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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

Refugees: Ukraine

Jamie Greene (Conservative) [S6W-13431] To ask the Scottish Government how many individuals have been resettled in each local authority area in Scotland through the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Reply from Neil Gray: The Scottish Government regularly publishes data relating to the number of completed matches, where a displaced person from Ukraine has arrived at their hosted and longer term accommodation in Scotland, under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The number of completed matches by Local Authority can be found in Table 1 in a supporting document called Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: December statistics tables as follows - [Supporting documents - Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - December 2022](#)

An accompanying report is published alongside the tables and can be found at the following link: [Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in Scotland: statistics - December 2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/ukraine-sponsorship-scheme-in-scotland-statistics-december-2022)

Additionally, the UK Government regularly publishes data relating to visas and arrivals under the Homes for Ukraine scheme:

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

Displaced people with visas are free to enter the country and live and work where they want. Not everyone entering the UK through the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme (including those sponsored by the Scottish Government) will need accommodation provided to them. They may make their own arrangements, including renting their own accommodation or staying with friends and family. Some arrivals may have also self-matched with a volunteer host, assisted by a charity or support network. Those arrivals may never be in contact with a welcome hub or local authority seeking accommodation.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13431>

UK Parliament Debate

Unaccompanied Minors Seeking Asylum

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-10/debates/23011027000001/UnaccompaniedMinorsSeekingAsylum>

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Tier 1 (Investor) Route: Review of Operation

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Suella Braverman) [HCWS492] In March 2018, following the Salisbury poisonings, the then Home Secretary Amber Rudd committed to a review of individuals who had entered the UK under the tier 1 (investor) immigration route, prior to reforms made in 2015.

I am now providing here the Government's final response summarising the findings of that review.

The tier 1 (investor) route had allowed individuals (primarily non-EEA nationals) investing in the UK to enter, and eventually settle in, the UK. It was launched in 2008 and at that time required applicants to be able to demonstrate they had access to £1 million of available funds to invest in UK Government bonds and shares or loan funds to UK companies. The UK had operated some form of investor visa programme for high-net-worth personal investment since 1994. The tier 1 (investor) visa route was ultimately closed on 17 February 2022.

I can confirm that the Home Office considered the cases of the 6,312 tier 1 (investor) migrants and tier 1 (investor) adult dependants who obtained leave between the launch of the route on 30 June 2008, and the introduction on 6 April 2015 of a requirement to open a regulated UK bank account before applying for a visa under the route. Each case was reviewed for potential links to criminality or other risk factors. Officials also considered whether there were wider risks presented in the design and implementation of the route at that time, and the overall economic benefit of the route.

The review of cases identified a small minority of individuals connected to the tier 1 (investor) visa route that were potentially at high risk of having obtained wealth through corruption or other illicit financial activity, and/or being engaged in serious and organised

crime. I should stress that the work carried out only implies that a particular individual potentially poses a risk of having connections to criminality; it does not mean guilt has been proven. UK law enforcement have access to this data and are taking action as appropriate under their operational remits. Information on all high-risk individuals has been discussed with the Home Office's independent operational partners and a range of actions has been and is being considered including, where appropriate, immigration action. Given the importance of ensuring the independence of the law enforcement process, I am unable to say more on the operationally sensitive work being taken forward in this area. While unable to comment specifically due to the operational sensitivity of the work, as an example of the range of actions we are taking, I can say that we have already sanctioned 10 oligarchs who had previously used this route as part of our extensive response to Russian aggression in the Ukraine.

The Home Office is robust in refusing leave where this is appropriate. During the operation of the tier 1 (investor) visa programme, the route has had a refusal rate for main applicants and their dependants of 7.9% for entry clearance applications and 4% for leave to remain applications, and for main applicants seeking indefinite leave to remain (settlement) the refusal rate is 2.2%¹.

The lessons learned from this review, and from ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the tier 1 (investor) route and the impact of reforms made between 2014 and 2019, formed a significant part of the evidence base on which the Government made their decision to ultimately close the route on 17 February 2022. The Home Office has found that there are inherent difficulties in an investment-based immigration route based on passive wealth, both in terms of security and economic value. I am determined this Government will ensure such mistakes are not repeated.

In that spirit, I am setting out in more detail broader systemic findings from the review:

The route attracted a disproportionate number of applicants from the countries identified in the UK's national risk assessment of money laundering and terrorist financing 2020 as particularly relevant to the cross-border money laundering risks faced and posed by the UK.

The review did not find evidence of a systemic failure across financial institutions to carry out appropriate customer due diligence checks on tier 1 (investor) visa applicants in the period in question. However, there was evidence of high-risk tier 1 (investor) applicants seeking out and exploiting financial institutions that had the weakest customer due diligence controls. In a number of instances, financial institutions associated with multiple high-risk migrants at the time have since been issued significant fines by the Financial Conduct Authority. This has been due to the firms' handling of customer due diligence for high-risk clients in general rather than specifically for tier 1 (investor) visa applicants.

The review found that the particular risks presented by the tier 1 (investor) route compared with other visa routes meant that the immigration system was not as well equipped to respond. UK Visas and Immigration are trained immigration caseworkers, but the risks posed by this route would require specialist expertise in detecting financial criminality. Cases linked to historical allegations of corruption or financial crime are complex, may be based on suspicion or allegations only, and not evidenced by criminal enforcement action in the country of origin. Complex financial crimes such as corruption and embezzlement can also remain undetected for significant periods of time.

I recognise that the UK's openness to global business carries risks that malign actors will take advantage of our systems to pursue corrupt and criminal ends. We must ensure that kleptocracies such as Russia are not able to act with impunity overseas. That is why the UK has taken strong action since the start of the war, and why we will continue to do so in the years to come. We have swiftly implemented the strongest set of economic sanctions ever imposed, against a G20 country. This stands at 1,200 individuals and 120 entities linked to the Russian state. In total, we have frozen over £18 billion in Russian assets since the war began.

We have established a new combatting kleptocracy cell in the National Crime Agency to investigate criminal sanctions evasion and high-end money laundering. And we have brought forward new and robust legislation to prevent corrupt elites from abusing our open economy, including establishing a new, open register for overseas entities owning property in the UK.

The Government are clear that any future visa route to facilitate investment-based migration must not offer entry solely on the basis of the applicant's personal wealth. We are continuing to consider options to bring forward alternative provisions to support investment-based migration benefiting the UK economy on a fundamentally different model within the innovator visa programme, placing more emphasis on the applicant's track record as an investor in innovative business and an assessment of their plans to actively engage in such activity in the UK. We will ensure any new provisions are brought forward carefully.

¹ Entry clearance refusal rate 30 June 2008 to Q3 main applicants and dependants.

Refusal rate for tier 1 (investor) leave to remain from 30 June 2008 to 2020.

Settlement for main applicants (indefinite leave to remain) April 2013 to 9 December 2022.

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-12/debates/23011222000010/Tier1\(Investor\)RouteReviewOfOperation](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-12/debates/23011222000010/Tier1(Investor)RouteReviewOfOperation)

UK Parliament, House of Commons Oral Answers

Windrush Lessons Learned Review: Implementation of Recommendations

Stephen Kinnock (Labour): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the progress in implementing the recommendations of the Windrush lessons learned review.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sarah Dines): Since the injustices of Windrush came to light, there has been a concerted effort across the Home Office to right the wrongs suffered by those affected. That work continues, and the Department is making sustained progress on delivering on the recommendations of the Windrush lessons learned review of 2020 and the commitments made in the comprehensive improvement plan of 2020. In her report last year, the independent reviewer Wendy Williams concluded that 21 of her recommendations had been met or partially met. She acknowledged that the scale of the challenge she had set the Department was significant and that change on that scale takes time.

We have made progress in delivering against Wendy Williams's recommendations. In October 2022, the Home Office established the Office for the Independent Examiner of Complaints, and Moiram Ali was appointed as the independent examiner following a public appointment recruitment process. The Home Office has also held over 200 engagement and outreach events across the country, and the Windrush help teams have attended over 120 one-to-one surgeries to help people apply for documentation.

As of the end of October 2022, the Home Office has paid out or offered £59.58 million of compensation to Windrush victims. The "Serving Diverse Communities: Acting on Our Values" learning package was launched across the Home Office in June 2022, starting with recommendation 24 on learning for senior civil servants and recommendation 29 on diversity and inclusion. The learning package for recommendation 6 on the history of the UK and its relationship with the rest of the world has been designed and is undergoing final review prior to implementation.

I am pleased that the independent reviewer of Windrush progress has concluded that there are several areas in which very good progress has been made, but she rightly holds the Home Office to account for areas and recommendations where

sufficient progress has not yet been made. She concludes that there can be “no doubt” that the Department has risen to the “daunting challenge” she set us.

We know there is more to do. Many people suffered terrible injustices at the hands of successive Governments, and the Department will continue working hard to right the wrongs and to deliver a Home Office worthy of every community it serves.

Stephen Kinnock: The reality is that this Government’s treatment of the Windrush generation is surely one of the most shameful episodes in our post-war political history. The Windrush community played a pivotal role in rebuilding Britain. We all owe them a debt of honour and gratitude but, instead, consecutive Conservative Governments have treated them with utter contempt. First, they were victimised under the hostile environment policy, and then they were let down by a poorly administered compensation scheme, under which just 1,300 people have been awarded compensation when the Government originally estimated that 15,000 should be eligible. Now it is reported that the Government are set to betray the Windrush generation once again by U-turning on their commitment to implementing all 30 recommendations in Wendy Williams’s lessons learned report.

In September 2021, the then Home Secretary, the right hon. Member for Witham (Priti Patel), restated her aim to put right the wrongs of this sorry affair, yet today we find the Government are rowing back on some of their commitments, including by refusing to hand additional powers to the independent chief inspector of borders and immigration and by scrapping reconciliation and community events.

Why are the Government so terrified of scrutiny? Their toxic combination of incompetence and indifference is failing the Windrush generation, just as it is failing the country as a whole. Given that Wendy Williams says that only eight of her recommendations have been implemented, will the Minister tell me today how many of the Williams recommendations have been implemented and how many the Government are ditching, as is widely reported by the media?

Why have thousands of the Windrush generation still not received any compensation at all? On the 75th anniversary of the Windrush landing, are the Windrush generation being betrayed by this Government once again?

Reply from Sarah Dines: This Government are absolutely not betraying the Windrush generation. Successive Governments of all colours have failed to step up to the mark, but this Government are stepping up. The Windrush generation are rightly identified as British and have the right to be in this country, and this remains separate from the many narratives that have been written.

The hon. Gentleman knows that the Government do not comment on leaks. What I can say is that we have matched the scale of Wendy’s challenge with the scale of our ambition and delivery. Wendy acknowledges that our ambition to achieve genuine cultural change requires ongoing reflection, which is what we are doing. The Home Office has provided regular updates on the good progress, and the statistics bear out the hard work that is happening.

I am afraid that the narrative is simply not quite right. I remind the House that 4,558 claims have been received, and the total compensation offered is £59.58 million, of which more than £51 million has already been paid. Fifty-nine per cent. of claims have a final decision and, as a lawyer in my previous profession, I know that that is quite a high number. The Government are absolutely committed to righting this injustice.

Kevin Foster (Conservative): It is worth noting that the Wendy Williams review looked across a catalogue of issues that affected the Windrush generation. I was particularly struck by the fact that the first case listed in her initial report was from 2009. So this is not just something that has occurred in the past 10 years. On the commitment to implementing the review’s recommendations, it was very clear, certainly from my right hon. Friend the Member for Witham (Priti Patel), that the Government were absolutely committed to putting them all in place to rebuild the confidence of the Windrush generation. Could the Minister

reassure me that that commitment remains and will be taken forward?

Reply from Sarah Dines: I suggest that the commitment is clear to many, but there is clearly more work to be done. It is refreshing to see the amount of engagement locally that there has been. The casework reflects that. The other thing I wish to mention is that these things evolve, as they should. Dramatic changes have been brought in to make sure that the new system brought in by the Government is even more generous than before. There are many new aspects to this. For example, the introduction of new living costs allows compensation to be awarded to close family members for losses that were not previously covered under the scheme. The Government are doing more, as they should. The introduction of preliminary payments for close family members allows for part of a compensation payment to be paid earlier in the process. There needs to be more change, but we are effecting this and the Government's commitment is unswerving—my hon. Friend is correct on that. ...

Alison Thewliss (SNP): Whitehall sources have been quoted in *The Guardian* as saying: "The Williams review is not set in stone". It would be a betrayal of that review and of those affected if there is to be no migrants commissioner, no reconciliation events and no extra powers for the independent chief inspector of borders and immigration. The Windrush compensation scheme has been painfully slow, with at least 23 people known to have died while their claims were being processed. So will the Minister confirm that none of the planned changes will affect the already ineffective compensation scheme and that the claims still outstanding will be concluded at the earliest opportunity? What confidence can those who do us the honour of coming to these islands for sanctuary, for work, for study and for love have in this Government when the UK Tory Government ignore the terrible injustices of Windrush, fail to learn the lessons and double down on attacking their fellow human beings?

