

MIGRATION POLICY SCOTLAND

EU Nationals in Scotland: Experiences, Needs and Support

A Migration Policy Scotland Event

Friday 16th September

10:00 am: Welcome - Sarah Kyambi, Migration Policy Scotland

10:15 am: Advice and support for EU Nationals after Brexit

Chair: Rebecca Kay, Senior Researcher, Migration Policy Scotland

Panel:

- Marley Morris, Institute for Public Policy Research
- Francesca Sella, JustRight Scotland
- Agnieszka Morrison, Feniks
- Tony Kenmuir and Isabella Williams, Citizens' Advice Scotland

11:00 am: Q&A

11:25 am: Break – coffee and conversation

11:45 am: EU Nationals lives and experiences during COVID, lessons for the future

Chair: Grace McGill, Trustee, Migration Policy Scotland

Panel:

- Mariña Fernández-Reino, Migration Observatory
- Rebecca Kay, Language Learning and Migrant Integration Project
- Jenni Keenan, PKAVS
- Sharon Wright and Anna Gawlewicz, Migrant Essential Workers Project

12:30 pm: Q&A

12:50 pm: Concluding Remarks - Sarah Kyambi, Migration Policy Scotland

1:00 pm: Event ends

Speaker Biographies

Mariña Fernandez Reino

Mariña Fernandez Reino, PhD, is Senior Researcher at the Migration Observatory, University of Oxford. Before moving to Oxford in 2018, Mariña was a postdoctoral researcher investigating the labour market discrimination of ethnic and migrant minorities in Spain. During her career, Mariña has worked on a variety of research topics related to migration and ethnic inequalities, including the discrimination of Latinos and Muslim minorities, public opinion towards migration, educational inequalities in Spain and the UK, relationships in migrant families, and the labour market integration of migrant workers.

Anna Gawlewicz

Dr Anna Gawlewicz is Lecturer in Public Policy and Research Methods at the University of Glasgow. She researches migrant integration, responses to hostile immigration regimes, how urban and rural communities are shaped by migration, and specialises in Polish migration to the UK. Her current research looks at the health, social, economic and cultural impacts of Covid-19 on migrant essential workers.

Rebecca Kay

Rebecca Kay is Professor in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Glasgow and Senior Research at Migration Policy Scotland. Rebecca is an expert on migration issues in Scotland, with over 25 years' experience of qualitative social research including participatory and action research. Her recent projects include a large 5-year study of migration from Eastern Europe to Scotland involving collaborations with local authorities, community development organisations, employers, museums, and migrant associations in urban and rural Scotland. Rebecca is currently working on a research project led by Dr Francesca Stella, University of Glasgow, exploring language learning and migrant integration in Scotland.

Jenni Keenan

Jenni Keenan is the Empowering Communities Team Manager at PKAVS, where she has a leadership role in both the Minority Communities Hub and the Third Sector Interface. This role involves working closely with Perth & Kinross' diverse migrant, refugee, and minority ethnic communities to improve access to services and tackle the challenges which can be associated with the migrant experience. Jenni is passionate about finding community-focused solutions which work for real people; working with communities to have their voices heard where it matters most; and building the capacity & connectedness of our third sector. She was awarded a British Empire Medal in the 2020 Birthday Honours for services to women and minority ethnic communities during the pandemic.

Tony Kenmuir

Tony Kenmuir is Lead Project Manager within Advice Services at Citizens' Advice Scotland which launched its EU Citizens Support Service in March 2019, including 59 Citizens Advice Bureaux and a solicitor-led service to assist and support EU nationals applying for the EU Settlement Scheme across Scotland.

Sarah Kyambi

Sarah Kyambi founded Migration Policy Scotland in 2020, having become increasingly aware of the need for greater policy capacity on migration in Scotland. She is an expert on UK immigration policy and has worked for thinktanks in Brussels, London and Edinburgh, providing high level policy research, analysis and advice for government, funders and NGOs. She holds a PhD in Law and Social Theory from Birkbeck College, University of London.

Grace McGill

Grace McGill is a Partner and head of Immigration at Burness Paull. She is an accredited Specialist by the Law Society of Scotland and has practised in the field for almost 30 years. Prior to joining Burness Paull last year, she was the founder and Senior Partner of McGill & Co, specialist Immigration & Nationality law firm in Scotland. She is a Trustee of the UK's Immigration Law Practitioners Association and also of Migration Policy Scotland.

Marley Morris

Marley Morris is Associate Director for Migration, Trade and Communities at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). He has led IPPR's work on the new points-based migration system, the EU Settlement Scheme, the impacts of the 'hostile environment', and local experiences of migration and integration. Marley is the author of numerous reports, articles and policy briefings on migration policy and regularly provides expert analysis for the national and international press. Prior to joining IPPR, Marley worked as a senior researcher at the consultancy and think tank Counterpoint, conducting research on populism and nationalism in Europe.

Agnieszka Morrison

Agnieszka Morrison is Policy Development Officer at Feniks. She is responsible for engaging with local and national bodies to raise awareness and advocate for the rights and needs of the Polish community in Scotland. Agnieszka has over a decade of experience supporting minority ethnic communities in Scotland and community development in the third sector.

Francesca Sella

Francesca Sella is a solicitor at the Scottish Refugee & Migrant Centre at JustRight Scotland. Having graduated in 2018, she moved to Strasbourg where she worked as an intern at the office of the Special Representative on Migration and Refugees at the Council of Europe. Francesca completed her traineeship at an immigration and asylum firm in Glasgow, where she gained experience in both asylum and human rights law, and qualified in the summer of 2021. Her main interest lies in asylum law, focusing on gender-based violence and FGM cases but she is also experienced in refugee family reunion cases and complex applications under the Immigration Rules.

Isabella Williams

Isabella Williams is Project Coordinator for the EU Citizens' Support Service and Armed Services Advice Projects at Citizens' Advice Scotland (CAS). Prior to this, she worked for CAS as Network Engagement Officer. Isabella graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2019 with a degree in Philosophy and Politics.

Sharon Wright

Sharon Wright is Professor of Social Policy at the University of Glasgow. She researches migrant essential workers, Universal Credit, welfare conditionality and poverty. Her current research explores how the Covid-19 pandemic affected Polish essential workers in terms of health, finances, social and cultural factors.

Panel 1 Presentations

A MIGRATION POLICY SCOTLAND EVENT

EU NATIONALS IN SCOTLAND

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2022
COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh



