

CABINET SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND MINISTER FOR EQUALITIES
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party Debate

What	Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party – Scottish Parliament Debate: Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing
When	Wednesday 8 October: 14.50-16.00
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is another debate follows a series of anti-immigration protests across the UK, including in Scotland. While, the focus has primarily been on hotels housing asylum seekers, there are broader implications for all migrants in Scotland. • This debate is an opportunity to clarify that changing the 2022 local connection legislation will not address the pressures on housing and homelessness services in Scotland from newly recognised refugees who have left Home Office accommodation in Scotland, England or Wales. • In a climate of anti-immigration rhetoric this debate will allow for the difference between immigration and the asylum system to be set out and emphasise that these people have been through a process to be granted leave to remain. • The debate provides an opportunity to highlight the significant and crucial contribution migration makes to Scotland’s communities, economy and public services • It will offer a unifying narrative that emphasises safety, inclusion, and a collective commitment to a flourishing Scotland for all communities that live here.
Key messages	<p><u>Homelessness</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland has some of the strongest homelessness rights in the world and Scottish Ministers do not want to roll back the rights of homeless households. • In November 2022, local connection legislation in Scotland was changed to suspend referrals of homeless households to another local authority in Scotland on the basis of local connection. • The legislation made no change to referrals for households with a local connection to a local authority in England or Wales, and the SSI did not change local connection rules for refugee households who have left asylum accommodation. • The increase in homelessness applications from refugees and people with leave to remain status in recent years demonstrates the impact that UK Government policies are having in Scotland, and in Glasgow in particular. • The challenges arising are not the fault of refugees, who continue to be valuable members of our communities; the issue is the impact of reserved policy decisions without adequate financial support or planning. • the UK Home Office must properly fund and organise their asylum processes, which are currently placing people at risk of homelessness and destitution. • They must provide adequate funding to local authorities to ensure they are able to meet the housing needs of refugees, with additional funding made available for local authorities experiencing the highest demand for services. <p><u>Asylum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum is reserved to the UK Parliament and is handled by the Home Office.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserved UK Government policy, legislation and rules are directly impacting Scottish local authorities, devolved public services and communities across Scotland. • Pressures on services are not created by those fleeing persecution – they have been driven by successive UK Governments mismanagement of asylum policy. • The Scottish Government supports the call from Glasgow City Council that the UK Government must provide adequate funding to support newly recognised refugees and communities. • Newly recognised refugees have been granted protection following an asylum application. • We recognise the value of having strong and supportive communities, and the importance of community cohesion in ensuring there is ‘One Scotland’ where people live in peace and everyone has the opportunity to flourish. • The Scottish Government will give leadership and practical support for community cohesion, because we believe that Scotland is best served by being an inclusive and welcoming country; it has been in the past and it must be in the future. • In the face of division and uncertainty, we stand with our communities to ensure that everyone in our society can feel safe, included and respected. • Pressures felt by communities will not be relieved by restricted immigration policy, and UK Government proposals to reduce migration will only exacerbate skills shortages across vital public services 																														
Official support	[REDACTED, section 38], Asylum and Refugee Integration [REDACTED, section 38], Homelessness																														
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ANNEX A

SPEAKING NOTES (SUBMITTED SEPARATELY)

Opening and closing remarks have both been allocated 5 minutes

Opening: Cabinet Secretary Housing

Closing: Minister for Equalities

MOTION

***[S6M-19252](#) Russell Findlay:** *Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing—That the Parliament believes that illegal immigration must be stopped because of the damaging impact on public finances and local communities; recognises that the Scottish Government’s decision to suspend local connection rules in relation to homelessness provision back in 2022 has contributed towards attracting asylum seekers to Scotland at an unsustainable level, and calls on the Scottish Government to immediately reverse this decision.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TBC

Delete from ‘Parliament’ and insert:-

[That the Parliament] highlights Scotland as a welcoming nation to people fleeing persecution, seeking safety and who have been granted refugee status - ensuring they can rebuild their lives here through our New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy.

calls again on the UK government to urgently uphold the European Convention on Human Rights, 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol;

[notes that people seeking asylum are restricted from accessing local authority housing and are instead accommodated under UK Government contracts if they would otherwise be destitute while waiting for an asylum decision; understands local authority homelessness duties, including to newly recognised refugees]

notes that the suspension of local connection referrals in 2022 did not change the rights of newly recognised refugees to choose where they settle in Scotland;

highlights action in Scotland to tackle homelessness and destitution, including new prevention measures in the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2025, increased investment in affordable homes; our £4m investment in homelessness prevention pilots, alongside the extension of rapid rehousing transition plan funding of £8m into 2026-27;

HOMELESSNESS Q&A AND TOP LINES FOR REBUTTAL

REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i)

ASYLUM Q&A AND TOP LINES FOR REBUTTAL

REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i)

COMMUNITY COHESION Q&A AND TOP LINES FOR REBUTTALS

REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i)

POPULATION AND MIGRATION Q&A AND TOP LINES FOR REBUTTALS

REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i)

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

REFUGEE

The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as a person who:

“Owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.”

Put simply, this means that to be a refugee someone must have crossed an international border because they had a well-founded fear that they would be persecuted and would not be able to be protected if they returned.

PERSON SEEKING ASYLUM

A person who has lodged an application for international protection under the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention or Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, and is awaiting a decision from the UK Government on whether they will be recognised as a refugee.

DISPERSAL

Dispersal is the process by which the UK Government move people seeking asylum to accommodation while they wait for a decision on their asylum claim. They are usually first moved to Initial Accommodation (IA) while their application for asylum support is processed. Once the support application has been processed and approved they should move to dispersal accommodation. Due to pressure in the UK asylum system, contingency asylum accommodation, including hotels, is also in use across the UK – this is not dispersal accommodation.

NEWLY RECOGNISED REFUGEE

Newly recognised refugee is a term used to refer to someone who has been granted refugee status following an asylum application. The length of time this term may be applied varies, but it generally applies for as long as the person is transitioning between asylum accommodation and support into mainstream housing, benefits and employment.

RESETTLEMENT / RESETTLED REFUGEE

Resettlement is the term used for UK programmes which support refugees to travel directly to the UK. These programmes generally operate in coordination with UNHCR who identify refugees who have no durable solution in their current location and meet eligibility for UK programmes (as set by UK Government).

MIGRANT

A broad term for a person who moves from one country to another, often for reasons such as work, education, or family reunion. Unlike refugees, migrants are not necessarily fleeing persecution.

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IRREGULAR MIGRATION

Movement of people that takes place outside regulatory norms. This can include entering, staying, or working in a country without the necessary legal documentation or permissions.

NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS (NRPF)

A condition applied to some migrants which restricts access to certain welfare benefits and housing assistance provided by public funds in the UK. NRPF is set out in reserved immigration legislation and rules. Not all public funds are restricted – the Immigration Rules define public funds for the purposes of immigration legislation. NRPF is a standard visa condition, it also applies to people seeking asylum and anyone who requires leave to enter or remain in the UK but does not have it.

REMOVAL

The process of returning someone who does not have legal permission to remain in the UK to their country of origin or another country willing to accept them. This can be voluntary or enforced.

DEPORTATION

A specific legal process used to remove someone from the UK, usually on the grounds that their presence is not conducive to the public good, often due to criminal activity.

DETENTION

The practice of holding individuals in immigration detention centres while their immigration status is resolved or prior to removal or deportation. Detention can occur at any stage of the immigration process.

