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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 Answers

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-13594] To ask the Scottish Government in what ways it assesses the efficacy of its New Scots strategy.

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

The strategy provides a clear framework for all those working towards refugee integration in Scotland. It has also assisted in coordinating the work of the Scottish Government and its partner organisations to maximise impact and make the most of limited resources, placing Scotland in a strong position to respond to recent

humanitarian crises.

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

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

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

The New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project includes a workstream on research and evaluation. This entails working with our partners and external evaluators to carry out project monitoring, research work and an evaluation of the strategy. An evaluation report of the current strategy is due to be published in Spring 2023.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13594>

The New Scots refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-13592] To ask the Scottish Government how much funding it has allocated to its New Scots strategy in each year since 2017-18.

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

The Scottish Government funds a number of organisations for work supporting refugee integration, currently through the Connected Communities budget. This funding has totalled £940,000 a year since 2017-18. The Scottish Government takes an inclusive approach with wider work across a range of policy areas also supporting integration and the aims of the New Scots strategy.

In August 2020, the New Scots partnership secured funding of £5 million from the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for the New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project (NSRIDP) to enhance the delivery of the New Scots refugee integration strategy until December 2022. This included 10% match funding (£500,000) from Scottish Government.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13592>

The New Scots refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-13593] To ask the Scottish Government how many civil servants have worked on helping to implement its New Scots strategy in each year since 2018.

Reply from Angus Robertson: The New Scots refugee integration strategy is built on partnership and collaboration, led by the Scottish Government, COSLA and the

Scottish Refugee Council, and involves a wide range of partners across different sectors.

From 2017-22, the Scottish Government had one civil servant working on the New Scots refugee integration strategy, although the post was redeployed to support the Covid-19 response in 2020-2021. An additional civil servant has supported work on the strategy since May 2022. Other civil servants have worked in support of the New Scots strategy across a range of policy areas.

In addition to the permanent civil servants working on the strategy, from January 2021, up to three additional temporary staff have worked to manage the delivery of the New Scots Refugee Integration Delivery Project.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13593>

The New Scots refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-13595] To ask the Scottish Government whether it has delivered "an 'Exit Pack' for new refugees, to ensure they know how to access services to set up their new home", as outlined in its New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy 2018-2022, and whether it will provide details of what it contains.

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

The development of an 'exit pack' for newly recognised refugees is an action under the Housing theme of the New Scots refugee integration strategy 2018-22.

The COVID-19 pandemic and work to support people arriving from Afghanistan and Ukraine have impacted delivery of the strategy and meant that this action has not been taken forward as planned. However, the Scottish Government has published a Welcome Pack for New Scots, which includes information on housing. It can be viewed at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/welcome-pack-new-scots/pages/1/>

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13595>

The New Scots refugee integration strategy, referred to above, can be read at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/new-scots-refugee-integration-strategy-2018-2022/>

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Donald Cameron (Conservative) [S6W-13598] To ask the Scottish Government how much funding it has invested in digital technology to help improve access to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) qualifications for (a) refugees and (b) asylum seekers in each year since 2017-18, including the current year to date.

Reply from Jamie Hepburn: The Scottish Government's aim is to support high quality, relevant, appropriate and accessible ESOL provision that meets learner need.

The Scottish Government's ESOL funding is currently provided through colleges. Colleges are instructed to work with Community Planning Partnerships to determine the level of need for provision and agree with partners how this need can be met.

The Local Government Settlement provides a block grant to local authorities which they can then use to meet the learning needs of refugees and asylum seekers in their areas.

Grant funding awarded to third sector organisations has enabled ESOL providers to use asset based approaches to work with adult learners to plan and co-design their learning.

In 2020-21 colleges received £2,323,504 funding for digital inclusion. Community Learning and Development organisations received £250,000. Devices were distributed to best meet the needs of all learners, regardless of the type of learning or their legal status.

Our Adult Learning Strategy commits to continuing to increase access to digital devices and connectivity for adult learning. In 2022-3, £500,000 of Digital Inclusion funding has been made available to community learning providers through the Community Learning and Development Device Fund. The Fund is supporting over forty community-based projects throughout Scotland to acquire digital devices for learning. These projects support a range of learner groups including refugees and asylum seekers, with several specifically focusing on providing access to ESOL courses.

To tackle student digital poverty an allocation of £2.9 million has been distributed among the college sector by the Scottish Funding Council. Institutions manage these funds and applications for support at their own discretion to best support their learners. ESOL students can apply directly to their college for support with a digital device.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/questions-and-answers/question?ref=S6W-13598>

The Adult Learning Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/adult-learning-strategy-scotland-2022-27/>

UK Parliament Debates

EU Settlement Scheme

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-20/debates/FDAF046B-60FF-4BC2-9365-B00FF7AD3A0D/EUSettlementScheme>

Windrush: 75th Anniversary

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-19/debates/CBF20473-443E-46C3-9A66-4E7A226BAC83/Windrush75ThAnniversary>

Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme: Pathway 3

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-19/debates/5CDF6A43-F8F0-4CD6-8BFE-24D1469C7780/AfghanCitizensResettlementSchemePathway3>

Immigration (Leave to Enter and Remain) (Amendment) Order 2023

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-17/debates/0942F8BE-772E-420C-B0D6-1151E67F6CBD/Immigration\(LeaveToEnterAndRemain\)\(Amendment\)Order2023](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-17/debates/0942F8BE-772E-420C-B0D6-1151E67F6CBD/Immigration(LeaveToEnterAndRemain)(Amendment)Order2023)

UK Parliament, Ministerial Statement

Reform of the Clandestine Entrant Civil Penalty Scheme

The Minister for Immigration (Robert Jenrick) [HCWS497] This Government are determined to crack down on illegal migration, to dismantle the organised criminal gangs behind it and to keep our borders safe and secure.

For over 20 years, we have run a scheme to help us to do just this, the clandestine entrant

civil penalty scheme. The scheme is designed to complement law enforcement activity against criminals. It does this through tackling negligence by people who are not criminals but whose carelessness nonetheless means that they are responsible for a clandestine entrant gaining access to a vehicle.

During the financial year 2020-21, there were 3,145 incidents where clandestine entrants were detected concealed in vehicles, despite the covid-19 pandemic causing a lower volume of traffic. This rose to 3,838 incidents during the financial year 2021-22.

The Government are therefore concerned that the scheme is not having enough of an effect. Existing penalty levels have not changed since 2002. Drivers and other responsible persons are not taking the steps required to secure their vehicles, and clandestine entrants are continuing to use these routes to come to the UK.

The Government committed to reform the scheme in 2021, running a consultation in the summer of 2022. We are today publishing our response to that consultation, setting out plans to deliver what will be the first overhaul of the scheme since 2002.

Our reforms, including new penalty levels, have been designed to strike a better balance between disincentivising negligence and failures to comply with vehicle security standards, while ensuring that the regime is not overly burdensome on industry.

We will now be commencing relevant parts of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 and further commencing relevant parts of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002. We are also laying a statutory instrument to set out new security standards for all vehicles and to establish new maximum penalty levels. We are laying a new statutory code of practice to set out the circumstances in which a person might be eligible for a reduction in the level of their penalty. We are in addition publishing an economic note and an equality impact assessment.

It is our intention, subject to the will of Parliament, for these reforms to take effect on Monday 13 February 2023. Between now and then, we will deliver a four-week period of engagement with drivers and industry, to make sure they know about the changes that are coming and to support compliance.

The Government are committed to working with individuals and companies to support growth while delivering a strong and effective border. These reforms will help us to do just that. ...