Reply from Sarah Dines: The hon. Lady should not believe everything she reads in the paper because there is no end date to Wendy Williams' appointment, she continues to review and the Government take her views very seriously. I do not accept the premise of the "delay". These issues are dealt with sensitively. It is important not to have a knee-jerk reaction and rush. Detailed, fundamental work needs to be done and Members must judge the "delay"—or the progress, as I would rather say—by the fact that there is a 59% success rate and so much money paid out. What is important is that the engagement, which has improved over the past three to six months, has meant a dramatic increase in the number of those taking up the scheme. There is always more to do and the Government will not say that they are doing everything right, but they are 100% committed and I do not accept that there is delay or a willingness to ditch, as is implied, the independent reviewer, whose work is so important. ...

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-10/debates/ED3551B6-A01C-47AF-8708-C8B874712F05/WindrushLessonsLearnedReviewImplementationOfRecommendations>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

The Progress Report, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1065012/14.12_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_Accessible_6_.pdf

The Guardian article referred to above can be read at

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/06/suella-bravermann-plans-to-ditch-key-windrush-pledges>

Immigration Courts: Waiting Times

Maggie Throup (Conservative) [903023] What discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on reducing waiting times for cases in immigration courts.

Dean Russell (Conservative) [903034] What discussions [has the Minister] had with Cabinet colleagues on reducing waiting times for immigration cases.

Reply from the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Dominic Raab): We are committed to ensuring faster throughput in immigration and asylum tribunals to support the Government's priority to combat dangerous small boats crossing the channel.

Maggie Throup: Does my right hon. Friend agree that the quickest way to end the use of hotels such as those in my constituency as temporary accommodation centres is to speed up the processing of immigration cases and, when cases are rejected by the courts, for the Government to act swiftly to remove failed claimants from the UK?

Reply from Dominic Raab: My hon. Friend is absolutely right. That is part of the solution, and I am working closely with the Home Secretary on that. Our aim, working together, is to eliminate the backlog of people who claimed asylum before June 2022 by the end of this year. We will support the Home Office in delivering that so that we can end the use of hotels by 2024. Part of that is about the throughput, so we are doubling the number of decision makers in tribunals from 1,270 to 2,500. Digital can also play a role. Overall, we are driving forward that process to the ends that she describes.

Dean Russell: Further investment in the immigration process is welcome. However, last year we saw a stark increase in the number of people attempting to enter the country illegally in small boats. That is unsafe for those genuinely in need, unfair on those who moved to this country through safe and legal routes and unacceptable for the working people of the UK, including those of Watford, who foot the bill. As one of the Government's priorities for the new year, will my right hon. Friend set out what practical steps are being considered, including by the Justice Department, to ensure that we have the most effective border in the world by 2025?

Reply from Dominic Raab: My hon. Friend is absolutely right. He will have heard what the Prime Minister said about the five pledges, one of which is to end the small boats coming across illegally. I mentioned what we are doing with the Home Office to get the backlog down in the immigration tribunal. My hon. Friend will know about the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, and the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister have also talked about further measures being brought forward shortly. Of course, the Labour party has opposed every single one of those measures. It is no surprise that, in 2010, the last Labour Government left a record backlog of asylum claims. We are the ones fixing that mess.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-10/debates/34136C79-8070-441E-9246-AD8916DEF04B/ImmigrationCourtsWaitingTimes>

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

Asylum: Rwanda

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [110758] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the consequences for the asylum partnership agreement with Rwanda of the number of asylum seekers crossing the English Channel.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Migration and Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) between the UK and Rwanda is part of a suite of measures aimed at disrupting the business model of organised criminal gangs promoting trips

to the UK by dangerous and unlawful routes.

Ongoing legal proceedings have prevented relocations to Rwanda taking place to date. Once operational, we will carefully monitor the impacts of the MEDP.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110758>

Asylum: Rwanda

Hilary Benn (Labour) [113211] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, further to her oral Statement on 19 December 2022, on Migration and Economic Development, Official Report, whether her Department's policy of deporting asylum seekers to Rwanda applies to (a) a family group arriving in the UK to seek asylum and (b) individuals arriving in the UK to seek asylum who have family members already in the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: With the exception of unaccompanied children, any individual who has arrived in the UK since 1 January 2022 by unnecessary and dangerous means from safe countries may be considered for relocation to Rwanda. Families with children are potentially eligible for relocation; however the initial process will focus on adults. A further assessment of Rwanda's capacity to accommodate children will be undertaken before this occurs. This is set out in our published Equality Impact Assessment:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-and-economic-development-partnership-with-rwanda>

For those with family links in the UK who want to be considered for entry to the UK, they should seek to do so via legal and safe routes.

Everyone considered for relocation will be screened and have access to legal advice. Decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis, and nobody will be removed if it is unsafe or inappropriate for them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113211>

The oral statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-19/debates/B5009C67-E69A-4248-8F16-77439DE48472/MigrationAndEconomicDevelopment>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer: Channel Migrants

Human Trafficking: France

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [110757] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, when and how she plans to assess the effectiveness of steps taken to tackle criminal people traffickers on the coast of France.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Government remains committed to tackling Organised Immigration Crime (OIC) and disrupting the Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) responsible. The Government and law enforcement agencies work tirelessly to tackle the criminal networks who facilitate people smuggling from source countries to Europe and then the UK.

Tackling people smuggling of all types is a priority for Immigration Enforcement, they work through their international network upstream as well as conduct investigations within the UK to disrupt OCGs. Additionally, the dedicated multi-agency OIC Taskforce, led by the National Crime Agency, is committed to dismantling OCGs engaged in immigration crime internationally. The Taskforce is active in 17 countries worldwide, and its activities include supporting judicial and intelligence capacity building in source and transit countries, and intelligence sharing in key near Europe countries.

The tragedies in the Channel over the last year and most recently this week

demonstrates the high-risk routes OCGs facilitate. In response to this increasing threat the Home Office, Ministry of Defence, NCA, and UK police forces have increased cooperation with French counterparts to tackle the criminals behind the majority of these crossing attempts and protect lives at sea. Our joint efforts are resulting in continued arrests and prosecutions of these criminals, so that we deter, disrupt and dismantle the networks responsible for facilitating many of these crossings.

Since the UK-France Joint Intelligence Cell (JIC) was established in July 2020, 59 organised criminal groups involved in small boats crossings, in France, have been dismantled. In order to counter the small boats threat, we continue to work closely with French law enforcement who have so far during 2022 secured the arrests of 384 suspected people smugglers.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110757>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

The following two questions both received the same answer

Refugees: Afghanistan

Stephen Timms (Labour) [113154] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghan nationals have been (a) accepted and (b) evacuated from Afghanistan under the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme since it was formally opened.

Stephen Timms (Labour) [113155] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the Afghan citizens resettlement scheme, and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has made one of the largest commitments to support Afghanistan of any country and, so far, we have brought around 23,000 people affected by the situation in Afghanistan to safety. This includes more than 6,300 vulnerable Afghan nationals through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS).

Whilst the UK has made a generous resettlement commitment, we must bear in mind the capacity of the UK to resettle people is not unlimited and therefore difficult decisions about who will be prioritised for resettlement have to be made.

Resettlement is just one element of the UK Government's response to the situation in Afghanistan, in addition to our diplomatic efforts and international aid in the region, working alongside like-minded states and as part of the international community.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113154>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113155>

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Julian Lewis (Conservative) [117403] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many and what proportion of the places available in the first year under ACRS Pathway 3 have been filled, pending security checks, by eligible (a) British Council (i) contractors and (ii) contractors' family members, (b) GardaWorld (i) contractors and (ii) contractors' family members and (c) Chevening (i) Alumni and (ii) Alumni family members.

Reply from Leo Docherty: The Government received over 11,400 expressions of interest (EOI) under Pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS), which we have been assessing against the eligibility criteria. We have

informed just under 200 individuals that they are eligible in principle for resettlement, subject to passing security checks. Including their dependents, this accounts for over 750 of the 1500 available places on Pathway 3 in year one. We will not be commenting on individual cohort numbers while EOIs are still being processed and security checks are outstanding. As initial security checks are completed, we are providing further information on next steps to eligible individuals. We will update Parliament further once we have completed the allocation process, have notified all those who submitted EOIs of the outcome and have assured data to share.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117403>

Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [110792] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many individuals that are eligible for the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme Pathway 3 (a) have been informed and (b) are waiting to be informed by his Department of their eligibility.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 3, the FCDO received over 11,400 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) before the window to submit EOIs closed on 15 August 2022. We have informed just under 200 individuals that they are eligible in principle for resettlement, subject to passing security checks. Including their dependents, this accounts for over 750 of the 1500 available places on Pathway 3. We will provide further information on next steps to eligible individuals once security checks have been completed. We are continuing to work at pace to allocate the remaining places and will notify others of the outcome as quickly as we can.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110792>

Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [111684] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how many of the expressions of interest received for pathway 3 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme have been processed.

Reply from Leo Docherty: Under Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 3, the FCDO received over 11,400 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) before the window to submit EOIs closed on 15 August 2022. We have informed just under 200 individuals that they are eligible in principle for resettlement, subject to passing security checks. Including their dependents, this accounts for over 750 of the 1500 available places on Pathway 3. We have issued over 2,000 rejection letters to those who did not meet the eligibility criteria under Pathway 3. We are continuing to work at pace to allocate the remaining places and will notify those who expressed interest of the outcome as quickly as is practicable.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111684>

Information about Pathway 3, referred to above, can be read at

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Zarah Sultana (Labour) [112176] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what estimate her Department has made of the number of Afghans under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme who have permanent settled accommodation that meets their family's needs; when her Department expects those people under that scheme will be placed in such accommodation; and whether her Department is taking steps to help ensure that such accommodation is available to those being accommodated under that scheme.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The recent update to the published '[Afghan Resettlement: Operational Data](#)', shows that, at 4th November 2022:

- 22,833 individuals from Afghanistan have been brought to safety in the UK (since the end of June 2021).
- 7,572 of these have now moved into suitable settled accommodation, another 779 people have been matched to a home and are waiting to move in.

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

The Government continues to work at pace, in collaboration with over 350 local authorities across the UK, to meet the demand for housing. Alongside this, we are reaching out to landlords, developers, and the wider private rented sector to encourage further offers of properties.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-16/112176>

Information about the Afghan Relocations Assistance Policy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy/afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-information-and-guidance>

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

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Ukraine

Refugees: Ukraine

Steve McCabe (Labour) [117432] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether Ukrainian refugees living in other European countries are able to take holidays in the UK to visit family and friends.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Ukrainian refugees living in other European countries can visit the UK for holidays and to visit family, subject to applying for and receiving the necessary entry clearance. Visitors are assessed on the balance of probabilities against a set of suitability and eligibility rules based on credibility.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117432>

Refugees: Ukraine

Lilian Greenwood (Labour) [112082] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, whether he has made an assessment of the mental health and therapeutic support available for (a) Ukrainian child refugees and (b) other Ukrainian refugees.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Ukrainians fleeing their home and arriving in the UK under Homes for Ukraine are guaranteed free access to NHS healthcare, including mental health care services and registration with a GP.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-16/112082>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme

Ellie Reeves (Labour) [903001] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what estimate he has made of the number of refugees admitted under the Homes for Ukraine scheme who are homeless.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: As of 18 November, local authorities in England accepted homelessness duties to 2,985 Ukrainian households across all visa schemes; 915 were single households and 2,070 family households.

1,720 homelessness duties were owed to households who arrived under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Figures show only a very small fraction of Ukrainian arrivals have had a homelessness duty accepted and councils have a duty to ensure families are not left without a roof over their head.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-09/903001>

Homes for Ukraine Scheme: Homelessness

Diana Johnson (Labour) [114614] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what recent estimate he has made of the number of former Homes for Ukraine participants that are homeless.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: This information is available online and can be accessed [here](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-20/114614>

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

Civil Partnerships: Children

Mark Hendrick (Labour Co-op) [117479] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to ensure that children are given British citizenship when they are born outside the UK to British parents in same-sex couples.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A child born overseas will acquire British citizenship automatically if one of their parents is a British citizen, able to pass on that status, and recognised as the legal parent in UK law. Where a child is not British automatically there are options to register the child as a British citizen.

The Department for Health and Social Care have asked the fertility regulator, the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, to start a consultation process about prioritising issues for reform in fertility law. This legislation covers who is a child's parent in cases of assisted reproduction.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117479>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Applications

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [111723] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish her Department's internal customer service targets for processing each category of visa application.

