

# Political Affairs Brief

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*

Scottish Council of Jewish Communities

SCoJeC

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## Home Affairs

### House of Lords Debate

#### Immigration

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101021-0001.htm#10102148000677>

*includes:*

col 936 **Lord Roberts of Llandudno:** ...Over the centuries the compassionate nations have understood their predicament and made them as welcome as they possibly can. Mind you, in some cases our response has been very hesitant and we have later looked back on it with perhaps a sense of shame. During the 1939-45 war, and in the years before, it took special pleading to allow in many of the people trying to escape from Hitler's Holocaust. One thinks of what happened with the kindertransport and one hopes we would not act in that way today. We ask: could we have done things differently? ... the noble Lord, Lord Rowlands ... in his book about that period, entitled *Something Must be Done*, says that most of the inward entrepreneurs to south Wales were of Jewish origin. No fewer than 48 of the 78 companies to establish themselves at Treforest were Jewish companies. One Cabinet paper of the late 1930s stated: "It would be in the public interest to try to secure for the country prominent Jews who were being expelled from Germany". ...

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201011/ldhansrd/text/101021-0002.htm>

### UK Parliamentary Questions

#### Food: Religion

**Jake Berry:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to ensure that religiously prepared meat served in restaurants is identified as such. [18557]

**Mr Paice:** I appreciate that this is an issue which people feel strongly about and we will be working with interested groups to find a way to address their concerns. People should know what they are buying when they are eating out, and I will be discussing with the food industry whether point of sale information can play a greater role in giving consumers a choice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmhansrd/cm101021/text/101021w0001.htm#10102151000010>

## Home Office

### Scrutiny of vetting and barring scheme gets underway

The system of checks that people working with children and vulnerable adults are required to undergo will be considered afresh in a radical examination of the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS).

The Government today outlined the terms of a thorough review of the VBS which will re-examine whether the scheme is the most appropriate mechanism to protect children and vulnerable people and, if so, how many roles should be covered by it.

In June the Home Secretary, Theresa May, made clear the Government's intention to bring the scheme back to common sense levels. This was in response to public concerns that in its current form the scheme was overly bureaucratic and burdensome. ...

Home Office Minister Lynne Featherstone said: ... 'We are also announcing a [review of the criminal records regime](#) which has developed piecemeal for years and is due for an overhaul to ensure that we strike a balance between protecting civil liberties and protecting the public.' The final recommendations for the scheme will be announced early in the New Year.

The [terms of reference](#) laid in Parliament today will set out how the review will consider the fundamental principles and objectives behind the vetting and barring regime, including:

- evaluating the scope of the scheme's coverage
- the most appropriate function, role and structures of any relevant safeguarding bodies and appropriate governance arrangements
- recommending what, if any, scheme is needed now; taking into account how to raise awareness and understanding of risk and responsibility for safeguarding in society more generally ...

Registration with the VBS was scheduled to begin in July this year for anyone starting a new job, or moving job who would be working with children or vulnerable adults, but this was halted after the Government announced its intention to fundamentally redraw the system. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/media-centre/press-releases/vetting-and-barring>

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## [Israel](#)

### United Nations

#### UN official alarmed by reports of renewed Israeli settlement construction

A senior United Nations official today voiced alarm over reports concerning new Israeli settlement housing units in the occupied Palestinian territory, warning that renewed settlement activity will only further undermine trust as direct Israeli-Palestinian talks have stalled.

Robert Serry, the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, stressed that renewed settlement construction – which is illegal under international law – runs counter to the international community's repeated appeals to the parties to create conditions conducive to negotiations. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=36529&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* New or updated

### UK Parliament

#### **Daylight Saving Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/daylightsaving.html>

#### **Face Coverings (Regulation) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/facecoveringsregulation.html>

#### **Fixed Term Parliaments Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/fixedtermparliaments.html>

#### **Identity Documents Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/identitydocuments.html>

#### **\*\* Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/parliamentaryvotingsystemandconstituencies.html>

Notice of amendments

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmbills/063/amend/pbc0632110a.733-739.html>

### Scottish Parliament

#### **Certification of Death Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/58-CertDeath/index.htm>

#### **End of Life Assistance Bill**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/bills/38-EndLifeAssist/index.htm>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Supreme Court

#### **Speech by Baroness Hale on the First Anniversary Seminar**

(30 September but only posted on the Supreme Court website today)

*includes:*

In July 2010, I was interviewed for the UKSC Blog ([www.UKSCblog.com](http://www.UKSCblog.com)). They wanted to know about the high points and the low points in our first year. So I asked that year's Judicial Assistants for their opinions. Ironically, the JFS case (*R (E) v Governing Body of JFS* [2009] UKSC 15, [2010] 2 WLR 153) featured in both:

- (a) the high point – interesting subject matter, a large and committed audience, nine fully engaged justices, excellent advocacy, and (in their view) the right result; but
- (b) an example of the low point - they thought that we really should have got our judgment-writing act together, yet here were nine judgments: the majority five (holding there was direct discrimination) delivered five full judgments reasoning through the law to exactly the same approach, although entering into the facts with varying emphases and degrees of detail; one minority two (holding there was indirect discrimination) delivered one full judgment and one short concurrence; the other minority two (holding the difference in treatment was not on grounds of

ethnic origin at all) delivered two fully reasoned, though quite short, judgments. ... What we would have done had we been split three, three, three on the result in *JFS*, who knows, but we would have had to do something.

[http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/speech\\_100930.pdf](http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/docs/speech_100930.pdf)

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## Consultations

\*\* new or updated

### **\*\* closes today**

#### **Guidance on Concessionary Schemes for Surface Water Drainage Charges**

*Applies in England only* (closes 22 October 2010)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/surface-charges/index.htm>

### **\*\* closes in 7 days**

#### **Consultation on the change to policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund**

(closes 29 October 2010)

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/consultations/7313.aspx>

#### **Equality Act 2010: The public sector Equality Duty: Promoting equality through transparency** (closing date 10 November 2010)

[http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461\\_GEO\\_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty\\_acc.pdf](http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/402461_GEO_EqualityAct2010ThePublicSectorEqualityDuty_acc.pdf)

#### **Certification of Death (Scotland) Bill** (closes 18 November 2010)

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/hs/inquiries/CertificationOfDeathBill/CallForEvidence.htm>

#### **Equality Duty: Detailed Proposals - Consultation on Public Sector Equality Duty Draft Regulations and Order (Scotland)** (closes 26 November 2010)

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/324431/0104438.pdf>

#### **Charity Commission: Proposed withdrawal of paper forms for Annual Returns, Registration applications, and forthcoming Charitable Incorporated Organisations** (closes 2 December 2010)

[http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About\\_us/About\\_the\\_Commission/ols\\_consultation\\_intro.aspx](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/About_us/About_the_Commission/ols_consultation_intro.aspx)

#### **Equality Act 2010 - Performance of the Public Sector Equality Duties in Wales**

(closes 17 December 2010)

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/equality/equalityact2010/?lang=en>

#### **Equality and Human Rights Commission: Draft Code of Practice on Further and Higher Education** (closes 31 December 2010)

[http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page\\_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen](http://live.ehrc.precedenthost.co.uk/cgi-bin/generate.pl?page_id= sx0666i4b&save=screen)

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