Home Affairs

House of Lords Written Answers

Schools: Collective Worship

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL8941] To ask His Majesty's Government whether schools in England are free to decide where collective prayer should take place on their premises.

Baroness Barran: Maintained schools and academies are required to conduct a daily act of collective worship which is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Most schools with a religious designation may conduct collective worship which aligns with their trust deeds or tenets of their religion. Daily acts of collective worship, subject to the right of withdrawal, must include all pupils attending a school. As a rule, all acts of collective worship should take place on the school premises and schools are free to determine where in the school it takes place. Schools have discretion to organise collective worship elsewhere on special occasions.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/hl8941

Batley Grammar School: Harassment

Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL8940] To ask His Majesty's Government whether a Batley Grammar Schoolmaster and his family are in hiding after he showed his pupils a picture of Mohammed two years ago.

Lord Sharpe of Epsom: The Government remains dedicated to our commitment to tackling those who spread views that promote violence and hatred against individuals and communities in our society and must always stand up to those who seek to undermine our fundamental values and spread hate. The Home Office does not hold information on police protection in relation to this case. This is a matter for West Yorkshire Police, which is operationally independent of Government.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/hl8940
**Schools and Teachers: Harassment**

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL8942]** To ask His Majesty's Government whether they are aware of (1) any school in England receiving bomb threats, (2) any teacher receiving death threats, from Islamist extremists in the past five years; and if so, when, at which schools, and what they are doing to encourage the arrest of those responsible.

**Baroness Barran:** The department has been made aware of a small number of incidents of this nature initiated by individuals who have Islamist and other extremist views.

The department is clear that it is never acceptable to threaten or intimidate teachers and schools. Where the department has been aware of incidents of this nature, it has engaged with the school, local authority and the police to ensure an appropriate response.

The police, who are operationally independent, are responsible for investigating criminal activity associated with these incidents and will take action where they deem appropriate.

To support the sector, the department has published School and College security guidance, which includes dealing with incidents such as bomb threats.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/hl8942

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**Arabic and Religion: Education**

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch (Non-affiliated) [HL8939]** To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the Written Answer by Baroness Barran on 22 June (HL7956), whether they will now answer the question put; namely, what assessment they have made of any implications for national security arising from the funding received by schools from Qatar Foundation International for the teaching of religious education and Arabic in schools; and if they have made no such assessment, whether they intend to do so.

**Baroness Barran:** The government continuously assesses threats posed to the UK. As a matter of longstanding policy, the department is unable to release information regarding threat assessments on the grounds of national security.

The government is clear that any challenges to its core values, whatever their origin, will not be tolerated.

If there is a concern that a school is not fulfilling its legal duties, complaints procedure should be followed. Where the department is made aware that schools are not fulfilling their legal duties, it will investigate.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-06-29/hl8939

*The answer referred to above can be read at*
https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-05-18/hl7956

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**Charity Commission**

**Public trust in charities 2023**


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TOP
**Palestinians: Health Services**

Hilary Benn (Labour) [192485] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps he is taking to (a) support and (b) protect Palestinian healthcare services in the occupied West Bank.

David Rutley: We strongly condemn all forms of violence and incitement to violence. Israel must abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of proportionality, distinction and necessity. The British Embassy in Tel Aviv regularly raises the importance of regularised access to healthcare with the Israeli authorities. Israel, as the occupying power, has a duty to ensure and maintain public health to the fullest extent possible. During his call on 4 July with the Israeli chargé d'affaires in London, the Minister of State for the Middle East, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, urged Israel to safeguard access to healthcare and take proactive steps to guarantee the safety of civilians during Israeli operations in the West Bank. The Foreign Secretary emphasised the importance of the proactive protection of civilians during his call with Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen on 5 July. The wounded and ill in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories should be able to access the urgent medical care they need. The UK's annual contribution to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) also helps to fund (among other activities) access to health services for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees.

https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192485

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**Relevant Legislation**  ** new or updated today**

**UK Parliament**

**Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill**
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3475

**Education (Non-religious Philosophical Convictions) Bill**
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3186

**Holocaust Memorial Bill**
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421

**Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill**
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3325

**Online Safety Bill**
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3137

**Nakba Commemoration Bill**
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3461
Palestine Statehood (Recognition) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3217

Private Burial Grounds and Cemeteries Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3188

Same Sex Marriage (Church of England)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3438

Schools Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3156

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill

Universal Credit (Removal of Two Child Limit) Bill
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3163

Universal Jurisdiction (Extension)
https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3454

Scottish Parliament

Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill

Consultations ** new or updated today

** closes in 6 days
Charities tax compliance (closing date 20 July 2023)

Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill (closing date not specified – no later than 14 September 2023 but may be earlier)

A Human Rights Bill for Scotland (closing date 5 October 2023)
The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438

The future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales (closing date 26 October 2023)
https://consultations.ons.gov.uk/ons/futureofpopulationandmigrationstatistics/