Wendy Chamberlain (Liberal Democrat) [111724] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will publish her Department's internal guidance on compassionate grounds to expedite a visa application.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Visa applications are assessed on their individual merits and caseworkers will consider any compassionate grounds raised as part of the application assessment. Published policy guidance for each visa route will factor this where relevant. Caseworker guidance for each visa types can be found here: [Visas and immigration operational guidance: Immigration staff guidance - detailed information](#)

Those seeking to raise compassionate grounds to expedite their application should still apply and pay for their visa application online in the normal way. They should alert their request to their chosen Visa Application Centre or by contacting the UKVI Call Centre. There is no internal guidance on compassionate grounds to expedite a visa application, as where a case may contain individual factors which make it compelling or compassionate then the case will be expedited by UK Visas and Immigration staff and considered under its own merits.

The Department does not have internal customer service standards. Further information relating to Visa waiting times can be found on the .GOV website here: [Visa decision waiting times: applications outside the UK](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111723>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111724>

Visas: Families

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [117609] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department has taken recent steps to ensure that family groups are not prevented from entering the UK because one or more family members has not yet been issued with a visa.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: UK Visas and Immigration Decision Making Centres process overseas applications for entry clearance in date order from when documents were uploaded, or after customers have provided their biometrics at a visa application centre. Where UK Visa and Immigration Decision Making Centres receive applications from family groups at the same time and the customer includes details of this on their form, UKVI would look to group decisions together so families receive decisions wherever possible at the same time.

We encourage customers to continue to refer to these updates as our processing times change on a regular basis. The link to this guidance for in country applications is: [Visa decision waiting times: applications inside the UK](#) and out of country applications is: [Visa decision waiting times: applications outside the UK](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117609>

English Language: Education

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [113410] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of providers of English for Speakers of Other Languages.

Reply from Robert Halfon: The department understands that language skills are crucial to help people integrate into life in England, as well as to break down barriers to work and enable career progression. The department funds English for Speakers of Other Languages provision for eligible adults aged 19 and over through the Adult Education Budget (AEB).

Currently, approximately 60% of the AEB is devolved to nine Mayoral Combined Authorities and the Mayor of London, acting where appropriate through the Greater London Authority. These authorities are now responsible for the provision of AEB-funded adult education for their residents and allocation of the AEB to providers.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for funding eligible learners resident outside of these areas. Most of the AEB that is managed by the ESFA is allocated to grant funded providers including further education colleges, local authorities, higher education institutes, and specialist designated institutions. Where a provider that directly receives AEB or 16 to 19 ESFA/department funding can evidence that it would enhance the quality of the learner offer they may subcontract to another delivery organisation. Directly funded providers are required to undertake thorough due diligence checks when appointing any delivery

subcontractor and must comply with the department's subcontracting rules.

The 2021 Autumn Budget and Spending Review has made available an extra £1.6 billion for 16-19 education in 2024/25, compared with 2021/22. This is the biggest increase in funding for a decade.

In support of local authorities' statutory duty to secure provision in a local area, the department will consider their requests to fill a gap in provision. Where evidenced gaps cannot be filled through negotiation with good existing providers, they are put out to tender through open competition.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113410>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Finance and Housing

Philip Davies (Conservative) [117532] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many asylum seekers who have had their applications rejected in each of the last five years have (a) accommodation and (b) financial support provided to them from the public purse.

Philip Davies (Conservative) [117533] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum seekers who have had their applications rejected in each of the last five years are having (a) accommodation and (b) financial support paid for through the public purse as of 6 January 2022.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'.

Data on initial decisions on asylum applications can be found in table Asy_D02 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. The latest data relate to the year ending September 2022. Data for the year ending December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023.

Data on asylum seekers in receipt of support can be found in table Asy_D09 of the '[asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#)'. Please note the data show a snapshot as at the last day of each quarter, rather than the number of asylum seekers receiving support over the entire quarter. The latest data relates to as at 30 September 2022. Data as at 31 December 2022 will be published on 23 February 2023.

Guidance on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbooks. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the '[Research and statistics calendar](#)'.

The Home Office publishes data on asylum work in progress in the [Migration Transparency Data](#). Data on the number of failed asylum seekers subject to removal action are provided in table Asy_03 of the [immigration and protection data](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117532>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117533>

Asylum

Derek Twigg (Labour) [112046] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Prime Minister's Answer to the hon. Member for Halton during his oral statement on Illegal Immigration on 13 December 2022, Official Report, column 902, what the evidential basis was for saying that the initial asylum backlog is approximately 117,000.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office records information relating to asylum applications on case working systems. Information derived from these systems – including data on the number of asylum cases awaiting an initial decision – are published in the quarterly [Immigration Statistics](#). The latest data show that there were 117,400 applications awaiting an initial decision at the end of September 2022.

The underlying data can be found 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. Please note, the data show a snapshot as at the last day of each quarter, rather than the number of asylum applications awaiting a decision over the entire quarter. Additional information can be found in the [User Guide to: Immigration Statistics](#).

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-16/112046>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration#contribution-A52CC58A-6C0D-4B89-93FB-A19371CAD4E5>

Asylum: Community Development

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [110756] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will take steps to help ensure asylum seekers integrate into local communities.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: This Government is committed to ensuring refugees can take positive steps towards integration as they rebuild their lives in the UK. Not all of those who seek asylum are found to be in need of international protection. Rather than invest in integration for those who may not qualify for international protection, this Government’s priority is to focus our efforts and resources to support those who most need it.

Under certain circumstances, some asylum seekers are able to access English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses through the Adult Education Budget. They must be aged 19 or over and have lived in the UK for 6 months or longer while their claim is being considered by the Home Office or be in receipt of certain local authority support.

Supported asylum seekers are provided with accommodation where necessary and supported with various matters such as access to healthcare in their local area and ‘Move on’ support (to access mainstream benefits, access employment etc) once they have been granted asylum.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110756>

Asylum: Domestic Abuse

Stephen Farry (Alliance) [105563] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps her Department takes to provide financial support to an asylum seeker who has been subjected to domestic violence where the abusive partner is the main applicant on an asylum claim and where the couple are separated.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We are committed to ensuring that no domestic violence victim is reliant on their abuser either in respect of their application for asylum or their asylum support needs.

We have existing policy guidance on how we support victims of domestic violence in the asylum support system:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1049475/Asylum_support_domestic_abuse.pdf

The Home Office works alongside other agencies who can support victims with financial support and advice. Victims of domestic violence can claim asylum in their own right if they were previously the dependant of an abusive partner and that any information they provide will be treated in confidence (subject to safeguarding duties). No destitute asylum seeker will be left without asylum support or accommodation in the event of separation following a domestic violence incident. We have established processes in place to disaggregate financial support to ensure that victims can promptly receive their share of the financial support independently of their abuser.

Asylum: Children

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [110761] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, if she will take steps to transfer unaccompanied asylum-seeking children to the UK.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The UK has a long and proud history of providing protection to those who need it.

The Government met its one-off statutory commitment to transfer 480 unaccompanied asylum seeking-children (UASC) from Europe to the UK under Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

In addition to the many unaccompanied children who are being cared for, we have been dealing with significant numbers of children crossing the Channel on small boats.

Generally, UASC enter the care system as looked after children. The latest published statistics from the Department for Education, for the year ending 31 March 2022, show there were 5,540 UASC being cared for in England alone, an increase of 34% from the previous reporting year. This does not include the high intake seen this summer.

This sharp increase has placed significant pressure on local authorities and it is important that we focus on ensuring that we can take care of those children already in the UK. At this moment, bringing in additional unaccompanied children from Europe would not be in the best interests of those children already being cared for in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110761>

Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/67/enacted>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Asylum: Children

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113422] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decision makers in her Department were fully trained to make decisions on unaccompanied asylum seeking children's claims as of 19 December 2022.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113423] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what the length training is for Home Office decision makers to enable them to consider children's asylum applications.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113424] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the oral statement by made by the Prime Minister on 13 December 2022, Official Report, columns 885-88 on Illegal Immigration, whether it is her Department's intention to have 2,400 asylum decision makers; and how many of the new decisions makers her Department plans to train will make decisions on children's asylum applications.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113425] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many decisions is a decision maker in her Department expected to make on average each week if they are deciding applications of unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113426] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether she plans to reintroduce a service standard for children's asylum application; and if she will make statement.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113427] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department uses criteria to prioritise outstanding children's asylum cases.

Afzal Khan (Labour) [113428] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many and what proportion of asylum claims made by children were decided without an interview in the last (a) six, (b) 12, (c) 18 and (d) 24 months.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office takes our duty of care towards children and young people extremely seriously, and we prioritise applications from children and young people.

The Home Office does not publish the data requested. However we are able to provide data on the number of initial decisions on asylum applications from unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC), which can be found in the latest Immigration statistics, year ending September 2022: [List of tables](#)

UASC generally enter the care system to be accommodated and supported by a local authority as looked after children. The Home Office budget provides significant support to local authorities in this area in addition to existing local Government funding. The latest published statistics from the Department for Education, for the year ending 31 March 2022, show there were 5,540 UASC being cared for in England alone, an increase of 34% from the previous reporting year. This does not include the high intake seen this summer.

The Home Office has a comprehensive training programme and mentoring framework in place for all asylum decision makers. Decision makers who specifically deal with children's claims complete an additional training on Keeping Children Safe and have an additional period of mentoring.

Our aim is for Asylum Casework to have 2,500 caseworkers by August 2023, with around 10% dedicated to children's casework and we have recruitment plans in place to ensure we reach those numbers.

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NABA) came into force on 28 June 2022. In accordance with NABA, all new asylum claims made on or after 28 June 2022 will be considered and processed under the new legislation, whilst existing claims will be worked through under previous legislation and asylum policies.

The Asylum Casework team are working to reintroduce service standards and are aligning with changes being introduced through the NABA. Our intention to reintroduce service standards aligns with the recommendation from the recent Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's (ICIBI) published report - An inspection of asylum casework (November 2021). The re-induction will also include children's asylum claims.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113422>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113423>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113424>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113425>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113426>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113427>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113428>

The oral statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration>

Asylum: Children

Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi (Labour) [110809] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what funding the Government provides to local authorities which are required to look after unaccompanied minors who are claiming asylum; and what costs that funding is intended to cover.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: All local authorities receive funding via the Local Government Finance Settlement or finance arrangements which apply to the Devolved Administrations. Additionally, the Home Office provides a financial contribution to the costs incurred by local government supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) and former UASC care leavers.

Local authorities supporting the greatest number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children relative to their general child population receive a rate of £143 per night for each unaccompanied asylum-seeking child. This higher rate applies to local authorities supporting UASC totalling 0.07% or greater of their general child population. All other local authorities receive £114 per person per night for each unaccompanied asylum-seeking child in their care. All local authorities supporting former UASC care leavers receive £270 per person per week.

We have very recently launched a new funding pilot, on a fixed term basis. This pilot will look to provide additional funding to local authorities and their Northern Ireland equivalent to support the building of suitable infrastructure. The pilot consists of two stages, with the first stage introducing a new conditional lump sum payment of £15,000 to accompany the transfer of each unaccompanied asylum-seeking child and a conditional second stage that will only be offered if we have seen a significant reduction in occupancy in temporary accommodation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110809>

Asylum: Housing

Barry Sheerman (Labour Co-op) [111537] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make an assessment of the potential merits of holding a summit with refugee and migration experts, local authorities and housing providers on potential short- and long-term accommodation options for people seeking asylum.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office already engages with a range of internal and external stakeholders in relation to the provision of support and accommodation to destitute asylum seekers, through a variety of channels. These include the Strategic Migration Partnerships (SMPs) which are Local Government led partnerships funded by, but independent of, the Home Office, whose role is to coordinate and support delivery of national programmes in asylum and refugee schemes as well as agreed, national, regional and devolved migration priorities.

The Director of Asylum Support and other senior Home Office officials engage with the Local Government Association (LGA) and UK-wide LA Chief Executives through the Asylum Resettlement Councils Senior Engagement Group (ARCSEG, formerly Home Office Local Government Chief Executive group (HOLGEX)). The Strategic Engagement Groups (SEG) and the associated sub-groups are the Home Office's (HO) principal engagement forums with external asylum and resettlement Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and voluntary sector stakeholders.

We also regularly engage with our accommodation providers to discuss any issues that arise and ensure best practise is always followed. Providers' performance is monitored closely by dedicated staff in each contract area, who are in daily contact with them. This is supplemented by a formal governance process which includes quarterly Strategic Review Management Boards and monthly Contract Management Groups. Service credits and subsequent improvement plans are discussed and monitored as part of this process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111537>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Rachel Hopkins (Labour) [106565] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what is the daily per person rate of funding provided to local authorities to support asylum seekers housed in (a) dispersed accommodation, (b) overflow dispersed

accommodation, (c) contingency hotels, (d) stage one overnight initial accommodation and (e) spot booking.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Asylum seekers accommodated by the Home Office have access to Migrant Help, a voluntary sector organisation funded by the Home Office, can use the NHS free of charge and are provided with other support to cover their essential living needs.

The Full Dispersal model, announced on 13 April 2022 is supported by £21million of un-ringfenced grant funding to make sure eligible Local Authorities can provide wraparound support locally. Local authorities will also receive £3,500 for each new dispersal accommodation bed space in the 22/23 financial year. Our accommodation providers have a robust delivery model in place, maximising the use of on-site facilities for recreation, and pastoral care to minimise impact on the local community.

