current accommodation and capacity challenges. The location of dispersal accommodation will be based on the availability of properties suitable for each asylum seekers needs.

Accommodation is offered on a no-choice basis across the United Kingdom. There

are established mechanisms in place if individuals have a specific, acute need to be accommodated in a particular area. These mechanisms are supported by Migrant Help and asylum support casework teams

All asylum seekers have the same access to free NHS services in the same way as British citizens and other permanent residents. The Home Office and its contractors work closely with the NHS, local authorities and non-governmental organisations to ensure that people can access the health care and support they need. Asylum seekers also have access to a 24/7 AIRE (Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility) service provided for the Home Office by Migrant Help. Through this asylum seekers can raise any concerns regarding accommodation or support services and they can get information about how to obtain further support and legal advice.

The Full Dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022, aims to reduce then end the use of hotels by allowing the Home Office to procure dispersal properties within the private rental sector in all Local Authority areas across England, Scotland and Wales, rather than the minority of Local Authorities which currently participate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78779>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78788>

Detention Centres: Manston

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78791] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure that people leaving Manston Immigration Processing Center are provided with (a) food and (b) warm clothing.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Our reception and processing facilities provide suitable welfare provisions, including hot food, fresh clothing, toilet facilities, sanitary packs and medical care. The welfare of those in our care is of the utmost importance and people are only released from Manston when we have assurances that they have accommodation to go to.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78791>

Detention Centres: Manston

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78785] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many children will be moved from Manston Immigration Processing Centre to hotels; and what steps she is taking to provide support for those children.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: It is not possible to state how many children will, as part of family groups, be moved from Manston on future dates given uncertainty about future small boat arrivals.

Where families are moved to contingency accommodation, including hotels, the Home Office expects the highest standards from our accommodation providers, who are expected to conduct regular checks across the asylum estate to ensure their contractual obligations are being met. Our accommodation providers are experienced and have all the required policies and procedures in place around security, safeguarding, critical incident management and health and safety.

The support provided at hotels includes;

- Three, varied and appropriate meals a day which included a continental breakfast, lunch and evening meals with a choice of at least one hot, one cold selection and a vegetarian option. Babies and small children are also provided with appropriate foodstuffs and this service will allow them to be fed whenever necessary.
- Additional support items supplied, including baby care equipment, disposable nappies, personal toiletries and feminine hygiene products.
- Access to laundry facilities or a laundry service will be available for all service users.

- All individuals in full board Initial Accommodation (IA) receive a weekly £8 cash allowance onto an ASPEN card.
- Asylum seekers also have free access to healthcare through the NHS and, for their children under 18, they have access to full-time education.
- All people accommodated within our estate have access to our Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility (AIRE) provider, Migrant Help. Asylum seekers are able to contact Migrant Help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year if they need help, advice or guidance.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78785>

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

British National (Overseas): British Nationality

Alex Norris (Labour) [77562] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure BNO visa dependents are offered routes to British citizenship.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) route allows BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members to apply to come to the UK to live, study and work. After five years' residence in the UK, BN(O) status holders and their eligible family members will be able to apply for indefinite leave to remain, followed by British citizenship after a further 12 months, where they meet the other statutory requirements for that.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77562>

Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

British National (Overseas)

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [78732] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he made of the number of British National (Overseas) visa holders who have claimed destitution funding.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: As part of the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) (BN(O)) Welcome Programme, funding of up to £2,720 is available per BN(O) household for destitution support. To date, there have been no claims from local authorities for this funding.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78732>

Information about the BN(O) visa, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/british-national-overseas-bno-visa>

Migrant Workers: Seasonal Workers

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [74650] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether the Government plans to loosen visa restrictions for seasonal temporary workers to tackle labour shortages.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Seasonal Worker route has been extended until 2024, with 40,000 visas available for 2022, consisting of 38,000 for horticulture and 2,000 for the poultry sector. The route has been extended to support our farmers growing fruit and vegetables as they adapt to changes in the UK labour market. The Government is keeping the position under close review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74650>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) [75819] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many people have been convicted of (a) trafficking and smuggling people across the Channel and (b) facilitation offences relating to small boat crossings in each of the last five years.

Reply from Edward Argar: The Ministry of Justice publishes information on the number of convictions, for various offences including assisting illegal immigration, trafficking and slavery, for the years 2017 to 2021, in the [Outcomes by the Offence pivot tool](#).

However, the number of offenders who were convicted for assisting illegal immigration, trafficking, and smuggling offences across the Channel, or specific to small boat crossings is not held centrally in the Court Proceedings database. This information may be held on court records but to examine individual court records to identify such details would incur disproportionate costs.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75819>

Undocumented Migrants: Housing

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [75905] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she made of the (a) financial and (b) social challenges of redistributing potentially thousands of illegal immigrants in different regions of the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office does not accommodate illegal migrants, but does have a statutory obligation to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their application for asylum is being considered.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75905>

Refugees: Age

Mohammad Yasin (Labour) [78804] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the (a) ethical and (b) scientific considerations of the use of x-rays to verify the age of child refugees.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: In December 2021, the Home Office set up an independent Age Estimation Science Advisory Committee to provide the Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser with independent advice – including scientific and associated ethical advice and guidance on existing and emerging scientific approaches that could be utilised for the purpose of age assessment. We are considering advice from this Committee and other sources. No official decisions have been made about if and how to implement scientific methods.

The use of X-rays specifically is regulated by the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004, which requires that any practices involving the use of ionising radiation be justified on the basis that the individual or societal benefit of that practice outweighs the health detriment it may cause. Any use of X-rays for age assessment purposes will therefore be contingent on the appropriate approvals being met under these regulations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78804>

Refugees: Pupils

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [78786] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking with the Secretary of State for Education, to help place refugee children in local schools.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Children of compulsory school age must receive full-time education. Parents have a statutory duty to see that their children receive a full-time education and local authorities are under a duty to provide suitable school places.

The Government provides funding to enable local authorities, schools and health partners to provide vulnerable refugees with a safe environment and the chance to rebuild their lives.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78786>

Asylum: Applications

Jessica Morden (Labour) [77352] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many (a) applications for asylum were submitted and (b) decisions on asylum applications were made in (i) 2019, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2021 and (iv) 2022 to date.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on asylum applications are published in table Asy_D01, data on initial decisions on asylum applications are published in table Asy_D02, and data on asylum applications awaiting an initial decision are published in table Asy_D03 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relates to the year ending June 2022. Data for July 2022 to the end of September 2022 is set to be published on 24 November 2022.

Data on outcome analysis on asylum applications raised in a specific period are published in table Asy_D04 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. The latest data relates to 2021. Data for 2022 will be published in 2023. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

Whilst we hold data on the current addresses of asylum claimants, the Home Office is unable to state how many asylum claims from people in Newport East constituency have been submitted and are outstanding as of 02 November 2022 or what the average wait time is for an asylum interview or decision in Newport East constituency, or the UK as this information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost because it would require a manual search through individual records.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77352>

Asylum: Equality

Dan Carden (Labour) [77573] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department is taking to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in the application of the new asylum assessment rules under the Nationality and Borders Act.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: This Government remains committed to securing and advancing the rights of individuals who are LGBT. The welfare and dignity of all claimants, including those who are LGBT, remains central to our decision-making processes.