We are publishing further information at:

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

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-16/debates/23011622000005/ReformOfTheClandestineEntrantCivilPenaltyScheme>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers: Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [122053] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy applications are awaiting an initial decision as of 12 January 2023.

Reply from James Heappey: As of 16 January 2023, there are an estimated 71,149 applications to process. The vast majority will be either duplicate or clearly ineligible, and we will continue focussing resource on finding those we know to be eligible for relocation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-12/122053>

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

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

Afghanistan: Refugees

John Healey (Labour) [122054] To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many applications for the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme were (a) received and (b) processed in each month since October 2022.

Reply from James Heapey: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to question 97484 for Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) application figures for October and November 2022.

In December 2022, 1,401 applications were received, of which approximately 632 were duplicates, while an approximate 6,428 applications were processed. Of the processed applications, 2,741 decisions were issued to principal applicants which simultaneously processed 3,687 duplicate applications.

ARAP application figures are collated on a monthly basis and as such complete figures for January 2023 figures can be provided when requested after the 31st of the month.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-12/122054>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-28/97484>

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

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

Refugees: Afghanistan

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [119046] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, how many Afghans have been resettled in the UK through the Afghan citizens' resettlement 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).
- Of these, c6000 individuals arrived after Op Pitting - via Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) Pathway 1 and Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP).
- We have granted Indefinite Leave to Remain to 12,296 individuals across ACRS and ARAP, of which:
 - total ACRS Pathway 1 grants: 6,314
 - total ARAP grants: 5,982

Work is underway to assure information relating to all the individuals relocated under the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) and 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.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-09/119046>

Asylum: Afghanistan

Toby Perkins (Labour) [122114] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether her Department is taking steps to reunite families separated as a result of leaving Afghanistan to seek asylum.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: We recognise that families can become separated because of the nature of conflict and the and manner in which people are often forced to flee their country. The refugee family reunion policy allows immediate family members, of those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK to join them here, if they formed part of the family unit before the sponsor fled

their country.

The Government remains committed to providing protection for vulnerable people fleeing Afghanistan. However, the situation is extremely complex and presents us with significant challenges, including securing safe passage out of the country for those who want to leave and who are eligible for resettlement in the UK. This includes eligible family members of those resettled under the ARAP or ACRS.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-12/122114>

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 Answer: Ukraine

Visas: Ukraine

Emma Lewell-Buck (Labour) [117608] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 3 January 2023 to Question 111601 on Visas: Ukraine, whether her Department (a) has undertaken and (b) plans to undertake research on the reasons for which 55,500 Ukrainian visa holders have not arrived in the UK since their visas were issued.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Between 14th July and 5th August 2022, the Home Office undertook an online survey aimed at understanding the situations and intentions of those people who held Ukraine Family Scheme or Homes for Ukraine visas, but who had not yet arrived in the UK.

This survey was sent to all email addresses linked to adult visa holders under Ukraine Family Scheme or Homes for Ukraine, where Home Office data indicated that the holder had not yet arrived in the UK. The survey asked why respondents had not yet arrived in the UK – reasons included factors preventing them from going to the UK, facing difficulties getting to the UK, and preferring to stay in their current location.

The full outputs of this survey have not been published because of concerns about data quality.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117608>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-12-15/111601>

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members/immigration-information-for-ukrainians-in-the-uk-british-nationals-and-their-family-members>

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

Visas: Families

Caroline Lucas (Green) [119969] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the Answer of 20 September 2022 to Question 45506 on Visas: Applications, how many family reunion applications have been formally started and not decided; and

how many have exceeded (a) the 60-day service standard, (b) six months and (c) one year; and if she will make a statement.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Information regarding processing times for family reunion applications is not routinely published and could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. We are working outside the 60 working day service standard, with the majority of applications being considered at over double the service standard timescale.

We are committed to improving and speeding up processing times for family reunion applications.

In the year ending September 2022, 4,786 family reunion visas were issued to partners and children of those granted asylum or humanitarian protection, around a third (36%) fewer than the number in 2019. Additional information can be found here: [How many people are detained or returned?](#)

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/119969>

Visas: Seasonal Workers

Tony Lloyd (Labour) [120894] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration's (ICIBI) report entitled An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the agricultural sector, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the finding which indicated that for the seasonal worker visa schemes fewer than 97 per cent of sponsored workers who had obtained visas left the UK at the end of their permitted stay in 2021.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: As per our response in the report, we assessed the data set that the ICIBI were drawing on to be incomplete. Whilst there were indications of an instance of a Sponsor not meeting the 97% metric, there is further work to corroborate this with the Providers themselves. This can be found in paragraph 8.48 of the published report ([An inspection of the immigration system as it relates to the agricultural sector May to August 2022](#)).

The assessment of performance metrics of the seasonal worker labour providers is an ongoing rolling process, but where we do find any that have been breached, robust action will be taken against their licence to operate.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-11/120894>

Visas: Students

Preet Kaur Gill (Labour Co-op) [117792] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the rules on graduate visas in instances where international students are unable to apply for a new visa before their current one expires due to extenuating circumstances.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Graduates must have successfully completed a degree, or other eligible qualification, at undergraduate level or above whilst sponsored by a higher education provider (HEP) with a track record of compliance. They must be in the UK at the time of their application and have existing valid permission as a student. Student permission already includes post study period of up to 4 months from end date of course. The length of the post study period is determined by the duration and level of study.

These requirements determine the window of opportunity for making a successful Graduate application. The Graduate route provides an opportunity for international students who have been awarded their degree to stay in the UK and work, or look for work, at any skill level for 2 years, or 3 years for doctoral students, therefore only those with valid Student permission who are in the UK at the time of application

are eligible. Exceptional circumstances which prevent someone from meeting these requirements will be considered by decision making teams on a case by case basis. Though we have no current plans to alter these requirements, the Government keeps all immigration routes under review.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117792>

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) [120143] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her policy to implement all the recommendations of the report by Wendy Williams entitled Windrush Lessons Learned Review, published on 19 July 2018.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: 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. This work continues and the department is making sustained progress delivering on the recommendations of the Lessons Learned Review and the commitments made in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan (2020).

Wendy Williams acknowledged that our ambition to achieve genuine cultural change requires ongoing reflection and a commitment to constant improvement. The Home Office keeps HASC updated on progress against the recommendations and will continue to do so.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/120143>

The 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 Comprehensive Improvement Plan, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/922973/CCS001_CCS0820050750-001_Resp_to_Windrush_Lessons_CP_293_Accessible.pdf

Windrush Lessons Learned Review

Dawn Butler (Labour) [119914] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made on implementing the 30 recommendations in the Windrush Lessons Learned Review independent review by Wendy Williams published in March 2020.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: 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. This work continues and the department is making sustained progress to deliver on the recommendations of the Lessons Learned Review (2020) and the commitments made in the Comprehensive Improvement Plan (2020).

In her report last year, Wendy Williams concluded that 21 of her recommendations have been met or partially met. She acknowledged that the scale of the challenge she set the department was significant and that change on this scale takes time.

We have made real progress in delivering against Wendy Williams' recommendations:

- In October 2022, the Home Office established the Office for the Independent Examiner of Complaints, and followed a public appointment recruitment process, Moiram Ali was appointed as the Independent Examiner.
- 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 had paid out or offered £59.58m in compensation to Windrush victims. In June 2022, the 'Serving Diverse Communities – Acting on Our Values' learning package was launched across the

Home Office, starting with Recommendations 24 and 29. The learning package for Recommendation 6 has been designed and will undergo final review prior to implementation.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/119914>

The 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 Comprehensive Improvement Plan, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/922973/CCS001_CCS0820050750-001_Resp_to_Windrush_Lessons_CP_293_Accessible.pdf

The Lessons Learned Review Progress Update 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

Immigration: Public Appointments

Catherine West (Labour) [120991] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent discussions he has had with (a) Cabinet colleagues and (b) relevant stakeholders on the appointment of a migrants commissioner; and what is the timeline for their appointment.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A range of options have been considered for delivering the Windrush recommendations, including discussions with external stakeholders. The Home Office is taking steps to be more transparent to ensure that the department is as open as possible to all types of scrutiny, both internal and external. This requires a fundamental cultural shift in our attitude to people with different views on policy and those who make a complaint when something goes wrong.