Security and support staff are on site 24 hours a day and providers liaise closely with local police to ensure the safety of vulnerable residents and to mitigate any risks to them and the wider community.

Multi Agency Forum meetings are held regularly to discuss the operational arrangements of sites with Local Authority Officials and statutory partners, which also allows exchange of data of this nature.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-08/106565>

Asylum: Temporary Accommodation

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [110755] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what her medium term plan is for accommodation for asylum seekers.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office aims to gradually end the use of hotels and move asylum seekers to less expensive and more suitable dispersed accommodation, aided by the full asylum dispersal model which was announced on 13 April 2022.

The Department has established a programme of work to actively encourage the three private providers of asylum accommodation and Local Authorities to support the procurement of sufficient dispersed accommodation. Each of the private providers have supplied plans to increase the availability of dispersed accommodation on a month-by-month basis. Proactive monitoring has been crucial to the programme. This has included regular assessment of performance and tracking progress against plan, and challenging providers on the specific initiatives that they are putting in place to support the closure of hotels.

The Home Office will shortly bring forward a range of larger alternative sites that are cheaper for the taxpayer such as disused holiday parks, former student halls, and surplus military sites.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/110755>

The following seven questions all received the same answer

Migrants: Detainees

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111704] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons, A report to the Home Office by Stephen Shaw, published January 2016, what recent progress she has made on implementing Recommendation 51 on an alternative to SystemOne.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111705] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 52 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw on filling of permanent healthcare vaccines in IRCs as a priority.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111706] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, with reference to the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons, A report to the Home Office by Stephen Shaw, published January 2016, what recent progress she has made on implementing Recommendation 53 on reducing the use of new psychoactive substances.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111707] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons, A report to the Home Office by Stephen Shaw, published January 2016, what recent progress she has made on implementing Recommendation 54 on a research strategy for immigration detention.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111708] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 55 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw on the Home Office and NHS England conducting a clinical assessment of the level and nature of mental health concerns in the immigration detention estate.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111709] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 56 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw on the creation of care suites across the IRC estate being taken forward as a priority.

Layla Moran (Liberal Democrat) [111710] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress she has made in implementing Recommendation 57 of the Review into the Welfare in Detention of Vulnerable Persons by Stephen Shaw on talking therapies becoming an intrinsic part of healthcare provision in immigration detention.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Stephen Shaw's reports (of 2016 and 2018) led to a comprehensive and systematic programme of work to improve and reform immigration detention. It informed both our strategic and tactical approach to reform and the treatment of people who are detained. This work 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. Progress has been made on all accepted recommendations and I wrote to the MP for Oxford West and Abingdon with more detail on 14 December 2022. A copy of this letter has been placed in the House library for all.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111704>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111705>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111706>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111707>

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<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111708>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111709>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111710>

The 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 letter referred to above can be read at

The following two questions both received the same answer

Immigration Removal Centres: Standards

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [105450] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment her Department has made of the adequacy of conditions in immigration detention centres in the UK.

Detention Centres

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [105451] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions she has had with relevant stakeholders on the compatibility UK detention centres with international human rights law.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The safety and welfare of all those in our care is of the utmost importance and we accept nothing but the highest standards from those companies employed to provide detention and escorting services on our behalf. Individuals detained in the immigration detention estate must be treated in accordance with the Detention Centre Rules 2001, the operating standards for IRCs and Detention Services Orders. Service providers for IRCs are contractually required to comply with all relevant UK legislation.

Immigration removal centres (IRC) suppliers are required to provide a safe and secure environment for detained individuals in their care and the conditions and facilities at all immigration detention facilities are kept under regular review.

IRCs are subject to statutory oversight by His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and by Independent Monitoring Boards who are both members of the National Preventative Mechanism comprising a group of independent bodies which monitor the treatment of and conditions for detained individuals. This contributes to the UK's response to its international obligations under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) visited the UK from 25 to 28 November 2022 and met the Minister for Immigration and senior officials. Their report is scheduled to be published in 2023.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-07/105450>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-07/105451>

Deportation: Domestic Violence

Wera Hobhouse (Liberal Democrat) [119064] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people have been (a) deported or (b) referred for deportation after reporting domestic violence or abuse in each of the past ten years.

The Home Office publishes statistics on all types of removals from the UK. The latest statistics are available at: [Immigration statistics quarterly release](#)

We do not routinely record allegations of domestic abuse except in cases where a victim makes an application for leave to remain on that basis. We would only record the allegation if the information was volunteered to us and was relevant to the person's immigration status. Where we are informed of such allegations, they are not recorded in a form which can easily be reported. To provide the data requested would require examination of individual case files which could only be done at a disproportionate cost.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-09/119064>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [102842] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 21 June 2022 to Question 18775 on Human Trafficking: Prosecutions, how many people have been successfully prosecuted for people smuggling since December 2019.

Yvette Cooper (Labour) [102845] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many people smugglers who aid migrants to illegally cross the English Channel have been (a) identified and (b) prosecuted in each month since January 2021.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office aims to tackle the organised crime gangs behind illegal migration. The Home Office works tirelessly, with other national and international law enforcement authorities, to tackle migrant smuggling gangs who organise and profit from illegal crossings and to bring to justice the ruthless criminals behind them. We are determined to go after the callous people smugglers who exploit vulnerable people in difficult circumstances and put them in life-threatening situations.

The Joint Intelligence Cell has dismantled 59 organised crime groups since its inception in July 2020. This year alone, the Cell has so far secured the arrests of 384 suspected people smugglers. The Cell records activity undertaken by UK and French law enforcement agencies.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/102842>
and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-05/102845>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-15/18775>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Windrush Lessons Learned Review: Implementation of Recommendations

[The statement made by the Minister in the House of Commons was read in the House of Lords.](#)

Lord Coaker (Labour): My Lords, is not the treatment of the Windrush generation one of the most shameful episodes in our post-war history? These people helped rebuild Britain, and their reward was that many were wrongly detained and threatened with deportation; 83 people were actually deported. Why have only 1,300 out of an estimated 15,000 been compensated so far? Why are the Government now going to implement only some of Wendy Williams's recommendations, not all as originally promised? Can the Minister update us on the figure? Is it still eight out of 30? Have the recommendations for a migrants' commissioner, and to extend the powers of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, been dropped? We still have no anti-slavery commissioner appointed. Wendy Williams demanded cultural change, but on the 75th anniversary of the Windrush generation, we are still a long way from it. Would it not be the final betrayal of that generation if there were not the real change that Wendy Williams demanded?

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): I agree with the noble Lord that the injustices of Windrush were an outrage. Clearly and unfortunately, it was Governments of all complexions who allowed that scandal to unfold. The noble Lord asked me whether the Windrush compensation scheme is failing. The Government—and I, as the supervising Minister for the Windrush compensation scheme—are very clear that we must compensate members of the Windrush generation and their families for the losses and impacts they suffered as a result of the scandal. We believe that we have made

significant progress, having now offered a total of more than £59.58 million in compensation. As to the question about recommendations, the noble Lord knows that the Government will not comment on leaks, and I do not propose to do so today.

Baroness Benjamin (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, this year there should be jubilant celebrations of the 75th anniversary of Windrush, a symbol of Caribbean people coming to Britain with good intentions. However, because of the Windrush scandal, one can be forgiven for feeling anxious, nervous and worried when we hear reports regarding government plans to go back on Wendy Williams's recommendations. In my recent letter to the Prime Minister, I stated that this would be disrespectful and perceived as wicked, vindictive and heartless. This is a matter of national pride and we must be determined to right the wrongs, injustice and hurt. Compensation should be accelerated before more claimants die. Once again, therefore, will the Government categorically assure me, this House and the Caribbean community that these rumours are not true and that they intend to fulfil all their pledges?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As I observed to the noble Lord a moment ago, the Government do not comment on leaks, and I do not propose to do so now. On the separate question that the noble Baroness asked, I entirely agree that there should be a fantastic celebration of the 75th anniversary of Windrush, and the successes of the Windrush compensation scheme and the Windrush scheme in granting status are factors to feed into that great celebration. On the final aspect of her question—the speeding up of payments under the Windrush compensation scheme—I am glad to report that we have issued final decisions in more than 59% of the claims received and have concluded more than 43% of claims. In July 2021, we also published a redesigned primary claim form and refreshed casework guidance with the aim of reducing the time taken to process claims and improving people's experiences of applying to the scheme. We are recruiting additional caseworkers, directing resources to maximise performance and refining processes so that cases can progress as quickly as possible. We have delivered on the promise to recruit and post at least 120 EO-level casework resources by the spring of 2022, and we will continue to recruit additional resources.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, I am grateful to my noble friend for outlining that next year we will celebrate the wonderful arrival 75 years ago of those who have given so much to this country, many of whom paid with their lives fighting for it. However, celebrations cost money. Can my noble friend outline what money the Government will allocate centrally and for communities to be able to celebrate this?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I do not have that information to hand ...

Baroness Blackstone (Labour): My Lords, the Minister's Answer to my noble friend on the Front Bench on the meeting of claims for compensation was a bit complacent. Can he explain why the number of claims that were dealt with last year was much lower than in the previous year? There must be some reason for that. Can he also comment on the remarks made by Wendy Williams in her report on the delays to the training of officials dealing with the Windrush scandal? Why has this been delayed and what steps is he taking as the Minister responsible for dealing with this problem?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: On the reduction, I hope the answer is demonstrated by the following statistics. Some 4,558 claims have been received by the Windrush compensation scheme, for which, as I said a moment ago, the total amount of compensation offered has been £59.58 million. There are 2,699 claims with final decisions—that is 59%—and 1,967 concluded claims: those are claims that received a final payment, a nil offer that has not been challenged in 60 days or rejected on eligibility, or claims that have been withdrawn. As regards the work in progress, there are 1,859 claims, and preliminary offers have been made in 666 of those. Only 522 claims are more than a year old.

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-12/debates/AC486011-A58A-454E-9016-38D0D3EDC95E/WindrushLessonsLearnedReviewImplementationOfRecommendations>

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

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874022/6.5577_HO_Windrush_Lessons_Learned_Review_WEB_v2.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answers: Afghanistan

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Dubs (Labour) [HL4323] To ask His Majesty's Government how many Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme dependent visas have been issued to family members of Afghans resettled in the UK under Pathway 1 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: At 4th November 2022:

- 22,833 individuals from Afghanistan have been brought to safety in the UK (since the end of June 2021).
- We have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) to 6,314 people under ACRS Pathway 1.

Whilst I am not able to provide a breakdown of this data for family members, work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the ARAP and ACRS on case working systems. Once this work concludes, further statistics on both schemes - including the number of people resettled under each - will be included in the published Immigration Statistics.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/hl4323>

Information about Pathway 1, referred to above, can be read at

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Lord Dubs (Labour) [HL4322] To ask His Majesty's Government how many people they expect to resettle under Pathway 2 of the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme in the first year of this pathway.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We anticipate receiving referrals from UNHCR for up to 2,000 refugees during the first year of this pathway and this number will be kept under review.

The pace of arrivals in any particular period will necessarily depend on some key factors, including the flow of referrals from UNHCR, and the availability of suitable accommodation and support in the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/hl4322>

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

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

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

British Nationality: Assessments

Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee (Non-affiliated) [HL4283] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the Life in the UK test.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: There is currently no limit on how many times the Life in the UK test may be re-taken. The pass rate for applicants from Hong Kong is not available in a publishable format.

The Life in the UK test is important for anyone applying to settle permanently in the UK to ensure they have an understanding of the democratic principles underlying British society and aspects of our culture and traditions. We intend to set out our plans to review the Life in the UK handbook as part of wider nationality reforms in the first half of next year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4283>

British Nationality: Assessments

Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee (Non-affiliated) [HL4284] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the pass rate for the Life in the UK test for (1) all applicants, and (2) applicants from Hong Kong.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: There is currently no limit on how many times the Life in the UK test may be re-taken.

The pass rate for the Life in the UK test for financial quarter 2022-23 is 68.5%. All pass rates for the Life in the UK test are published in [Visas and Citizenship data: Q3 2022](#). The pass rate for applicants from Hong Kong is not available in a publishable format.

The Life in the UK test is important for anyone applying to settle permanently in the UK to ensure they have an understanding of the democratic principles underlying British society and aspects of our culture and traditions. We intend to set out our plans to review the Life in the UK handbook as part of wider nationality reforms in the first half of next year.

[Visas and Citizenship data: Q3 2022](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4284>

British Nationality: Fees and Charges

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL4305] To ask His Majesty's Government what is the fee for citizenship applications; and what is the administrative cost of processing such applications.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The fee for an application to naturalise as a British citizen is £1,250 and the unit cost of processing the application is estimated to be £416.

The fee for Nationality registration as a British citizen for an adult is £1,126 and the unit cost of processing the application is estimated to be £416.