One of the key objectives of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 – part of our New Plan for Immigration - is to increase the fairness and efficacy of our asylum system so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum. Equalities considerations have been central in developing our plan. In September 2021, we published an Equality Impact Assessment for the policies being taken forward through the then Bill which included an assessment on potential impacts on people who may face persecution because of the protected characteristics of sex, sexual orientation and gender reassignment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77573>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Community Relations

Brandon Lewis (Conservative) [78685] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the potential impact of using hotels to house asylum seekers on local community cohesion.

Asylum: Hotels

Brandon Lewis (Conservative) [78688] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential impact of using multiple hotels within close proximity to each other to house asylum seekers on local communities.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their application for asylum is being considered.

The significant increase in dangerous journeys across the Channel is placing unprecedented strain on our asylum system and it has made it necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers. The use of hotels is a short-term solution and we are working hard with local authorities to find appropriate accommodation.

Community cohesion is an important aspect of using sites successfully and we would like to work with the Council and relevant stakeholders to understand and act to your concerns as appropriate. I would advise that the next multi agency meeting is used to raise these concerns and we can understand how to work collaboratively in managing this situation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78685>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78688>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [78722] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her planned timetable is for the publication of a specific safeguarding framework which will provide specific safeguarding to all vulnerable service users in asylum accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The welfare of vulnerable asylum seekers in our care is of the utmost importance to the Home Office. We have worked closely with providers and stakeholders to develop a safeguarding assurance framework which is available at [Asylum support contracts safeguarding framework](#).

The Asylum Support Contracts Safeguarding Framework is a supplementary document to others that are publicly available. The framework is designed to provide a high-level overview of the responsibilities of all parties and is to be read in conjunction with the safeguarding elements of the Accommodation and Support Contracts (AASC) - Schedule 2 - and the Advice, Issue Reporting and Eligibility Contract (AIRE) - [AIRE Contract](#). These contracts were designed with safeguarding of the individual at their heart.

In addition to the existing contract governance and stakeholder engagement, a joint safeguarding board has been established between the department and its providers to oversee progress on all aspects of safeguarding work. Furthermore, a national safeguarding forum has been established with local authorities to discuss safeguarding across the contracts and help develop and share best practice.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78722>

Asylum: Hotels

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [75801] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate she has made of the number of asylum-seekers in hotel accommodation awaiting an inadmissibility decision.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office has a statutory obligation to provide accommodation and other support to asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute while their application for asylum is being considered.

The significant increase in dangerous journeys across the Channel is placing unprecedented strain on our asylum system and it has made it necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers. The use of hotels is a short-term solution and we are working hard with local authorities to find appropriate accommodation.

Statistics relating to supported asylum seekers temporarily residing in contingency accommodation are published as Immigration Statistics under the S98 population tables. The latest publication (March 2022) can be found here [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#), under the document [Asylum seekers in receipt of support](#).

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific types of accommodation, or the number at specific stages of the asylum process. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75801>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Sexual Offences

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [78720] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many allegations of (a) sexual assault and (b) rape have been made by asylum seekers accommodated in hotels in each of the last four years.

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [78721] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of individuals accused of (a) sexual assault and (b) rape against asylum seekers were subsequently removed from those hotels in each of the last four years.

Asylum: Hotels

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [78723] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, by what process serious criminal allegations made by asylum seekers accommodated in hotels are reported to her Department.

Reply from Sarah Dines: There are vigorous processes in place to record, manage and monitor any high profile/critical incidents that involve asylum support service users, asylum support accommodation premises or asylum support service providers. This is primarily through the High Profile Notification (HPN) system once an issue is identified by a first responder, which triggers involvement from the relevant emergency services, Asylum Accommodation & Support Contracts (AASC) and provider staff as well as intervention from the departments Safeguarding Hub.

Due to the categorisations currently used, the Home Office does not record this information in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost. We would have to manually investigate various data sources and even then, the figures would be incomplete as individuals are under no obligation to report sexual assault to the Home Office.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78720>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78721>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78723>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [75910] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the average daily spend on hotel accommodation for asylum seekers was in September 2022; and what the average daily number of asylum seekers accommodated in those hotels was in September 2022.

Stella Creasy (Labour Co-op) [75912] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers were accommodated in hotels in September 2022; and what the cost was per person per night, rounded to the nearest £10.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The significant increase in dangerous journeys across the Channel is placing unprecedented strain on our asylum system and it has made it necessary to continue to use hotels to accommodate some asylum seekers. The use of hotels is a short-term solution and we are working hard with local authorities to find appropriate accommodation.

There are currently more than 37,000 asylum seekers in hotels costing the UK taxpayer £5.6 million a day. Occupancy levels vary and the number of people flowing through contingency hotel accommodation in any one month is not recorded.

Statistics relating to supported asylum seekers temporarily residing in contingency accommodation are published as Immigration Statistics under the S98 population tables. The latest publication (March 2022) can be found here [Asylum and resettlement datasets](#), under the document [Asylum seekers in receipt of support](#).

The Home Office does not publish a breakdown of statistics which disaggregates the number of asylum seekers accommodated in specific types of accommodation. These figures are not available in a reportable format and to provide the information could only be done at disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75910>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75912>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Detention Centres: Infectious Diseases

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [78840] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps the Government is taking to prevent people in immigration centres with infectious diseases from being moved to other locations.

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [78841] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what processes her Department has in place to share data with (a) contractors, (b) the Department of Health and Social Care, (c) directors of public health, (d) local authorities and (e) the UK Health Security Agency for the (i) prevention, (ii) treatment and (iii) containment of infectious diseases in immigration centres.

Detention Centres: Disease Control

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [78842] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish the infection control protocols of all Home Office private contractors running immigration centres.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and health of people in the immigration detention estate is of the utmost importance. The Home Office has robust contingency plans in place and follows national guidance issued by UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Public Health Scotland (PHS) and the National Health Service, including advice on preventing and controlling infectious disease outbreaks in prisons and other prescribed places of detention.

In addition, all immigration removal centres (IRCs), residential short-term holding facilities (RSTHF) and holding rooms operated by private contractors have communicable disease contingency plans, based on UKHSA advice. The detail of

these contingency plans varies depending on the size, nature and infrastructure of the facility and will include guidance on sharing data with relevant partners such as IRC contractors, healthcare providers and UKHSA.

All IRCs have dedicated health facilities run by doctors and nurses which are managed by the NHS or appropriate providers. All receptions into IRCs receive an assessment within two hours by a nurse and are offered a doctor's appointment within 24 hours. In line with UKHSA guidance, measures such as protective isolation are considered on a case by case basis to minimise the risk of infectious diseases spreading to vulnerable groups in the immigration detention estate or into the community if the individual is released. In RSTHFs and holding rooms operated by private contractors where there is a healthcare presence, any communicable diseases identified are notified to UKHSA or PHS by medical professionals, as appropriate, and wherever possible the individual is temporarily isolated from the main population.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78840>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78841>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-03/78842>

Asylum: Rwanda

Charlotte Nichols (Labour) [77625] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers have been deported to Rwanda since 1 January 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of returns from the UK in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. The latest data on asylum-related returns from the UK, broken down by type of return including enforced returns, of which deportations are a subset, are published in table Ret_05 of the '[Returns Summary Tables](#)'. The latest data on returns from the UK by return destination country are published in table Ret_D02 of the '[Returns Detailed Tables](#)', which can be broken down by return type group. The latest data go up to the end of March 2022.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-02/77625>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Undocumented Migrants: Albania

David Davis (Conservative) [75012] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has had recent discussions with their Albanian counterparts on the return of Albanian illegal migrants to Albania.