MIGRATION
POLICY
SCOTLAND

**EU nationals in
Scotland:
experiences,
needs and
support**

**Marley Morris
IPPR**

**The progressive
policy think tank**



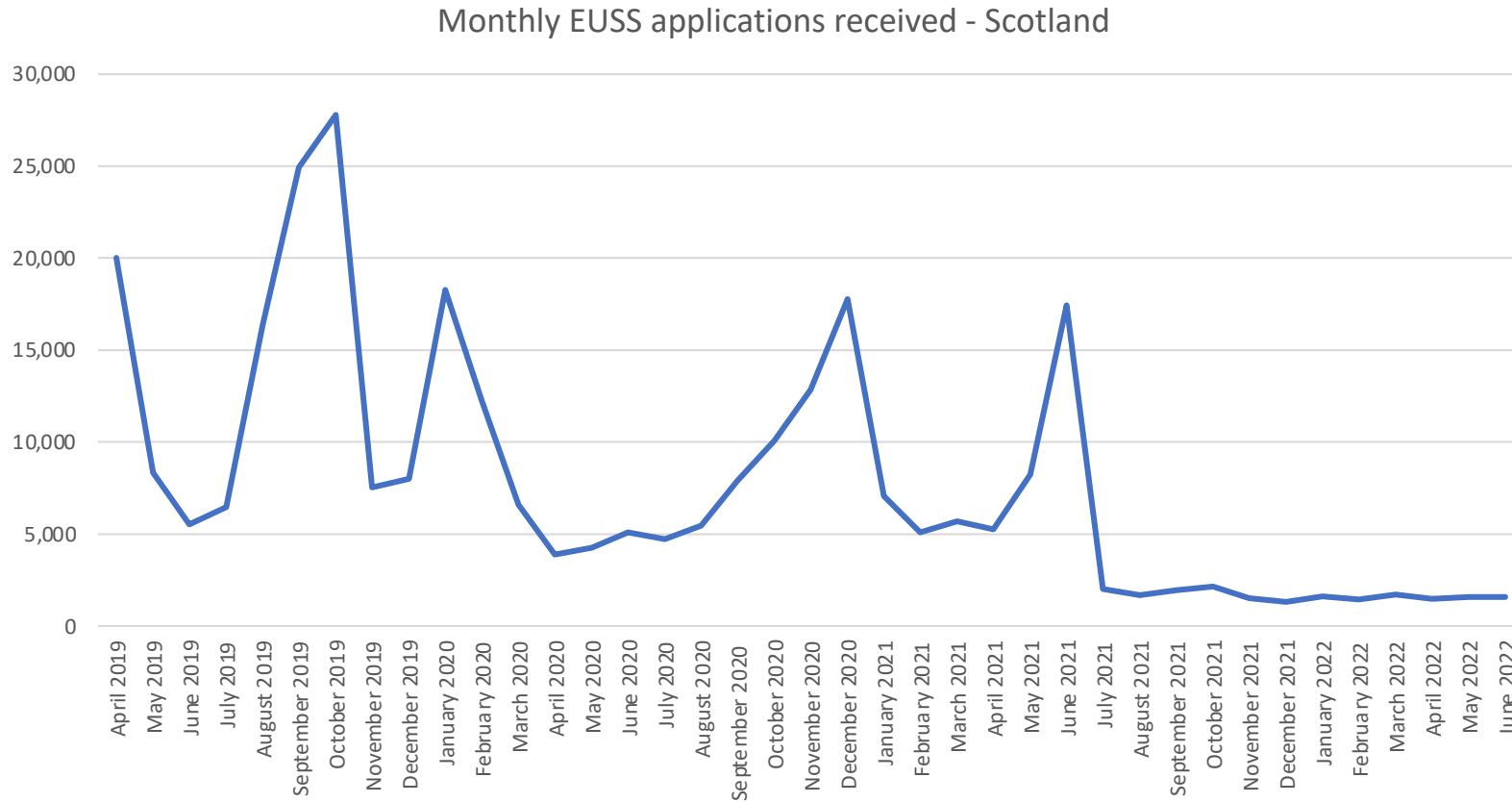
EU citizens post-deadline

- › The deadline for the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) passed on 30 June 2021, prompting a new phase of legal advice. EU citizens may now need support across a number of areas:
 - › People with settled or pre-settled status (or who are awaiting the outcome of their application) may need help to **demonstrate their rights**
 - › People with pre-settled status may need help to **reapply for settled status**
 - › People without status may need help to **make a late application**

Challenges for EU citizens in Scotland

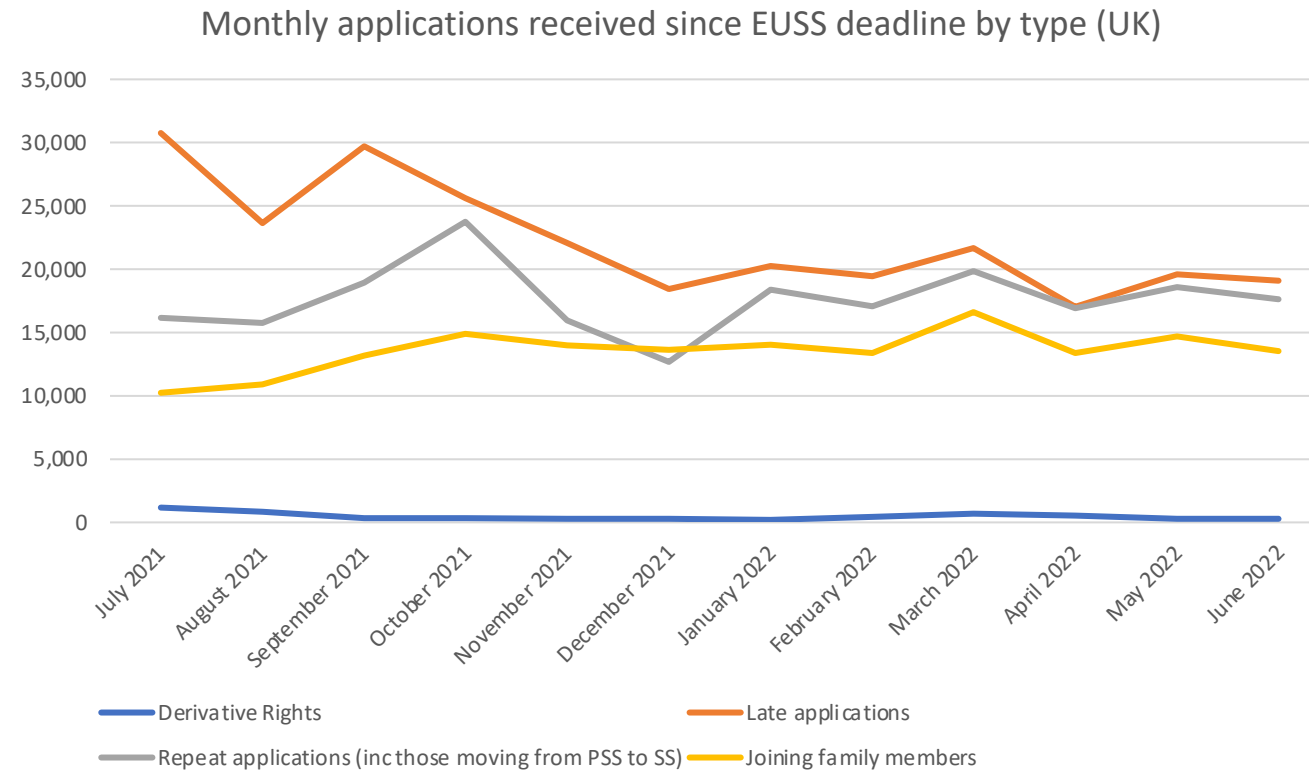
- › **Problems with digital status** – eg website glitches and lack of understanding among officials (CRP 2022)
- › **Loss of job opportunities** due to challenges proving status (CRP 2022)
- › **EU citizens trapped in EUSS backlog** – large numbers still waiting for their status to be confirmed (approx. 7,000 in Scotland) (Home Office EUSS statistics 2022)
- › **Risks of destitution** for EU citizens who lose status (Heriot Watt and IPPR 2021)

EUSS applications in Scotland



Source: IPPR analysis of Home Office
EUSS quarterly statistics, June 2022

Applications since the deadline



Source: IPPR analysis of Home Office
EUSS quarterly statistics, June 2022

Rising refusal rates

Application type (UK)	Total concluded	Settled	Pre-settled	Refused	Refusal rate
Derivative Rights	280	120	50	70	25%
Late applications	175,940	52,690	43,610	57,830	33%
Repeat applications (inc those moving from PSS to SS)	186,440	158,560	11,820	3,030	2%
Joining family members	113,740	7,200	61,950	35,470	31%

Source: IPPR analysis of Home Office
EUSS quarterly statistics, June 2022

Our new project on support for migrants

- › IPPR has started a new project funded by COSLA on the barriers faced by migrants in accessing benefits and other forms of support in Scotland.
- › We are conducting stakeholder interviews and case studies to explore the experiences of people on a number of immigration routes. We are particularly interested in the experiences of people with BN(O) visas.
- › One of our case studies will focus on EU citizens without settled status.
- › We will publish a final report setting out options and proposals for reforming the support system in Scotland.