The fee for Nationality registration as a British citizen for a child is £1,012 and the unit cost of processing the application is estimated to be £416.

[Visa fees transparency data Nov 2022](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4305>

British National (Overseas): Visas

Lord Leong (Labour) [HL4200] To ask His Majesty's Government how many British National (Overseas) visas have been issued since the visa scheme was launched; and how many of those have settled in the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office releases data on the BN(O) route as part of the quarterly migration statistics. There were a total of 121,193 BN(O) route applications made out of country granted between 31 January 2021 and 30 September 2022, and a total of 23,383 BN(O) route applications made in country granted between 31 January 2021 and 30 September 2022.

14 people on the BN(O) visa route have been granted settlement in the UK up to the end of September 2022

The Home Office publishes data on visas, grants of settlement and the British National Overseas (BN(O)) route in the 'Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release' on GOV.UK.

Data on the number of entry clearance visa grants to main applicants under the BN(O) route are published in table Vis_D02 of the entry clearance visas applications and outcomes detailed dataset. Data on the number of grants of settlement are published in table Se_D02 of the settlement detailed dataset. Information on how to use the dataset can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates up to, and including, September 2022. Information on future Home Office statistical release dates can be found in the 'Research and statistics calendar'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-09/hl4200>

The Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immigration-statistics-quarterly-release>

The dataset referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/managed-migration-datasets>

Migrants: Religion

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL4385] To ask His Majesty's Government whether they collect data on the religious affiliation of immigrants upon arrival to the UK.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office do not collect data on the religious affiliation of immigrants upon arrival to the UK.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-16/hl4385>

Migrants: Muslims

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL4386] To ask His Majesty's Government whether Muslims entering the UK for permanent settlement face the same (1) security, and (2) language, tests, as those of other faiths.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Where an individual is subject to immigration control, the system for applying for permanent settlement to the UK does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's faith. All individuals applying for permanent settlement are required to undertake standard security checks and are subject to English Language requirements irrespective of their religion.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-16/hl4386>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Visas: Domestic Abuse

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester [HL4287] To ask His Majesty's Government what support is available for those on a student or visitor visa who become subject to domestic abuse whilst residing in England.

Migrants: Domestic Abuse

The Lord Bishop of Gloucester [HL4288] To ask His Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, (1) to extend the destitution domestic violence concession (DDVC) to six months, and (2) to widen the eligibility to all migrant survivors of domestic abuse.

Reply from Lord Sharpe of Epsom: Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority for this Government. Information on support for victims can be found on the [Domestic abuse: how to get help](#) page on GOV.UK, or through Government's 'Enough' campaign.

Those on a student or visitor visa who become subject to domestic abuse whilst residing in England, can also seek support from the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) scheme. The SMV scheme was launched as a 12-month pilot in March 2021, run by Southall Black Sisters and their delivery partners, and supported with £1.5

million of Government funding. It provides support and wraparound services to migrant victims of domestic abuse. This support includes: accommodation, subsistence, legal advice and counselling.

Local authorities may also provide basic safety net support to migrant victims if a genuine care need is established that does not arise solely from destitution. Examples can include, where there are community care needs, migrants with serious health problems or family cases where the wellbeing of a child is in question.

Evidence from the independent evaluation of the SMV pilot, to be produced in a final report in early 2023, will inform future policy decisions surrounding our support for migrant victims of domestic abuse. Whilst we consider the evaluation findings and the lessons learned for future policy decisions, we will provide £1.4 million in 2022-23 to continue to fund support for all migrant victims of domestic abuse.

[Domestic abuse: how to get help](#)

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-14/hl4288>

Information about the Enough Campaign, referred to above, can be read at <https://enough.campaign.gov.uk/>

Asylum: Domestic Abuse

Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle (Green) [HL4405] To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Prime Minister on Illegal Immigration on 13 December (HC Deb cols 885–8), what assessment they have made of the gender impacts of the aspiration that claims for asylum will be processed “in days or weeks, not months or years”, given the difficulties many victims of sexual violence may have in immediately disclosing the full extent of their experiences.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: We are committed to ensuring that all asylum claimants, including those who have suffered sexual violence, feel able to disclose their experiences early in the asylum process, so that decision-makers can consider that evidence and grant protection status where it is needed without undue delay.

We appreciate that it may be difficult for claimants to disclose sensitive information and we have gender sensitive processes in place, for example providing gender specific interviewers and interpreters where appropriate. If there is a discrepancy between the information someone provides at different stages in the asylum process, we will clarify this during the asylum interview. We will take account of the explanation the claimant provides alongside any other underlying factors such as gender, feelings of shame and social standing when assessing credibility and deciding whether the claimant qualifies for protection status.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/hl4405>

The statement referred to above can be read at

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-12-13/debates/DB61C374-16B5-411C-9A29-CC3DCA119EB3/IllegalImmigration>

Migrants: Languages

Lord Rosser (Labour) [HL4344] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of recognising regional languages in the immigration system, including of protected minority groups.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Language skills are an important part of integration for those coming to work, study or settle in the UK. We keep the language requirements set out in the immigration rules under regular review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/hl4344>

Asylum

Lord Kamall (Conservative) [HL4226] To ask His Majesty's Government how they determine whether asylum seekers who arrive in the UK without documentation are genuinely from a country not on their list of safe countries.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office employs various processes to establish the identities of asylum claimants, in circumstances where it is not sufficiently evidenced in reliable documentation. These processes include checks of all relevant Home Office databases (such as biographic and biometric checks of previous visa applications), biometric checks with partners in the United States and other countries, and – where there are concerns about a person's claimed origin - robust nationality testing may be carried out during a substantive asylum interview. The checks and the testing employed during interview may be applied to any person claiming asylum, including those from the 'safe country' list. If any documents are presented by claimants in support of either their identity or their claim, the reliance to place on them is assessed in the round, alongside these checks and wider evidence in the case, in line with our published guidance: 'Assessing credibility and refugee status'.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-12/hl4226>

The guidance referred to above can be read at

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

Christmas Message

First Minister's Christmas Message to Ukrainian Refugees in Scotland (video)

<https://twitter.com/ScotGovFM/status/1606324698752622593>

New Publications

Third annual inspection of 'Adults at risk in immigration detention' June – September 2022

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128198/Third annual inspection of Adults at Risk Immigration Detention June to September 2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128198/Third%20annual%20inspection%20of%20Adults%20at%20Risk%20Immigration%20Detention%20June%20to%20September%202022.pdf)

Home Office response to the third ICIBI inspection of adults at risk in immigration detention

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/response-to-inspection-report-on-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention/home-office-response-to-the-third-icibi-inspection-of-adults-at-risk-in-immigration-detention>

Biological evaluation methods to assist in assessing the age of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/methods-to-assess-the-age-of-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children/biological-evaluation-methods-to-assist-in-assessing-the-age-of-unaccompanied-asylum-seeking-children-accessible>

Protecting EU citizens' rights in the UK

<https://spice-spotlight.scot/2023/01/09/protecting-eu-citizens-rights-in-the-uk/>

Arrival of the Empire Windrush: Celebrating the 75th anniversary

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/arrival-of-the-empire-windrush-celebrating-the-75th-anniversary/>

Windrush Compensation Scheme data: November 2022

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128797/WCS Data - November 2022.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128797/WCS_Data_-_November_2022.ods)

Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats

2 January to 8 January 2023

<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-2-january-to-8-january-2023>

26 December 2022 to 1 January 2023

<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-26-december-2022-to-1-january-2023>

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

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

Ukraine homelessness management information: 24 February to 30 December 2022

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128431/Ukraine Homelessness Pressures 10012023.ods](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128431/Ukraine_Homelessness_Pressures_10012023.ods)

Updated – Diphtheria: cases among asylum seekers in England, weekly data tables

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-2022/diphtheria-cases-among-asylum-seekers-in-england-weekly-data-tables>

Routes to resolution: Finding the centre ground in Britain's immigration debates

<https://www.smf.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Routes-to-resolution-December-2022-2.pdf>

News: Rwanda Refugee Policy

UN human rights chief says UK should rethink plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/dec/21/un-human-rights-chief-uk-deport-asylum-seekers-rwanda>

Government on collision course with European courts after Rwanda policy is deemed lawful

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/19/high-court-ruling-rwanda-policy-deportation-flights-restart/>

Rwanda asylum policy lawful, High Court rules

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rwanda-asylum-policy-plan-high-court-ruling-suella-braverman-uk-gh3bjlss2>

Rwanda policy: judges found multiple flaws in individual cases

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/19/rwanda-policy-judges-found-multiple-flaws-in-individual-cases>

Charity seeks permission to appeal against ruling that Rwanda policy is lawful
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rwanda-royal-courts-of-justice-suella-braverman-charity-lewis-b2262183.html>

Rishi Sunak remains tight-lipped over Rwanda targets
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/rishi-sunak-remains-tight-lipped-over-rwanda-targets-m6p00wqs2>

Suella Braverman insists Rwanda deportation policy is 'humane' but is unable to give start date
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rwanda-high-court-start-date-b2248211.html>

Glasgow clergyman hits out at Rwanda policy during Christmas service
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23213007.glasgow-clergyman-hits-rwanda-policy-christmas-service/>

News: Channel Migrants

Channel crossings: 45,756 people came to UK in small boats in 2022
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/01/total-of-45756-people-crossed-channel-to-uk-in-small-boats-in-2022>

Record 46,000 migrants crossed Channel last year
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/record-46-000-migrants-crossed-channel-last-year-tjx67p0lh>

Small boat crossings surge 60 per cent to new record in 2022 and 'could get worse' next year
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossings-migrants-2022-record-b2254091.html>

Migrants: Ninety people cross Channel on Christmas Day
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-kent-64094999>

Ninety people cross Channel in small boats on Christmas Day
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/26/ninety-people-cross-channel-in-small-boats-on-christmas-day>

Ninety asylum-seekers crossed Channel on Christmas Day, government says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-crossing-christmas-day-b2251543.html>

How many people cross the Channel in small boats and where do they come from?
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53699511>

Asylum seekers can be prosecuted for steering dinghies across the Channel, judge rules
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/channel-boat-prosecutions-asylum-seekers-b2249403.html>

Legal change to stop boat migrants claiming asylum
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/legal-change-to-stop-boat-migrants-claiming-asylum-j9bqjctcw>

UK Border Force begins patrols in France over migrant crossings

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23223598.uk-border-force-begins-patrols-france-migrant-crossings/>

Channel migrants: Most people claiming to be modern slavery victims are Albanian

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-office-channel-suella-braverman-migration-watch-edi-rama-b2261357.html>

Home Office urged to reunite Eritrean family separated as they boarded boat

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/29/home-office-urged-to-reunite-eritrean-family-separated-as-they-boarded-boat>

Four migrants who died in Channel were in dinghy 'wholly unsuitable to make the crossing

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-channel-crossing-afghanistan-rnli-b2250517.html>

Four who died crossing Channel believed to be Afghan and Senegalese

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/23/four-died-crossing-channel-believed-afghan-senegalese>

News: Afghanistan

Refugee 'living in fear' after Home Office threaten to deport him to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghan-refugee-afghanistan-deportation-home-office-b2250508.html>

Afghan refugees made to move school take UK to court

<https://www.bbc.com/news/education-64238954>

News: Ukraine

Ukrainian refugees on Glasgow cruise ship to be rehomed

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-64257172>

Ukrainian refugees Scotland: Ship housing contract to end

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23247661.ukrainian-refugees-scotland-ship-housing-contract-end/>

Cruise ship housing over 1000 people from Ukraine to close

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/cruise-ship-housing-over-1000-people-from-ukraine-to-close/>

Ukrainians on cruise ship to be rehoused in spring

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukrainians-on-cruise-ship-to-be-rehoused-in-spring-p9c5pd0wj>

Cruise ship Ukrainians say it's 'time to move on'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64266799>

Thriving in Scotland after fleeing war in Ukraine

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-64064520>

Thousands of Ukrainian refugees living in hotels as councils struggle to deal with rising homelessness

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/ukraine-refugees-visa-home-office-hotels-b2256853.html>

Homes for Ukraine: 185 sponsorships 'broken down' in NI

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-64031286>

Ukraine war TikToker's journey to safety in the UK

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-64037867>

'I'm in a safe place': Ukrainian refugees' mixed feelings about Christmas in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/23/im-in-a-safe-place-ukrainian-refugees-mixed-feelings-about-christmas-in-uk>

London is lovely, but I dream of Christmas at my home in Ukraine

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/london-is-lovely-but-i-dream-of-christmas-at-my-home-in-ukraine-xnj769vnz>

Away and out of danger, Ukrainian refugees mark Christmas their way

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/away-and-out-of-danger-ukrainian-refugees-mark-christmas-their-way-mpxmmk5qr>

Glasgow aid charity brings Christmas cheer to Ukrainian families

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/23212381.glasgow-aid-charity-brings-christmas-cheer-ukrainian-families/>

Ukrainian refugee 'went home to see doctor as Scottish wait too long'

