House of Lords Written Answers

Marriage: Religion

Baroness Cox (Crossbench) [HL4637] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord True on 30 November (HL4074), what estimate they have made of the number of British citizens currently united in religious marriages that have (1) not taken place at registered premises, or (2) been recorded as civil marriages.

Lord True: The information requested falls under the remit of the UK Statistics Authority. I have, therefore, asked the Authority to respond. …

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for publishing marriage statistics for England and Wales. The most recent year for which marriage statistics are available is for 2018 [1]. National Records Scotland (NRS) and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) are responsible for publishing marriage statistics for marriages registered in Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively. Information about the nationality of individuals is not collected during the marriage registration process. Some information about the nationality of individuals is reported to the General Register Office (GRO) at the marriage notification stage. This information is not provided to the ONS as we only receive marriage registrations data from GRO.

An annual breakdown of the number of religious marriages and civil marriages which took place in England and Wales is available. It is not possible to determine from marriage registrations data if some religious marriages took place at unregistered premises as this information is not recorded during the registration process. It is also not possible to determine how many civil marriages may have been undertaken in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of certain religious denominations prior to having a civil ceremony.

Table 1 provides the total number of religious marriages and civil religious registered in England and Wales for each year for the period 2008 to 2018.


https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-12-02/hl4637
The answer referred to above can be read at
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2021-11-16/hl4074

Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme

Lord Harris of Haringey (Labour) [HL4789] To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money was allocated to the Places of Worship: protective security funding scheme in each of the years since it was announced; how much money was spent in each of the years since it was announced; how many applications for funding were received in each of those years; and how many of those applications were successful in full or in part.

Baroness Williams of Trafford: The Places of Worship Protective Security Funding Scheme is available in England and Wales. For the 2021/2022 round, £3.5 million was announced. Applications closed on 16th July, and applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application in due course.

For the first three years of the scheme £2.4 million was announced over three years; with £800,000 available each year.

For the 2016/2017 round we received 286 eligible applications for funding, of which 53 were successful, and we allocated £435,466. For the 2017/2018 round we received 57 eligible applications for funding, of which 36 were successful, and we allocated £440,203. For the 2018/2019 round we received 88 eligible applications for funding, of which 45 were successful, and we allocated £806,281. For the 2019/2020 round, £1.6 million was announced. We received 376 eligible applications, of which 49 were successful, and we allocated £1,718,763. For the 2020/2021 round, £3.2 million was announced. We received 243 eligible applications, of which 58 were successful, and we allocated £1,704,237.

All successful applicants to the scheme are deemed as successful in full.

Information about the Places of Worship Security Funding Scheme, referred to above, can be read at
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/places-of-worship-security-funding-scheme

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Department of Health and Social Care

Government and faith leaders join forces to support booster drive

... Faith Minister Kemi Badenoch was today ... meeting with religious leaders to thank them for their work so far and call on their urgent support in increasing booster uptake. Faith leaders – who are the pillars of many communities across the country – have played a vital role throughout the pandemic, from backing the vaccine drive, to making sure people practice their faith safely, and even adapting places of worship into pop-up soup kitchens and food banks.

As numbers of the new variant continue to rise at an alarming rate, the government today joined forces with faith leaders to help spread the message that booster vaccines are critical in our fight against the virus. ...

The UK has one of the highest uptake rates in the world, with more than 85% of adults double jabbed so far, allowing people to come together in places of worship, to practice their faith safely.

However, data shows that people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds are currently less likely to take up the vaccine, and we need everyone from every background to do their bit.

Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said: Faith and local community leaders have
played a vital role supporting the COVID-19 vaccine programme from the very beginning. Thank you to everyone who is uniting behind this national mission, spreading the word about the life-saving benefits of the vaccines and encouraging people to roll up their sleeves and get boosted now. ...

Faith Minister Kemi Badenoch said: More than 25 million people have already received their booster jab, helping to keep themselves, their friends and family safe this winter but we need everyone from every community to come forward to get ahead of this virus. This is why I have joined up with leaders from across all the major faiths to ask people of every denomination to come forward and support this huge national effort. … Whatever your faith or your background, join the national effort and get the protection you need now.

To read the full press release see https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-faith-leaders-join-forces-to-support-booster-drive

Scottish Government


Northern Ireland Assembly Written Answer

Places of Worship Security Fund
Stephen Dunne (DUP) [AQW 26940/17-22] To ask the Minister of Justice for an update on the introduction of a Places of Worship Security Fund.

The Minister of Justice: I agreed to consider the potential for the development of a Places of Worship/Key Buildings Security Scheme for Northern Ireland following a more formal engagement with interested stakeholders to hear their views.

Due to constraints on budgets and staffing resources, I am unable to proceed with this engagement or commit to considering funding for any security scheme at this time. I will review this position when the budget has been finalised in early 2022.

In the meantime, in terms of strengthening protection against hate crime, my priority at present is to take forward the out-workings of Judge Marrinan’s Review of Hate Crime Legislation, including a Hate Crime Bill to be brought forward in the next mandate.


Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867

Assisted Dying Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875
Charities Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2877

Education (Assemblies) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2878

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862

Israel Arms Trade (Prohibition) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3025

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3017

Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2900

Nationality and Borders Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3023

** Online Safety Bill (Draft)  
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill
Evidence session, Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Sub-Committee on Online Harms and Disinformation  
https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/3204/html/
Select Committee statement, House of Commons  
https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2021-12-16/debates/4BFBDA8B-7EE6-4179-8C1E-02E395E50766/JointCommitteeOnTheDraftOnlineSafetyBill

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill  
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942

Northern Ireland Assembly

Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill  
** closes in 5 days **
Proposed Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill (closing date 22 December 2021)

Animal Welfare – revision of EU legislation (Food Safety) (closing date 21 January 2022)

Marriage Law (Northern Ireland) (closing date 18 February 2022)

Human Rights Act Reform: A Modern Bill of Rights (closing date 8 March 2022)

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