Advice and support for EU Nationals after Brexit

Migration Policy Scotland Event
16th September 2022



JustRight Scotland

Scotland's Legal Centre for Justice and Human Rights

Our vision: Collaborative Social Justice

- We use the law to **defend** and **extend** people's rights
- Create collaborative projects – with legal and non-legal partner organisations – that cross disciplines, sectors and borders to pool expertise and resources to meet those gaps

 : www.justrightscotland.org.uk

 : @justrightscot



Our work with EU citizens and family members

- Second Tier Advice Line for professionals;
- OISC Level 2 advice and casework support to CAS EUSS advisors;
- Casework: children & vulnerable women



Common Issues identified

- Complex family permits questions (durable partners, parents, adult children and extended family members);
- Late applications, in particular made by some vulnerable groups (for instance, DV victims);
- EEA citizens & family members entering the UK with no knowledge of EUSS and its requirements.



Common Issues identified

- Pre-settled status & access to public funds - particularly affecting vulnerable groups (DV victims, lone parents) and reluctance from LAs to provide support. CPAG litigation- where to next?;
- Pending applications and access to work, travel, public funds, social work support & healthcare;
- Pending applications and pending criminal charges- delays;



Case Study

- Elena, a non-EEA national, entered the UK in 2018 with her partner (EEA national) and their two children. As soon as they entered the UK, her partner began controlling her abusing her. Elena was not allowed to leave their home and did not have access to her documents;
- In 2020, Elena's partner lost his job and applied for benefits and included Elena as a dependant. At the same time, he also applied for her under the EUSS scheme without her knowledge. He submitted the wrong application for Elena as his spouse, although they were never married.



Case Study

- Whilst her applications was still pending, Elena's partner left the UK. Elena was left destitute as her benefits stopped and her landlord was threatening to evict her and the children;
- For a number of weeks, the LA refused to support the family due to them being NRFP. Once they engaged, a social worker submitted an application for Elena to the Home Office as a domestic abuse victim. Elena did not meet the requirements for this and the application was refused by the Home Office;
- Elena was then referred by her local CAB to her legal representative who advised her of the fact that she was not eligible under EUSS and helped her applying to stay in the UK under a different route.



Reflections

- Complexity of Appendix EU and uncertainty;
- Vulnerable groups more likely to be affected;
- Role of local authorities in supporting EU citizens and family members at risk of destitution;
- The need for support and specialist advice still existing almost two years after Brexit



Resources

- Second Tier Advice Line: Wednesdays, 2-4pm- 0141 406 5353
- Referral form: <https://www.justrightscotland.org.uk/need-help/make-a-referral/>
- Factsheets: <https://justcitizens.scot/EU>





Polish nationals' mental health needs and access to support services in post-Brexit Scotland

Agnieszka Morrison
Policy Development Officer



Feniks is a grass-roots charitable organisation set up in 2007 to support the Central Eastern European community in Edinburgh and Scotland.

Our aim is to address health inequalities, promote integration and support the well-being and human rights of CEE communities. We provide culturally sensitive psychological support; community groups; advice and advocacy; immigration advice limited to the EU Settlement Scheme.



Our research projects



Mental health and suicides amongst Polish men in Scotland

Vaccination hesitancy and health screening uptake

Report on EU nationals' reaction and long-term consequences of the EU Referendum

Impact of Brexit on the EU nationals' mental health in Scotland and the UK

Main issues related to mental health

- Domestic violence
- Suicide (men)
- Addiction
- Depression

Causes

- Trauma/ Mental illness
- Social isolation & loneliness
- Financial difficulties
- Unemployment
- Poor housing/ homelessness
- Discrimination
- Relationship breakdown
- Long- term physical health condition
- Being a long-term carer

Support available (?)

Availability ≠ Accessibility

- Poor access to the mental health support
 - Lack of culture and language appropriate services
 - Lack of translated information
 - Lack of awareness
- Hidden demand

What would a landscape of good quality advice and support look like?

1. Recruitment of Polish speaking professionals
2. Campaigns and information available in Polish
3. Improvement of equality data
1. Sustainable support for the grassroots organisations
1. Redefinition of 'prevention'
2. Service provision built around patterns in wider Polish community



Thank you

Feniks

Counselling, Personal Development and Support Services Ltd

Phone: 0131 629 1881

E-mail: info@feniks.org.uk



EU Citizens Support Service

September 2022

- Tony Kenmuir
- Lead Project Manager (National Projects)
- Citizens Advice Scotland



Citizens Advice Scotland



➤ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liDN0QZKnYg>

Citizens Advice Network in Scotland



- In 2020-21 we helped over **171,000 clients** in Scotland and dealt with over 647,000 advice issues
- Clients gained **£147 million**
- For every **£1** funded to the advice service, **£14** is returned to the community in client gains

The impact of the Citizens Advice network

Of those who benefit,
on average

£4,400

better off



**4 in 10
cases**



CABs deal with are complex
and need multiple advice types



We're worth

**£245
million**

in net benefits
to Scotland



2.5 million

people checked our online advice
pages in the last year

Nine in ten



people in Scotland
have heard of us

We offer advice



in person,



over the phone



or online.

About Citizens Advice Bureaux in Scotland

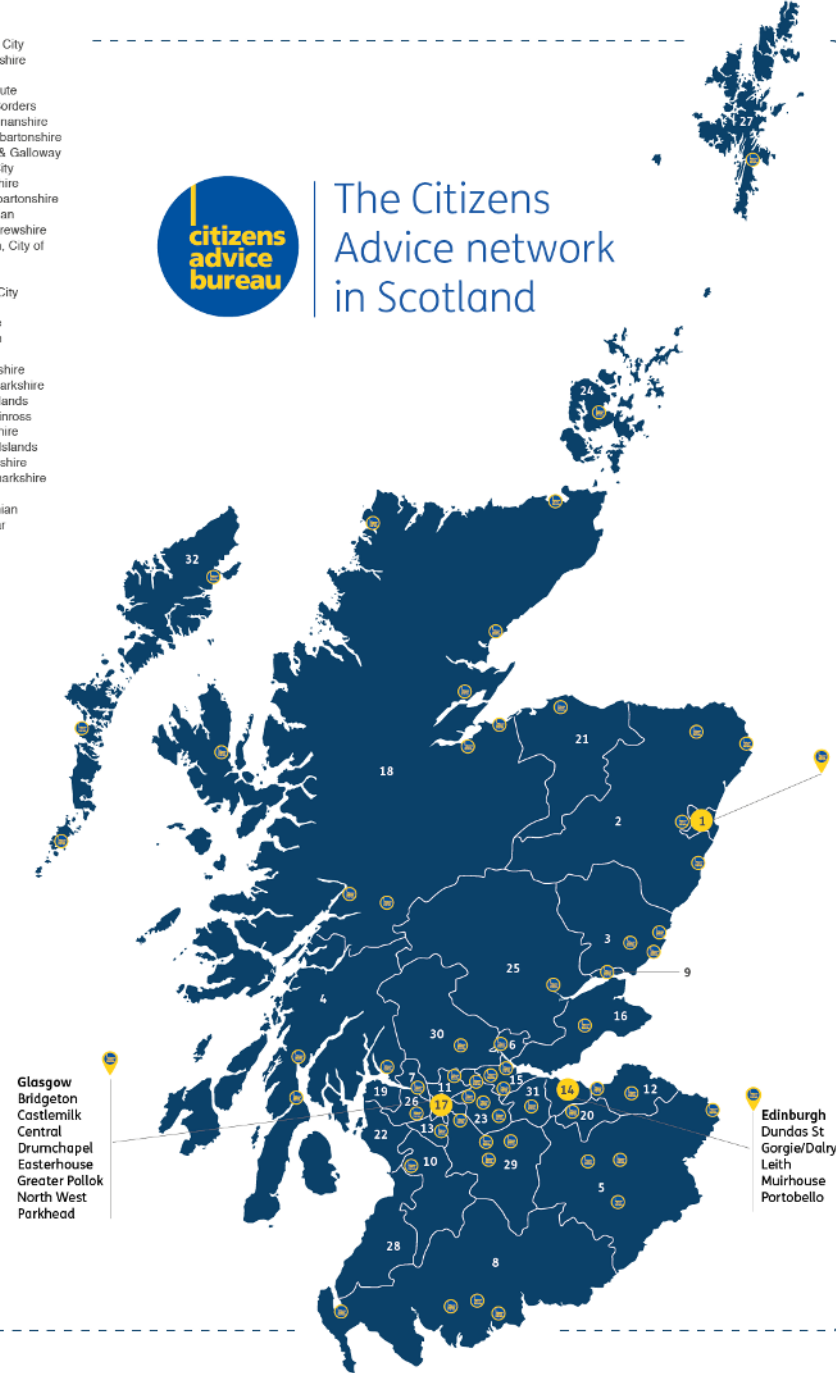
- 59 Bureaux – 200+ Locations
- Advice is free, independent, confidential, impartial and available to everyone.