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23246149.ukrainian-refugee-went-home-see-doctor-scottish-wait-long/>

Ukrainian refugee forced back to warzone for medical treatment amid Scottish health crisis

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/01/12/ukrainian-refugee-forced-back-warzone-medical-treatment-amid/>

News: Other Immigration and Asylum

Britain could welcome a million migrants a year to help fill jobs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/britain-could-welcome-a-million-migrants-a-year-to-help-fill-jobs-50ps0q5r2>

Forcing EU citizens to reapply for the right to work in UK is unlawful, High Court rules

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/21/forcing-eu-citizens-reapply-right-work-uk-unlawful-high-court/>

Brexit rule that makes EU citizens reapply to stay in UK is unlawful, court says

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2022/dec/21/brexit-rule-that-makes-eu-citizens-reapply-to-stay-in-uk-is-unlawful-court-says>

Post-Brexit EU settlement scheme could create illegal migrants, says High Court

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/eu-settlement-scheme-brexit-migrants-b2249656.html>

Windrush 75th anniversary is 'diamond jubilee for Britain', say campaigners

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/03/windrush-75th-anniversary-is-diamond-jubilee-for-britain-say-campaigners>

Windrush compensation scheme 'not fit for purpose' as refusals soar and offers plunge

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-compensation-scheme-scandal-b2243670.html>

Government urged to 'pay victims' as Britain marks Windrush 75th anniversary

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windrush-compensation-scheme-diamond-jubilee-b2254712.html>

Black Britons and MPs condemn 'cruel' plan to dump Windrush pledges

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/07/black-britons-and-mps-condemn-cruel-plan-to-dump-windrush-pledges>

Boycott threatened against Suella Braverman's plans to X-ray vulnerable child refugees

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/boycott-braverman-child-refugee-x-rays-b2257279.html>

Migrants to have bone and teeth X-rays to stop them falsely claiming to be children

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/01/10/migrants-have-bone-teeth-x-rays-stop-falsely-claiming-children/>

MRI knee scans for migrants who say that they're under 18

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/mri-knee-scans-for-migrants-who-say-that-theyre-under-18-nvccmg22>

Suella Braverman says cost of asylum system has hit £3.5bn a year

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-says-cost-of-asylum-system-has-hit-3-5bn-a-year-d5djgw53g>

Suella Braverman says civil servants' productivity on asylum claims is too low

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/21/suella-braverman-says-civil-servants-productivity-on-asylum-claims-is-too-low>

Asylum seekers could be housed on cruise ships awaiting scrapheap, Braverman suggests

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/migrants-cruise-ships-braverman-b2249314.html>

Migrants will go from hotels to holiday parks and student digs

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/migrants-will-go-from-hotels-to-holiday-parks-and-student-digs-7j5jl0766>

Migrants forced to sleep in cars after being evicted from Edinburgh homeless accommodation

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/migrants-forced-sleep-cars-after-28900473>

Suella Braverman targets spouses and students in plan to cut immigration

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/suella-braverman-targets-spouses-and-students-in-plan-to-cut-immigration-t0kzpjf7t>

SNP MP urges support for Bill to allow asylum seekers to work

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/uk-government-bill-snp-westminster-government-b2250942.html>

Stop 'vilifying' asylum seekers and let them work, says former refugees minister

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/23/stop-vilifying-asylum-seekers-let-work-says-former-refugees/>

Cost of Living: Asylum seekers left without basics to live on - charity

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-64068912>

UK three times more likely to accept asylum seekers than France

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/21/uk-three-times-likely-accept-asylum-seekers-france/>

Archbishop of Canterbury stands by criticism of Government migrant policy

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/archbishop-justin-welby-home-secretary-suella-braverman-rwanda-b2250869.html>

Asylum seekers get 10 per cent cost of living boost, after Home Secretary loses high court case

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/22/asylum-seekers-get-10-per-cent-cost-living-boost-home-secretary/>

Diphtheria cases discovered among asylum seekers housed at Humber hotel

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/diphtheria-asylum-seekers-migrants-home-office-b2249935.html>

Suicidal asylum seekers 'feel abandoned' by the Home Office

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/homenews/23214101.suicidal-asylum-seekers-feel-abandoned-home-office/>

Hale asylum seekers: MP criticises hotel plan for village

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-64182018>

Calls for public inquiry into abuses at Manston asylum centre in Kent

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/04/calls-for-public-inquiry-into-abuses-at-manston-asylum-centre-kent-police-investigations-claims-assault>

Home Office confirms 42 migrants returned to Albania

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-albania-migrants-returned-b2250189.html>

UK Border Force official arrested for being illegal immigrant

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/29/uk-border-force-official-arrested-immigration-status/>

Refugee barber repays kindness with free haircuts

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-64075688>

Two-year ban for Scottish lawyer who threatened immigrant

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/two-year-ban-for-scottish-lawyer-who-threatened-immigrant-smx3mqk00>

Equality

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Homelessness: Ethnic Groups and Homosexuality

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [113415] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many households were entitled to the (a) Prevention and (b) Relief Duty where the lead applicant was lesbian or gay, aged 16-25 and from a minority ethnic background in (i) 2020-2021 and (ii) 2021-2022.

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [113417] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many households were entitled to the (a) Prevention and (b) Relief Duty due to domestic abuse where the lead applicant was lesbian or gay, aged 16-25 and from a minority ethnic background in (i) 2020-2021 (ii) 2021-2022.

Homelessness: Ethnic Groups

Nadia Whittome (Labour) [113419] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, how many households were entitled to the (a) Prevention and (b) Relief Duty where the lead applicant was 16-25 and from a minority ethnic background in (i) 2020-2021 (ii) 2021-2022.

Reply from Felicity Buchan: Homelessness Statistics for 2020-21 are available [here](#) and 2021-22 are available [here](#). These include data on the sexual identity and ethnicity of the main applicant owed statutory homelessness prevention and relief duties.

The department does not publish data on domestic abuse based on sexual or gender identification.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113415>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113417>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-19/113419>

Young Offenders: Ethnic Groups

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [117920] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, whether his Department has put support mechanisms in place to help support young people from ethnic minorities to transition to the adult prison estate.

Reply from Damian Hinds: The Transition of Young People from the Children and Young People Secure Estate to Adult Custody Policy Framework was published in April 2022.

The Framework provides that individual circumstances and needs, including protected characteristics such as ethnicity, will be taken into account when young people in custody transition into the adult prison estate.

The framework is available on gov.uk here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transition-of-young-people-from-the-children-and-young-people-secure-estate-to-adult-custody-policy-framework>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117920>

Prison and Probation Service: Travellers

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [117913] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps HMPPS is taking to ensure its data collection methods accurately record the experiences of people from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller backgrounds.

Reply from Damian Hinds: Ethnicity data is collected locally upon a prisoner's initial reception into prison.

We understand that not everyone will be comfortable or confident about declaring their ethnicity at the point of entry into a prison: His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) has therefore developed a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) strategy to improve data collection, experiences and outcomes for GRT people in prison.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117913>

Prisoners: Travellers

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [117915] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, if he will make an assessment of the implications for his policies of the report by the Traveller Movement entitled Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, published on 2 August 2022; and if he will take steps to implement the recommendations of that report.

Reply from Damian Hinds: The Ministry of Justice acknowledges the over-representation in the youth justice system of young people from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities and is working closely with the Youth Justice Board and other government partners to address this. This government is supporting those at risk of offending at the earliest opportunity by working with families and in schools to prevent the escalation of offending behaviour and further interaction with the justice system.

Current guidance for youth offending teams sets out expectations for ensuring that pre-sentence reports are sufficiently detailed to give sentencers a full picture of the child's background, including for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children. We are giving frontline youth justice services the tools and data to understand the needs of ethnic minority children and are working to make sure alternatives to custody are used to divert children from all backgrounds away from the youth justice estate, where this is appropriate, including through Out of Court Disposals. For children who are already in the justice system, the Youth Custody Service (YCS) are putting greater emphasis on a flexible and individually bespoke approach to vocational training and technology, to improve their employment prospects and reduce reoffending.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117915>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Full-Report-School-to-Prison-Report_web-Jul22.pdf

Health Services: Travellers

Ian Byrne (Labour) [104474] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether he is taking steps to ensure that his Department's data collection records the experiences of people from Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller backgrounds.

Reply from Neil O'Brien: The NHS Data Model and Dictionary reflects the latest approved Information Standard for the data submission of ethnicity categories in the National Health Service. This is derived from the Office for National Statistics' categories in 2001, which do not include Gypsy/Romany Gypsy, Roma, and Irish Traveller groupings.

The annual GP Patient Survey assesses patients' experience of general practice and dentistry in England. It collects ethnicity information, including coding for 'Roma' and 'Gypsy or Irish Traveller' respondents. In the 2022 survey, NHS England received 719,137 responses and of those, 596 were from Roma and 279

were from Gypsy or Irish Traveller respondents.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-06/104474>

Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [114758] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, whether the Government has sought legal advice on whether (a) public bodies and (b) decision makers fail in their equality duty if they are unable to establish the number of people who they employ or to whom they provide a service that have a Sikh ethnicity.

Reply from Stuart Andrew: The specific duties of the public sector equality duty apply to most public bodies in England, such as local authorities and schools; most public authorities operating across Great Britain, such as Government departments (except on devolved functions); and a small number of public bodies operating across one of the borders inside Great Britain. These duties also apply to decision-makers who are not public authorities but exercise public functions. Public bodies subject to the specific duties must publish information to show their compliance with the public sector equality duty. The information must include:

- information relating to people who are affected by the public body's policies and practices, such as service users, and who share protected characteristics;
- and for public bodies with 150 or more employees, information relating to those of the public body's employees who share protected characteristics.

The specific duties are intended to enable better performance of the public sector equality duty, but there is no requirement to hold or publish information to any particular level of detail. Similarly, there is no prescribed format. It is up to each public body to decide for itself what information it publishes. This will vary greatly depending on the size of the body, the range of functions it performs, and the extent to which those functions could affect equality.

However, public bodies and decision-makers who think that their decisions may affect discrimination, harassment, or victimisation of Sikhs, affect equality of opportunity between Sikhs and people of different ethnicity, or affect Sikhs' relations with people of different ethnicity, should ensure that their compliance with the duty includes considerations of Sikh ethnicity.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-20/114758>

Cricket: Ethnic Groups

Navendu Mishra (Labour) [108440] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the Answer of 5 July 2022 to Question 26040 on Cricket: Ethnic Groups, what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of the performance of the England and Wales Cricket Board to increase the number of ethnic minority cricket officials in (a) England and (b) Wales.

Reply from Stuart Andrew: The national governing body for cricket, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) assesses trends in representation in the sport. This includes the level of representation of cricket officials from ethnic minorities.

The ECB have acknowledged there remains an under-representation of Black and South Asian heritage officials despite an increase in the proportion of umpires from ethnically diverse backgrounds on the National Panel last year. Following an independent Officiating Review in 2021, the ECB have committed to four ambitions focusing on equity of opportunity, inspiring the next generation, developing a diverse network that reflects society and promoting a culture of inclusivity and fairness.

The ECB continues to work on developing an officiating structure in which there is equality of opportunity for all. In the recreational game, applications will soon be invited for umpire tutors to deliver a new ECB umpiring course. The aim is to recruit

and train a more diverse workforce. On 8 December 2022 the ECB also published updates to their game-wide action plan to tackle discrimination and their Equity, Diversity and Inclusion plan.

The updated Code for Sports Governance requires sports organisations that receive significant public funding, including the ECB, to agree a diversity and inclusion action plan with Sport England and/or UK Sport, which will be published and updated annually. The Government and our arm's length bodies will continue to monitor and liaise with the cricket authorities on improving diversity and inclusion at all levels.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-12/108440>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-06-27/26040>

The Code for Sports Governance, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.ukssport.gov.uk/resources/a-code-for-sports-governance>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Written Answer

Pupil Exclusions: Travellers

Baroness Whitaker (Labour) [HL4272] To ask His Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the report by the Traveller Movement Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, published in July; and what steps they intend to take in response to the recommendations made in that report.

Reply from Baroness Barran: The department recognises the issues faced by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children and young people and how education can make a positive difference. The report contained seven recommendations for the department and the following sets out how we are responding to those recommendations.

The report recommended that the clear disaggregation of Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller identities as adopted by the Office for National Statistics for the 2021 Census, should be implemented across the education sector. As the report references Gypsy, Roma and Traveller data was collected in Census 2021 and phase one of the data has now been released:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/culturalidentity/ethnicity/bulletins/ethnicgroupenglandandwales/census2021>

We are currently reviewing the harmonised standard for ethnicity, with any potential question changes being released in early 2024.

The report recommended that the department must ensure a race equality & diversity policy is made a statutory element of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) for all schools. Already the PSED requires public bodies, including maintained schools and academies, to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.