ASYLUM SUPPORT

Asylum support refers to the financial and housing assistance provided by the UK Home Office to asylum seekers who are waiting for a decision on their claim and are unable to support themselves. It can include:

- Accommodation (often in dispersal housing),
- Weekly subsistence payments for essentials like food, clothing, and toiletries,
- Additional support for pregnant women, families with children, or those with special needs.

Asylum support is governed by the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and is separate from mainstream welfare benefits, which asylum seekers typically cannot access.

TRAFFICKING VICTIM

A trafficking victim is someone who has been recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received through force, coercion, deception or abuse of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation, such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, or domestic servitude.

In the context of asylum or migration, trafficking victims may seek international protection if returning to their country of origin would expose them to further harm or re-trafficking. They may also be entitled to support under the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) in the UK, which identifies and assists potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

DESTITUTION

Destitution is extreme poverty. Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 defines a person as destitute if they do not have adequate accommodation or the means to obtain it; or, they have adequate accommodation or the means to obtain it, but cannot meet other essential living needs.

HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION

Humanitarian Protection is a form of immigration status. It is granted by the Home Office to a person who it decides has a need for international protection, but who does not meet the criteria to be recognised as a refugee under the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.

SETTLEMENT / INDEFINITE LEAVE TO REMAIN (ILR)

ILR is a form of immigration status granted by the Home Office, it is also called 'permanent residence' or 'settled status' as it gives permission to stay in the UK on a permanent basis.

Resettled refugees are now granted ILR on arrival; previously they were only granted five years limited leave to remain and could then apply for ILR. Newly recognised refugees will generally be granted five years limited leave to remain and will only be able to apply for ILR at the end of those five years.

UK Government have announced plans to make changes to ILR, including increasing the time before someone can apply for it from 5 years to 10 years and introducing new conditions. The new conditions are expected to include English language requirements, being in employment, contributing to communities through volunteering and not being in receipt of benefits. The full details of these conditions and how it would work has not yet been set out formally.

HOMELESSNESS BRIEFING ON LOCAL CONNECTION

Prior to the legislative change on 29 November 2022, local authorities in Scotland had the power, but not a duty, under section 33 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (the 1987 Act), to refer homeless applicants who do not have a local connection with them to another local authority in England, Scotland or Wales where they do have such a connection.

Section 27 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 sets out the local connection test and says that the applicant has a connection with an area where:

- they are or were in the past normally resident in it, and this residence was of their own choice; or
- they are employed in it; or
- they have family associations; or
- they have special circumstances, for example, to receive specialist health treat.

The Homeless Persons (Suspension of Referrals between Local Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2022 suspended the power of a Scottish local authority to refer a homelessness applicant to another Scottish local authority on the basis of their local connection status. These legislative changes give homeless households in Scotland – like other households – choice and control about where they settle.

The suspension of referrals only applies to Scottish local authorities. Referrals to England and Wales are still permitted. There is nothing in the 1987 Act placing obligations on English and Welsh local authorities to provide homelessness assistance, the 1987 Act merely allows a Scottish local authority to refer an applicant to a relevant English and Welsh authority. The SSI did not change local connection rules for refugee households who have left asylum accommodation.

The Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 amended the 1987 Act to provide that the time spent in Home Office asylum accommodation does not establish a local connection for newly recognised refugees, as the household has not had any choice about where they lived while accommodated by the Home Office.

That means, in Scotland, if a household receives a positive asylum decision while in asylum accommodation then presents as homeless, they cannot be referred to the local authority where they were accommodated by the Home Office on the basis of local connection.

Conversely, under the Housing Act 1996, people granted refugee status in England and Wales are found to have established a local connection with the authority where they have resided in asylum accommodation – despite having no choice in where they were placed. This limits where they can make a homelessness application.

Calls to broaden the definition of local connection in Scotland so that asylum-seeker accommodation (anywhere in the UK) establishes a local connection would require primary legislation. [REDACTED UNDER SECTION 29(1)(c).]

Background:

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- In November 2022, local connection legislation in Scotland was changed to suspend referrals of homeless households to another local authority in Scotland on the basis of local connection.
- The legislation made no change to referrals for households with a local connection to a local authority in England or Wales, and did not change local connection rules for refugee households who have left asylum accommodation.
- The Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 amended the 1987 Act to provide that the time spent in Home Office asylum accommodation does not establish a local connection for newly recognised refugees, as the household has not had any choice about where they lived while accommodated by the Home Office.
- That means, in Scotland, if a household receives a positive asylum decision while in asylum accommodation then presents as homeless, they cannot be referred to the local authority where they were accommodated by the Home Office on the basis of local connection.
- Conversely, under the Housing Act 1996, people granted refugee status in England and Wales are found to have established a local connection with the authority where they have resided in asylum accommodation – despite having no choice in where they were placed. This limits where they can make a homelessness application.

[REDACTED UNDER SECTIONS 29(1)(c) AND 30(b)(i).]

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO POPULATION AND MIGRATION

Population

Scotland is facing a set of long-term demographic challenges: an ageing population, a declining birth rate, uncertainty about migration, and geographical population imbalances.

In March 2021, the Scottish Government published Scotland's first [Population Strategy](#). It sets out the cross-cutting demographic challenges that Scotland faces at national and local level, across four thematic building blocks:

- 'A Family Friendly Nation' – As Scotland's birth rate is falling, we must ensure Scotland is the best place to raise a family.
- 'A Healthy Living Society' – As Scotland's population lives longer, we must ensure that our people are healthy and active.
- **'An Attractive and Welcoming Country' – As Freedom of Movement ends, Scotland needs to be able to attract people who can make a positive contribution to our economy, communities and public services.**
- 'A More Balanced Population' – With many communities experiencing population decline, we must ensure our population is more balanced and distributed so all our communities can flourish.

Ministerial Population Taskforce

[REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i).] In 2019, the Scottish Government established a [Ministerial Population Taskforce](#), currently chaired by the Minister for Equalities. The Taskforce consists of Ministers across the breadth of Scottish Government portfolios.

It meets quarterly and aims to deliver the actions set out in the Population Strategy and identify where new areas of work can support a joined-up approach. Beneath the Taskforce sits a director-led Programme Board, which includes external partners including COSLA and the enterprise agencies.

Migration

The Scottish Government's approach to migration is underpinned by three strands of delivery:

- Scotland's Migration Service, which supports employers, investors and individuals to more successfully navigate the existing UK immigration system
- making evidence-based arguments for changes to the UK Government's approach to immigration, and
- continuing to call for tailored migration routes, deliverable within the existing system to reflect Scotland's distinct needs and support our ambitions for economic growth.

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Scotland's Migration Service

Scotland's Migration Service contributes to efforts mitigating the complexity and bureaucracy of the immigration system to encourage individuals to move to Scotland and support businesses to hire talented people from overseas and expand their operations here. The service has been live since March 2024.

Support

The service provides information, advice and personalised support through digital platforms for:

- people considering moving to Scotland and those who have temporary leave to remain in the UK and
- Scotland-based employers and inward investors, support includes access to live webinars, webinar recordings, guides, features, case studies and other resources.

Eligible users can also book free, personalised, one-to-one appointments with qualified advisers from either the law firm Seraphus or Citizens Advice Scotland. Advisers help users with specific circumstances regarding either immigration matters or settling successfully into communities.

TAILORED MIGRATION PROPOSALS

Tailored Migration Proposals

Tailored approaches to migration are an intrinsic feature of the immigration system as it currently exists. [REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i).]