We will keep the Home Affairs Select Committee updated on the progress of all the Wendy Williams recommendations.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-11/120991>

Refugees: Resettlement

Stephen Kinnock (Labour) [119136] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent progress her Department has made on the establishment of the emergency resettlement mechanism pilot; and what her planned timetable is for the completion of that pilot.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: An Emergency Resettlement Mechanism will allow the Government to provide urgent protection in exceptional circumstances to refugees referred by UNHCR as being in need of rapid emergency resettlement.

Responding to the situation in Afghanistan, the UK military undertook the largest military evacuation since the Second World War, during which we evacuated c.15,000 individuals to the UK. Over 20,000 Afghans have been brought over to the UK since the fall of Kabul. This alongside the UK's response to Putin's illegal war in Ukraine, continues to impact on available local authority housing and support. As a result, the commencement of the pilot has been put on hold temporarily

The UK has a strong record of helping those most in need and the UK continues to welcome refugees and people in need of protection through our resettlement and relocation schemes.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-09/119136>

Migrants: Electronic Tagging

Tim Loughton (Conservative) [117407] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home

Department, how many migrants awaiting determination of status in the UK and subject to electronic tagging have broken the conditions of the tag in the last 2 years by nationality.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: A pilot was launched on 15 June 2022 with the purpose of establishing whether electronic monitoring is an effective way to improve and maintain regular contact management with asylum claimants who arrive in the UK via unnecessary and dangerous routes, in order to progress their immigration case.

The total numbers of migrants who have broken the conditions of tag is 151.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117407>

Nurses: Migrant Workers

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [117673] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether it is her Department's policy that internationally recruited nurses should not stay in the same hotels as refugees.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: Successive years in which record numbers of people have crossed the Channel in small boats has placed our asylum infrastructure under immense strain. In order to meet our statutory obligations to accommodate asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute, we have been forced to temporarily house asylum seekers in hotels. The use of hotels is a short-term solution, and we are working hard with Local Authorities and our accommodation providers to find more appropriate accommodation.

When standing up hotels for initial accommodation we ensure that our service providers have sole use of the site and will not mix with paying guests or other cohorts requiring support.

There are occasionally exceptional circumstances when we need to book short term emergency accommodation on a night-by-night basis, where there may be other paying guests or cohorts at those sites; however only used as a last resort.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117673>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Hotels

Brandon Lewis (Conservative) [119968] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress her Department has made on identifying non-hotel accommodation for Asylum seekers; and if she will provide a timetable for the decommissioning of hotel accommodation.

Tom Hunt (Conservative) [120161] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce the number of asylum-seekers housed in hotel accommodation.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The enduring solution to this challenge is to stop the illegal, dangerous and unnecessary small boat crossings that are overwhelming our asylum system. Not only is every crossing attempt a potential tragedy, as we have seen far too often, but the people arriving via these small boats have travelled through, and have left, safe countries with fully functioning asylum systems to reach the UK.

We are taking a range of steps to reduce our dependency on hotels to support those already in the asylum system. All local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales became an asylum dispersal area by default in April 2022. This is increasing the number of suitable properties that can be procured for destitute asylum seekers across the UK, ensuring a fair spread across the country and reducing our reliance on hotels. We also intend to bring forward a range of alternative sites, such as disused holiday parks, former student halls, and surplus military sites, to add thousands of places at half the cost of hotels.

The Home Office is tackling the asylum legacy caseload so that people can exit the

system, either by returning to their home country, or granting them asylum so they can begin to make a contribution to the UK. The Home Office has already increased the number of its asylum caseworkers from 597 in 2019/20 to more than 1,000 today, and we are on course to add a further 500 caseworkers by March 2023. We are also improving the productivity of these decision-makers by re-engineering the caseworking process from top to bottom. This includes conducting more focused interviews and streamlining and digitising the caseworking process.

These reforms will speed up decision making, reduce the number of asylum seekers who are awaiting a decision and ease the pressure on local authorities by reducing our dependency on hotels and the number of asylum seekers accommodated in them.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/119968>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/120161>

National Age Assessment Board

Angela Crawley (SNP) [123987] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what progress she has made in establishing a National Age Assessment Board (NAAB); and when the NAAB will be fully operational.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The National Age Assessment Board (NAAB) is in the process of recruiting and training suitably experienced social workers who can carry out age assessments on behalf of the Home Office. A launch date will be communicated as soon as possible.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-16/123987>

Asylum: Young People

Angela Crawley (SNP) [123989] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, if she will make it her policy to publish statistics on age-disputed young people who are initially treated as adult and later found to be children for the purposes of immigration and asylum.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: The Home Office publishes data on asylum and resettlement in the '[Immigration Statistics Quarterly Release](#)'. Data on the number of asylum age disputes are published in table Asy_D05 of the [asylum and resettlement detailed datasets](#). Information on how to use the datasets can be found in the 'Notes' page of the workbook. The latest data relates to Q3 2022. Published data on age disputes only relate to age disputes of individuals with an asylum claim and do not include any other forms of age disputes.

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

Official statistics published by the Home Office are kept under review in line with the code of practice for statistics, taking into account a number of factors including user needs, as well as quality and availability of data.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-16/123989>

The following two questions both received the same answer

Asylum: Young People

Angela Crawley (SNP) [123990] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she is taking to ensure age disputed children are safeguarded within the asylum system.

Asylum: Children

Angela Crawley (SNP) [123991] To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what steps she has taken to ensure that children placed in any form of asylum accommodation are protected and safeguarded; and who is responsible for their protection

and safeguarding.

Reply from Robert Jenrick: There are clear safeguarding issues which arise if a child is inadvertently treated as an adult, and equally if an adult is wrongly accepted as a child and placed in accommodation with younger children to whom they could present a risk. It is therefore of utmost importance that, where a young asylum seeker's age is in doubt, the process of age assessment is resolved quickly and conclusively to ensure the right care is provided for that individual.

Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are supported by team leaders and support workers who are on site 24 hours a day. Further care is provided in hotels by teams of social workers and nurses.

All staff, including contractors, receive a number of briefings and guidance on how to safeguard children.

Local authorities have a statutory duty to protect all children. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is a key local authority duty and requires effective joint working between agencies and professionals.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-16/123990>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-16/123991>

Foster Care: Asylum

Rachael Maskell (Labour Co-op) [120003] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to place child asylum seekers in need of foster care into homes rather than temporary accommodation; and what support her Department is providing to foster parents receiving those children.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: The department takes the welfare of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC) seriously. It is the responsibility of local authorities to ensure children receive the right level of care, including foster care. The department is working closely with the Home Office and local government to ensure that this happens and to increase the number of placements available.

It is important that foster carers receive the support they need to fulfil their role and to meet the needs of the children in their care. This includes caring for UASC. The statutory framework and National Minimum Standards make clear that all foster carers must receive the training and support they need to carry out their role effectively. There will be different needs in local areas, and it is important that fostering service providers have the flexibility to provide additional training and support, including for those caring for UASC. Foster carers will also receive tailored support from their supervising social worker and should receive at least the National Minimum Allowance to cover the costs of caring for their foster child.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/120003>

Legal Aid Scheme: Asylum

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) [117864] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what assessment he has made of the availability of qualified legal aid solicitors for asylum seekers.