David Davis (Conservative) [75013] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how her Department plans to return Albanian migrants who are in the UK illegally when the movements of those migrants are not limited or tracked while in the UK.

Albania: Undocumented Migrants

David Davis (Conservative) [75772] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions his Department has had with the Albanian government on the direct and expedited return of Albanian illegal migrants to Albania.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We continue to work extremely closely with our Albanian partners on a range of issues and are committed to building on our co-operation to date, including on tackling illegal migration. That includes the excellent operational collaboration with Albanian law enforcement, and our readmissions agreement signed last year. Since it was signed, we have seen over 1,000 Albanian foreign national offenders and immigration offenders removed from the UK, including some who crossed the channel illegally to come to the UK.

The UK and Albania pledged to fast track the removal of Albanians with no right to be in the UK wherever possible, and to send senior Albanian law enforcement to the UK to speed up processing and share information with our authorities. In co-operation with the Government of Albania, we are taking every opportunity to intercept the activities of organised criminal gangs and people smugglers, and speed up the removal of Albanians and other nationals with no right to be in the UK.

We do face complex challenges to our efforts to facilitate the entirely legitimate and legal return of people in the UK, such as travel documentation, late appeals and other legal challenges aimed at frustrating removals. Most individuals are managed outside of detention using a variety of contact methods, including frequent reporting, and tagging as a condition of immigration bail whilst these challenges are resolved, however detention can, and will also be used, where appropriate. We are looking to address some of these challenges through our Sovereign Borders plan, which aims to remove more easily those with no right to be in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-28/75012>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-28/75013>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/75772>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers: Accommodation and Safeguarding

The [same answer given by the Minister in the House of Commons](#) was read in the House of Lords

Lord Coaker (Labour): ... Can the Minister explain how it was possible that the Government allowed the numbers to rise to more than 4,000? Was legal advice ignored? The numbers at Manston are now reduced, but what consultation is taking place with local authorities about the use of hotels? How are families and children to be kept safe? For example, will DBS checks be made on all staff so that we can ensure that families and children are safe and housed appropriately?

The Government need to get a grip. They need a proper plan and they need to sort out the administration, which is in chaos, as we saw again today, with asylum applications having risen by more than 305% in the last five years and excessive lengths of time before any decision is made. If the Government cannot sort out the administration, they will not sort out any problem. Instead of firefighting, the Government need to get a grip.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): ... I am glad to report to the House that the numbers at Manston have fallen since this Answer was given in the House of Commons. There are now some 1,147 people held at Manston, as at 8 am today, and the numbers are continuing to decline. Every effort is being made by Home Office staff to rectify the position that has occurred. I am incredibly grateful for all the hard work they have done in very difficult circumstances.

Lord Paddick (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister in the other place said the crisis at Manston was due to an “unprecedented strain” on the immigration system and that the Government inherited a broken immigration system. My understanding is that in 2002 the UK received more than 80,000 asylum claims and in 2021 it was fewer than 50,000, so the situation is not unprecedented. In 2011, the backlog of asylum claims was 11,000, and it is now 118,000. In 2014, 85% of initial decisions were made within six months, but the figure is now 5%. The system was not broken then but it is now. Will the noble Lord ask the Minister in the other place to correct the record?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: ... No error was made by Mr Jenrick when he addressed the other place. He was correct to say that the conditions facing the border staff at Manston are unprecedented. We have never had this number of unlawful crossings of the channel. The situation has not been faced before. As the noble Lord rightly observes, there is a problem with the processing of asylum claims. Every effort is being made to accelerate the pace at which asylum claims are resolved. It is clear that there is a backlog, and work is being carried out at pace to develop a method by which that backlog can be reduced.

Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb (Green): ... back in July a report said that detention was already often for much longer than 24 hours and that there was overcrowding. Why did the Government not act then? They clearly did not.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The height of the numbers at Manston was on 30 October. The Government acted as rapidly as they could from that date to reduce the numbers held. They reflected the conditions and the numbers crossing, which therefore led to an increase in the numbers held for processing at Manston. Clearly, the Government's intention is to return Manston wholly to a processing facility not performing any accommodation function.

Lord Deben (Conservative): My Lords, does my noble friend accept that however difficult this all is, these are people? Many are people in considerable difficulties. Therefore, for them to have to wait the length of time they are now waiting is, frankly, unacceptable. Also, does he agree that the language used should be the language of compassion, not of attack? Will he undertake to say to the Home Secretary that we want to hear voices showing that she understands that these are people and we ought to care about them?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I entirely agree with my noble friend. The principal mission for the Home Office in respect of these people is to treat all who come to our country with care and compassion, to seek to understand why they have come and then to treat their asylum claims accordingly. I could not agree more with my noble friend. ...

The Lord Bishop of Durham: How will His Majesty's Government ensure that Manston will now remain a 24-hour facility only, in a way that can be scaled up if necessary, and that no children are detained there at all—or, at least, are not detained with adults who they do not know?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I assure the right reverend Prelate that the Home Office takes very seriously its responsibility towards unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. It seeks to place them into separate accommodation as early as can be achieved. As I say, the welfare of children is among its first priorities.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): My Lords, despite what the Minister has just said, there is growing concern among civil society groups about what is happening to children caught up in this asylum mess. Can the Minister say exactly what safeguarding mechanisms are in place to protect these children, and to ensure that no child is wrongly classified and treated as an adult?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: ... Clearly, every person who arrives at Manston and says that their age is below 18 is the subject of an age assessment—that is, a neutral evaluation of that status. If they are believed to be children then they are treated, as I say, as a key priority for the Home Office and housed in special hotels, which are secure and provide the necessary support for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. ...

To read this very long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-11-09/debates/F00C1EE2-5973-44AA-801A-01061874DB44/AsylumSeekersAccommodationAndSafeguarding>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers

Visas

Lord Green of Deddington (Crossbench) [HL2874] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Sharpe of Epsom on 24 October (HL2526), why they do not routinely publish any data on numbers of individuals that have overstayed their visa expiry in the UK; and whether they will publish the numbers for India in each of the past five years.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes statistics relating to exit checks, which can be found on gov.uk, which provide statistics on the number/proportion of visas for which:

- a) The individual was recorded as departing in time (before their leave expired)
- b) The individual was recorded as departing late
- c) The individual has no matched departure record

The statistics do not provide information on the number of overstayer due to known limitations in the data. For example, an individual travelling to or from the UK via the Common Travel Area will be included in the 'no matched departure record' category. Further information is provided in the published report and accompanying user guide on gov.uk.

The latest statistics are published in the Fifth report on statistics relating to exit checks and future plans for these statistics outlined in the recent publication on Developments in Exit Checks, also found on gov.uk.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-25/hl2874>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-12/hl2526>

Visas: Families

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL2941] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the speed with which the foreign spouses and children of British citizens can complete their UK Family Visa applications in the event of them needing to leave a country without delay.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Priority services for UK Family Visa applications made outside of the UK are temporarily suspended. We are keeping this under review and will reintroduce the priority service as a consequence of steps taken to facilitate visas arising from Ukraine conflict when possible.

In exceptional circumstances, requests to expedite UK Family Visa applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and take a range of factors into consideration. The Super Priority Visa (SPV) service is available to applicants applying for a UK Family Visa from within the UK. Applicants who choose to use the SPV service should get a decision by the end of the next working day after attending their biometrics appointment.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-26/hl2941>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Families

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL2942] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the delays by TLScontact processing UK Family Visas in (1) Russia, and (2) other countries; and what steps they intend to take to address those delays.