Scottish Visa:

- Our January 2020 paper [‘Migration: Helping Scotland Prosper’](#) proposes devolution of some powers within a UK framework and partnership working with the UK Government on delivery.
- This would include a Scottish Visa, for which eligibility criteria would be set by Scottish Ministers, according to Scotland’s economic and demographic needs.
- This would be an unsponsored work visa available offering a pathway to permanent residence. Residence in Scotland could be enforced with a relevant visa condition, such as linking to a Scottish tax code.
- The proposal requires further essential reform of the UK Government’s immigration system [REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i).]

Rural Visa Pilot:

- In 2022, the Scottish Government published a proposal for a [Rural Visa Pilot](#), developed in collaboration with local authorities and business sector organisations, to meet the discrete and specific needs of rural communities and their local economies.
- The proposals build on the initial suggestion of the benefits of a rural scheme highlighted in the 2020 Migration: Helping Scotland Prosper paper.
- A Rural Visa Pilot scheme would encourage migration to remote and rural communities where the population is declining. Employers in certain areas of Scotland would be able to sponsor migrant workers outside the normal visa system.
- The skills or salary requirements could be tailored to better reflect the needs of rural economies compared to the conditions of the Skilled Worker Visa, for example. Migrants would be required to work in the relevant area for four years, after which, they would qualify for permanent residence and be free to work anywhere in the country.
- The Migration Advisory Committee has noted that both Australia and Canada have place-based immigration programmes and recommended a pilot to test the concept.

Scottish Graduate Visa:

- In January 2025, our paper [Migration – Meeting Scotland’s Needs](#) outlined proposals for a ‘Scottish Graduate Visa’. The visa would be available to those already on a UK Graduate visa, allowing them to stay in Scotland for two years after their UK Graduate visa expires.
- The person would need to have graduated from a Scottish institution, have lived in Scotland for “an appropriate amount of time”, and be intending to live and work in Scotland.
- The visa would be linked to a Scottish tax code. This would mean that a person graduating from a Scottish university could stay and work in Scotland without sponsorship for up to five years in total: two years on a UK Graduate visa (or three with a PhD).

SCOTTISH REFUGEE COUNCIL BRIEFING – PROVIDED TO MSPs 7 OCTOBER

Scottish Refugee Council briefing on Scottish Conservative housing debate

As Scotland's national refugee charity, Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) has 40 years' experience of providing information, advice and advocacy services to refugees and people seeking asylum, and supporting refugee integration in all its aspects. We work within increasingly complex and interconnected settings impacting refugees living in Scotland. Our vision is to create a society where women, children, and men are protected, their human rights and dignity are respected, and they have the support needed to achieve their full potential. We are proud of the many ways Scotland's refugee communities have enriched our culture and society.

Key Points

- **Seeking asylum is not illegal** - it is a fundamental human right protected by international law. It is not possible to claim asylum from outside the UK.
- The words we use carry great weight – all politicians have a responsibility to **counter misinformation** and avoid spreading harmful and misleading narratives.
- **People seeking protection are not to blame for the housing crisis** - it is a result of policy choices.
- The solution to the crisis is not rolling back people's rights, but to provide **targeted resources and long-term, sustainable housing solutions**.
- The lack of engagement from the UK Government on this issue is unsustainable - we **call on the new Home Office ministers to engage with the Scottish Government and Local Authorities** in Scotland immediately.

'Illegal immigration'

Parliamentarians should set an example for the public when it comes to both challenging misinformation and avoiding the use of harmful and misleading language. It is disappointing to see this motion in the name of the Scottish Conservatives peddle the false link between people claiming asylum and 'illegal immigration'.

Seeking asylum is not illegal - it is a fundamental human right protected by international law. The right to seek asylum is enshrined in the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, to which the UK is a signatory. **Claiming asylum is a legal process, regardless of how a person enters a country.**

It is **not possible to claim asylum from outside the UK**, and there is no visa which allows people to enter the UK in order to claim asylum. The lack of safe routes means that **most people fleeing war and persecution have no choice but to enter the UK without permission.**

The UK's immigration and asylum laws, as well as international refugee law, protect asylum seekers arriving via unofficial routes, provided they inform authorities of their

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presence upon arrival. While the Illegal Migration Act 2024 deemed many asylum claims inadmissible, claiming asylum remains a legal entitlement.

Article 31 of the Refugee Convention protects refugees from prosecution for illegal entry under certain circumstances. This provision recognises that refugees may need to use irregular means to reach safety, and that people fleeing persecution may not have the luxury of following regular immigration procedures.

There is **no legal requirement for people seeking protection to claim asylum in the first safe country they reach**. While entering or remaining in the UK without permission is generally an offence, claiming asylum upon arrival negates this for people seeking protection. The act of seeking asylum itself is not considered illegal, even if the entry method might otherwise be.

Local connection rules

Local connection legislation is another area in which misinformation has been widely shared. In November 2022, the [rules on local connection](#) were changed to allow people to apply as homeless to any council in Scotland, without having local connection to the area. However, **this change did not affect people who received a positive decision on their asylum claim**. People seeking asylum are housed by the Home Office on a no-choice basis, and the time they spent living in asylum accommodation does not contribute towards forming a local connection with the local authority in which the accommodation is situated.

As Shelter Scotland [explains](#):

“These changes to local connection legislation are completely unrelated to the issue of refugee homelessness – the changes did not alter rules for whether people recently granted refugee status can move to Scotland from elsewhere in the UK, or between Scottish local authorities. Those leaving the asylum system are not deemed in law to have formed a local connection to any area, and thus have always been able to move to a local authority of their choosing.”

Having the ability to apply for homelessness assistance in the location of your choosing is a key component of Scotland’s world-leading homelessness rights system, and Scottish Refugee Council sees the positive impact this has on individuals and families every week. It gives people agency and choice, and the ability to live where they want to live. It means they do not have to justify their choices, or potentially relive traumatic experiences in an attempt to have their application for homelessness assistance accepted.

The asylum process is gruelling and dehumanising, and strips people of their dignity and ability to make simple choices. When someone has been recognised as a refugee, it is only right that they are afforded dignity in rebuilding their lives.

People are likely to be much more able to integrate well if they are able to exercise some choice in where they live, whether to find work or be nearer to friends and

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family. Can you imagine if you were not allowed to make this basic choice over where to live?

We are sympathetic to local authorities, such as Glasgow City Council, who have had to bear the brunt of Home Office asylum decisions with little support being provided by the UK Government to help manage this situation. However, we believe strongly that the solution to this is not rolling back people's rights, but for the UK and Scottish governments and local authorities to work together to provide targeted resources and long-term, sustainable housing.

Solutions

- We're working with local authorities across Scotland to ensure people do not end up on the streets and have somewhere safe to stay.
- **Right to Work:** The UK Government should allow people, who have been in the asylum system for more than 6 months, to work while waiting for their asylum claims to be processed. This gives people a chance to earn a living and contribute to their new communities. It also means that people have the opportunity to save up money so they can put down a deposit on a flat once they receive refugee status, which would reduce the number of refugees in the homeless process and the pressure on local councils to provide accommodation.
- **Reinstate the 56-day move-on period:** The Home Office recently paused the pilot allowing 56 days for refugees with newly granted status to find somewhere to live, reducing this to 28 days for single adults. This decision risks increasing the number of people rough sleeping, putting even more pressure on a homelessness system that is already struggling to support record numbers of people. Very few people seeking asylum have savings for a rental deposit or the up-front costs required and moving at such short notice can be extremely difficult for people without family or social networks in Scotland to rely on for support.
- While we welcome the new UK Government's commitment to reduce the number of people waiting for a decision on their claims for protection, it is **critical that this is supported by adequate resources for local authorities**. Direct financial support is needed to allow the fiscal headroom to deal with increased decision-making rates.
- In line with the New Scots Integration Strategy, the founding principle of the UK asylum system should be changed to **integration from the day of arrival**, rather than integration from the point of refugee status granted.
- **Building good-quality social homes.** The reason people are struggling to access housing is not the fault of people seeking sanctuary - it's because housing has become an asset rather than a home, rents have sky-rocketed, and social housing has been sold off without the investment to replace the stock.
- **A solution to refugee homelessness is a solution for all people affected by homelessness** - we should resist attempts to divide our communities and treat homelessness as a collective solidarity issue.

