



Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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The Forde Inquiry

Independent investigation into the circumstances and contents of the report entitled “The work of the Labour Party’s governance and Legal Unit in relation to antisemitism, 2014-2019”

The Forde Report

<https://www.fordeinquiry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/The-Forde-Report.pdf>

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Israel

House of Commons Written Answers

The following two questions both received the same answer

Lebanon: Armed Conflict

Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative) [33737] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps she is taking with her international counterparts to help safeguard the territorial integrity of Lebanon.

Lebanon: Shipping

Daniel Kawczynski (Conservative) [34856] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether officials in her Department have made recent representations to their US counterparts on Lebanese maritime boundaries.

Amanda Milling: We support the ongoing US-led talks between Israel and Lebanon on their maritime border. Resolving this long-standing issue will increase regional security and prosperity, which benefits all of us.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-11/33737>

and

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-12/34856>

House of Lords Written Answer

Mohammad Ghassan Ahmad Mansour

Baroness Sheehan (Liberal Democrat) [HL1509] To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon on 7 June (HL454), whether they have raised the specific case of Mohammed Ghassan Ahmad Mansour with the government of Israel.

Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon: While we have not raised this specific case, we continue to call on Israel to abide by its obligations under international law and have a regular dialogue on legal issues relating to the occupation, including the treatment of Palestinian children. Officials from the British Embassy in Tel Aviv raise this issue regularly with the Israeli Ministry of Justice, stressing the importance that the authorities either charge or release detainees. We remain committed to working with Israel to secure improvements to the practices surrounding children in detention.

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-07-05/hl1509>

The answer referred to above can be read at

<https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-05-23/hl454>

Department for International Trade

UK launches Israel talks to boost trade between services superpowers

... UK tech firms and services companies are set to benefit from a future UK-Israel trade deal, that will seek to establish a modern, revamped trading relationship between two of the world's services superpowers.

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan will launch negotiations today ... between the UK and Israel for a new, innovation-focused Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Israel has one of the fastest growing economies in the world and their demand for digital products and services is expected to grow rapidly. The UK's existing bilateral FTA with Israel contains no specific provisions on services, creating a huge opportunity to enhance the agreement.

This includes boosting UK services exports to Israel by up to £78 million, from insurance to computer and technology services, supporting jobs and growing high-tech industries by reducing barriers to trade.

A new upgraded deal would expand a trading relationship already worth £5 billion a year. It could benefit 6,600 UK businesses, including 5,600 small and medium-sized enterprises, employing over 1.7 million people in 2020, who are exporting their goods to Israel by reducing trade barriers.

International Trade Secretary, Anne-Marie Trevelyan said: The UK and Israel are both modern, hi-tech services superpowers, but our current trading relationship is based on an agreement from 1995, before smartphones, the internet, and digitally delivered services transformed the global economy.

We want a deal that will play to British strengths, while stimulating innovation and increasing opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises across the UK. Combining the power of our economies in a revamped trade deal will boost trade, support jobs and help take our economic relationship to the next level.

The Secretary of State will meet Israel's Ambassador to the UK Tzipi Hotovely to launch the talks in London. ...

To read the full press release see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-israel-talks-to-boost-trade-between-services-superpowers>

UK-Israel Free Trade Agreement: Strategic Approach

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091812/uk-israel-free-trade-agreement-the-uk-strategic-approach.pdf

Updated Trade and Investment Factsheet: Israel

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091562/israel-trade-and-investment-factsheet-2022-07-20.pdf

Updated Trade and Investment Factsheet: Occupied Palestinian Territories

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091623/occupied-palestinian-territories-trade-and-investment-factsheet-2022-07-20.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Bill of Rights Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3227>

Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186>

Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2862>

**** Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325>

First Reading, House of Lords

[https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-19/debates/A73B1995-745C-411D-9FDA-FCFA4D48B8D1/MarriageAct1949\(Amendment\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2022-07-19/debates/A73B1995-745C-411D-9FDA-FCFA4D48B8D1/MarriageAct1949(Amendment)Bill(HL))

Bill as introduced

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/47513/documents/2172>

Online Safety Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137>

Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217>

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188>

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163>

Schools Bill

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156>

Scottish Parliament

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 2 days**

Public Participation at the Scottish Parliament (closing date 22 July 2022)

<https://yourviews.parliament.scot/cppp/participation-2022/>

Standards for ethnicity data (closing date 30 August 2022)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/standards-for-ethnicity-data>

Equality Evidence Strategy 2023-25 (closing date 23 September 2022)

<https://tinyurl.com/mpunv6cw>

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