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL2943] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to stop TLScontact retaining applicants' passports for up to eight months whilst UK Family Visa applications are being processed.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: TLS Contact and VFS Global operate the

network of overseas Visa Application Centres (VACs) on behalf of UKVI. Whilst the collection of biometric data is outsourced to commercial partners, they have no involvement in visa decision-making, which are made by British Government officials, and are unable to influence a visa decision outcome in any way. Customers attending a VAC overseas will have their passport retained by the commercial partner whilst a decision is made on their application by the Home Office. Once a decision has been made, the commercial partner will contact the customer to invite them to attend the VAC to collect their passport and decision. Customers have the option of purchasing the 'Keep my Passport' service, which allows them to retain their passport whilst a decision on their application is being made.

TLS only oversee biometric appointments and document decision and do not have any involvement in visa decision making. (1) Family members of British Nationals in Russia, who need to make an urgent visa application, can contact TLS via the link on their website for support. There is sufficient appointment availability in (2) other countries to allow customers to attend an appointment elsewhere.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-26/hl2942>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-26/hl2943>

Visas: Families

Lord Truscott (Non-affiliated) [HL2944] To ask His Majesty's Government what steps they are taking (1) to address expedited UK Family Visa applications, and (2) to provide early right to remain for those applicants.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Requests to expedite UK Family applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and take a range of factors into consideration.

An applicant applying in the UK to extend a family visa (spouse or partner on a 5-year route to settlement) should get a decision within 8 weeks.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-26/hl2944>

Migrants: Cost of Living

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2809] To ask His Majesty's Government what support individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds will be able to access this winter as part of (1) the £11.7 billion Energy Bills Support Scheme, and (2) the wider £37 billion cost of living assistance package for consumers.

Reply from Baroness Stedman-Scott: The cost-of-living package is in addition to the over £22bn announced previously, with government support for the cost of living now totalling over £37bn this year. This means that eight million low-income households will get £1,200 of one-off support in total this year to help with the cost of living, with all domestic electricity customers receiving at least £400 through the Energy Bills Support Scheme. The Energy Price Guarantee is supporting millions of households with rising energy costs, and the Chancellor made clear it will continue to do so from now until April next year.

The Energy Bills Support Scheme is open to all domestic electricity customers, with additional support to eight million low-income households, irrespective of their No Recourse to Public Funds condition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/hl2809>

Undocumented Migrants: English Channel

Lord Blunkett (Labour) [HL2956] To ask His Majesty's Government what methodology they used to calculate the number of migrants reaching the UK by boat from France in the last three months; and what was the total number of migrants calculated to have reached

the UK by boat from France in the last three months, including a breakdown of (1) the estimated number of those of Albanian origin, and (2) the number of those of Albanian origin who are single men; and the speed at which the process of identifying country of origin is now being completed.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office publishes data on detected small boat arrivals to the UK on gov.uk in the quarterly Irregular Migration to the UK release – the latest data are published includes information on nationality, age and gender and goes up to the end June 2022.

Information about the calculation methodology is given in the ‘About the statistics’ section of the release.

With respect to the speed of identifying country of origin, in most cases, an individual arriving by small boat has this information recorded within 24 hours. Where this is not the case, it is likely due to a false claim being made, or the subject refusing to answer the question.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-27/hl2956>

Refugees: Afghanistan

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2808] To ask His Majesty's Government whether difficulties in securing the provision of suitable accommodation have delayed any individuals granted an offer of resettlement under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme from travelling to the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We are pleased to have welcomed the first arrivals to the UK under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). And we will continue to welcome many more people, as we receive further referrals from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

We anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of ACRS Pathway 2 – and it is vital that those who come to the UK through this pathway have somewhere suitable to stay.

Despite housing pressures, we continue to work closely and at pace with Local Authorities – whose support for resettlement is voluntary - and other partners, including Community Sponsorship Groups. This close collaboration enables us to source suitable accommodation and provide wrap around support for the families we resettle under ACRS Pathway 2.

The number and make up of referrals to this pathway is - and will continue to be - based on several factors, including the UK's capacity to provide families with appropriate accommodation. The rate at which we progress referrals will be determined in partnership with the UNHCR.

The Home Office will include Afghan resettlement statistics in its [quarterly Immigration Statistics publications](#), in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/hl2808>

Information about Pathway 2, referred to above, can be read at

<https://help.unhcr.org/uk/afghanistan/>

Migrants: Detainees

The Lord Bishop of Durham [HL2807] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they have adopted the recommendation in the report by Stephen Shaw Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons (Cm 9186), published in January 2016, to reduce the use of detention for immigration purposes and to explore alternatives.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The government remains committed to using detention only where necessary. Indeed, the vast majority of people liable to be removed from the UK are granted immigration bail.

Stephen Shaw's reports (from 2016 and 2018) led to a comprehensive and systematic programme of work to improve and reform immigration detention,

informing both our strategic and tactical approach to reform and the treatment of people who are detained. The broad programme of reforms has strengthened our decision-making and safeguards for the vulnerable, ensuring those who are detained are treated with dignity and respect in an estate that is fit for purpose. As part of the Department's immigration detention reform programme, we conducted two pilots exploring alternatives to detention. In line with international best practice, each pilot ran for two years before final evaluation.

The first of these pilots, Action Access, provided women who would otherwise be detained with a programme of support in the community. This pilot concluded on 31 March 2021 after operating for two years. The second pilot, the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service, supported both men and women and concluded in June this year as planned.

We are working with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on these pilots and they have appointed the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) to independently evaluate this work. The evaluation report of the Action Access pilot was published on the 24 January 2022 and the report for the Refugee and Migrant Advisory Service is due to be published early next year. We will use the evaluations of these pilots to inform our future approach to case-management focused alternatives to detention.

The immigration removal estate is kept under ongoing review to ensure sufficient resilience and capacity for the men and women it is necessary to detain for the purposes of removal.

In April 2022, faced with an unprecedented situation on the south coast, the Government announced a package of measures to tackle illegal migration, further strengthen safe and legal routes and break the business model of people smuggling gangs. As part of wider work to support this package, the Government announcement confirmed that the removals estate would be expanded. In operating these sites our focus will be on dignity, welfare and safety.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-24/hl2807>

The Stephen Shaw reports referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/490782/52532_Shaw_Review_Accessible.pdf

and

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728376/Shaw_report_2018_Final_web_accessible.pdf

The evaluation report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.unhcr.org/research/evalreports/61e1709b4/evaluation-of-the-action-access-pilot.html>

The following three questions all received the same answer

Repatriation

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL3120] To ask His Majesty's Government how many individuals have sought to return to their country of nationality via the Voluntary Returns Service in each year since 2010; and what was the average period between contacting the service and the individual being returned to their country of nationality in each of those years.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL3121] To ask His Majesty's Government, for each year since 2010, (1) how many staff have supported the Voluntary Returns Service, (2) how much the service has cost, and (3) how many complaints about the service were received.

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL3122] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of whether the stories published on the website of the Voluntary Returns Service on 21 October are representative of the experiences most users have with the service.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Data on the number of voluntary returns is

published quarterly at table Ret_01 of the returns summary dataset, which is attached. Data on voluntary returns are subject to upward revision, so comparisons over time should be made with caution. In some cases, individuals who have been told to leave the UK will not notify the Home Office of their departure from the UK. In such cases, it can take some time for the Home Office to become aware of such a departure and update the system. As a result, data for more recent periods will initially undercount the total number of returns. 'Other verified returns' are particularly affected by this.