ADDITIONAL DEBATE BRIEFING – 8 OCTOBER 2025

This briefing contains:

- Amendments submitted, p1-2
- Lines to take on digital ID scheme and Dublin Convention, p3
- Background to local connection changes, p4
- Additional information on the asylum process, p5-6
- Funding for asylum, p7-8
- New annex on human rights and immigration, p9-10

CLEARED GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT

As an amendment to motion S6M-19252 in the name of Russell Findlay (Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing), leave out from “believes” to end and insert:

“notes the suspension of local connection referrals in 2022 did not change the rights of newly recognised refugees to choose where they settle in Scotland nor did they prevent Scottish Local Authorities from referring households presenting as homeless to an English or Welsh local authority with which they have a local connection; reaffirms Scotland is a welcoming nation to people fleeing persecution, seeking safety and who have been granted refugee status, ensuring they can rebuild their lives here through our New Scots Refugee Integration Strategy; highlights action in Scotland to tackle homelessness and destitution, including new prevention measures in the Housing (Scotland) Bill 2025, increased investment in affordable homes; our £4 million investment in homelessness prevention pilots, alongside the extension of rapid rehousing transition plan funding of £8m into 2026-27, and calls again on the UK Government to urgently uphold the European Convention on Human Rights, 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol.”

Mark Griffin, Central Scotland, Scottish Labour

As an amendment to motion S6M-19252 in the name of Russell Findlay (Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing), *leave out from “because” to end and insert “; regrets that the previous UK Conservative administration left the immigration system in a state of collapse; recognises the progress made by the UK Labour administration to clear the backlog of asylum claims, and believes that the failure to tackle the challenges facing Scotland’s local authorities, public services and housing system, for which the Scottish Government has devolved responsibility and has received record levels of funding from the UK Government, is the root cause of the housing emergency.”*

Graham Simpson, Central Scotland, Reform UK

As an amendment to motion S6M-19252 in the name of Russell Findlay (Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing), insert at end “; believes that the Scottish Government’s suspension of local connection rules has placed unsustainable pressure on housing and public services in certain communities; notes

that Scotland faces a housing emergency exacerbated by poor planning, underinvestment and a failure to meet housebuilding targets; calls for a homelessness policy that ensures that support is targeted towards those with lawful residence and genuine need, and urges the Scottish Government to prioritise housing delivery, restore local connection criteria and ensure that immigration policy does not undermine the availability of homes for citizens in Scotland."

Maggie Chapman, North East Scotland, Scottish Green Party

As an amendment to motion S6M-19252 in the name of Russell Findlay (Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing), leave out from "believes" to end and insert "*recognises the UK's obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention to offer protection and sanctuary to those fleeing persecution and conflict; further recognises that many people who are seeking asylum do so as a direct consequence of decades of UK foreign policy and imperial intervention; rejects the hostile environment created by successive UK administrations' immigration policies, which have restricted the rights of migrants and people seeking asylum and forced many into poverty and destitution; celebrates the contribution of New Scots to the culture, public services and communities of Scotland; urges the UK Government to urgently establish safe and regular routes for people seeking asylum, reject divisive and xenophobic policies that are harming communities, and restore dignity and respect in the UK's immigration and asylum system, and supports a compassionate, rights-based approach that welcomes refugees and asylum seekers as members of Scotland's communities.*

Willie Rennie, North East Fife, Scottish Liberal Democrats

As an amendment to motion S6M-19252 in the name of Russell Findlay (Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing), leave out from "illegal" to end and insert "*the UK asylum system is in crisis and that, under the last UK Conservative administration, the system was ruined, with backlogs becoming out of control and thousands of vulnerable people, who have fled war, persecution and unimaginable trauma, stuck in hotels that are not fit for purpose; further believes that, not only must all asylum seekers be treated with dignity and compassion, there also needs to be a fair, effective immigration system that enforces the rules on who has the right to stay in the UK; notes the Liberal Democrats' calls for the UK Government to declare the asylum backlog a national emergency and set up Nightingale processing centres, independent from the Home Office and part of a dedicated new unit to take over processing asylum claims, in order to clear the backlog within six months, and calls on the UK Government to bring in these centres as soon as possible.*

LINES TO TAKE

ID SCHEME

- The Scottish Government does not support the introduction of a mandatory digital ID scheme by the United Kingdom Government.
- People must be able to access public services through the channel that works for them. That might be a digital route, face-to-face services or another method.
- We are engaging regularly with the UK Government to obtain further detail beyond the announced use, which is right-to-work checks, and to further understand the implications of the proposed digital ID system for Scotland and our communities.

The opportunity to access public services through digital means if individuals wish to do so is different from the mandatory proposition that is being advanced by the United Kingdom Government.

- Many of the proposals, which could have an effect on some of the most vulnerable in our society—particularly people with disabilities and, in some circumstances, older people—have to be entirely considered as part of the exercise.
- The use of digital access to public services is appropriate in many circumstances, when individuals are willing to participate in that, but we must act to avoid digital exclusion in all circumstances.

Prior to the Prime Minister's announcement, in the early summer, net support in opinion polls for digital ID cards stood at 35 per cent.

- After the Prime Minister announced the proposal, it fell to minus 14 per cent. It seems to be the case that whatever the Prime Minister touches turns to dust.

DUBLIN CONVENTION

It is crucial that the UK participate in European-wide arrangements for the two-way resettlement of asylum seekers in a similar manner to the Dublin III Regulation.

- EU withdrawal means that the UK is no longer a participant in the EU's Dublin III Regulation. This provided a two-way process to return asylum seekers to another EU Member State if they had first passed through that State, and also provided a safe and legal route for those in other EU Member States to be reunited with family members residing in the UK.
- Without this route, people traffickers and smugglers know that the people they get to the UK are unlikely to be removed, unlike other European countries.
- **QUOTE:** "The refugee convention does not state that refugees must claim asylum in the first safe country they come to. We were able to exercise that rule in the Dublin regulation as part of the European Union. Obviously that is not applicable to us now, and indeed the EU has since changed the Dublin regulation." **Theresa May MP** (Maidenhead, Conservative), second reading Nationality and Borders Bill, July 2021

BACKGROUND TO LOCAL CONNECTION CHANGES

- The rules on local connection for Scottish households were changed so that people in housing crisis have the freedom to settle where they choose in the same way as other households in Scotland, with access to the support they need.
- Households are more likely to resettle successfully and avoid repeat homelessness if they are living in an area of their choosing where they can access the specific services and person-centred support they require and where they are able to integrate successfully into the local community.
- The change to local connection referrals was a recommendation made in 2002 by the [Homelessness Task Force](#), reiterated by the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group in its [final report](#) in 2018.
- In July 2019, the Scottish Government confirmed its intention to modify and suspend referrals between local authorities relating to local connection.
- On 7 November 2019, the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (Commencement No. 4) Order (SSI.No.316/2019) commenced provisions in the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 that provided Ministers with the power to make regulations to change local connection provisions.
- The 2019 legislation gave Ministers the power to modify local connection referrals and changed the duty of local authorities to investigate for intentional homelessness when assessing homelessness applications to a discretionary power.
- Following consultations in 2019 and 2020, a [Ministerial Statement](#) setting out the circumstances of this change was published on 22 March 2021.
- The SSI was laid before Parliament on 20 September 2022 and the Order came into force on 29 November 2022.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE ASYLUM PROCESS

Refugees are not illegal immigrants

- As a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the UK has clear international legal obligations to recognise and protect refugees.
- Under Article 31, refugees must not be penalised for entering a country irregularly, and the Convention sets out minimum standards for their treatment, including access to housing, work, and education.
- Crucially, refugee status is declaratory: individuals do not become refugees because the UK grants them status; rather, the UK recognises a status they already hold under international law.