Schools have specific legal duties to publish information to demonstrate how they are complying with the PSED, and to prepare and publish equality objectives. Schools are also required to publish information relating to those who share a relevant protected characteristic and who are affected by their policies and practices. It is for schools to develop their own strategies for meeting their duties, however, the Department has published guidance for schools on how to ensure they comply with their duties under the Equality Act.

In regard to Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans, the report recommended that all schools must have the ability and resources to provide assessment of them when requested by a parent or guardian, including annual reviews. Also, local authorities

should consider providing base-level EHC Plans funding to all schools. The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Green Paper, published in March 2022 sets out our vision to create a more inclusive education system with excellent local mainstream provision which will improve the experience and outcomes for children and young people who need more intensive support. Amongst those consulted was the department's GRT Stakeholder Group and we are committed to publishing a full response to the consultation through an improvement plan early in 2023.

The report also recommended that the department should require all school and academy trusts to establish an On-Site Inclusion Unit (OSIU). In July 2022 we published updated guidance on Behaviour in Schools and Suspension and Permanent Exclusion statutory guidance. The Behaviour guidance makes clear some schools can choose to have pupil support units (sometimes called 'in-school units') which should be used for two main reasons: to provide planned pastoral support for vulnerable pupils and as a last resort measure to support pupils at risk of exclusion.

Additionally, the report recommended that expert headteacher panels should be established to provide final assessments for proposed permanent exclusions and the department should develop standardised reporting guidelines for monitoring the use of In-School exclusionary practices, and also develop guidance for best practice and use of in-school exclusionary practices.

The updated Exclusion guidance is clear that, in all cases, schools should consider initial intervention to address underlying causes of disruptive behaviour which may minimise the need for permanent exclusion. Whilst a permanent exclusion may still be an appropriate sanction, schools should take account of any contributing factors. The statutory process to review school exclusions is clear that governing boards have a role to review the decision of the headteacher to permanently exclude and if the governing board decides to uphold the permanent exclusion, the parents will have the right to an Independent Review Panel.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-13/hl4272>

The report referred to above can be read at

https://wp-main.travellermovement.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Full-Report-School-to-Prison-Report_web-Jul22.pdf

New Publication

House of Commons Library Briefing: Constituency data: Ethnic groups, 2021 census

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/constituency-statistics-ethnicity/>

News

Organ transplants: Black people wait up to six months longer, NHS figures show

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64235369>

Black women share insight into changing face of policing

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-bristol-63427571>

Covid-19: learnings for supporting migrant and minority ethnic communities

<https://tfn.scot/opinion/covid-19-learnings-for-supporting-migrant-and-minority-ethnic-communities>

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Written Answer

National Anti-Racist Infrastructure

Paul Sweeney (Labour) [S6W-13565] To ask the Scottish Government how it plans to include all ethnic minority groups in the Interim Governance Group to Develop National Anti-Racist Infrastructure.

Reply from Christina McKelvie: The Scottish Government is using a range of interventions across its policies to advance the Race Equality Framework and human rights for all minority ethnic groups, one of which is the Interim Governance Group.

The Interim Governance Group is a short-life working group with a specific remit to provide advice and feedback to Scottish Ministers on establishing long-term anti-racist infrastructure. Its membership includes those with experiences of intersecting marginalisation(s) and the realities of systemic racism and expertise in tackling it. Individuals were also appointed on the basis of having extensive knowledge and/or experience of policy making in Scotland, and design and implementation of policy/systems. More information on the remit and membership of the group is available here:

<https://www.gov.scot/groups/interim-governance-group-to-develop-national-anti-racist-infrastructure/>

The intention is that the work of the IGG will support the development of improved infrastructure and accountability that has a positive impact on the lives of all racialised minority communities. Racialised outcomes are not experienced uniformly, and effective interventions need to take specific experiences into account. In Scotland, this includes important disparities impacting Black/minority ethnic groups.

Ensuring that communities are engaged with policy developments, including in long-term oversight and governance, is of utmost importance, and we are looking to explore mechanisms and routes to achieve that in the best way possible. Policy areas focussed on anti-racism and race equality are actively engaging with a range of stakeholders and communities as part of their work. The Interim Governance Group has commissioned a programme of community engagement, to both disseminate information about forthcoming anti-racist policy infrastructure and to gather community members' and organisations' perspectives on how it can work best to deliver genuine change-making policy and practice in Scotland.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13565>

The Race Equality Framework, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/race-equality-framework-scotland-2016-2030/>

Scottish Parliament Motions

Paul O'Kane (Labour) [S6M-07484] **Holocaust Memorial Day 2023** – That the

Parliament recognises Holocaust Memorial Day 2023; remembers the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, alongside the millions of others killed under the Nazi persecution of other minority groups; reflects on and recognises the millions of people who have been systematically murdered since 1945 in genocides perpetrated in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; notes that Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January, marking the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, and that the theme for 2023 is “Ordinary People”; understands that this theme highlights the ordinary people who let genocide happen, the ordinary people who actively perpetrated genocide, and the ordinary people who were persecuted; considers that, today, ordinary people are also the ones who drive Holocaust Memorial Day, who lead on community commemorations, and who support and encourage everyone around them to take part in remembrance and education projects; reflects on how the theme of "Ordinary People" can help people give greater consideration to the role that everyone can play, as individuals, in challenging all forms of discrimination, prejudice and racism, and commits to redoubling efforts to promote education, remembrance and research about the genocide to ensure that the lessons of such events are fully learnt.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07484>

Fergus Ewing (SNP) [S6M-07477] – Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 – That the Parliament recognises what it sees as the importance of continuing to impart the lessons of the Holocaust to each generation; considers that the Holocaust was the systematic attempt by a genocidal regime in Europe to murder all Jewish people on the continent between the years 1941 and 1945, with six million men, women and children tragically losing their lives; notes that the annual Holocaust Memorial Day will be held on 27 January 2023, and that the chosen theme for this year’s event is “ordinary people”; recognises that this particular theme has been chosen to highlight the ordinary people who were involved in all elements of, not just the Holocaust, but later genocides including in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur; acknowledges that, to better understand ordinary people, the theme has been subdivided into five categories: perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses and crucially, victims; further acknowledges that, according to the theme, particular groups of people do not always belong to just one of the categories, with railway workers cited as an example where some in this job at the time of the Holocaust are considered as perpetrators, for driving trains to concentration camps, and others as rescuers, for hiding Jewish people; understands that the theme can be widened to include ordinary locations and sites, including schools and hospitals, as such buildings can be used to perpetrate genocide; notes that the theme also highlights that there are extraordinary individuals in all genocides, including those who were part of what it considers remarkable efforts to rescue and save the lives of people targeted by murderous regimes, and believes that underpinning the theme is the powerful narrative that everyone living today is an ordinary person, who is able to be extraordinary in their actions through making the choice to challenge prejudice, stand up against hatred, and speak out against identity-based persecution.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07477>

Alexander Stewart (Conservative) [S6M-07428] Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 and Online Campaigns – That the Parliament acknowledges Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD), which is held on 27 January each year and that, for 2023, the theme is Ordinary People; understands that each year local HMD activities take place across the UK, bringing people together from all backgrounds to learn more about the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and the genocides that followed; believes that HMD also provides a meaningful opportunity for people to consider how to make society a better place today, free from hatred, prejudice and discrimination; notes that, in the past years, the #WeRemember social media campaign has raised awareness of the Holocaust and its

modern-day relevance by encouraging individuals to post on social media with the hashtag “#WeRemember”; further notes that for this coming Holocaust Memorial Day in 2023, with the help of the World Jewish Congress, organisations such as the University of Glasgow Jewish society are bringing the #WeRemember campaign to Scotland under the umbrella of the #ScotlandRemembers social media campaign; understands that this week-long online campaign from 20 to 27 January 2023 will conclude with an in-person memorial in Edinburgh, and that, in an unprecedented move, for the first time, students from all major universities in Scotland will come together to remember and call for action to tackle what it sees as the ongoing rise of antisemitism and racism, and commends all these aforementioned organisations as well as the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, which is streaming the UK Online Commemoration for HMD 2023 on its website on 26 January 2023, at 7.00 pm, and the Holocaust Educational Trust for what it considers its tireless endeavours toward the education for all on the Holocaust and the importance of peace and equality for all.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07428>

New Publications

Scottish Government Anti-racist Employment Strategy – Easy read version

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/anti-racist-employment-strategy-easy-read-version/>

Understanding the fundamental role of racism in ethnic inequities in covid-19 vaccine hesitancy

https://pure.manchester.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/239441659/Runnymede_CoDE_briefing_Vaccine_Hesitancy.pdf

Independent investigation into allegations of antisemitism within NUS

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471780/Independent_Investigation_into_Antisemitism_Report_NUS_12_January_2023.pdf

NUS UK Antisemitism Action Plan

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471793/NUS_Antisemitism_Action_Plan_Jan2023.pdf

News

Hate Crime Bill enforcement in Scotland delayed until at least 2024 as police concerns scupper enforcement

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/hate-crime-bill-enforcement-in-scotland-delayed-until-at-least-2024-as-police-concerns-scupper-enforcement-3977709>

Teach pupils dangers of anti-Semitism in our society, says government adviser

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/19/teach-pupils-dangers-anti-semitism-society-says-government-adviser/>

Calls for more antisemitism teaching in UK schools to tackle rise in hate

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2022/dec/19/antisemitism-teaching-uk-schools-hate-rise>

NUS publishes its action plan for tackling antisemitism following independent investigation

https://www.nus.org.uk/nus_publishes_its_action_plan_for_tackling_antisemitism_following_independent_investigation

Jewish students ‘faced hostile culture’ in National Union of Students

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/national-union-of-students-jewish-president-palestinian-union-of-jewish-students-b2260763.html>

Jews suffered anti-Semitic harassment and hostile culture at National Union of Students

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/01/12/jews-suffered-antisemitic-harassment-national-union-students/>

Jewish students suffered antisemitic bullying within NUS, inquiry finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2023/jan/12/jewish-students-suffered-antisemitic-bullying-within-nus-inquiry-finds>

NUS culture is hostile to Jewish students, antisemitism inquiry finds

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nus-admits-shocking-antisemitism-findings-in-its-structures-jcvspxdbz>

For years, the NUS has let antisemitism spread on campus

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/for-years-the-nus-has-let-antisemitism-spread-on-campus-8wvvtgzwb>

Chief Rabbi and Jewish community leader decry ‘harmful’ celebrity antisemitism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/ephraim-mirvis-marie-van-der-zyl-antisemitism-jewish-wiley-b2253881.html>

Police Scotland recruits thrown out in purge of racism and misogyny

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/police-scotland-recruits-thrown-out-in-purge-of-racism-and-misogyny-ksp3plc6j>

More than 150 Met officers investigated over sexual misconduct or racism

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/09/more-than-150-met-officers-investigated-over-sexual-misconduct-or-racism>

More than 150 Met Police officers face sex assault and racism allegations

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/more-than-150-met-police-officers-face-sex-assault-and-racism-allegations-2g0svj8l0>

Researchers warn of rise in extremism online after Covid

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-61106191>

Blacks more stupid than whites, wrote Oxford don Nick Bostrom

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/blacks-more-stupid-than-whites-wrote-oxford-don-8gsj8l0wf>

Is rural racism real? Yes, I remember it well

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/is-rural-racism-real-yes-i-remember-it-well-h76rg3plg>

A glimpse into the future of hate in Scotland

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/23236382.glimpse-future-hate-scotland/>

Police investigate after Tory MP Bob Stewart tells activist to 'go back to Bahrain'
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/20/bob-stewart-confrontation-sayed-ahmed-alwadaei-bahrain/>

Family threaten legal action after 'racial discrimination' by soldiers at Windsor Castle
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/windsor-palace-royal-family-racism-b2261738.html>

Blues singer Lee Ryan guilty of racially aggravated assault
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-64250580>

Aberdeen: Anthony Stewart says alleged racist incident 'dealt with' by club
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/64159182>

Aberdeen's Anthony Stewart vows not to 'take racist abuse lightly'
<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/64098399>

Aberdeen launch investigation into racist abuse suffered by Anthony Stewart
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/anthony-stewart-racist-abuse-aberdeen-scottish-premiership-b2252132.html>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

Scottish Parliament Motion

Jackson Carlaw (Conservative) [S6M-07474] Farewell Service for Newton Mearns Synagogue – That the Parliament acknowledges that a farewell service for the Newton Mearns Synagogue in Eastwood is to take place on 22 January 2023; notes that services will no longer take place at the Synagogue after a merger took place between the Newton Mearns and Giffnock Synagogues last year to form a single community; understands that the merger has established the Giffnock Newton Mearns Synagogue (GNMS) and that it will be based at the Giffnock site on Fenwick Road; further understands that the farewell service marks the end of an era for members of the local Jewish community in Eastwood and the start of an exciting new chapter with the Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis set to attend the event; acknowledges that the Newton Mearns Synagogue has been a fixture in the local area for decades, and wishes the recently established Giffnock Newton Mearns Synagogue every success for the future.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-07474>

Christmas and New Year Messages

First Minister's New Year Message (video)
<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1609082049134051335>

Christmas Message from the First Minister
<https://twitter.com/scotgov/status/1606545223940726784>

New Publications

Scottish Government Winter Pressures Advert (video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnXvNrMOPhs>

NHS Inform information about winter illnesses

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/>

News

Scottish hospitals are almost full, says Nicola Sturgeon

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-64211393>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [114759] To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities, with reference to the Government's website entitled Ethnicity Facts and Figures, how many and what proportion of the datasets which appear on that site contain data which can be disaggregated in such a way as to provide specific information on the number of Sikhs in each category, in England and Wales.