Information requested which is not contained within this published data is not routinely captured. To capture numbers would require a manual trawl of data and to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

[Returns Summary Dataset](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/hl3120>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/hl3121>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-01/hl3122>

The stories referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voluntary-returns-service-vrs-stories-of-return/voluntary-returns-service-vrs-stories-of-return>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Justice and Home Affairs Committee

Evidence session: Family migration

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/11490/html/>

Press Releases

Statement from Home Affairs Committee Chair following visit to Manston

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/83/home-affairs-committee/news/174248/statement-from-home-affairs-committee-chair-following-visit-to-manston/>

Inspection Report Published: An inspection of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Home Office's Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa route

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/inspection-report-published-an-inspection-of-the-efficiency-and-effectiveness-of-the-home-offices-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-route>

Nearly 350 foreign criminals and immigration offenders removed

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nearly-350-foreign-criminals-and-immigration-offenders-removed>

New Publications

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

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62af1289a666c80e00b17253/t/636b9190408f81778746eaa7/1667994032702/AIS+Phase+2+Report+Full.pdf>

The UK aid budget and support for refugees in the UK in 2022

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9663/CBP-9663.pdf>

Updated: Welcome: a guide for Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa holders in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/welcome-a-guide-for-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-holders-in-the-uk#full-publication>

An inspection of the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) visa route April – June 2022

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1115929/An_inspection_of_the_Hong_Kong_British_National_Overseas_visa_route_April_June_2022.pdf

Government response to the ICIBI report 'An inspection of the Hong Kong British National (Overseas) Visa Route' (April 2022 to June 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-icibis-report-on-the-bno-visa-route/response-to-the-icibi-report-an-inspection-of-the-hong-kong-british-national-overseas-visa-route-april-2022-to-june-2022>

Updated Guidance: Additional family members under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/additional-family-members-under-pathway-3-of-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme/additional-family-members-under-pathway-3-of-the-afghan-citizens-resettlement-scheme-accessible>

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/weekly-number-of-migrants-detected-in-small-boats-31-october-to-6-november-2022>

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

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

News

UK's Rwanda deportation plan and human rights record attacked at UN inquiry

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/human-rights-rwanda-asylum-seekers-b2222450.html>

Migrant channel crossings top 40,000 this year

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63611246>

Home Office 'running to keep up with crisis' over Channel crossing surge, says MP after visit

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/suella-braverman-manston-channel-migrants-b2220680.html>

Displaced Ukrainians staying connected to mother tongue with 'Mini Library' project

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23102531.displaced-ukrainians-staying-connected-mother-tongue-mini-library-project/>

Ukraine: Host helps refugees get own home in UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-63543291>

Billions spent on 'refugees and migrants' in UK to be counted as foreign aid

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/foreign-aid-government-treasury-b2220556.html>

Ten-point migration plan to end 'Hotel Britain'

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/11/12/ten-point-migration-plan-end-hotel-britain/>

Home Office won't say how many migrants arrive illegally

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-63555323>

Abuse of our asylum laws is morally indefensible

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/06/abuse-asylum-laws-morally-indefensible/>

Home Office clocks up £3m bill moving migrants in taxis

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/home-office-clocks-up-3m-bill-moving-migrants-in-taxis-7tpfwxtww>

Councils in court over hotels housing asylum seekers

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63556895>

Sixth council takes legal action to stop asylum seekers being housed in a hotel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/suella-braverman-rishi-sunak-kettering-government-ben-wallace-b2221631.html>

Aberconwy asylum hotel plan attacked by Welsh government

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-63570024>

Tory MPs criticise use of hotels to house people seeking asylum

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/07/tory-mps-criticise-use-of-hotels-to-house-people-seeking-asylum>

Illegal immigrants are not entitled to luxury hotels

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/11/12/illegal-immigrants-not-entitled-luxury-hotels/>

Migrants could be kept on cruise ships

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/small-boats-migrants-crisis-cruise-ships-uni-halls-27m9xlcs3>

Manston: Migrant centre issues improving but crisis not over, say MPs

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63560538>

MPs find people still sleeping on mats on visit to Manston asylum centre

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/08/mps-committee-visit-manston-asylum-centre-crisis>

Manston was at risk of becoming an unofficial detention centre, minister says

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-63540385>

Migrants to get diphtheria jab at processing centre after cases spike

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-kent-63608414>

Asylum seekers at Manston site to receive diphtheria jabs after cases rise

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/12/manston-asylum-centre-diphtheria-vaccinations-ukhsa-home-office>

Asylum inquiry: Hotel knife attack was 'avoidable tragedy'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-63596402>

Park Inn attack inquiry: UK asylum system 'profits from pain'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23120558.park-inn-attack-inquiry-uk-asylum-system-profits-pain/>

Asylum seekers detail life in Glasgow's Park Inn Hotel

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23120578.asylum-seekers-detail-life-glasgows-park-inn-hotel/>

Asylum inquiry calls for a fairer, more humane, and health centred asylum system

<https://www.bmj.com/content/379/bmj.o2722>

Killings of asylum seekers were avoidable, says report

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/killings-of-asylum-seekers-were-avoidable-says-report-0gw7q9n2c>

Inquiry calls for re-think of entire asylum support system

<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/inquiry-calls-for-re-think-of-entire-asylum-support-system/>

Lord Wolfson is right. Britain needs low-skilled foreign workers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/11/11/lord-wolfson-right-britain-needs-low-skilled-foreign-workers/>

Our melting pot is a stimulating brew

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/our-melting-pot-is-a-stimulating-brew-z7bz3jmpg>

As world enters Age of Migration, the UK needs take a new approach that's generous to truly needy refugees but swiftly departs illegal economic migrants

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/columnists/as-world-enters-age-of-migration-the-uk-needs-take-a-new-approach-thats-generous-to-truly-needy-refugees-but-swiftly-deports-illegal-economic-migrants-dr-azeem-ibrahim-3911653>

TOP

Equality

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Child Poverty

Jackie Baillie (Labour) [S6W-11625] To ask the Scottish Government what its response is to recent research by the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights published in its report *Black and Minority Ethnic Child Poverty in Scotland: a review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports 2020/21*, which found that most Local Child Poverty Action Reports lack focus on race and poverty, despite 38% of minority ethnic families living in relative

poverty, and the Scottish Government designating minority ethnic families as a priority group in its anti-poverty plans.

Reply from Shona Robison: This government welcomes CRER's assessment of Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs) which recognises the vital role which local authorities, health boards and local partners play in our national mission to tackle child poverty.

Tackling child poverty is a national mission for this government and our Tackling Child Poverty Delivery plan, 'Best Start, Bright Futures' focuses on the six priority family types at highest risk of poverty, including minority ethnic families. We know we cannot tackle child poverty without a clear focus on supporting priority families, including minority ethnic families, to increase their income from employment and benefits, and reduce their living costs.

We are refreshing our non-statutory guidance for LCPARs to support local authorities and health boards to deliver focused reporting on their actions to support priority families. CRER and other stakeholders representing priority families have been consulted in drafting the guidance.