Reply from Mike Freer: The Government is committed to ensuring that those seeking asylum in this country have access to publicly funded legal advice and representation. In 2021-22, we received over 35,000 applications for legal aid for asylum cases, spending over £32 million.

Access to legal aid is a key part of a fair immigration system, which is why we are spending around £8m expanding access to legal aid, helping victims of modern slavery, individuals prioritised for removal and individuals appealing an age assessment decision.

The Legal Aid Agency keeps market capacity under constant review and takes

immediate action when gaps appear.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117864>

UK Parliament, House of Lords Oral Answers

Asylum Seekers

Lord Dubs (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government how many asylum seekers are awaiting a decision about their status; and in the last 12 months, (1) how many have been granted asylum, and (2) how many have been removed from the country. ...

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): My Lords, the latest immigration statistics published by the Home Office show that 143,377 people were waiting for an initial decision on their asylum claim as of September 2022, and that 15,987 people were granted asylum or other leave in the year ending September 2022. Of the 11,974 enforced or voluntary returns, there were 774 enforced or voluntary asylum-related returns in the year ending June 2022.

Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Labour): In last month's debate in the name of the most reverend Primate the Archbishop of Canterbury, my noble friend Lord Dubs made a very moving speech, where he said: "The refugee issue is testing our humanitarian principles to the ultimate. Our response will determine what sort of country ... we want to be ... but particularly how we value our fellow human beings who have suffered greatly from ... wars and conflicts."—[[Official Report, 9/12/22; col. 378.](#)]

Given the lamentable performance of the Minister's department, as we have heard from those figures just now, and the intemperate language used by the Home Secretary when she described asylum seekers as invaders, does he think this Government meet my noble friend's humanitarian test?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Yes, I do. The Prime Minister was clear in his remarks on 13 December that it is a key priority of the Government to address the unlawful crossings of the channel, to tackle illegal migration and to ease pressure on the asylum system. As the noble Lord knows, we will achieve that by doubling the number of caseworkers to help to clear the asylum backlog by the end of 2023, we will re-engineer the end-to-end process by reducing paperwork and interviews, and we will allocate dedicated resources to different nationalities in the asylum backlog.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, in speaking just before Christmas to the Justice and Home Affairs Committee of your Lordships' House, which I am lucky enough to chair, the Home Secretary said that guidance for caseworkers was to be made shorter and easier to use. Can the Minister reassure the House that the Home Office is consulting experienced counsellors and therapists in the redesign so that the individual circumstances and experiences of each applicant can be properly assessed?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Yes. Any such revised guidance will take into account input from a whole range of stakeholders, no doubt including those of the type mentioned by the noble Baroness.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Lord Browne of Ladyton (Labour): My Lords, I know from my own experience when I was Minister for Immigration that when backlogs are large it is imperative to look after the most vulnerable people in custody. Why then did the Home Secretary end the system of annual investigations into the treatment of vulnerable adult detainees? Is the detention system working so well now that these investigations are no longer necessary, or are there some other protections for those people to ensure that the welfare of vulnerable adult detainees has not been compromised?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Certainly the inspection of detention

facilities will continue. I am not aware of any change in policy in relation to the particular category of detainees that the noble Lord mentioned, but I will make inquiries in the department and write to him on that.

Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Crossbench): My Lords, would the Minister tell the House what provision in the refugee convention, of which we are a party, permits us to refuse to even consider the asylum request of someone who arrives, irrespective of how they arrive?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As the noble Lord will be aware, in the Rwanda decision, the High Court considered the application of Article 31 of the refugee convention. I commend the High Court's reasoning to the noble Lord in answer to his question. ...

Baroness McIntosh of Hudnall (Labour): My Lords, in his reply to the noble Lord, Lord Hannay, the Minister referred to a judgment which no doubt is available for anyone to read. However, for the benefit of the House, would he be prepared to summarise it? That would give an answer to the noble Lord's question: what, in particular, allows the Government to discriminate between asylum seekers who arrive by one method and those who arrive by another?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The 1951 convention describes the categories of people who might seek protection from their native country, and, as a result, they are entitled to make a claim for asylum. There is nothing in the text of the convention which limits the receiving nation state's obligation to consider applications from various classes of nations. That is why we have international agreements; for example, when we were members of the European Union, there was an agreement that other European Union member nations were not able to lodge asylum claims within the United Kingdom.

Lord Kerr of Kinlochard (Crossbench): Would the Minister agree that it would be better if those waiting in that internal queue were able to work—better for them, the Exchequer and the country?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I am afraid that I must disagree with the noble Lord. It is clear that one of the major pull factors for people crossing the channel is that they hope to work in Britain. Legally allowing people to work would increase the pull factors for them to embark on dangerous and illegal journeys across the channel.

Lord Coaker (Labour): My Lords, time after time, we hear the Minister try to explain away the chaos of the Government's asylum policy. Time after time, new legislation is announced, chasing headlines. Time after time, the Chamber hears the appalling asylum case figures, with the shocking human consequences, as we have just heard again today. I will ask about one example: when will the doubling of asylum caseworkers to 2,500, as briefed by the Prime Minister last year, happen? Yesterday, the Minister could not confirm that the recruitment of those caseworkers had even started. It is a shambles, is it not?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The Home Office currently employs about 1,280 asylum decision-makers and will double the number of caseworkers to help to clear the asylum backlog by the end of next year. Recruitment and retention strategies are in place, with the aim of increasing staffing, reducing the output in the number of cases awaiting a decision and increasing outputs of decisions. We have increased the number of asylum caseworkers by 112%, from 597 staff in 2019-20. We will recruit more decision-makers, which will take our expected number of decision-makers to 1,800 by summer 2023 and to 2,500 by September. We have implemented a recruitment and retention allowance, which has reduced decision-maker attrition rates by 30%, helping us to retain experienced asylum decision-makers.

Lord Purvis of Tweed (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, at the end of October, 222 unaccompanied minors were unaccounted for in the system. In November, I asked the Minister what the figure was, and he said that he did not know. The Government have

presumably made major progress on unaccompanied children in the system, so how many are currently unaccounted for?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: As the noble Lord knows, local authorities have a statutory duty to protect all children, regardless of where they go missing from. On the concerning occasion when a child goes missing, those local authorities work closely with local agencies, including the police, urgently to establish their whereabouts and ensure that they are safe. Ending the use of hotels for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is an absolute priority for the Government. We will have robust safe-guarding procedures in place to ensure that all children in our care are as safe and supported as possible, as we seek urgent placements with a local authority.

To read this long question and answer session in full see

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-17/debates/57C30BBC-D303-411B-9D34-224382099CE8/AsylumSeekers>

The Prime Minister's remarks referred to above can be read at

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

The Home Secretary's comments referred to above can be read in response to Q4 at

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12489/html/>

The High Court judgement referred to above can be read at

<https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/AAA-v-SSHD-Rwanda-judgment.pdf>

Asylum Seekers: Local Authority Accommodation

Lord Sahota (Labour): To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the statement by the Prime Minister on Illegal Immigration on 13 December 2022, what steps they plan to take, if any, against those local authorities that do not take their fair share of asylum seekers in the private rental sector.

Reply from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Lord Murray of Blidworth): My Lords, all local authority areas in England, Scotland and Wales became asylum dispersal areas in April 2022, ensuring that pressures are equitably shared across the United Kingdom. All local authorities and strategic migration partnerships have submitted plans indicating intent to participate. Where local authorities are not delivering on plans, accommodation providers will be instructed to procure outside the plans and recommendations. We remain hopeful, however, that, through co-operation, co-production and co-design, alignment can be reached.

