



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Home Affairs

### House of Commons Debate

#### **Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill: Commons consideration of Bill, as amended in the Public Bill Committee**

*includes discussion of amendment 3, page 1, line 4, to insert*

*col 685 (1B) It is not the function of the Committee to ...*

*(b) consider other considerations of public interest, including economic, cultural and religious considerations, or impacts on different species, in the formulation and implementation of any policy. ...*

*and amendment 2, page 2, line 2, to insert:*

*col 687 ... (4A) Recommendations made by the Committee must respect legislative or administrative provisions and customs relating in particular to religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage. ...*

*col 692 **Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (Conservative):** ... My amendment is designed to ensure that the safeguards of the EU law are duplicated in British law. Currently, those safeguards are not in the Bill, as was the original ask of the animal welfare lobby.*

*It seems to me that we should have a bit of equivalence here. If this committee is set up by statute, its remit should also be defined by statute. I therefore ask the Government seriously to consider accepting my amendment as a sensible, fairly minor, but nevertheless important amendment to the remit of the committee, which recognises local customs, "religious rites, cultural traditions and regional heritage". ...*

*col 695 **Greg Smith (Conservative):** ... the sentience of animals has long been recognised in UK law, as evidenced by animal welfare legislation passed over the course of nearly 200 years. The purpose of amendment 2 and the other amendments in my name is to help the Government to avoid the main dangers and unforeseen consequences posed by the undefined aspects of the creation of the new Animal Sentience Committee. ... The unamended Bill's draft terms of reference seem to suggest that the committee could have a role in scrutinising the substance of policies and not just the processes that led to those decisions being made. The Secretary of State will have the final sign-off on the committee's composition, but what mechanisms will be in place to ensure that it is made up of*

dispassionate and genuine scientific animal experts and not ideologically driven animal rights activists with political agendas? ...

The amendments would also help to address the question of the Bill's retrospective effect. The current drafting, confirmed by the draft terms of reference, would allow the committee to report on past policy decisions. Without my amendments, there will be no limit to how far back the committee can look, which would, in practice, allow it to draw attention to policies that have already been decided and implemented, or are being implemented. I fear that in doing so, it could start to drive a policy agenda of its own. ...

**col 716 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Jo Churchill):** ... Amendment 2 ... would require the committee's recommendations to respect religious rights, cultural traditions and regional heritage. We have heard the strength of feeling on this matter both here and in the other place, and I assure him that we have listened and decided to support the amendment. ...

**To read the full transcript see**

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/AFFC9F8D-F3B7-4DD7-877B-F36620B67362/AnimalWelfare\(Sentience\)Bill\(Lords\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/AFFC9F8D-F3B7-4DD7-877B-F36620B67362/AnimalWelfare(Sentience)Bill(Lords))

## House of Commons Written Answers

### Hamas: Counter-terrorism

**Kevan Jones (Labour) [135433]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the extent to which the Government has used counterterrorism powers in respect of Hamas since 31 January 2020.

**Damian Hinds:** The Government does not routinely comment on intelligence matters.

The Hamas listing was extended to cover the organisation in its entirety in November 2021. This makes being a member of or expressing support for Hamas a criminal offence, which carries up to a 14-year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine.

Hamas is also subject to an asset freeze under the Counter-Terrorism (International Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations, 2019.

The investigation and prosecution of proscription offences is a matter for the police and Crown Prosecution Service. It would be inappropriate for the Government to comment further on such matters.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135433>

### Hezbollah: Counter-terrorism

**Kevan Jones (Labour) [135434]** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, what assessment she has made of the extent to which the Government has used counterterrorism powers in respect of Hezbollah since 31 January 2020.

**Damian Hinds:** The Government does not routinely comment on intelligence matters.

Hezbollah has been proscribed in its entirety in the UK since 2019, making it a criminal offence to be a member or supporter of the organisation with a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison and/or an unlimited fine. The Government also extended the UK's financial sanctions designation to cover Hezbollah in its entirety in January 2020.

The investigation and prosecution of proscription offences is a matter for the police and Crown Prosecution Service. It would be inappropriate for the Government to comment further on such matters.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-03-07/135434>

## Ministry of Justice

Government response to the consultation on Outdoor Marriages and Civil Partnerships

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1060501/outdoor-weddings-consultation-response.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1060501/outdoor-weddings-consultation-response.pdf)

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## Israel

See also Commons written answers 135433 “ *Hamas: Counter-terrorism*” and 135434 “ *Hezbollah: Counter-terrorism*”, which are included in the Home Affairs section above.

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**Liz Truss:** Welcome news from @YairLapid that Israel will support sanctions against Russia. We are working with our allies and partners to apply pressure on Putin and challenge his unprovoked and needless attack on Ukraine.

<https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1503480432452591618>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **\*\* Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2867>

Consideration of Bill as amended in Committee, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/AFFC9F8D-F3B7-4DD7-877B-F36620B67362/AnimalWelfare\(Sentience\)Bill\(Lords\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/AFFC9F8D-F3B7-4DD7-877B-F36620B67362/AnimalWelfare(Sentience)Bill(Lords))

Third Reading, House of Commons

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/AFFC9F8D-F3B7-4DD7-877B-F36620B67362/AnimalWelfare\(Sentience\)Bill\(Lords\)#contribution-97CD6695-4ECB-4377-9FA4-9953C05F3BFF](https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2022-03-14/debates/AFFC9F8D-F3B7-4DD7-877B-F36620B67362/AnimalWelfare(Sentience)Bill(Lords)#contribution-97CD6695-4ECB-4377-9FA4-9953C05F3BFF)

#### **Assisted Dying Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2875>

#### **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>

Third Reading, House of Lords

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-03-14/debates/8863D580-A20B-4E4C-B81A-58369A93BF6F/NationalityAndBordersBill>

## **\*\* Online Safety Bill (Draft)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-online-safety-bill>

House of Commons Library briefing: Regulating online harms

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-8743/CBP-8743.pdf>

## **Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2942>

## **Northern Ireland Assembly**

### **Organ and Tissue Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill**

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/assembly-business/legislation/2017-2022-mandate/primary-legislation---bills-2017---2022-mandate/organ-and-tissue-donation-deemed-consent-bill/>

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## **Consultations**

\*\* new or updated today

**Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland** (closing date 28 March 2022)

<https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-hate-crime-legislation-northern-ireland>

**Trade with Israel** (closing date 30 March 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/trade-with-israel-call-for-input>

**CPS: Public interest guidance for suicide pact and 'mercy killing' type cases**

(closing date 9 April 2022)

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-public-interest-guidance-suicide-pact-and-mercy-killing-type-cases-0>

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