This is part of our wider programme of work supporting local action to tackle child poverty. Through our partnership with the Improvement Service and the peer support network for child poverty leads from each Local Authority and Health Board we will continue to encourage and support local action to tackle child poverty amongst priority groups.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11625>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c1bee105b4f55a98326d0/t/63402dd9c5d4a10c2e7d6134/1665150614233/LCPARs+Report+2020-21.pdf>

The Delivery Plan referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/best-start-bright-futures-tackling-child-poverty-delivery-plan-2022-26/pages/1/>

Child Poverty

Jackie Baillie (Labour) [S6W-11626] To ask the Scottish Government what plans it has to respond to recent research into Local Child Poverty Action Reports by the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights published in its report *Black and Minority Ethnic Child Poverty in Scotland: a review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports 2020/21*, which found that issues with ethnicity and poverty data availability at a national level are reflected and exacerbated at the local level, even though Black and minority ethnic people across Scotland are at a higher risk of poverty.

Reply from Shona Robison: Evidence and data play an important part in efficient policy delivery. Our commitment to continue to improve on our data and evaluation efforts is highlighted as part of the revised evaluation strategy to tackle child poverty. The Scottish Government publish child poverty estimates by detailed ethnic group and since March 2022, time series for ethnicity breakdowns have also been published, including for child poverty estimates by detailed ethnic group. The Scottish Government is happy to support CRER – and any stakeholders – with finding our published data and producing ad-hoc analysis.

Whilst recognising the important role of detailed statistical data, our tackling child poverty delivery plan is clear that an intersectional approach is needed to support priority families. Beyond statistical analysis, our action to tackle child poverty is based on a strong evidence base identifying the main drivers of poverty, as the CRER report acknowledges. To design policies that specifically help minority ethnic families, further evidence has been published to widen our understanding. This

includes a detailed focus report on minority ethnic families, a summary update on drivers of poverty for all priority family types which fed into the development of 'Best Start, Bright Futures' and detailed understanding of what works to tackle child poverty.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11626>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c1bee105b4f55a98326d0/t/63402dd9c5d4a10c2e7d6134/1665150614233/LCPARs+Report+2020-21.pdf>

The statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/child-poverty-statistics/>

Child Poverty

Jackie Baillie (Labour) [S6W-11627] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it will take to ensure that local authorities are tackling and reporting on Black and minority ethnic (BME) poverty at a local level, given recent research by the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights published in its report *Black and Minority Ethnic Child Poverty in Scotland: a review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports 2020/21*, found local authorities are aware of the higher risk of poverty for BME families, but do not take targeted action.

Reply from Shona Robison: The Scottish Government is refreshing the non-statutory guidance for Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPARs) to support local authorities and health boards to deliver focused reporting on their actions to support priority families. CRER and other stakeholders representing priority families have been consulted in drafting the guidance. This is part of our work with stakeholders to strengthen targeted action for priority groups. We welcome the opportunity to work with CRER to enable a greater focus on BME families in our national and local practice and reporting. The Scottish Government, in collaboration with other national partners, review LCPARs and engage with local authorities and health boards, offering feedback and sharing learning across areas. This process provides a further opportunity to support local focus on the six priority family groups. The non-statutory guidance also highlights that the intersectional approach needed to support priority families is best served by person-centred, holistic action. We will continue to support local leads to engage directly with priority families in their areas who have direct experience of poverty to understand, design and deliver the tailored support needed.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11627>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/615c1bee105b4f55a98326d0/t/63402dd9c5d4a10c2e7d6134/1665150614233/LCPARs+Report+2020-21.pdf>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Ethnic Groups: Politics and Government

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [75904] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, what steps the Government is taking to encourage people from minority ethnic backgrounds to participate in politics.

Reply from Maria Caulfield: We have more women MPs than ever before, making up 35% of the House of Commons, and 10% of MPs – including the Prime Minister – are from an ethnic minority background. It is for political parties to select prospective parliamentary candidates.

History: Ethnic Groups

Fleur Anderson (Labour) [74943] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, whether her Department is taking steps to ensure that Black history is taught in schools all year.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Teaching a knowledge-rich, well-sequenced history curriculum means that black history can be taught at all Key Stages of the curriculum. As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain. This can include the voices and experiences of black people in Britain.

The freedom and flexibility in the history National Curriculum means that teachers can include black history as a natural part of the themes and eras in the curriculum, both in terms of British and world history, and their interconnection.

The Department published a blog on Black History Month in October, where it was emphasised that there is scope in the curriculum to teach black history all year round. References to high quality curriculum resources were included and it highlighted how important it is to celebrate the contribution black communities and individuals have made over the centuries in shaping the dynamic and diverse country we have today. The blog can be accessed at:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/03/black-history-month-how-black-history-is-taught-in-our-schools-2>

The Department is developing a Model History Curriculum to support teaching a history curriculum which reflects the diversity in history. This will be published in early 2024.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74943>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

History: Curriculum

Lord Taylor of Warwick (Non-affiliated) [HL2855] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that black history is taught in schools and becomes part of the broader curriculum.

Reply from Baroness Barran: As part of a broad and balanced curriculum, pupils should be taught about different societies, and how different groups have contributed to the development of Britain, and this can include the voices and experience of black people. The flexibility in the history curriculum means that teachers can include black history as a natural part of the themes and eras in the curriculum both in terms of British and world history, and their interconnection. For example, at key stage 1, schools can teach about the lives of key black historical figures, and at key stage 2, schools can embed teaching about black history appropriately when teaching these historical periods. Additionally there is a requirement to teach a study of a non-European society. The example provided by the department is Benin, West Africa, c. AD 900-1300. At key stage 3, schools can cover the development and end of the British Empire and Britain's transatlantic slave trade, its effects and eventual abolition.

We are also developing a Model History Curriculum to support teaching a knowledge-rich, well-sequenced history curriculum which reflects diversity in history. The teaching of black history need not be limited to these examples. There is scope to include black history and experience in other national curriculum subjects such as English and citizenship, and in the non-statutory subject personal, social, health and economics (PSHE) education.

News

Sikh prayer books return to military after 100 years

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-63547209>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answers

Holocaust: Education

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-11653] To ask the Scottish Government what percentage of secondary school pupils have received education on the Holocaust during their time at school in the school year 2021-22.

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Curriculum for Excellence enables teachers to tailor the content of lessons to best suit learners in their particular circumstances. Within the broad general education there is the opportunity to teach the Holocaust, not only within social studies, but across the wider curriculum. There is also an opportunity to teach the Holocaust within the History qualifications in the senior phase.

Scottish Government does not hold information on the percentage of secondary school pupils who have received education on the Holocaust during the 2021-22 school year, however a wide range of resources are available for schools to promote learning and teaching about, and remembrance of, the Holocaust. These resources focus on the Holocaust but also promote awareness of Jewish people, culture and their contribution to society and address the issue of antisemitism in the world today. Professional learning to support teachers to embed Holocaust education across secondary schools in Scotland is also available, including a subsidised standalone Masters module on Citizenship and Holocaust Education.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11653>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Holocaust: Education

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-11654] To ask the Scottish Government how education on the Holocaust is delivered in secondary schools.

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-11655] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to ensure that all secondary school pupils are taught about the Holocaust.

Shirley-Anne Somerville: The Curriculum for Excellence enables teachers to tailor the content of lessons to best suit learners in their particular circumstances. Within the broad general education there is the opportunity to teach the Holocaust both within the people, past event and societies section of social studies and across the wider curriculum. There is also an opportunity to teach the holocaust within the History qualifications in the senior phase.