Lord Sahota: I thank the Minister for his Answer. However, some local authorities take more than their fair share of asylum seekers. My question is simply: can they expect some kind of financial reward for that? Some take more than others.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Certainly, when a refugee is assigned to a local authority area, there is a payment to the local authority in relation to that person to defray the costs of the accommodation for that individual.

Lord Kamall (Conservative): My Lords, the Question was about local authorities that do not take their fair share. Will my noble friend the Minister enlighten the House on whether he or his department are aware of any local authorities that have refused to take their fair share of asylum seekers?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Since April 2022, when the policy was changed, the department has not noticed that any particular authorities have been backward in coming forward in relation to assisting the department in this regard.

Baroness Lister of Burtersett (Labour): In view of the recent report on PoliticsHome of an asylum-seeking family left in mould-ridden accommodation, and the claim of a local

charity that the standard of Home Office asylum-seeker accommodation is often “squalid and unsanitary”, what steps are the Government taking to ensure that all such accommodation meets basic standards of decency?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I thank the noble Baroness for her question. Obviously, asylum seekers who would otherwise be destitute can obtain support, including accommodation, under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. There is a requirement under Section 96 of that Act that such accommodation should be adequate to the needs of the supported person and their dependants. The courts held in the case of *AMA v the Secretary of State* last year that a hotel room met the threshold of adequacy, despite the nature of the accommodation being far from ideal. Clearly, it is important that all accommodation provided is adequate and meets the needs of those within it. The department is responsive to complaints of inadequate accommodation; it is a priority for the department to ensure that accommodation is appropriately delivered to those who need it.

Lord Cormack (Conservative): My Lords, perhaps I might raise a point that I have raised before with my noble friend. Have serious discussions been entered into with our French friends and neighbours to try to ensure that adequate, sanitary—not luxurious—accommodation is built to a considerable extent on the other side of the channel, and that British officials can process applications there?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Clearly, the arrangements made for asylum seekers within the French Republic are a matter for the French Government. I understand that arrangements are made in accordance with their obligations under the refugee convention. There is no express intention by the French Government to ask us to assist with their discharge of those duties.

Baroness Pinnock (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, the Minister said in response to an earlier question that accommodation should be adequate and of a reasonable quality for asylum seekers. Yet we know, from report after report, that that is not the case. Asylum seekers are being housed in very low-quality housing. There was a report in *Inside Housing* only last week that described a mother from Nigeria in one-room accommodation with no lock on the door. These are vulnerable people. Asylum accommodation was privatised in 2012. Will the Government change that, so that public sector providers can provide adequate and good accommodation?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Clearly, the coalition policy to allow private providers of accommodation to perform that service is working well, and the Government have no intention of revising that policy.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede (Labour): My Lords, at the end of last year, the Prime Minister pledged more staff to clear the asylum backlog, when it emerged that the Home Office had failed to process 98% of channel crossing cases in the last 12 months. Can the Minister confirm whether recruitment has begun?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Clearly, there was such a commitment. I do not wish to reveal any great secrets, but it is a very high priority for the department and I anticipate that good news will be making its way to this House shortly.

Baroness Berridge (Conservative): My Lords, I am grateful to my noble friend for outlining that distribution is now across all local authority areas. However, for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, it is not just a question of accommodation; there are other support services that they need. So could he confirm whether unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are covered in this national distribution plan?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Clearly, different provisions apply in relation to unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and particular care is taken. Obviously, once a child is allocated to a local authority, the obligations of looking after the child become those of the authority. Clearly, these children are provided

with everything that an unaccompanied child would need.

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top (Labour): My Lords, I wonder whether the Minister may come to regret his statement that all is working well with accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees. Too many of the stories, even around Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, give us shame: there are people on the streets, and people in totally inadequate accommodation, with their children not able to access school and now requiring mental health treatment. Much of this is because of the poor quality of the accommodation that is available to them. I do not know what the word is—perhaps “compassion”. A little more compassion, and being more in touch with reality, would mean that, at the end of the day, we at least gave human conditions to the humans who want to come and live here.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I disagree with the noble Baroness that there is any want of compassion. Clearly, the asylum system in this country is struggling with very large numbers of people who have come here. We presently have 107,700 people in asylum support, and 50,800 of them are currently awaiting dispersal and are housed in initial and contingency accommodation. That includes some 373 hotels, and some of them are of a very high standard. I simply do not accept the characterisation that the noble Baroness suggested.

Lord Watts (Labour): My Lords, the Minister says that he is not aware of any local authority that has failed in its duty to provide accommodation. Will he produce a league table with all the local authorities, so that this House and everyone outside it can understand what the real position is, rather than what the Minister claims?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: I will consider that proposition, take it back to the department and write to the noble Lord.

Baroness Hamwee (Liberal Democrat): My Lords, do the Government recognise the connection between this issue and the points raised by the Question asked by the noble Lord, Lord Young of Cookham? There is a shortage of private rental accommodation, and that goes back to the shortage of housing. The two need to be thought about together, and steps taken that many noble Lords are suggesting.

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: The noble Baroness is of course correct.

Baroness Blower (Labour): My Lords, the Minister’s response to my noble friend’s question did not actually mention mould. He mentioned adequacy and quoted the law. However, does he accept—and will he say from the Dispatch Box—that it would never be acceptable for any asylum seeker to be housed in any accommodation in which there was black mould growing, particularly in the light of what we learned recently about the death of a young child in such accommodation?

Reply from Lord Murray of Blidworth: Clearly, the adequacy of accommodation is clearly a matter of fact and assessment for each accommodation—so that is the answer I give to that question.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-16/debates/1E3C2700-9AE6-46BA-95EC-BF2898685F52/AsylumSeekersLocalAuthorityAccommodation>

The Prime Minister’s statement referred to above can be read at

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

The judgement referred to above is not currently available online.

UK Parliament Human Rights (Joint Committee)

Evidence sessions: Human rights of asylum seekers in the UK

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12517/html/>

and

<https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/12518/html/>

Press Releases

Welsh Government Statement: Windrush 2023

<https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-windrush-2023>

Local communities to get £750,000 for Windrush 75th anniversary celebrations

[England and Wales only]

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-communities-to-get-750000-for-windrush-celebrations>

Equality and Human Rights Commission response following High Court judgment on AAA and others -v- Secretary of State for the Home Department

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-work/news/ehrc-response-following-high-court-judgment-aaa-and-others-v-secretary-state-home>

New Publications

Homes for Ukraine: beyond six months

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9709/CBP-9709.pdf>

Guidance: When you have sponsored for 6 months: Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/when-you-have-sponsored-for-6-months-homes-for-ukraine>

Guidance: Ending your hosting arrangements, and helping your guest with their next steps: Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ending-your-hosting-arrangements-and-helping-your-guest-with-their-next-steps-homes-for-ukraine>

Guidance: Finding a new host (rematching): Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/finding-a-new-host-rematching-homes-for-ukraine>

Guidance: If you're worried about a guest or their children: Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/if-youre-worried-about-a-guest-or-their-children-homes-for-ukraine>

Guidance: Sponsors of children travelling to, or staying in the UK without their parent or legal guardian: Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sponsors-of-children-travelling-to-or-staying-in-the-uk-without-their-parent-or-legal-guardian-homes-for-ukraine>

Guidance: Meet your guests and help them settle in: Homes for Ukraine

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/meet-your-guests-and-help-them-settle-in-homes-for-ukraine>

Weekly number of migrants detected in small boats - 9 January to 15 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-9-january-to-15-january-2023>

News

Rwanda asylum policy: Migrants granted right to challenge

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-64294461>

Judges allow partial appeal against Rwanda asylum seeker ruling

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/16/rwanda-asylum-seeker-policy-can-be-appealed-says-high-court-home-office>

Ministers want to ban ‘positive’ videos of Channel crossings – are they afraid of scrutiny?

