



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

Contents

Israel

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

The following three questions all received the same answer

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Robert Largan (Conservative) [132627] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on that country's covid-19 green passport initiative.

Julian Sturdy (Conservative) [133830] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, whether his Department has received guidance from (a) Israel or (b) other countries on improving the covid-19 vaccination rollout programme.

Christian Wakeford (Conservative) [134645] To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on that country's covid-19 vaccination strategy.

Nadhim Zahawi: The Department is regularly in discussions with other countries, including Israel, on a wide range of COVID-19 issues, to share learnings and collaborate internationally on the vaccination programme.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134627>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-06/133830>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-08/134645>

Palestinians: Textbooks

Andrew Bowie (Conservative) [143050] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2021 to Question 138478, whether he has made representations to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency on reports that educational material published by that UN agency during the covid-19 pandemic includes content promoting violence against Israel.

James Cleverly: The UK Government has zero-tolerance to incitement of violence, and we have raised this issue with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). We contacted the UNRWA directly regarding this issue and understand that as soon as the mistake was identified, the UNRWA took swift action to correct

the issue and conducted a thorough review to address any education materials in breach of its policies. We continue to monitor the situation to ensure self-learning materials remain in line with UN values.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143050>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138478>

Palestinians: Textbooks

Andrew Bowie (Conservative) [143051] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2021 to Question 138479, what assessment he has made of the long-term effect of extremist educational material reportedly taught by UK-funded teachers in the West Bank and Gaza on the prospects for a two-state solution.

James Cleverly: An independent review of the content in Palestinian textbooks led by our European partners is currently underway. The study is due to be completed in early 2021. We continue to press our European partners to complete the review as soon as possible. We will study its findings carefully.

We have a regular dialogue with the PA in which we raise concerns about allegations of inappropriate content in textbooks. We continue to urge the Israeli and Palestinian leadership to avoid engaging in, or encouraging, any type of action and language that makes it more difficult to achieve a negotiated solution to the conflict.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-25/143051>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-15/138479>

House of Lords Written Answers

Coronavirus: Vaccination

Lord Truscott (Independent Labour) [HL12458] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of data from Israel on the effectiveness of the single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, and of their decision to delay giving a second vaccine dose to people for up to 12 weeks.

Lord Bethell: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has reviewed headline data from Israel on vaccine effect, particularly the vaccine effectiveness estimate at day 14 after the first dose. The JCVI concluded that the results are preliminary and there is a need for greater clarity, including full information on the data used, before further consideration or comment. The JCVI will review this data carefully once the full study details are released.

The JCVI continues to recommend that as many people on the JCVI priority list as possible should be offered a first vaccine dose as the initial priority. One dose of the vaccine offers important protection until the second dose can be administered.

All individuals will subsequently receive a second dose in due course.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-21/hl12458>

West Bank: Construction

Baroness Tonge (Non-affiliated) [HL12318] To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of reports of the seizure of tools used for construction by Palestinians in Area C of the West Bank by the Israel Defense Forces.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: We are concerned by Israeli confiscations of Palestinian homes, structures and property. We regularly raise these issues with

the Israeli authorities. The practice of confiscations causes unnecessary suffering to ordinary Palestinians and is harmful to the peace process.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-01-19/hl12318>

TOP

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>

Domestic Abuse Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2709>

Education (Assemblies) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2579>

Freedom of Speech (Universities) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2820>

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

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/domestic-abuse-protection-scotland-bill>

**** Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill**

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

Notice of amendments

<https://beta.parliament.scot/-/media/files/legislation/bills/current-bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill/stage-2/daily-list-of-amendments-2-february-2021.pdf>

Post-mortem Examinations (Defence Time Limit) (Scotland) Bill

<https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/post-mortem-examinations-defence-time-limit-scotland-bill>

TOP

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>

Human Rights Act Review (closing date 3 March 2021)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/93/human-rights-joint-committee/news/138635/call-for-evidence-the-governments-independent-human-rights-act-review/>

Social Distance, Digital Congregation: British Ritual Innovation under COVID-19
(closing date not stated)

<https://bric19.mmu.ac.uk/take-the-survey/>

TOP

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