The curriculum in Scotland is built around 4 central tenets, that young people will become successful learners, effective contributors, confident individuals, and responsible citizens. Enabling young people to develop into responsible citizens

requires them to understand both modern day and historic discrimination. One way this is built into our social studies curriculum is through the requirement for learners to demonstrate the following experiences and outcomes:

- I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.
- I can discuss the motives of those involved in a significant turning point in the past and assess the consequences it had then and since.
- Through researching, I can identify possible causes of a past conflict and report on the impact it has had on the lives of people at that time.
- Having critically analysed a significant historical event, I can assess the relative importance of factors contributing to the event.
- I can express an informed view about the changing nature of conflict over time, appreciate its impact and empathise with the experiences of those involved.

A wide range of resources are available for schools to promote learning and teaching about, and remembrance of, the Holocaust. These resources focus on the Holocaust but also promote awareness of Jewish people, culture and their contribution to society and address the issue of antisemitism in the world today. Professional learning to support teachers to embed Holocaust education across secondary schools in Scotland is also available, including a subsidised standalone Masters module on Citizenship and Holocaust Education.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11654>

and

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11655>

Holocaust: Education

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-11656] To ask the Scottish Government whether it will consider embedding Holocaust education in the Curriculum for Excellence in a similar way as LGBTQ+ education, and what the reasons are for its position on this matter.

Shirley-Anne Somerville: There is no specific content embedded in the curriculum. Curriculum for Excellence is a flexible curriculum, which enables teachers to tailor the content of lessons to best suit learners in their particular circumstances

To find out more about what the Scottish Government is doing to teach Holocaust Education in schools, I refer the member to the answer to question S6W-11654 on 9 November 2022. ...

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11656>

The answer referred to above can be read above and at

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-11654>

Scottish Parliament Motions

Marie McNair (SNP) [S6M-06660] Scottish Trade Union Congress St Andrew's Day Rally Against Racism and Fascism – That the Parliament recognises that the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) St Andrew's Day Rally Against Racism and Fascism will take place in Glasgow on 26 November 2022, leaving Glasgow Green at 11.00 am and heading to the Renfield Centre in Bath Street for a rally at noon; believes that such

marches are important in highlighting that Scotland stands against racism and fascism, with the 2022 event, it understands, focusing on sending support to the Sheku Bayoh Family Justice Campaign, rejecting what it sees as the UK Government's abhorrent immigration policy and rhetoric, and highlighting the disproportionate impact that it believes the cost of living crisis is having on black workers; commends the STUC and its Black Workers' Committee for organising both the annual march and their longstanding campaigns against racism and fascism; celebrates the bravery and solidarity of BAME people in taking action against what it sees as injustice and inequality, and encourages people to attend what it believes will be an important event.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06660>

Siobhian Brown (SNP) [S6M-06569] Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums – That the Parliament recognises the work carried out by the Empire, Slavery and Scotland's Museums Steering Group, which investigated how Scotland's involvement in empire, colonialism, and historic slavery can be addressed using museum collections and spaces; notes the recommendation in the group's report, which states that "Scotland should create a dedicated space to address our role in empire, colonialism, and historic slavery"; believes that there are many spaces throughout Scotland, such as Rozelle House and Belleisle House in Ayr, that have historic links to slavery; understands that locations such as Belleisle and Rozelle were funded from the proceeds of historical slavery, and considers that Scotland's young people would benefit from learning about this part of Scottish history.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06569>

Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6M-06479] Breaking the Chains Dundee Walking Trail – That the Parliament welcomes the Breaking the Chains Dundee map and city walking trail, which is co-authored by Matthew Jarron and Erin Farley following actions by Dundee City Council's Black History Working Group and the Woven Together Project; notes that the trail includes 28 locations related to slavery and to the anti-slavery movement, including buildings, statues and gravestones; understands that Dundee linen was used as clothing for enslaved people in both the United States and the Caribbean; acknowledges what it sees as the role of Dundee and other Scottish towns and cities in facilitating and profiting from slavery; welcomes the inclusion in the trail of the former Bell Street UP Church, where, it understands, Frederick Douglass delivered a celebrated speech in 1846 and other formerly enslaved people including Ellen and William Craft also gave talks; notes the role of campaigners including George and Margaret Gilfillan and the Dundee Ladies' Anti-Slavery Association in raising awareness of the realities of slavery and also funds to support fugitive enslaved people in Canada; acknowledges what it sees as the toxic legacy of colonialism and slavery, including climate injustice, and recognises what it believes to be Scotland's continued responsibility to engage in reparative actions for its role in these historic and contemporary harms.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-06479>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Islamophobia

Ruth Jones (Labour) [74906] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what plans he has to mark Islamophobia Awareness Week 2022.

Ruth Jones (Labour) [74907] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what discussions he has had with Ministers in the devolved Administrations on tackling Islamophobia on an all-nations basis.

Reply from Lee Rowley: The United Kingdom is an open, tolerant and welcoming

country where people of all faiths practice in freedom. We have a proud tradition of religious tolerance, within the law. The Government remains committed to creating a strong and integrated society in which hatred and prejudice are not tolerated towards the Muslim, or any other, community. We recognise the huge contribution that people of all faiths, beliefs and none, bring to communities and public life, and we are committed to acknowledging and celebrating this.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74906>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-31/74907>

New Publications

Ofcom Opinion: BBC News Online and BBC London News 2 December 2021 (published online) and 2 December 2021, 18:30 (broadcast)

https://www.ofcom.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0023/247163/BBC-News-Online-and-BBC-London-News-2-December-2021.pdf

The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion: Unpacking the Notorious Antisemitic Forgery

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/APT-Protocols-Report.pdf>

News

Conservative Party accused of being in ‘denial’ about ‘Islamophobia’ within its own ranks

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/conservative-party-islamophobia-labour-letter-b2217870.html>

Perth and Kinross Council to ‘urgently address’ anti-Semitism and Islamophobia

<https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/perth-kinross/3857890/perth-council-anti-semitism-islamophobia/>

Birmingham Labour group in racism row over ‘toxic culture’

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/nov/12/birmingham-labour-group-in-racism-row-over-toxic-culture>

Sunak told to apologise after ex-minister’s ‘racial slur’ sparks diplomatic row

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/mark-francois-racial-slur-japan-sunak-b2223093.html>

IOPC investigating nine armed police officers accused of ‘racist’ and discriminatory conversations

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/police-racist-misogynist-investigation-iopc-b2218140.html>

Ofcom concludes investigation into the BBC's coverage of antisemitic attack

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/news-centre/2022/ofcom-concludes-investigation-into-the-bbcs-coverage-of-antisemitic-attack>

Ofcom: BBC made significant editorial failings over antisemitism bus attack report

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-63541437>

BBC made ‘significant editorial failings’ in report into antisemitic bus attack
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/bbc-ofcom-jewish-board-of-deputies-of-british-jews-ecu-b2219393.html>

BBC faces growing pressure over antisemitic attack ‘failings’
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/bbc-faces-growing-pressure-antisemitic-attack-failings-drj8jpbq50>

BBC caused ‘significant distress’ to Jewish community with false anti-Muslim claims
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/07/bbc-caused-significant-distress-jewish-community-false-anti/>

Kristallnacht survivors warn about antisemitism, hate speech
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/germany-ap-jews-nazis-berlin-b2221042.html>

Man who attacked Jews, including boy, 14, had prayer to protect against ‘enemy’
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/jews-law-london-crown-prosecution-service-snaresbrook-crown-court-b2222367.html>

Brewers have right to change ‘racist’ pub name in Linlithgow, report finds
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/brewers-have-right-to-change-racist-pub-name-in-linlithgow-report-finds-xxhw87xdp>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Press Release

Scottish Veterans Fund 2023/24

Closing date for applications: 19 November 2022

The Scottish Veterans Fund (SVF) was established by the Scottish Government in 2008 and has a broad remit to support projects that benefit ex-Service personnel and their families in Scotland.