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jan/19/ministers-ban-videos-channel-crossings-small-boats>

Urgent call for Rishi Sunak to fulfil promise to reunite Afghan families

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/urgent-call-for-rishi-sunak-to-fulfil-promise-to-reunite-afghan-families/>

Tens of thousands of Afghans waiting to hear if they will be relocated to UK - 17 months after Taliban takeover

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/afghanistan-refugees-arap-taliban-kabul-b2264614.html>

Ukrainian families vent frustration at struggle to find own homes in UK

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/21/ukrainian-families-vent-frustration-at-struggle-to-find-own-homes-in-uk>

Ukraine refugees consider returning home because of NHS failures

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ukraine-refugees-consider-returning-home-because-of-nhs-failures-wngwjfzh2>

Painful questions if a child refugee comes to think of Britain as home

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/painful-questions-if-a-child-refugee-comes-to-think-of-britain-as-home-zpjpl8r0w>

I confronted Suella Braverman because as a Holocaust survivor I know what words of hate can do

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jan/17/confronted-suella-braverman-holocaust-survivor-refugees-home-secretary>

Suella Braverman tells Holocaust survivor she ‘won’t apologise’ for ‘invasion’ comments

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/suella-braverman-holocaust-survivor-apology-nazis-b2262355.html>

Use words carefully warns Jenrick after Braverman criticised by Holocaust survivor

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64316407>

Illegal migrants crackdown will block bank accounts, rented homes and driving licences

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/01/22/illegal-migrants-crackdown-will-block-bank-accounts-rented-homes/>

Scores of child asylum seekers kidnapped from Home Office hotel

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/21/revealed-scores-of-child-asylum-seekers-kidnapped-from-home-office-hotel>

‘They just vanish’: whistleblowers met by wall of complacency over missing migrant children

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/21/they-just-vanish-whistleblowers-met-by-wall-of-complacency-over-missing-migrant-children>

Robert Jenrick: We're going to return as many Albanian migrants as possible
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/01/18/robert-jenrick-going-return-many-albanian-migrants-possible/>

People-smuggling boss who fled UK is arrested
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-64358410>

Head of Kurdish people-smuggling ring arrested after going on the run
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/21/head-of-kurdish-people-smuggling-ring-arrested-after-going-on-the-run>

TOP

Community Relations

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answer

Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month

Catherine West (Labour) [122193] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what plans she has to mark Gypsy, Roma, Traveller history month in schools in June 2023.

Reply from Nick Gibb: Schools are free to decide which events to commemorate and what activities to put in place to support pupils' understanding of significant events. This includes particular months or days dedicated to specific communities, such as the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month in June.

Schools also have the opportunity to promote events through the curriculum, for example through subjects such as history and citizenship. Resources are available from experts within the communities themselves, and from bodies such as the Historical Association. Within citizenship teaching at Key Stage 4, pupils should be taught the diverse national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom, and the need for mutual respect and understanding of all.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-12/122193>

New Publication

Ethnic diversification and neighbourhood mixing: A rapid response analysis of the 2021 Census of England and Wales

<https://rgs-ibg.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/geoj.12507>

News

Ethnic segregation in England and Wales at all-time low - study

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64263443>

Ethnic segregation in England and Wales on the wane, research finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/17/ethnic-segregation-in-england-and-wales-on-the-wane-research-finds>

TOP

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Further Education: Ethnic Groups

Toby Perkins (Labour) [119945] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, how many (a) principals and CEOs and (b) senior managers were black, Asian and minority ethnic in each FE college in England on 1 January 2023.

Reply from Robert Halfon: The most recent information held by the department is based on the 2018 College Staff survey. The survey found that approximately 9% of principals and CEOs, and 4% of leaders (including senior, middle and junior managers, and governors) are from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Updated data from the current Further Education Workforce Data Collection will be available later this year.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/119945>

Further Education: Ethnic Groups

Toby Perkins (Labour) [119946] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what proportion of students doing (a) level 1, (b) level 2, (c) level 3 and (d) foundation level courses were black, Asian and minority ethnic in each college in England on 1 January 2023.

Reply from Robert Halfon: The table below shows the proportion of participating further education and skills learners over the age of 19 in the 2021/22 academic year that declared themselves from an ethnic minority (excluding white minorities). Adult (19+) further education and skills learners in the 2021/22 academic year:

	Proportion declaring themselves from an ethnic minority group (excluding white minorities)
Total Participation	26.20%
Participation Below level 2 (excluding basic skills)	40.70%
Participation Basic skills	43.80%
Participation Level 2	23.70%
Participation Level 3	18.50%
Participation Level 4+	16.70%
Participation No level assigned	27.10%

Note: Instances where a learner's ethnicity is not declared are excluded from the calculation.

The department does not have this information broken down further by provider. For provider breakdowns by ethnicity we publish the number of learners over the age of 19 that declare themselves from an ethnic minority group at each provider for each provision type on page 12 of our data visualisation tool, which can be accessed here:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaNzYwNTcxNDItNjgyNS00ODMyLTgwNGUtMjMjFjODkyMjE4OWMyIiwidCI6ImZhZDI3N2M5LWw2MGEtNGRhMS1iNWYzLWlzYjhiMzRhODJmOSIsImMiOjIh9>

The department published the number of adult learners over the age of 19 that declare themselves from an ethnic minority group by level, sector subject area and local authority delivery scheme for both apprenticeships, education and training, and community learning that can be created in the following tables:

- Adult (19+) Education and training participation:

<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/5afef539-b275-43b9-b0cd-988844b9595e>

- Community learning participation:
<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/e5b72c7b-c3f7-4fc0-885f-9643716363e1>
- Apprenticeship starts (all age):
<https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/data-tables/fast-track/bfa16360-9a7d-4381-b27b-59dc7326c013>

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/119946>

Treatment of, and Outcomes For, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Individuals in the Criminal Justice System Independent Review

Afzal Khan (Labour) [120185] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, pursuant to the Answer of 29 November 2022 to Question 95928 on the Lammy Review, how many of the accepted recommendations of that review have been implemented in full.

Reply from Mike Freer: We welcomed the light shone on the criminal justice system by David Lammy's 2017 Review, and we accepted 33 of the 35 recommendations from it, rejecting only the 2 that were matters for the independent judiciary and therefore the Government is not able to take a position on. Since the Government published the response, we have been clear that where a recommendation could not be implemented in full or exactly as set out, we would take alternative action to achieve the same aim. As such, we committed to actions against each of the 33 accepted recommendations.

Of those actions we committed to in 2017, almost all have been completed, with work done against each of the accepted 33 recommendations. There are 4 recommendations with actions outstanding from our original commitments.

Whilst most of the actions from 2017 have been completed, we recognise these actions were a start, not a complete solution. As such, we are going beyond just these commitments, and the recommendations, in our work to address race inequalities in the criminal justice system, such as the work outlined in the Inclusive Britain Strategy.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/120185>

The question referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-24/95928>

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

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-11-24/95928>

The Government response to the Lammy Review, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/669206/Response_to_David_Lammy_Review.pdf

The Inclusive Britain Strategy, referred to above, can be read at

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

Prisons: Ethnic Groups

Stephen Morgan (Labour) [117917] To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what steps he is taking to improve prison safety for people from ethnic minorities.