Background / lines to take

The UK is a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention on refugees and considers applications for asylum lodged in the UK. However, the UK's international obligations under the Convention do not extend to the consideration of asylum applications lodged abroad, and there is no provision in UK Immigration Rules for someone abroad to be given permission to travel to the UK to seek asylum.

People can only apply for asylum if they are in the UK. People should apply when they arrive in the UK or as soon as they think it would be unsafe for them to return to their own country. People may have arrived in the UK on a visa but a change of circumstances in their home country makes it unsafe for them to return and they then submit an asylum application.

To stay in the UK as a refugee, the person must be unable to live safely in any part of their own country because they fear persecution there. That persecution must be because of their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or something else that puts them at risk because of the social, cultural, religious or political situation in their country, for example gender, gender identity or sexual orientation.

The applicant must also be unable to get protection from the authorities in their own country.

Asylum seeker access to social housing or homelessness assistance

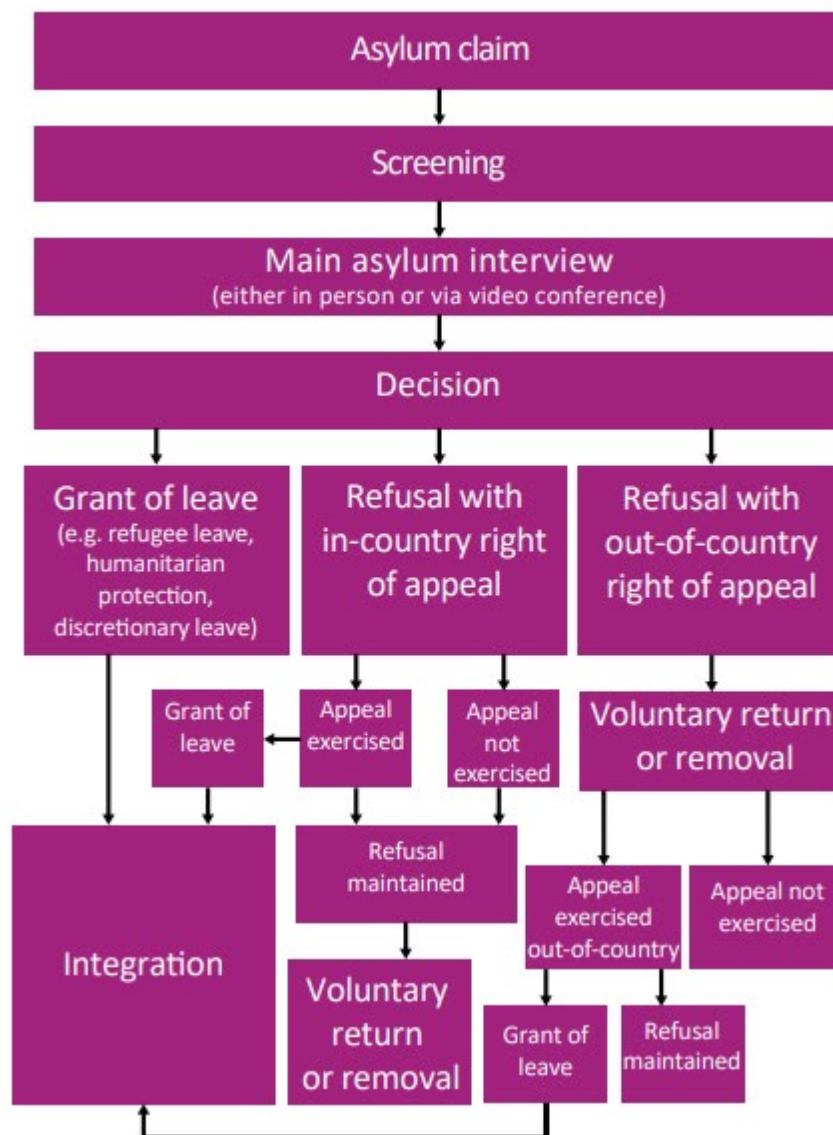
- While asylum seekers are awaiting a decision on their asylum claim, they cannot claim welfare or housing benefits and have no right to be given a full or short Scottish secure tenancy.
- The UK Government has restricted the right to rent in the private rented sector for asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their asylum claim.
- Instead, most asylum seekers will be offered accommodation by the Home Office through specialist housing providers.
- Accommodation offered by the UK Home Office is known as "Section 95 support" and is provided if an asylum seeker would otherwise be destitute while their claim is processed.

BACKGROUND

- With 4,494 asylum seekers housed in accommodation awaiting a decision on their claim, Glasgow is currently supporting more asylum seekers than any other local council area in the UK.
- Only Birmingham has a higher number at 4,555 but, when the size of the population is taken into account, asylum seekers account for 0.71% of people in Glasgow and just 0.40% in Birmingham.
- Manchester has 2,722 people seeking asylum, Liverpool 2,738 and Belfast 2,299.
- Sheffield has 2,075, Cardiff, 1,928 and Leeds 2,791.

Asylum System Journey Map

Source: Migrant Help, Home Office contracted asylum support provider. This represents UKG focused journey – in Scotland approach is to support integration from day one of arrival in line with the New Scots refugee integration strategy.



ASYLUM FUNDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The UK Government does not provide funding to local authorities to accommodate single adults seeking asylum or asylum seeking families. Asylum accommodation is provided under UK Government contracts, with Mears Group holding the accommodation contract for Scotland.

In 2022 funding for local authorities was introduced for the first time. The main purpose was to encourage new participation in asylum dispersal at the point full dispersal policy was introduced, though funding also recognised the contribution of local authorities like Glasgow. Funding has been provided each year since but the rate of funding and mechanism for provision has varied.

2025–26 asylum funding

2025-26 funding instruction outlines expected grant outcomes as “minimising public service pressures” and “recognising the role of wrap-around funding in supporting Asylum Seeker wellbeing, mental health and community cohesion.”

There are two aspects to the funding:

- A single annual payment for support to be provided during 2025-26 based on the number of occupied bedspaces in the local authority as of 30 March 2025.
 - £1,200 per person seeking asylum across all asylum accommodation types.
 - This funding to be paid to local authorities by 30 June 2025
- Ongoing quarterly payments for additional bedspaces occupied
 - A payment of £100 per month for each additional occupied bed space between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, where total occupancy increases above the 31 March 2025 figure.
 - Payable across all accommodation types.
 - Funding eligibility will be assessed monthly and funding paid quarterly in arrears throughout the financial year.

Move-on funding

On 25 March the UK Government published details of one-off funding to local authorities to recognise the impact of increased asylum decision making. A total of £2.8 million was distributed across the UK to local authorities most impacted.