Reply from Stuart Andrew: According to the Office for National Statistics' latest Equalities Data Audit (Nov 2022), 22 of the data sources used on Ethnicity facts and figures collect religion data as well as ethnicity. This is 29% of all the data sources used on Ethnicity facts and figures. There are 73 datasets (pages) in Ethnicity facts and figures that use data from these sources; this is 39% of all datasets. Sample sizes for each source vary so it may not always be possible to provide reliable estimates when disaggregating data by both ethnic group and religion.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-20/114759>

The website referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/>

The Data Audit referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/inequalitiesdataaudit>

Sikhs

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [114792] To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, with reference to the Sikh Names Research Report published by the Office for National Statistics as part of its December 2018 update on research and testing of 2021 Census questions and topics, whether he plans to hold discussions with the National Statistician on the potential merits of conducting a further research exercise using names to produce an estimate of the number of people identifying as Sikh who may not have been recorded as Sikhs in the 2021 census because they (a) did not answer the optional religion question or (b) stated in answer to that question that they had no religion.

Jeremy Quin: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. ...

The census religion question measures religious affiliation; this is a measure of how a person connects or identifies with a religion, regardless of whether they practice or have belief in it¹.

Due to the subjective and self-identified nature of the religion question, it is not possible to know how someone who chose not to answer the question may have described their religious identity. Similarly, it is not possible to know how someone who answered “No religion” on the census would have answered if required to identify with a religion.

As set out in my response to your recent written questions (PQ 98820 and 98821²), bespoke analysis will be carried out in relation to Sikh populations³, using responses to the religion and ethnic group questions in combination. This will provide insights into the number of people who: identified as “Sikh” on the religion question alone; identified with “Sikh” as part of their ethnic group alone; or identified with both in combination. This will enable us to provide official estimates on how people who identified as “Sikh” within their ethnic group described their religion including those who did not answer the voluntary religion question and those who stated that they had no religion.

The Sikh names research report you refer to was conducted for exploratory purposes only⁴. There are a number of caveats and assumptions relating to this research that mean the methods cannot be used to produce an official estimate of people who might be part of a wider Sikh community but who did not answer “Sikh” to the religion question. For example, the method is based on assumptions about the strength of association between surname and religious affiliation and that this is the same for responders as it is for non-responders to the religion question; this assumption is untested so cannot be used to produce an official estimate.

Following our other recent correspondence, I hope that a meeting between you and senior colleagues in the ONS will take place soon. This will provide an opportunity to discuss our planned analysis from Census 2021 data and for us to also use this as an opportunity to further understand the needs and requirements around data collection and population estimates for the Sikh community.

¹ The Religion report can be found in this ‘ethnic group, language and religion question development’ publication:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/nationalidentityethnicgrouplanguageandreligionquestiondevelopmentforcensus2021#research-and-development-timeline>

² <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98820>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-2021-census-of-population-and-housing-in-england-and-wales>

Further information on question development can also be found here:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/nationalidentityethnicgrouplanguageandreligionquestiondevelopmentforcensus2021#annex-1-census-commitments-made-on-the-topics-of-national-identity-ethnic-group-religion-and-language>

⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censusupdate/researchupdatedecember2018#annex-5-sikh-names-research-report-2018>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-20/114792>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/censustransformationprogramme/questiondevelopment/2021censusupdate/researchupdatedecember2018#annex-5-sikh-names-research-report-2018>

The answers referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98820>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-29/98821>

Christmas and New Year Messages

Prime Minister's New Year Message (video)

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1609112391798734848>

Prime Minister's Orthodox and Coptic Christmas Message

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1611678996059537409>

New Publication

New Year Honours List 2023

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1126850/NEW_YEAR_HONOURS_LIST_2023 - PRIME MINISTER S LIST.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1126850/NEW_YEAR_HONOURS_LIST_2023_-_PRIME_MINISTER_S_LIST.pdf)

News

UK Covid modelling data to stop being published

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-64093155>

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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/>

Scottish Government Press Releases

People urged to make sure they are not missing out on benefits

<https://www.gov.scot/news/people-urged-to-make-sure-they-are-not-missing-out-on-benefits/>

Winter funding for food groups

<https://www.gov.scot/news/winter-funding-for-food-groups/>

Publications

The Cost of Living Crisis

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Cost-of-Living-Crisis-Quarterly-bulletin-1.pdf>

Costly differences: Living standards for working-age people with disabilities

<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2023/01/Costly-differences.pdf>

The Living Standards Outlook 2023

<https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/app/uploads/2023/01/Living-Standards-Outlook-2023.pdf>

News

Sunak urged to drop ‘unspeakably cruel’ two-child limit and benefit cap

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/dec/25/sunak-urged-to-drop-unspeakably-cruel-two-child-limit-and-benefit-cap>

Britain’s poorest families living in severe hardship, warns Save the Children

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/dec/22/britains-poorest-families-living-in-severe-hardship-warns-save-the-children>

Britons only halfway through the cost of living struggle

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/two-year-squeeze-on-incomes-will-cost-average-family-2-100-0dbbc8d9c>

Who will receive the new £900 cost of living payment and when will it be paid?

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/dwp-cost-living-payment-2023-b2261537.html>

SNP warned thousands may be worse off under new winter heating scheme

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23215146.snp-warned-thousands-may-worse-off-new-winter-heating-scheme/>

Disabled people among hardest hit by cost of living crisis, finds study

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/jan/04/disabled-people-cost-of-living-crisis-energy-use-food-resolution-foundation>

More than 3,700 warm banks open in UK as households struggle with ‘outrageous’ energy bills

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/warm-spaces-energy-bills-uk-b2250449.html>

Huge energy bills could persist until 2030 and are not a ‘single winter problem’, expert warns

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/energy-bills-high-2030-cornwall-insight-b2254005.html>

Thousands of Scots face £30,000 bill to meet energy efficiency rules

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23226915.thousands-scots-face-30-000-bill-meet-energy-efficiency-rules/>

Cost of living: 'More and more it's people on wages seeking support'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-63859087>

One in five buy groceries on credit as cost of living bites

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/money/consumer-affairs/one-five-buy-groceries-credit-cost-living-bites/>

Cost of living: The hidden poverty in England's least deprived area

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-63978499>

House prices will fall faster and further than anyone expects

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2022/12/28/house-prices-will-fall-faster-anyone-expect/>

NHS strike: We visit food banks just to survive, say ambulance workers

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nhs-strike-we-visit-food-banks-just-to-survive-say-ambulance-workers-rjc7g3whv>

UK household income likely to fall by £2,000 a year, says thinktank

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/jan/09/uk-household-income-likely-to-fall-by-2000-a-year-says-thinktank>

King Charles' first Christmas speech reflects cost-of-living crisis

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64053758>

Archbishop of Canterbury calls for leaders to fix social care

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64137439>

‘No one is getting presents this year’: The families using food banks over Christmas

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/foodbank-christmas-presents-cost-living-b2249800.html>

The school offering 'kindness lockers' to help struggling students

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-64109767>

Takeaway owner offers free pizzas to everyone in Edinburgh

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-64126998>

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Other News

How to successfully apply to become a charity in Scotland

<https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/how-to-successfully-apply-to-become-a-charity-in-scotland/>

King Charles's first Christmas Day message

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-64089749>

Pope Francis says world suffering a 'famine of peace'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64089428>

Pope Francis and world leaders pay tribute to Benedict XVI

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-64136969>

Former Pope Benedict dies at the age of 95

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23221821.former-pope-benedict-dies-age-95/>

Pope Benedict XVI dead: Former pontiff passes away aged 95

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/pope-benedict-xvi-dead-former-pontiff-passes-away-aged-95-3970614>

Benedict XVI dies: First pope to resign since Middle Ages has death announced by Vatican

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2022/12/31/former-pope-benedict-dies-aged-95/>

Pope Benedict XVI obituary

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/31/pope-benedict-obituary>

Pope Benedict XVI obituary

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/former-pope-benedict-xvi-dies-aged-95-g95dzn5ph>

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Bills in Progress

** new or updated this week

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/charities-regulation-and-administration-scotland-bill>

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

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

Scottish Government: Gender Recognition Reform Bill passed

<https://www.gov.scot/news/gender-recognition-reform-bill-passed/>

Equality and Human Rights Commission statement following the passing of the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/statement-following-passing-gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

Scotland's proposed gender recognition laws explained

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/dec/20/scotland-proposed-gender-recognition-reforms-explained>

Nicola Sturgeon's Gender Reform Bill faces veto under never-before-used legal powers

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/22/scotland-passes-gender-reform-bill-snp-nicola-sturgeon/>

Scotland gender reforms: PM says reasonable for UK to look at law

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64073323>

Rishi Sunak says Government could block Nicola Sturgeon's gender Bill

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2022/12/23/rishi-sunak-says-government-could-block-sturgeons-gender-bill/>

'Completely reasonable' for government to consider blocking Scottish gender laws, Sunak says
<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/gender-reform-laws-scotland-sunak-b2250578.html>

Starmer: '16 is too young to change legal gender'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-64281548>

Gender Recognition Reform Bill: 'Questionable' whether UK Government can veto Scotland's Gender legislation, legal expert warns
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/gender-recognition-reform-bill-questionable-whether-uk-government-can-veto-scotlands-gender-legislation-legal-expert-warns-3986791>

A constitutional clash looms on gender reforms
<https://www.independent.co.uk/independentpremium/politics-explained/gender-reform-bill-scotland-veto-alister-jack-b2250837.html>

No 10 threat to Scottish gender bill unites MSPs
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/no-10-threat-to-scottish-gender-bill-unites-msps-zzwj0hq70>

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>

Notice of amendments
https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-03/0209/amend/onlinesafety_rm_rep_0116.pdf

Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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 in 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>

**** closes this week!**

Local development plans – defining Gypsies and Travellers (closing date 20 January 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-plans-defining-gypsies-travellers-consultation/>

Local development plans – defining Gypsies and Travellers: interim impact assessments

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/local-development-plans-defining-gypsies-travellers-interim-impact-assessments/>

**** NUS UK Antisemitism Action Plan** (closing date 27 January 2023)

https://assets.nationbuilder.com/nus/pages/108/attachments/original/1673471793/NUS_Antisemitism_Action_Plan_Jan2023.pdf

Charities Bill (closing date 3 February 2023)

Short survey

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/7b1ddd3e/>

Detailed consultation

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/sjssc/a3212a34/>

Inquiry into Public Administration – Effective Scottish Government decision-making (closing date 7 February 2023)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/inquiry-into-public-administration/>

Access to information rights in Scotland (closing date 14 March 2023)

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/access-information-rights-scotland-consultation/>

Electoral reform (closing date 15 March 2023)

<https://consult.gov.scot/constitution-and-cabinet/electoral-reform/>

Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** Small Charity Research Award**

closing date 27 January 2023

The nfp Small Charity Research Award is an opportunity for a charity with an income under £1 million to receive a £10,000 research project for free. The nfpResearch team will work closely with the successful charity to design a research project to fulfil your charity and research objectives. For information and to apply see

<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90516548/2022-Small-Charity-Research-Award>

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Events, Conferences, and Training

** new or updated this week

**** *this week!***

Introduction to Racial Literacy

16 January 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

6 February 2023 (Edinburgh (10.00–1.00))

23 February 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

9 March 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre, and Action on Prejudice training session to help youth workers explore and understand the impact of dominant identities, how people react to things they don't know, barriers to participation for young people, and what actions they can take to become more inclusive. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/mrxecjvy>

Funding and Fundraising - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

23 January 2023 (online, 10.00–1.00)

THRE introduction to what a human rights and equalities approach means when talking about funding and fundraising. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/5fvak64s>

**** **Stitching Legacies: A Tapestry Making Session****

24 January 2023 in Dundee (12.00–2.00)

Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre, with The Dundee Tapestry session for BME women to learn more about stitching and tapestry making. For information see

<https://tinyurl.com/4yhejb64> or contact 07732 751 138.

Closed doors: How to safety plan with South Asian women experiencing domestic abuse

28 February 2023 (online, 9.30–1.00)

Safe Lives, and Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre course to provide an overview of South Asian women's experiences of domestic abuse in Scotland. the impact of citizenship and immigration control on experiences of domestic abuse, including the effect of No Recourse to Public Funds, and safety planning, signposting, and referral pathways for South Asian Women. For information see <https://tinyurl.com/3cwpzwwh>

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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>

TOP

SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS

Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



gov.scot

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

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