Reply from Damian Hinds: Ensuring the safety of every member of staff and prisoner is a key priority and we set out ambitious plans to strengthen our approach to safety in the [Prisons Strategy White Paper](#).

We are committed to understanding and tackling disparities that emerge in the

treatment of and outcomes for ethnic minority prisoners. This is why in December 2020 we launched the [Race Action Programme](#), which aims to increase the diversity of our workforce and address the risk of bias in our policies.

On 13 December HM Inspectorate of Prisons published a thematic report on the experiences of adult black male prisoners and black prison staff. A number of key issues were identified, and the department is committed to ensuring that the necessary improvements are made to drive forward positive change. As an immediate response to the report the department is establishing an expert group of HMPPS leaders to ensure engagement from all stakeholders and develop priorities nationally and regionally. Building on the work already in place to improve outcomes, a comprehensive action plan will be formed to provide robust short-, medium- and longer-term responses to the findings with full consultation with leaders, staff and prisoners to ensure their voices are heard as we decide on next steps.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117917>

The thematic report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/12/The-experiences-of-adult-black-male-prisoners-and-black-prison-staff-web-2022-1.pdf>

Pupils: Travellers

Catherine West (Labour) [122192] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, with reference to the report by the Traveller Movement entitled Exploring why Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children experience the school to prison pipeline and how it can be interrupted, published in August 2022, whether she will implement that report's recommendations.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: 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 2024.

The report recommended that the department must ensure a race equality and 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 2010.

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 (SEND) and Alternative Provision (AP) 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. 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/2023-01-12/122192>

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

Information about the Public Sector Equality Duty for schools, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty-guidance-schools>

The Equality Act 2010 guidance for schools, referred to above, can be read at

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

The Green Paper referred to above can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1063620/SEND_review_right_support_right_place_right_time_accessible.pdf

The guidance on Behaviour in schools, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101597/Behaviour_in_schools_guidance_sept_22.pdf

and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/behaviour-in-schools--2/further-guidance-and-resources-for-supporting-behaviour-in-schools>

The guidance on Suspension and Permanent Exclusion, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101498/Suspension_and_Permanent_Exclusion_from_maintained_schools_academies_and_pupil_referral_units_in_England_including_pupil_movement.pdf

New Publication

Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill Report

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/33599/documents/182904/default/>

News

Black babies stillborn at almost twice rate of white babies, ONS figures show

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/jan/19/black-babies-stillborn-almost-twice-rate-white-babies-ons-england-wales>

Mental health racial bias in England and Wales is 'inexcusable', says report

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/jan/19/mental-health-racial-bias-in-england-and-wales-is-inexcusable-says-report>

Mental Health Bill must tackle 'unacceptable' racial inequalities, MPs and peers warn

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/mental-health-bill-race-inequality-b2264381.html>

The Apprentice 2023 receptionist on why representation matters

<https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-64323623>

TOP

Racism, Religious Hatred, and Discrimination

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

Police Scotland (Racial Profiling)

Maggie Chapman (Green) [S6O-01803] To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to address any racial profiling practices in Police Scotland.

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Veterans (Keith Brown): Police Scotland should operate at all times with fairness, integrity and respect, and irrespective of ethnicity. The chief constable has made clear his commitment that Police Scotland must become an actively anti-racist organisation.

In respect of stop and search, the code of practice in Scotland was developed by an independent advisory group and was approved by the Scottish Parliament. That code of practice, which came into force on 11 May 2017 and was reviewed in 2019, sets out clearly the rules for when and how the police in Scotland can use stop and search.

Maggie Chapman: Figures that were released in December show that people from minority ethnic backgrounds were up to 20 times more likely to be stopped by Police Scotland under counterterrorism powers. However, evidence tells us that far-right domestic terrorism is by far the greatest current threat and that racial profiling is both unacceptable and counterproductive. Does the cabinet secretary think that a reassessment of what a terrorism threat looks like is urgently needed in a Scotland that welcomes refugees and other immigrants? What actions does he consider are necessary

to ensure that we tackle racist police practices?

Reply from Keith Brown: I want to be clear that Scotland welcomes people from all over the world. Over successive generations, migrants and refugees have greatly contributed to our society and brought diversity to our communities. Racism, in any form, is abhorrent and wholly unacceptable.

Counterterrorism is a reserved matter and is delivered through the United Kingdom Government CONTEST strategy. The Scottish Government is engaging actively with the Home Office to ensure that the recently announced review of the strategy appropriately reflects the situation and takes into consideration the terrorism threat throughout the UK, including in Scotland.

The operation of counterterrorism in Scotland is a matter for Police Scotland, taking account of the specific code of practice for counterterrorism stop and search at the border, as issued by the Home Office.

I agree with Maggie Chapman that, in relation to the threat of terrorism and the assessment of it, Police Scotland holds the biggest piece of the jigsaw. It looks regularly at the issues that Maggie Chapman has raised.

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14099&i=127702#ScotParlOR>

The code of practice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/code-practice-exercise-constables-power-stop-search-person-scotland/>

The review of the code of practice referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/twelve-month-review-code-practice-stop-search-scotland-independent-advisory-group-stop-search/>

Information about the stop and search statistics referred to above can be read at

<https://libertyinvestigates.org.uk/articles/police-scotland-accused-of-racial-profiling-over-counter-terror-stops/>

UK Parliament, House of Commons Written Answers

Pupils: Travellers

Catherine West (Labour) [122191] To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what steps she is taking to tackle racism towards Gypsy, Roma, Traveller communities in schools.

Reply from Claire Coutinho: All children and young people must be treated fairly. There is no place for hate or prejudice in our education system.

Schools play an important role in preparing pupils for later life. This involves supporting pupils to understand the society in which they grow up and teaching about respect for other people and for difference. Under the Equality Act 2010, schools must not discriminate against a pupil in a number of respects because of a characteristic protected by the Act, including race. The department has published guidance for schools on how to comply with their duties under the Equality Act 2010, and it is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/equality-act-2010-advice-for-schools>

The department is also providing over £2 million of funding, between August 2021 and March 2023, to five anti-bullying organisations to support schools to tackle bullying. We have deliberately focused this grant programme on preventing and tackling bullying of pupils with protected characteristics. The training and resources provided cover hate-based bullying, including resources specifically relating to the bullying of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-12/122191>

Antisemitism

Diana Johnson (Labour) [117512] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what assessment he has made of the implications for his Department's policies of instances of antisemitism towards the Jewish community in the last 12 months.

Reply from Lee Rowley: Antisemitism has absolutely no place in our society, which is why we welcome the recent report from Lord Mann, the Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism. We are already taking a strong lead in antisemitism in all its forms. The Home Office is providing £14 million this year through the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant to provide protective security measures at Jewish schools, colleges, nurseries and synagogues; the Department is providing £500,000 to the Holocaust Education Trust from 2020/21 to 2022/23 to deliver their Lessons from Auschwitz project, as an example. We will continue to work together with Lord Mann on this vital issue.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117512>

The report referred to above can be read at

<https://antisemitism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/PDF-Antisemitism-Report-2023.pdf>

Information about the Jewish Community Protective Security Grant, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/protective-security-grant-funding-for-jewish-institutions-to-continue>

Antisemitism: Internet

Chi Onwurah (Labour) [120114] To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps her Department is taking with stakeholders to help take anti-Semitic conspiracy theories (a) on social media and (b) elsewhere online.

Paul Scully: The Online Safety Bill will apply to all companies that allow users to post content online or to interact with each other, as well as search services.