- 01 -Aberdeen City
- 02 -Aberdeenshire
- 03 -Angus
- 04 -Argyll & Bute
- 05 -Scottish Borders
- 06 -Clackmannanshire
- 07 -West Dunbartonshire
- 08 -Dumfries & Galloway
- 09 -Dundee City
- 10 -East Ayrshire
- 11 -East Dunbartonshire
- 12 -East Lothian
- 13 -East Fife
- 14 -Edinburgh, City of
- 15 -Falkirk
- 16 -Fife
- 17 -Glasgow City
- 18 -Highland
- 19 -Inverclyde
- 20 -Midlothian
- 21 -Moray
- 22 -North Ayrshire
- 23 -North Lanarkshire
- 24 -Orkney Islands
- 25 -Perth & Kinross
- 26 -Perth & Kinross
- 27 -Shetland Islands
- 28 -South Ayrshire
- 29 -South Lanarkshire
- 30 -Stirling
- 31 -West Lothian
- 32 -Eilean Siar

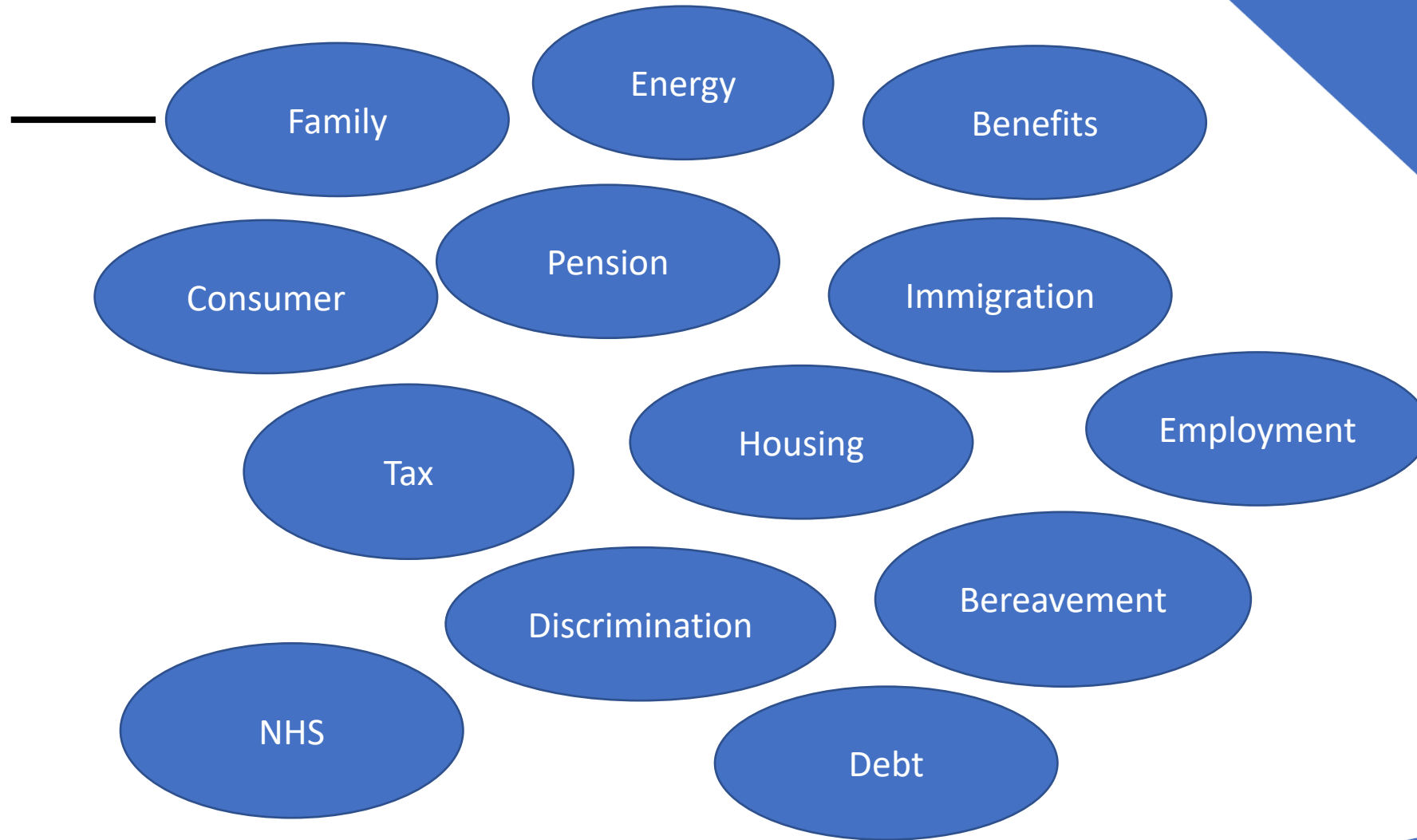


The Citizens Advice network in Scotland

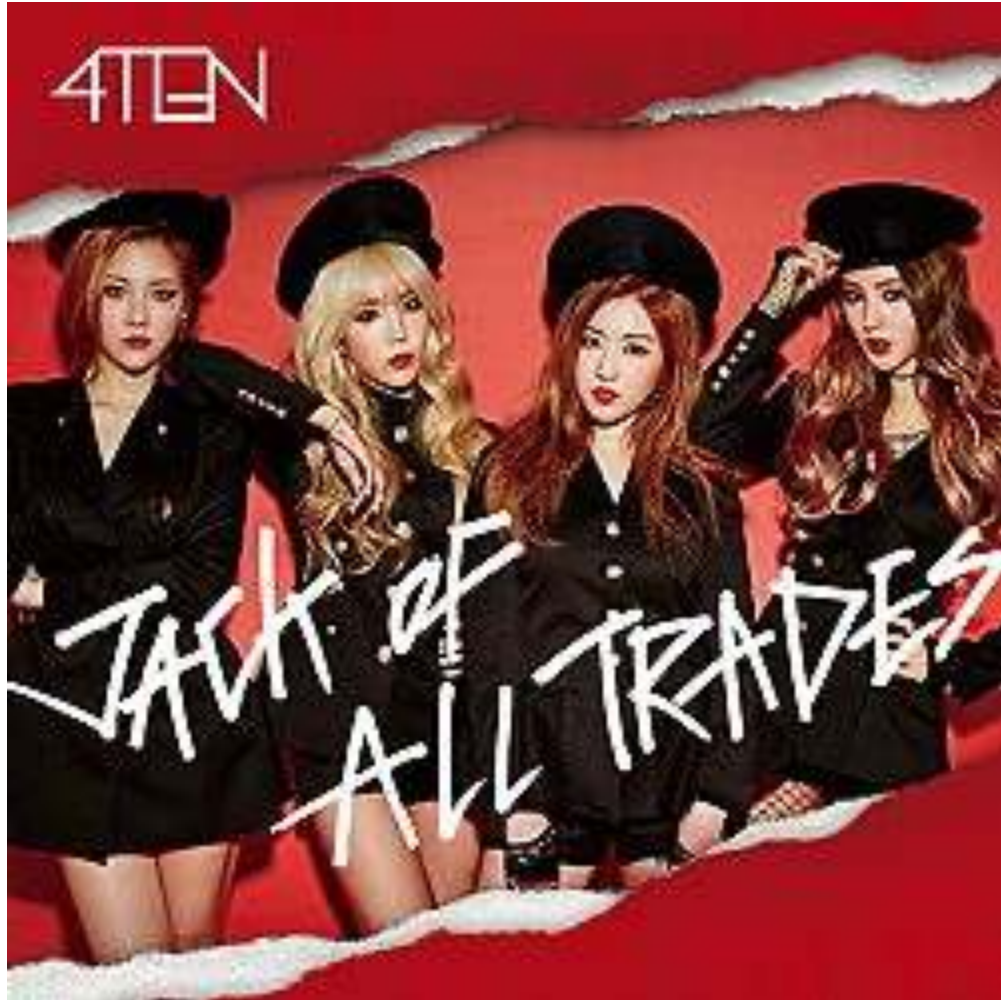


citizens
advice
bureau

About Citizens Advice Bureau in Scotland