An uplift factor was applied for Scotland and Wales to recognise that housing legislation requires all newly recognised refugees presenting as homeless to be housed in temporary accommodation in Scotland and Wales. To reflect this additional burden an uplift factor of 2.43x was applied to allocations for Scotland and Wales.

Final funding allocation for Scotland was £373,694.32. Local authority distribution of that funding allocation is set out in the table below.

Local authority	Final allocation (Scotland)
Aberdeen, City of	£42,214.14
Aberdeenshire	£32,997.76
Dundee City	£21,632.02

Edinburgh, City Of	£39,304.66
Glasgow City	£192,473.73
Perth and Kinross	£20,993.66
South Lanarkshire	£24,078.36

It is not possible to calculate a per-head rate from the funding allocated as compared to people presenting as homeless to Glasgow City Council. [REDACTED UNDER SECTION 28(1)]

Asylum accommodation pilots

The UK Government invited local authorities to note expressions of interest in proposed asylum accommodation pilots earlier this year. Four pilots were proposed, three would involve some form of accommodation provision and the fourth related to wrap-around support provision.

None of the pilots have yet been agreed to proceed to date. Local authorities may receive funding from the UK Government depending on the terms of any pilot agreed.

ANNEX - HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMMIGRATION / ASYLUM

REDACTED UNDER SECTION 30(b)(i)

Summary of “Prosperity begins at home” report

Responding to the housing emergency requires bold, system-wide reform to:

- Treat housing as economic infrastructure.
- Align policy with net zero, economic growth, productivity, and fairness goals.
- Mobilise non-profits, private sector partners, and regional authorities as delivery agents.
- Commit to ending homelessness through both housing reform and cross-sector public health approaches.
- Step-change in investment in all housing tenures.

Lines to take

Housing investment

- The Housing Investment Taskforce report, published in June, identified a range of actions to support more investment across all tenures of the housing system to meet Scotland’s growth potential.
- It includes recommendations to assess capacity of the RSL sector to deliver new supply and allowing new entrants to deliver affordable housing.
- There is no silver bullet, but structural changes initiated now to deliver, over the long-term, fundamental improvements to supply are within our gift.
- As set out in the Programme for Government, we are taking forward these recommendations in partnership with Taskforce members and other organisations to grow investor confidence to support the delivery of more homes across Scotland.
- We are now focused on long-term plans for implementing those recommendations to unlock new investment opportunities across all tenures.
- We have already made progress in some areas, including:
 - exempting mid-market rent and build-to-rent properties, where appropriate, from the rent controls introduced in the Housing (Scotland) Bill;
 - progressing a commitment to long term certainty on AHSP funding to build sector confidence and delivery momentum;
 - raising historic debt write-off with the UK Government as part of UK Spending Review preparations; and
 - ensuring the planning system is an enabler for increased supply, continuing to work with authorities and industry in a shared effort to identify and remove barriers and accelerate delivery of stalled housing sites.

Planning

- We have made good progress on the 23 actions set out in the ‘Planning and Housing Emergency Delivery Plan’ published in November last year, and planning commitments in the Scottish Government’s housing emergency action plan builds on these.
- We have written to all planning stakeholders on our expectation of an emergency led approach across development plan preparation and the determination of planning applications.
- We have issued a new notification direction to Planning Authorities on 2 September, through which Ministers will closely monitor the application of planning policy and intervene where needed.

Homelessness prevention

- Health outcomes can be improved by preventing homelessness. The prevention duties in the Housing (Scotland) Bill will make the prevention of homelessness everybody's business.
- The passing of new homelessness prevention duties provides an opportunity to implement a 'gold standard' in homelessness prevention in this country to add to the strong housing rights that already exist for those who are homeless.
- Poor mental and physical health is both a cause and a consequence of homelessness and merits recognition as a public health issue. People in housing precarity need health and social care services and housing services to work more effectively together.
- The new legal duties on health boards and other bodies to ask people about housing and act if they are at risk of homelessness will lead to earlier intervention and ensure cooperation between relevant bodies where this is required.

Rapid rehousing

- The Scottish Government is committed to a transition to rapid rehousing for all homeless households, including the provision of Housing First as the first response for people experiencing severe and multiple disadvantage. Housing First provides a tenancy alongside access to a range of support services required to sustain that tenancy, including health and social care.
- We have committed in our Housing Emergency Action Plan to provide a £1m uplift to rapid rehousing transition plan funding in 2025-26 to support the expansion of Housing First and £3m capital funding to acquire properties that will be used for Housing First provision.
- We are also extending rapid rehousing transition plan funding of £8m into 2026-27, which will take our total investment in rapid rehousing and Housing First since 2018 to £81.5m.

Private rented sector and local housing allowance rates

- Our Housing (Scotland) Bill has proposed reforms to the private rented sector, which create the legislative framework needed to ensure greater protections for tenants; introduce long-term rent controls for the Private Rented Sector; and reform some aspects of the letting agent registration system.
- Rent control measures in the Bill will deliver our vision for a fairer, well-managed private rented sector that works in the interests of tenants, responsible landlords, and investors.
- Several factors driving the increase in homelessness lie beyond the Scottish Government's direct control, including the UK Government's decision to freeze Local Housing Allowance rates.
- This will impact thousands of low-income renters in Scotland, widening the gap between housing support for private renters and private sector rents.
- The LHA rate should cover the bottom 30% of rents in a given area as an absolute minimum.
- We have reopened the Open Market Shared Equity scheme to support first-time buyers on low or medium incomes.
- Scotland's National Performance Framework is undergoing a review to introduce a new National Outcome on housing, which aims to ensure that people live in safe, high quality and affordable homes that meet their needs.

From: Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 October 2025 14:40
To: Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

No all in hand

Debbie McCall
Deputy Director – Refugee, Resettlement and Asylum Division
EIHR Directorate
Scottish Government

Mobile : 07710461512



From: Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights
Sent: 07 October 2025 14:37
To: Debbie McCall
Subject: FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Do I need to do anything on this? J

John Somers (he/him)

Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights
DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot
Scottish Government
07387 230253

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities
Sent: 07 October 2025 14:01
To: Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

That's not a problem, I will send over a diary invite. Grateful for lead officials who will attend by 4pm today.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]

Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Housing

Sent: 07 October 2025 13:55

To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

Ms McAllan isn't available for a pre-meet at that time, and has asked whether Ms Stewart might attend a pre-meet tomorrow at 09:00 – 09:30 instead?

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary | Office of the Cabinet Secretary for Housing

St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

M: [REDACTED, section 38] | **E:** CabSecHousing@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Friday.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities
Sent: 07 October 2025 12:11
To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Good afternoon,

Ms Stewart has requested a pre meet tomorrow and in person support - the Minister has time at 12:00 – 12:30 tomorrow. Grateful for a cast list and officials names for support, I can organise box access.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]
Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities
Sent: 06 October 2025 19:11
To: Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Thanks Rachel.

To confirm, Ms McAllan will open & Ms Stewart will close the debate, both speaking slots will be 5 mins.

I'd be grateful for speaking notes and briefing pack, which has been cleared by SpAds, with PO by **3pm Tuesday 7 October**, if an extension is required please liaise with Private Office. Please note if there are any additional briefing materials sent after this deadline these should be formatted into a separate annex.