All companies in scope of the Bill will have duties to proactively tackle priority illegal content, including illegal anti-semitic content, and will need to prevent their services from being used to facilitate or commission these offences. They will also be required to swiftly remove other illegal content where there is a victim and it is flagged to them. In addition, Category 1 Service, which will include the largest social media companies, will need to ensure they properly enforce their terms of service, and provide adult users with tools to help them avoid content that is abusive or incites hatred on the basis of religion.

This means that the Bill will offer adult users a 'triple shield' of protection against anti-semitic content. Firstly, regulated services will need to take robust action against such content where it meets a criminal threshold. Secondly, Category 1 services will be required to take down anti-semitic content that is in breach of their own terms of service, and third, they must provide adults with greater controls over content they may not wish to see, reducing the risk that they encounter anti-semitic content.

Finally, the Online Safety Bill will require all services which are likely to be accessed by children to provide safety measures for child users. Those safety measures will need to protect children from inappropriate and harmful content and activity, including anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-10/120114>

Hinduism: Hate Crime

Andrew Rosindell (Conservative) [117491] To ask the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, what steps he is taking to help protect Hindu communities from (a) religious- and (b) racially-motivated hate crime.

Reply from Lee Rowley: There is no place in our country for hatred towards Hindus in this area. We have some of the strongest legislation in the world which aims to protect Hindus from both racially and religiously motivated crime. We encourage those who have experienced hatred to come forward to the Police or to report to the Police online portal True Vision. The Home Office's Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme has also provided physical security protection measures to places of worship across England and Wales that are particularly vulnerable to religiously motivated hate crime, including 26 Hindu temples.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-01-06/117491>

The True Vision portal referred to above can be read at

<https://www.report-it.org.uk/>

Information about the Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme>

New Publications

Campus Antisemitism in Britain 2020-2022

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/4/a/Campus%20Antisemitism%202020-2022.pdf>

Over-policed and under-protected: the road to Safer Schools

https://assets.website-files.com/61488f992b58e687f1108c7c/63c027251c4ddb3581daa9fb_Safer%20Schools%20Officers%20Briefing%20-%20FINAL.pdf

News

CST report shows 22% increase in campus antisemitism

<https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2023/01/19/cst-report-shows-22-increase-in-campus-antisemitism>

Rise in number of antisemitic incidents at universities reported to charity

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/jewish-community-security-trust-national-union-of-students-antisemitism-british-b2264912.html>

Jewish student attacked with a bat as anti-Semitism rises in universities

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/01/19/jewish-student-attacked-bat-anti-semitism-rises-universities/>

Jews face real racism, but campaigners are blind to it

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/01/15/jews-face-real-racism-campaigners-blind/>

Antisemitic attacks on the rise at British universities

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/antisemitic-attacks-on-the-rise-at-british-universities-755cdjmln>

Billboard ad campaign launched to tackle antisemitism

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/jewish-billboard-antisemitism-london-b2263842.html>

Over-policed and under-protected

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/blog/overpoliced-and-underprotected>

Black Boy Lane renamed due to racial connotations
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-64354190>

John Yems: Anger over calling manager 'not conscious racist'
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64332290>

Arsenal launch investigation after two antisemitic incidents following derby win over Tottenham
<https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/arsenal-premier-league-aaron-ramsdale-islington-jewish-b2264715.html>

Arsenal investigating two 'disturbing' antisemitic incidents around derby
<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2023/jan/18/arsenal-investigating-two-disturbing-anti-semitic-incidents-after-derby>

Jewish Arsenal fan threatened in pub after north London derby
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/jewish-arsenal-fan-abused-antisemitism-football-north-london-derby-2023-krrbt7ft7>

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Other Scottish Parliament and Government

News

What's happening with Scotland's gender reforms - in 70 seconds
<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-scotland-64326534>

Section 35 - The wire in devolution never before tripped
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64309606>

The legal arguments over Holyrood's gender reforms
<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-64302496>

UK government to block Scottish gender bill
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-64288757>

UK Government confirms move to block Scotland's gender reforms
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23254889.uk-government-confirms-move-block-scotlands-gender-reforms/>

UK Government to block Scottish Parliament's Gender Recognition Reform over 'significant impact' on 'GB-wide equalities'
<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/uk-government-to-block-scottish-parliaments-gender-recognition-reform-over-significant-impact-on-gb-wide-equalities-3989326>

Nicola Sturgeon confirms judicial review bid over gender reforms veto
<https://www.heraldscotland.com/politics/23257172.nicola-sturgeon-confirms-judicial-review-bid-gender-reforms-veto/>

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Other UK Parliament and Government

Press Release

Prime Minister's Lunar New Year message (video)

<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1617101432213147648>

TOP

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/>

News

£600 energy voucher: People redeeming first vouchers at post offices

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-64269527>

Tory think tank Bright Blue calls for 'minimum income'

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-64278651>

'Perfect storm' could see voluntary groups shut

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-64319160>

Cost of living: The Scots struggling to support family overseas

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-64292708>

How increases in housing costs impact households

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/howincreasesinhousingcostsimpacthouseholds/2023-01-09>

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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>

Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland: Statement from Alister Jack

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill-statement-from-alister-jack>

UK Government Equality Hub, Government Equalities Office, and Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland: Policy statement of reasons on the decision to use section 35 powers with respect to the Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1129495/policy-statement-section-35-powers-Gender-Recognition-Reform-Scotland-Bill.pdf

UK Parliament, House of Commons: Scotland Act 1998: Section 35 Power

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-17/debates/48377387-3F2A-4C73-BF7F-A02065A03FF9/ScotlandAct1998Section35Power>

UK Parliament, House of Commons: Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill: Section 35 Power

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-17/debates/C38A813A-B5E9-41E5-97AC-FAF39F161706/GenderRecognitionReform\(Scotland\)BillSection35Power](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-17/debates/C38A813A-B5E9-41E5-97AC-FAF39F161706/GenderRecognitionReform(Scotland)BillSection35Power)

UK Parliament, House of Lords: Scotland Act 1998: Section 35 Power

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-18/debates/27EECCF9-B604-4C5B-8166-DDE2DD23AB0C/ScotlandAct1998Section35Power>

Scottish Parliament Oral Answers

<https://archive2021.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=14093&i=127644#ScotParlOR>

Letter from the Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government to the Secretary of State for Scotland

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/gender-recognition-letter-to-the-secretary-of-state-for-scotland/>

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_day_rep_0117.pdf

Ministerial Statement

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-17/debates/23011748000005/OnlineSafetyBill>

Report Stage, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-17/debates/9E767367-16E1-4A11-9766-6A4EDFEC4F1C/OnlineSafetyBill>

Third Reading, House of Commons

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-01-17/debates/9E767367-16E1-4A11-9766-6A4EDFEC4F1C/OnlineSafetyBill#contribution-55CF7D28-715E-463C-A1AA-415EEC4206B7>

First Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2023-01-18/debates/D88FDB02-87FA-4655-8284-493E9BF61E85/OnlineSafetyBill>

Bill as brought to the House of Lords

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49376/documents/2734>

Refugees (Family Reunion) Bill

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

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Consultations

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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/>

**** Equality and Human Rights Commission Statutory Review** (closing date 1 March 2023)

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-statutory-review>

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/>

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Job Opportunities

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

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Funding Opportunities

** new or updated this week

**** closes this week!**

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!**

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>

**** this week!**

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.

Introduction to Racial Literacy

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>

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/3cwpzvwv>

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Useful Links

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services

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

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

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SCoJeC
Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing, connecting, and supporting Jewish people in Scotland



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

BEMIS
Empowering Scotland's Ethnic and
Cultural Minority Communities

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



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

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