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EU Citizens Support Service

Aims

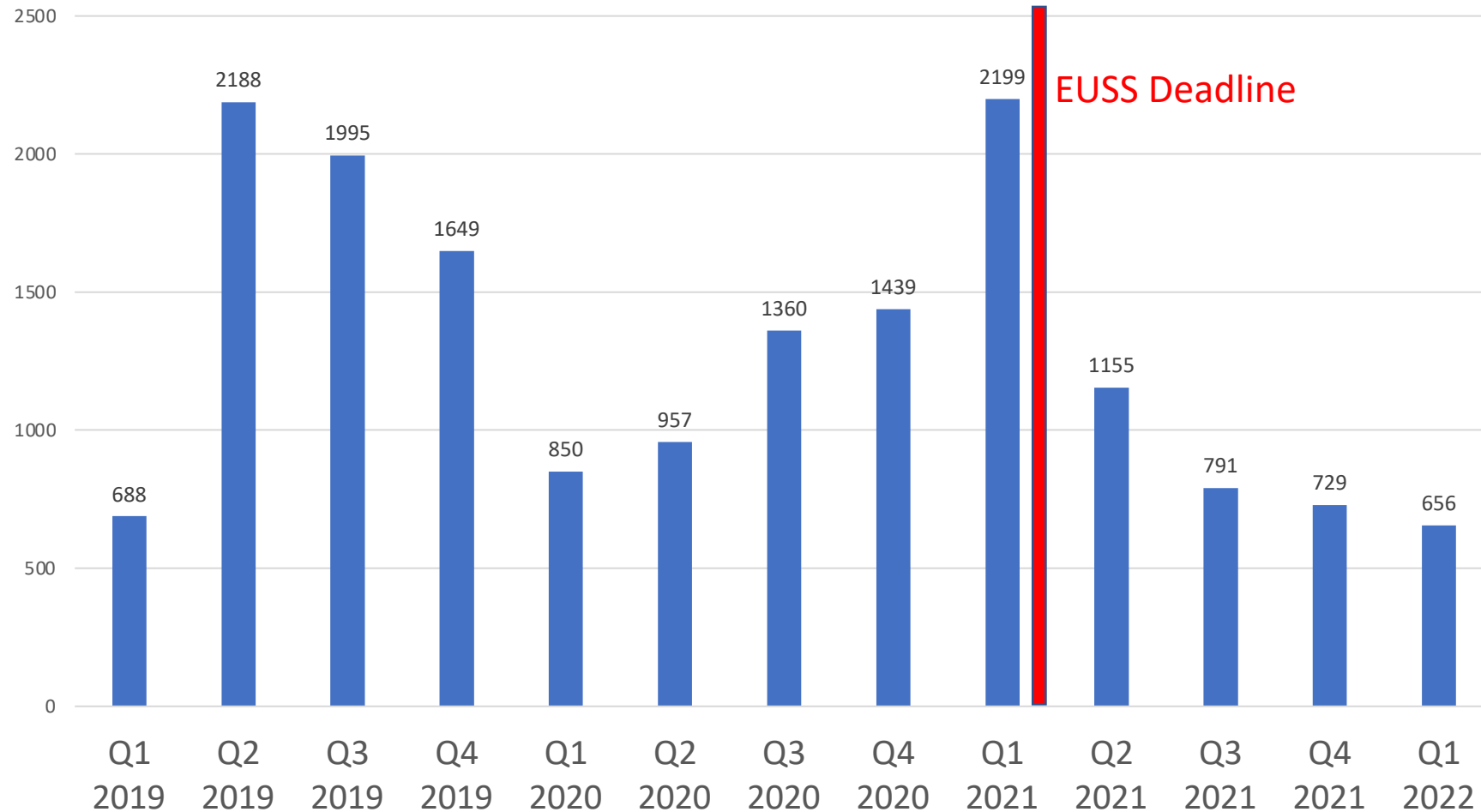


- EUCSS supports EU nationals apply to the EU Settlement Scheme
- National helpline & local bureau support
 - Improve EU citizens' awareness and understanding of their **rights and entitlements** to ensure eligible citizens apply to the EUSS
 - Assist EU, EEA, Swiss citizens and their non EEA family members with their **application to the EU Settlement Scheme**
 - Provide **immigration advice** and **signpost** clients to other Citizens Advice services or external partners where appropriate
 - Support **Ukrainian refugees** entering Scotland via helpline enquiries
 - Refer EUSS **OISC level 2 casework** to partner solicitor agencies (Just Right Scotland and Legal Services Agency)