POs will confirm tomorrow if a pre meet is required on Wednesday.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP
The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 October 2025 18:34

To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Thanks [REDACTED, section 38]

We'll put a slot in the diary with colleagues for first thing in the morning to discuss briefing

From: [REDACTED, section 38] on behalf of Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:34:10 PM

To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for

Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Looping in housing officials

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities
Sent: 06 October 2025 17:31
To: [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Cc: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all,

We have received the below motion for Wednesdays Conservative Business Debate. It is still to be decided who will be opening & closing this debate, but flagging for briefing purposes.

Please feel free to extend the copy list if I have missed anyone.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]
Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG
Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
Sent: 06 October 2025 16:52
To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all

Please find below a copy of the motion for debate on Wednesday 8 October – copying to Ms McAllan's PO:

***[S6M-19252](#) Russell Findlay: Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing**—That the Parliament believes that illegal immigration must be stopped because of the damaging impact on public finances and local communities; recognises that the Scottish Government's decision to suspend local connection rules in relation to homelessness provision back in 2022 has contributed towards attracting asylum seekers to Scotland at an unsustainable level, and calls on the Scottish Government to immediately reverse this decision.

Following the meeting this evening, please:

- confirm who will open and close the debate immediately.
- circulate a full draft amendment to respective Ministers, Special Advisers and the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 8.30am on Tuesday 7 October.
- submit a final, cleared amendment to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 3pm on Tuesday 7 October to be lodged with Parliament.

Please ensure the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans mailbox is copied in throughout the drafting process, please.

Thanks!

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

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From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 02 October 2025 15:42

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all

Please note this debate is now scheduled for 14:50-16:00 on Wednesday 8 October.

Copying to Education Ministers, as discussed with Matthew.

Thanks again

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 02 October 2025 13:04

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

PS/Ministers

As per earlier email, the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party have indicated that their debate on Wednesday 8 October, 16:00-17:10 will fall within the Social Justice portfolio.

A meeting between Ministers, Special Advisers and the Chief Whip will take place on Monday 6 October. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the approach to the debate and amendment. Officials will not be invited - Ministers should consult officials in advance, or following, the meeting if required. The **motion** will be circulated on Monday evening in advance of the meeting.

Following the meeting, please:

- confirm who will **open and close** the debate immediately.
- circulate a full **draft amendment** to respective Ministers and Special Advisers and the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 8.30 am on Tuesday 7 October, for discussion at Cabinet. **Please copy the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans in the drafting process of the amendment.**
- submit a final, **cleared amendment** to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 3pm on Tuesday 7 October to be lodged with parliament.

The evening before the debate, we will circulate all amendments (lodged by the Scottish Government and other parties). When received and considered by Ministers, please:

- send **voting intentions** (yes or no for each amendment) no later than 11am on the day of the debate.

During the debate, Ministers will have the second opening slot of 5 minutes and the penultimate closing slot of 5 minutes.

Please provide a copy of speeches to the [Official Report](#) immediately ahead of the debate – marked as *embargoed* until the start time of the debate and to be *checked against delivery*.

Many thanks
[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1
3DG

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights

Sent: 07 October 2025 09:07

To: [REDACTED, section 38]; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE ACTION - FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Thanks, [REDACTED, section 38].

See also further emails attached, in case you don't have them.

[REDACTED, section 38]

From: [REDACTED, section 38]

Sent: 07 October 2025 09:01

To: Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights ; Debbie McCall ; [REDACTED, section 38]

Subject: RE: IMMEDIATE ACTION - FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

Just going through emails as the first mentioning this came in after 17.30 last night – need to try to understand which area will lead briefing, but yes, we will be able to input from asylum and newly recognised refugees perspective.

(NB – people seeking asylum are accommodated on a no choice basis if accessing Home Office accommodation; it's newly recognised refugees who may choose to move following a positive asylum decision, for various reasons but including that, as I understand it from housing colleagues, English housing and homelessness duties are not as strong as in Scotland with a result being that most single adults are not eligible for temporary accommodation).

[REDACTED, section 38]

| Policy Manager

Refugees, Resettlement and Asylum Division – Asylum and Refugee Integration

3 H North Victoria Quay

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights

Sent: 07 October 2025 08:55

To: Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>
Subject: IMMEDIATE ACTION - FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party
Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

I see you are on the copylist for this urgent briefing for the debate tomorrow:

***S6M-19252 Russell Findlay: Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing**—That the Parliament believes that illegal immigration must be stopped because of the damaging impact on public finances and local communities; recognises that the Scottish Government's decision to suspend local connection rules in relation to homelessness provision back in 2022 has contributed towards attracting asylum seekers to Scotland at an unsustainable level, and calls on the Scottish Government to immediately reverse this decision.
Are you responding about asylum seekers being attracted to Scotland ?

[REDACTED, section 38]

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities
Sent: 06 October 2025 17:34
To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Looping in housing officials

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities
Sent: 06 October 2025 17:31
To: [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Cc: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all,

We have received the below motion for Wednesdays Conservative Business Debate. It is still to be decided who will be opening & closing this debate, but flagging for briefing purposes.

Please feel free to extend the copy list if I have missed anyone.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]

**Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP
The Scottish Government**

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 06 October 2025 16:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all

Please find below a copy of the motion for debate on Wednesday 8 October – copying to Ms McAllan's PO:

***[S6M-19252](#) Russell Findlay: Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing**—That the Parliament believes that illegal immigration must be stopped because of the damaging impact on public finances and local communities; recognises that the Scottish Government's decision to suspend local connection rules in relation to homelessness provision back in 2022 has contributed towards attracting asylum seekers to Scotland at an unsustainable level, and calls on the Scottish Government to immediately reverse this decision.

Following the meeting this evening, please:

- confirm who will open and close the debate immediately.
- circulate a full draft amendment to respective Ministers, Special Advisers and the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 8.30am on Tuesday 7 October.

- submit a final, cleared amendment to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 3pm on Tuesday 7 October to be lodged with Parliament.

Please ensure the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans mailbox is copied in throughout the drafting process, please.

Thanks!

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1
3DG

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From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 02 October 2025 15:42

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all

Please note this debate is now scheduled for 14:50-16:00 on Wednesday 8 October.

Copying to Education Ministers, as discussed with Matthew.

Thanks again

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot

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From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 02 October 2025 13:04

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

PS/Ministers

As per earlier email, the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party have indicated that their debate on Wednesday 8 October, 16:00-17:10 will fall within the Social Justice portfolio.

A meeting between Ministers, Special Advisers and the Chief Whip will take place on Monday 6 October. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the approach to the debate and amendment. Officials will not be invited - Ministers should consult officials in advance, or following, the meeting if required.

The **motion** will be circulated on Monday evening in advance of the meeting.

Following the meeting, please:

- confirm who will **open and close** the debate immediately.
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- submit a final, **cleared amendment** to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 3pm on Tuesday 7 October to be lodged with parliament.

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- send **voting intentions** (yes or no for each amendment) no later than 11am on the day of the debate.

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Many thanks

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Housing
Sent: 08 October 2025 14:11
To: [REDACTED, section 38]; Cabinet Secretary for Housing
CabSecHousing@gov.scot; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Communications Social Justice Housing <CommunicationsSocialJusticeHousing@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot; [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Thanks All. I have attached the final version of Ms McAllan's opening speech.

[REDACTED, section 38]

Private Secretary

Cabinet Secretary for Housing



[REDACTED, section 38]

St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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From: [REDACTED, section 38]

Sent: 08 October 2025 11:44

To: Cabinet Secretary for Housing ; Minister for Equalities

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 ; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans ; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights ; Migration Mailbox ; Debbie McCall ; DG Communities ; Director for Housing ; [REDACTED, section 38]; Communications Social Justice Housing ; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby ; [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland ; Emilie-Louise Purdie ; [REDACTED, section 38]

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

Speech has been cleared for asylum interests also with just one small additional change to note that the previous asylum conservative debate was on 10 September (4 weeks ago), as it was the community cohesion statement two weeks ago.

