Home Affairs

House of Lords Oral Answer

Covid-19 Update

The Lord Bishop of Rochester: … Along with the Prime Minister’s Statement, it was announced that places of worship in England may remain open. I know that that has been welcomed by some faith communities, although others have already gone largely online. However, all such communities continue to engage with energy in acts of pastoral and community service. In the light of this, would the Leader of the House care to suggest what she and her colleagues would most wish to ask of our faith communities? What further might we offer? I believe that the noble Lord, Lord Boateng, may already have provided part of an answer.

Baroness Evans of Bowes Park: I thank the right reverend Prelate—and, of course, all the people from all the different faith communities who are working so hard to help with the difficult situation we find ourselves in. He is absolutely right: the noble Lord, Lord Boateng, raised some very important points, and we all need to come together to encourage people to take up the vaccine, and to deal with some of the myths and worries that people have. Trusted local community leaders such as faith leaders can really help to do that. We want to try to get everyone involved, so that we can get to the light at the end of the tunnel and, we hope, beat this thing once and for all.


Scottish Government

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Phase 3: Updated guidance for the safe use of places of worship
Israel

Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

Updated travel advice: Israel
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel

Updated travel advice: The Occupied Palestinian Territories
https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/the-occupied-palestinian-territories

Relevant Legislation  ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2622

Assisted Dying Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2592

Education (Assemblies) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579

Genocide Determination Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2621

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2608

Marriage (Approved Organisations) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2537

Marriage (Authorised Belief Organisations) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2795

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2584

Scottish Parliament

Domestic Abuse (Protection) (Scotland) Bill

Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill
Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

Consultations ** new or updated today

Introduction of a statutory opt-out system for organ donation for Northern Ireland
(closing date 19 February 2021)
https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/organ-donation

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19
(closing date not stated)
https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438