EU Citizens Support Service: Clients



No. of Clients Accessing EUCSS 2019-2022



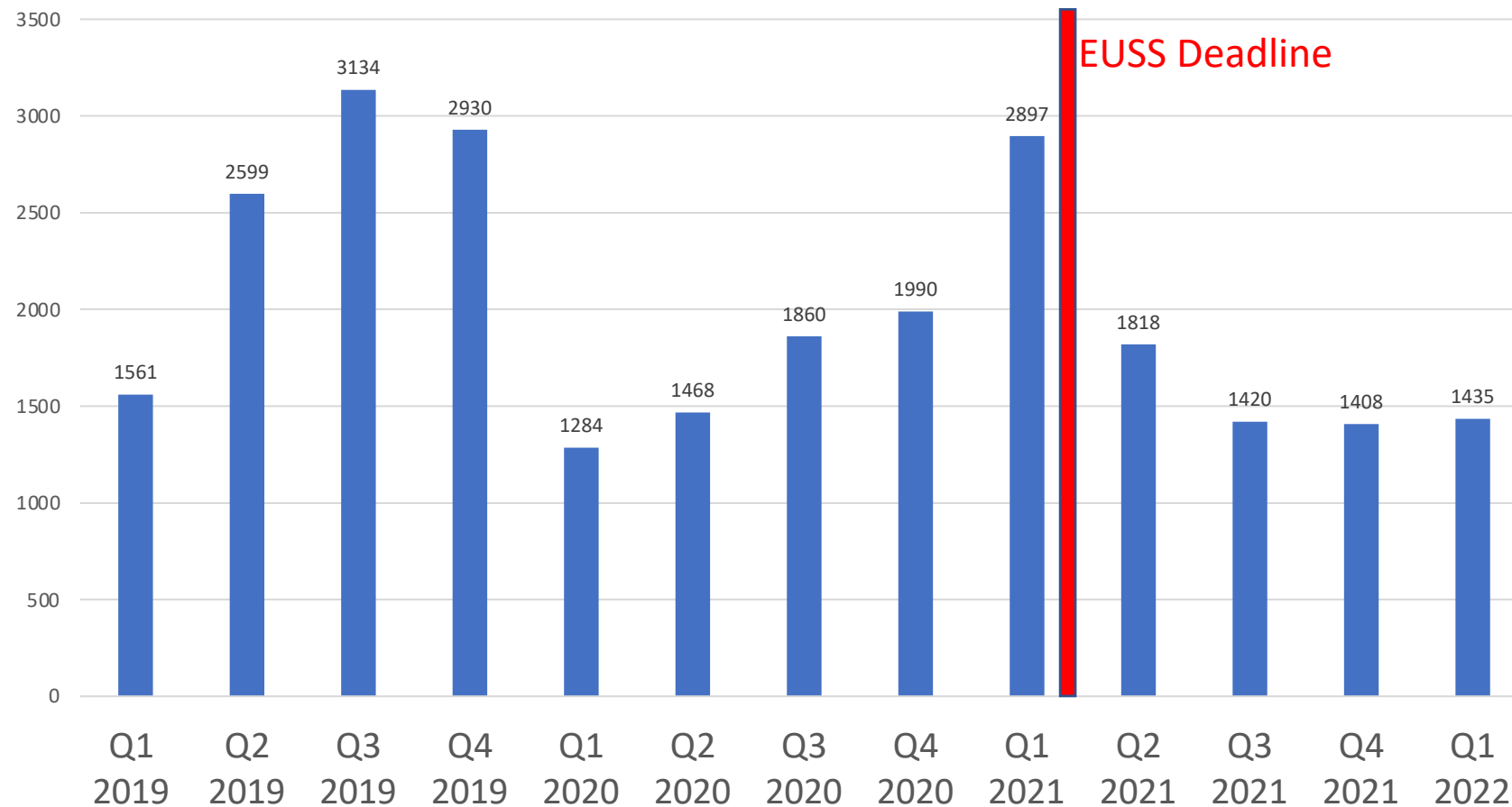
About Citizens Advice Bureau in Scotland



Citizens Advice Scotland: Immigration Advice



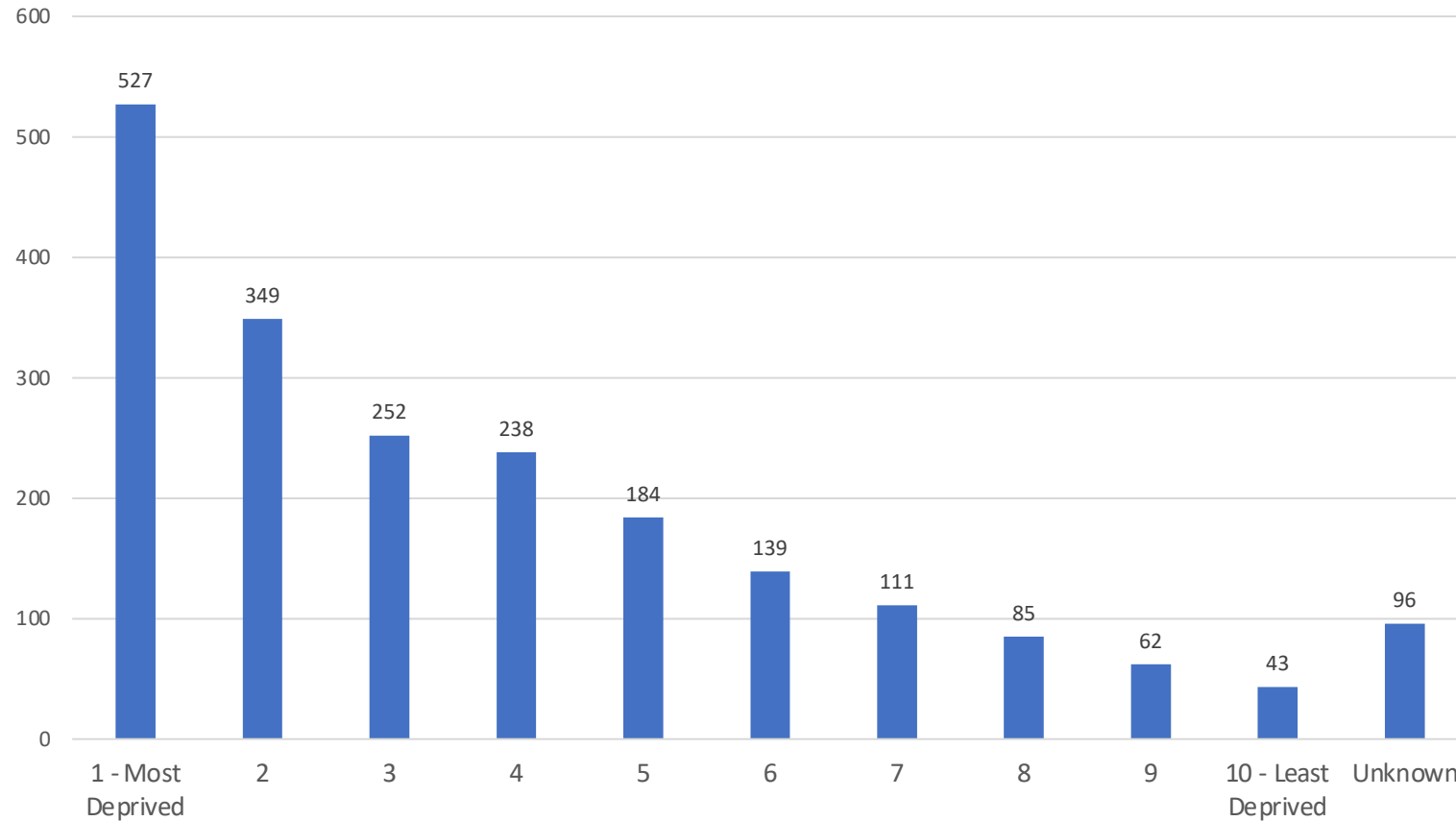
**No. of Clients Requiring Immigration, Asylum & Nationality
Advice 2019-2022**