The SVF is particularly aimed at those projects that will help the veterans community to overcome any disadvantage experienced as a result of service; those supporting veterans and their families to achieve a successful transition to civilian life; and projects that aim to make Scotland the most attractive place to be for those leaving Service life.

For information and to apply see

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-veterans-fund-information/>

News

MSPs propose more than 150 changes to gender bill
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-63572905>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Nation falls silent on Remembrance Sunday

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nation-falls-silent-on-remembrance-sunday>

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Cost of Living

Scottish Government Website

Help during the cost of living crisis

Most households are concerned about the cost of living, with worries about issues such as rent and mortgages, food and utility bills, energy costs, and debt.

In response, the Scottish Government has launched a new website that provides information to help people access support with

- Energy and Bills
- Benefits and Income
- Children and Families
- Debt and Money
- Health and Wellbeing

Your local council might be able to help if you need urgent help with money, food or fuel – contact the council for information.

<https://costofliving.campaign.gov.scot/>

Publications

The Cost of a Child in 2022

https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/policypost/Cost_of_a_child_2022.pdf

Muslims and the Cost of Living Crisis

<https://muslimcensus.co.uk/cost-of-living-crisis/>

News

Cost of living crisis: Scotland's churches create warm hubs and here's where you can find them

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23104857.cost-living-crisis-scotlands-churches-create-warm-hubs-can-find/>

Cost-of-living crisis Scotland: Frustration and anger rising

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23105609.cost-of-living-crisis-scotland-frustration-anger-rising/>

Cost of living sees food banks ‘at breaking point’ with 320,000 first-time users

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/trussell-trust-cost-of-living-government-people-universal-credit-b2221854.html>

‘Shocking reality’: Food banks could close this winter because of energy bills

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/food-banks-shut-winter-energy-bills-b2219362.html>

Home repossessions double as families struggle with mortgage costs

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/personal-banking/mortgages/home-repossessions-double-families-struggle-mortgage-costs/>

Parents in full-time work unable to reach ‘acceptable’ living standard, study finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/uk-news/cost-of-living-benefits-parents-b2223706.html>

One in five British Muslims have used food banks due to rising living costs

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/british-muslims-food-banks-poverty-cost-of-living-b2223668.html>

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Other News

Scotland falls silent to remember war dead

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-63615238>

Fee waiver for PVG’s for new paid roles within the Social Care Sector: The Scottish Government will cover the cost of PVG checks for Social Care Workers (and comparable roles in Justice and Children’s Services) from 1 October 2022 – 31 March 2023

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/for-organisations/disclosure-services/disclosures-latest/fee-waiver-for-pvgs-for-new-paid-roles-within-the-social-care-sector/>

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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>

Notice of amendments

<https://www.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/s6-bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-7-november-2022.pdf>

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

**** closes this week!**

Initial framework for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Strategic Plan 2023-27 (closing date 14 November 2022)

<https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/consultation-on-initial-framework-for-copfs-strategic-plan-2023-27/>

**** closes this week!**

Mapping Exercise - Youth Workers supporting young people facing racism & anti semitism in Scotland (closing date 14 November 2022)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z5YX2C7>

**** closes this week!**

Proposed Domestic Abuse (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill (closing date 20 November 2022)

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/proposals-for-bills/proposed-domestic-abuse-register-scotland-bill>

An inspection of Afghan resettlement schemes (closing date 27 November 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-evidence-an-inspection-of-the-home-offices-afghan-resettlement-schemes>

**** Human Rights of Asylum Seekers in the UK (closing date 15 December 2022)**

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/2967/>

Possible changes to the First-tier Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules and the Upper Tribunal Rules arising from Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (applies to England and Wales only) (closing date 19 January 2023)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/possible-changes-to-the-first-tier-tribunal-immigration-and-asylum-chamber-rules-and-the-upper-tribunal-rules-arising-from-nationality-and-borders-a>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

Reaching New Scots Fund

Closing date for applications: 18 December 2022

The Reaching New Scots Fund is designed and managed by people from refugee backgrounds in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund, and is open to groups and organisations across Scotland that are run by New Scots or offer support to refugees and people seeking asylum. The fund aims to support smaller charities and not for profit groups that are often underfunded, and will therefore only accept applications from organisations with an average annual income of less than £250,000. For information and to apply see <https://tinyurl.com/5ch4pj3d>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** this week!**

Scottish Interfaith Week

Until 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/>

**** this week!**

Faces of Faith exhibition

Until 25 November 2022 (Edinburgh and Glasgow)

Interfaith Week exhibition showcasing Scotland's diverse religious & cultural communities, and exploring the joys, challenges, and complexities of living as a person of faith in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5fkzebhz>

**** this week!**

Governance - a human rights and equalities first approach

14 November 2022 (online, 1.00–4.00)

THRE introduction to what a human rights and equalities approach means for third sector boards and committees, including: human rights and equalities - what are they, and why do they matter? What a human rights and equalities first approach is, why it is relevant, and how to apply it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/j4mysav9>

**** this week!**

International Human Rights Perspective on tackling hate crime in Scotland

15 November 2022 (online, 10.00–12.00)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2p92dk86>

**** this week!**

Islamophobia: The Causes, The Cures and The Church

16 November 2022 (online, 7.30–8.30)

Church of Scotland webinar to better understand Islamophobia, its impact, and what we can do to prevent it. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/ymt29a2e>

**** this week!**

"Black Out Here: Black Lives in Scotland"

19 November 2022 (Glasgow, 2.00–4.00)

STUC book reading and discussion event focussing on research and writing about the history and contemporary lives of Black people in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2hkdmzjj>

The Law and Tackling Racially, and Religiously Motivated Hate Crime in Scotland

23 November 2022 (Glasgow, 9.30–11.30)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/43z89nwn>

A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach – The Basics

24 November 2022 (online, 10.00–3.30)

9 December 2022 (online, 10.00–3.30)

13 January 2023 (online, 10.00–3.30)

THRE course about human rights and equalities - what are they, and why do they matter? What a human rights and equalities first approach is and why it is relevant to you and your organisation, and how we can start a conversation and talk constructively about human rights and equalities. For information about the November event see <https://tinyurl.com/ywajmvbp>, for the December event see <https://tinyurl.com/32sxxrfd>, and for the January event see <https://tinyurl.com/mpnfcpp>

Working with Interpreters

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>

Building Support for Protecting Human Rights

6 December 2022 (online, 9.30–12.00)

Human rights Consortium Scotland workshop about threats and opportunities around human rights in Scotland and the UK, including: What do we need to do to build active support and understanding of human rights in Scotland? And How do we cement support for the Human Rights Act, and get even more support to put all our rights in law? For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mvppwpt2>

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/2kvfvda7>

The role of Intangible Cultural Heritage in tackling racism

8 December 2022 (Glasgow, 9.30–11.30)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/2xzj4pch>

Re-forming the Curriculum: Education as part of tackling hate crime

14 December 2022 (online, 9.30–11.30)

BEMIS consultation event to inform Hate Crime strategy in Scotland. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/yckjvme8>

Supporting Refugee Integration

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>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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



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



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

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