I'm also attaching some additional briefing as discussed with the Cabinet Secretary and Minister for Equalities this morning.

Please let us know if you need anything further before this afternoon's debate.

[REDACTED, section 38]

Asylum & Ending Destitution Team Leader
Equalities, Inclusion & Human Rights Directorate



From: [REDACTED, section 38]

Sent: 08 October 2025 11:03

To: Cabinet Secretary for Housing ; [REDACTED, section 38]; Minister for Equalities ; Rachel Sunderland ; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby ; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie ; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights ; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 ; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans ; Migration Mailbox ; Debbie McCall ; DG Communities ; Director for Housing ; [REDACTED, section 38]; Communications Social Justice Housing

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Importance: High

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

Thanks for this. I have suggested a few tracked changes on some of the policy content but would appreciate [REDACTED, section 38] reviewing/approving these as some refer to their policy area, especially Labour's continuation of the streamlined asylum decision making process.

Thank you,

[REDACTED, section 38]

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Housing

Sent: 08 October 2025 10:09

To: Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Communications Social Justice Housing <CommunicationsSocialJusticeHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38]


I have attached an updated version of Ms McAllan's opening speech. Could you please check over it for any further changes required.

Please track any further amendments.

Thanks
[REDACTED, section 38]

Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Housing

 [REDACTED, section 38]

 St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

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From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Housing

Sent: 07 October 2025 17:36

To: [REDACTED, section 38]; Cabinet Secretary for Housing

<CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities

<MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland

<Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby

<Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for

Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Communications Social Justice Housing <CommunicationsSocialJusticeHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Copying to comms.

From: [REDACTED, section 38]

Sent: 07 October 2025 16:44

To: Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi [REDACTED, section 38],

With apologies for missing the deadline, please find attached lines to take on the issues raised in the report.

Thank you,
[REDACTED, section 38]

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Housing

Sent: 07 October 2025 14:00

To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all,

For briefing purposes, please see attached DHI report. Grateful for a one pager on this to be included in the pack.

We will likely receive stakeholder briefings as we approach tomorrow, and PO will send these on as and when received.

Many thanks,
[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary | Office of the Cabinet Secretary for Housing

St Andrews House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG
M: [REDACTED, section 38] | **E:** CabSecHousing@gov.scot

The Cabinet Secretary's box closes at 2pm Monday to Friday.

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From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities

Sent: 06 October 2025 19:11

To: Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Thanks Rachel.

To confirm, Ms McAllan will open & Ms Stewart will close the debate, both speaking slots will be 5 mins.

I'd be grateful for speaking notes and briefing pack, which has been cleared by SpAds, with PO by **3pm Tuesday 7 October**, if an extension is required please

liaise with Private Office. Please note if there are any additional briefing materials sent after this deadline these should be formatted into a separate annex.

POs will confirm tomorrow if a pre meet is required on Wednesday.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]

Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP
The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>

Sent: 06 October 2025 18:34

To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Thanks [REDACTED, section 38]

We'll put a slot in the diary with colleagues for first thing in the morning to discuss briefing

From: [REDACTED, section 38] on behalf of Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, October 6, 2025 5:34:10 PM

To: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]; Matthew Elsby <Matthew.Elsby@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; Director for Housing <DirectorForHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Looping in housing officials

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Equalities

Sent: 06 October 2025 17:31

To: [REDACTED, section 38]; Rachel Sunderland <Rachel.Sunderland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED, section 38]

Cc: Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Director for Equality, Inclusion and Human Rights <DirectorforEIHR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>; Migration Mailbox <Migration@gov.scot>; Debbie McCall <Debbie.McCall@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all,

We have received the below motion for Wednesdays Conservative Business Debate. It is still to be decided who will be opening & closing this debate, but flagging for briefing purposes.

Please feel free to extend the copy list if I have missed anyone.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED, section 38]

Private Secretary to Minister for Equalities – Kaukab Stewart MSP

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

Email: MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 06 October 2025 16:52

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Housing <CabSecHousing@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all

Please find below a copy of the motion for debate on Wednesday 8 October – copying to Ms McAllan’s PO:

***[S6M-19252](#) Russell Findlay: Stopping Illegal Immigration and Recognising its Impact on Housing**—That the Parliament believes that illegal immigration must be stopped because of the damaging impact on public finances and local communities; recognises that the Scottish Government’s decision to suspend local connection rules in relation to homelessness provision back in 2022 has contributed towards attracting asylum seekers to Scotland at an unsustainable level, and calls on the Scottish Government to immediately reverse this decision.

Following the meeting this evening, please:

- confirm who will open and close the debate immediately.
- circulate a full draft amendment to respective Ministers, Special Advisers and the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 8.30am on Tuesday 7 October.
- submit a final, cleared amendment to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 3pm on Tuesday 7 October to be lodged with Parliament.

Please ensure the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans mailbox is copied in throughout the drafting process, please.

Thanks!

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Ministerial Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 02 October 2025 15:42

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024 <CabSecES2024@gov.scot>; Minister for Higher and Further Education <MinisterHFE@gov.scot>; Minister for Children, Young People and The Promise <MinisterCYPTP@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie

<Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

Hi all

Please note this debate is now scheduled for 14:50-16:00 on Wednesday 8 October.

Copying to Education Ministers, as discussed with Matthew.

Thanks again
[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

Scottish Ministers, Special Advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to another official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the primary recipient. Ministerial Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: [REDACTED, section 38] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans

Sent: 02 October 2025 13:04

To: Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice 2024 <CabSecforSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Equalities <MinisterforEqualities@gov.scot>

Cc: Jeanette Campbell <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Colin McAllister <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>; Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans <MinisterPBV@gov.scot>

Subject: Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party Debate: Social Justice 081025

PS/Ministers

As per earlier email, the Scottish Conservative & Unionist Party have indicated that their debate on Wednesday 8 October, 16:00-17:10 will fall within the Social Justice portfolio.

A meeting between Ministers, Special Advisers and the Chief Whip will take place on Monday 6 October. This meeting is an opportunity to discuss the approach to the debate and amendment. Officials will not be invited - Ministers should consult officials in advance, or following, the meeting if required.

The **motion** will be circulated on Monday evening in advance of the meeting.

Following the meeting, please:

- confirm who will **open and close** the debate immediately.
- circulate a full **draft amendment** to respective Ministers and Special Advisers and the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 8.30 am on Tuesday 7 October, for discussion at Cabinet. **Please copy the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans in the drafting process of the amendment.**
- submit a final, **cleared amendment** to the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans no later than 3pm on Tuesday 7 October to be lodged with parliament.

The evening before the debate, we will circulate all amendments (lodged by the Scottish Government and other parties). When received and considered by Ministers, please:

- send **voting intentions** (yes or *no* for each amendment) no later than 11am on the day of the debate.

During the debate, Ministers will have the second opening slot of 5 minutes and the penultimate closing slot of 5 minutes.

Please provide a copy of speeches to the [Official Report](#) immediately ahead of the debate – marked as *embargoed* until the start time of the debate and to be *checked against delivery*.

Many thanks

[REDACTED, section 38]

Deputy Private Secretary to Minister for Parliamentary Business and Veterans
M: [REDACTED, section 38] E: MinisterPBV@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1
3DG