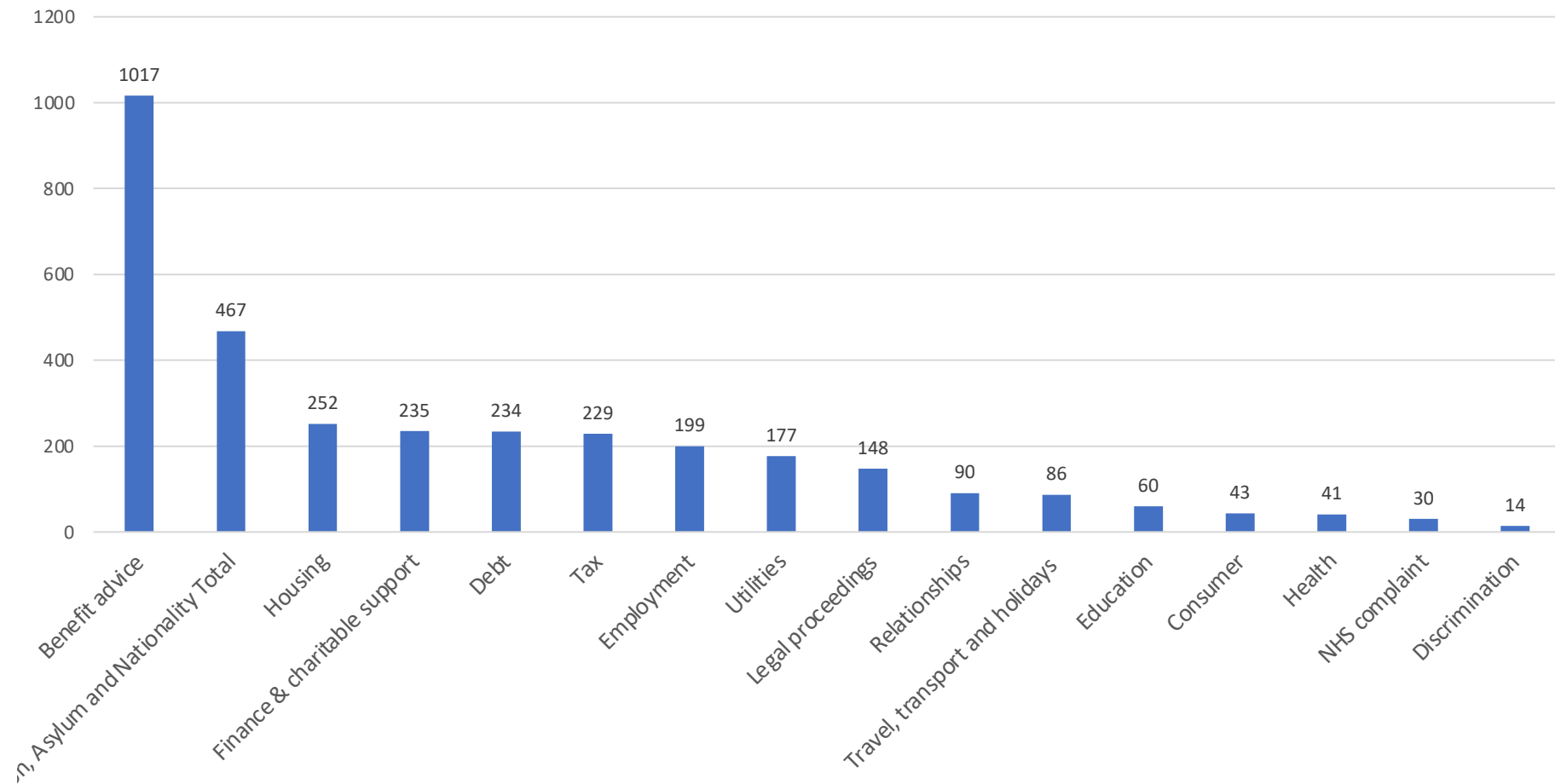
EU Nationals: Client Demographics



No. of clients per SIMD decile: Q1 2022-23



EU Nationals: Advice Issue Areas



Citizens Advice Bureau Royal Patronage



www.cas.org.uk/brexit

EUSupport@cas.org.uk



- Produced by Citizens Advice Scotland [September 2022]
- Scottish charity SCO 16637 and company limited by guarantee 89892

Panel 2 Presentations

A MIGRATION POLICY SCOTLAND EVENT

EU NATIONALS IN SCOTLAND

FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2022
COSLA Conference Centre, Edinburgh



MIGRATION
POLICY
SCOTLAND

Immigration attitudes during the pandemic: the role of occupation *essentialness* and nationality

Mariña Fernández-Reino
Senior Researcher
The Migration Observatory
University of Oxford



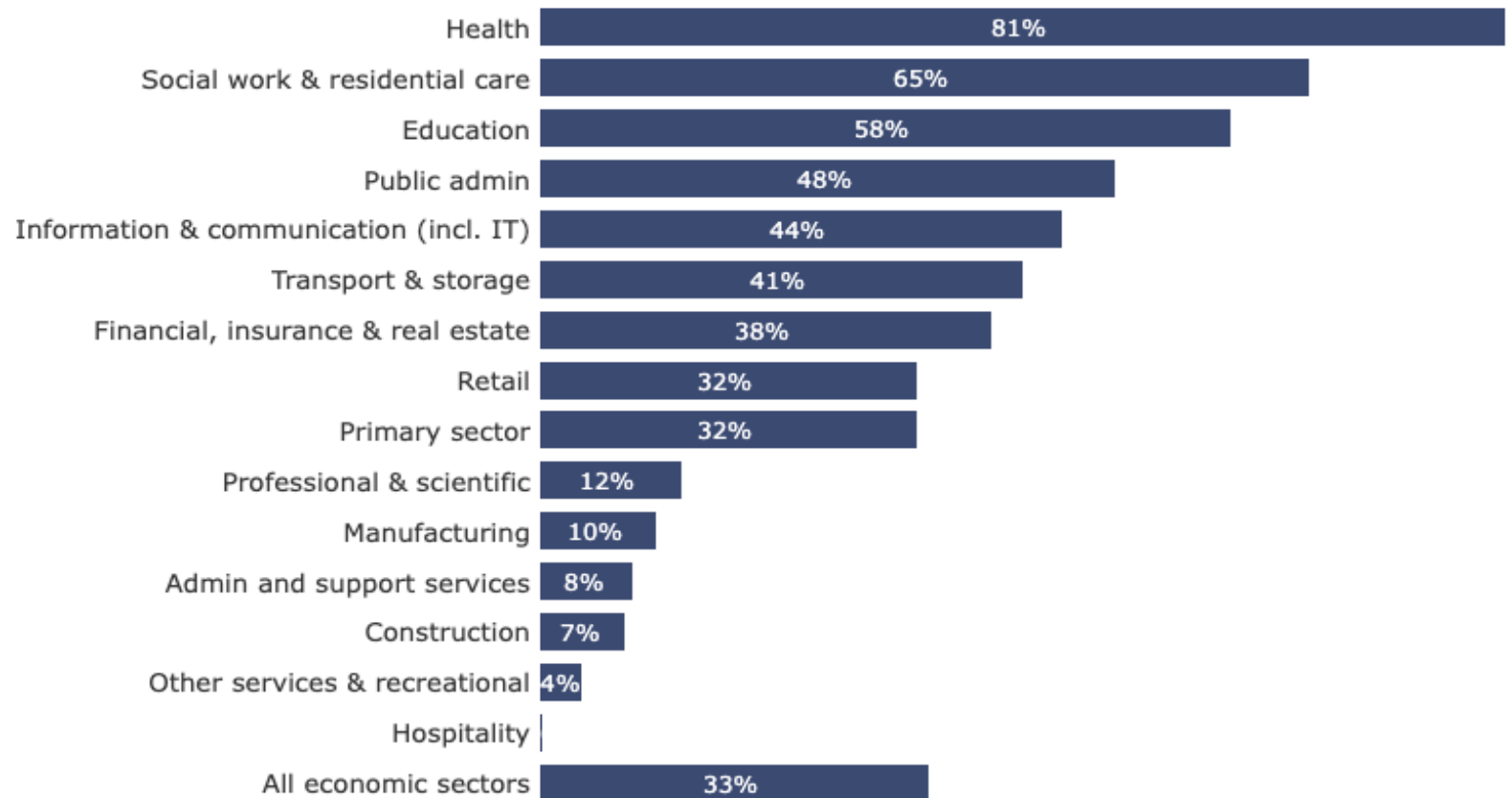
Context and motivation

The Covid-19 pandemic and the role of essential workers

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the salience of **'key'** or **'essential' workers** has grown in public rhetoric

Governments around the world published lists of *'key'* or *'essential'* occupations

Share of essential workers across sectors, 2019 (age 16+)



Source: Labour Force Survey 2019 (average of 4 quarters)

[Link](#)

Context and motivation

The Covid-19 pandemic and the role of essential workers

Media and scholarly attention to role played by key/essential workers and the representation of migrants among the essential workforce

IZA Policy Paper No. 155

Immigrant Key Workers: Their Contribution to Europe's COVID-19 Response

UK expands COVID-19 testing to ease shortage of key workers

Boris Johnson u-turns over Immigration Health Surcharge and scraps fee for overseas nationals working in NHS

Post-Brexit key worker shortage 'may hamper UK economic recovery'

Government advisers say pandemic has highlighted vital economic contribution of migrant workers

COVID-19 and key workers: What role do migrants play in your region?

During COVID-19 lockdowns it became visible that migrants are often important in sectors that are crucial for the functioning of everyday life. Informed by this experience, this note provides an assessment of the role of foreign-born workers in essential services (referred to as migrant key workers) at regional level for 31 European countries. It examines the share of migrant key workers in regional labour markets, their importance in jobs with different skill requirements, and differences between EU and non-EU migrants. Migrants play a crucial role in health care, where 23% of doctors and 14% of nurses are foreign-born. In cities such as London or Brussels, around half of all doctors and nurses are migrants. Overall, capital regions have the highest share of migrant key workers (20%). Similarly, cities rely more on migrant key workers than other areas, especially in low-skilled occupations where migrants make up 25% of workers.

[Less](#)

Research questions

To what extent people's attitudes towards migrants depend on migrants' occupation?

Are attitudes towards migrants in essential occupations more favourable than towards migrants in non-essential occupations?

Our study

Tracking Public Attitudes and Preferences for Post-COVID-19
Labour Migration Policies

Data

- Three-wave pre-registered conjoint experiment fielded through YouGov UK's online panel
- Fielded in January (third national lockdown), April and July 2021
- Sample in wave 1 → $N = 4,954$

Outcome variables (binary choice)

Respondents are presented with pairs of hypothetical migrants who vary in their **nationality** and **occupation** and are required to choose one of them

Here are the profiles of two people who could apply to come to live in the UK.

	Person One	Person Two
Nationality	India	Australia
Occupation	Sales director for a homeware retailer	Hospital doctor for the NHS

Outcome 1: *If you had to choose, which of these two people would you personally prefer to enter the UK?*

Outcome 2: *If you had to choose, which of these two people do you think would be better for the UK's economy?*

Migrant profiles shown to respondents can be working in 12 different occupations

	LOW or MEDIUM-LOW SKILLED Not eligible for skilled worker visa	HIGH or MEDIUM-HIGH SKILLED Eligible for skilled worker visa
ESSENTIAL +40% of workers are considered key workers	CARE WORKER in a home for the elderly LORRY DRIVER for a supermarket chain MEATPACKER in a factory	HOSPITAL DOCTOR for the NHS SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER LAB TECHNICIAN in a pharmaceutical company
NON-ESSENTIAL Fewer than 20% of workers are considered key workers	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT in an accounting business WAITER/WAITRESS in a restaurant WAREHOUSE WORKER for a clothing retailer	IT SPECIALIST in an insurance company SALES DIRECTOR in a homeware retailer ENGINEER in a construction company

Is there an essentialness premium?

Reference group: migrants in non-essential jobs

Preference for admission

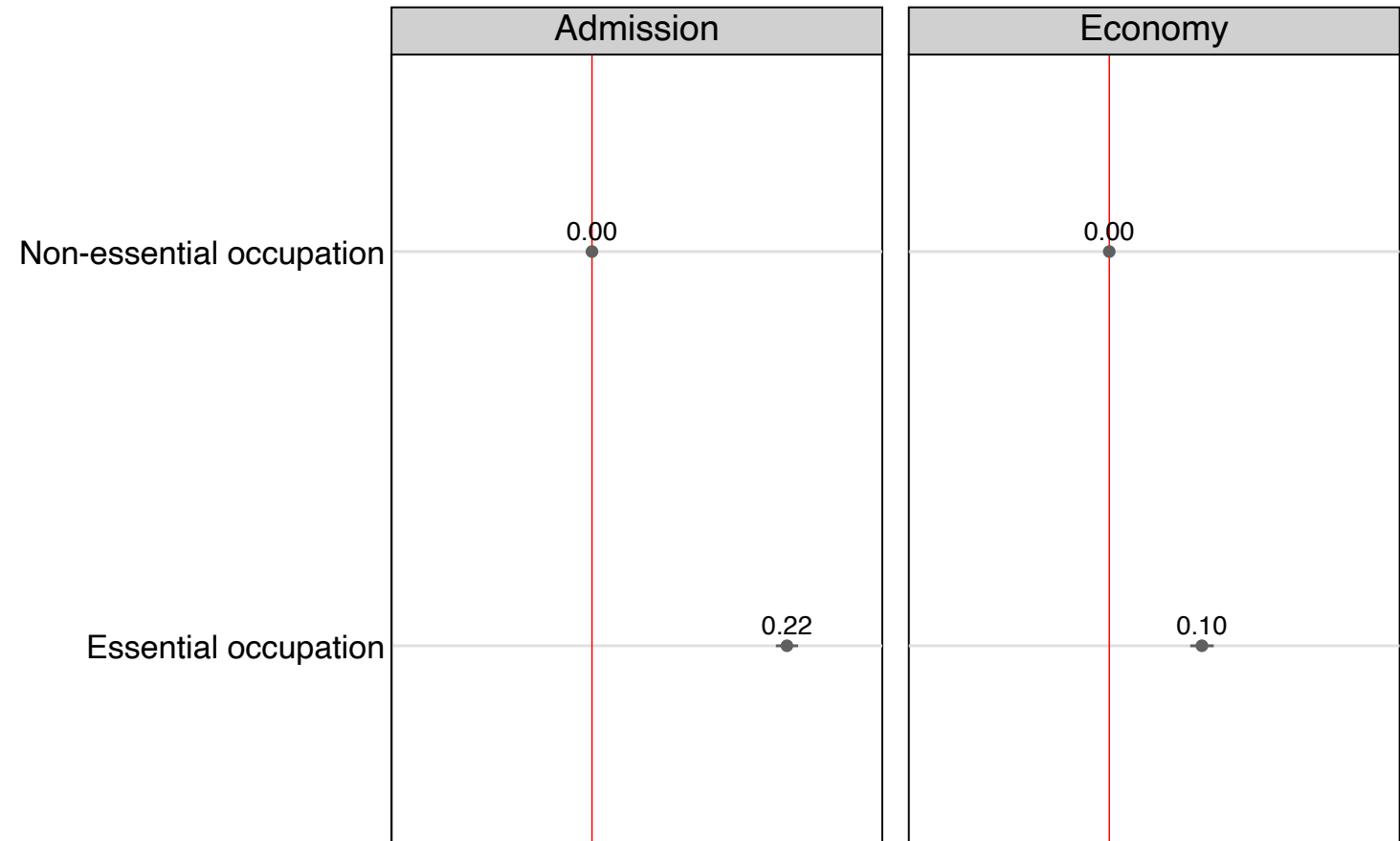
Migrants working on essential occupations are on average 22% more likely to be supported for admission than those in non-essential jobs

Beneficial for the economy

The premium associated to coming to work in an essential occupation is smaller (10%)

Preference for migrants coming to work in essential jobs

Ref. migrants coming to non-essential jobs



N= 4,951 respondents, Wave 1 (Jan 2021) 3 trials per respondent
Linear probability models with clustered and robust SE

Is there a skill premium?

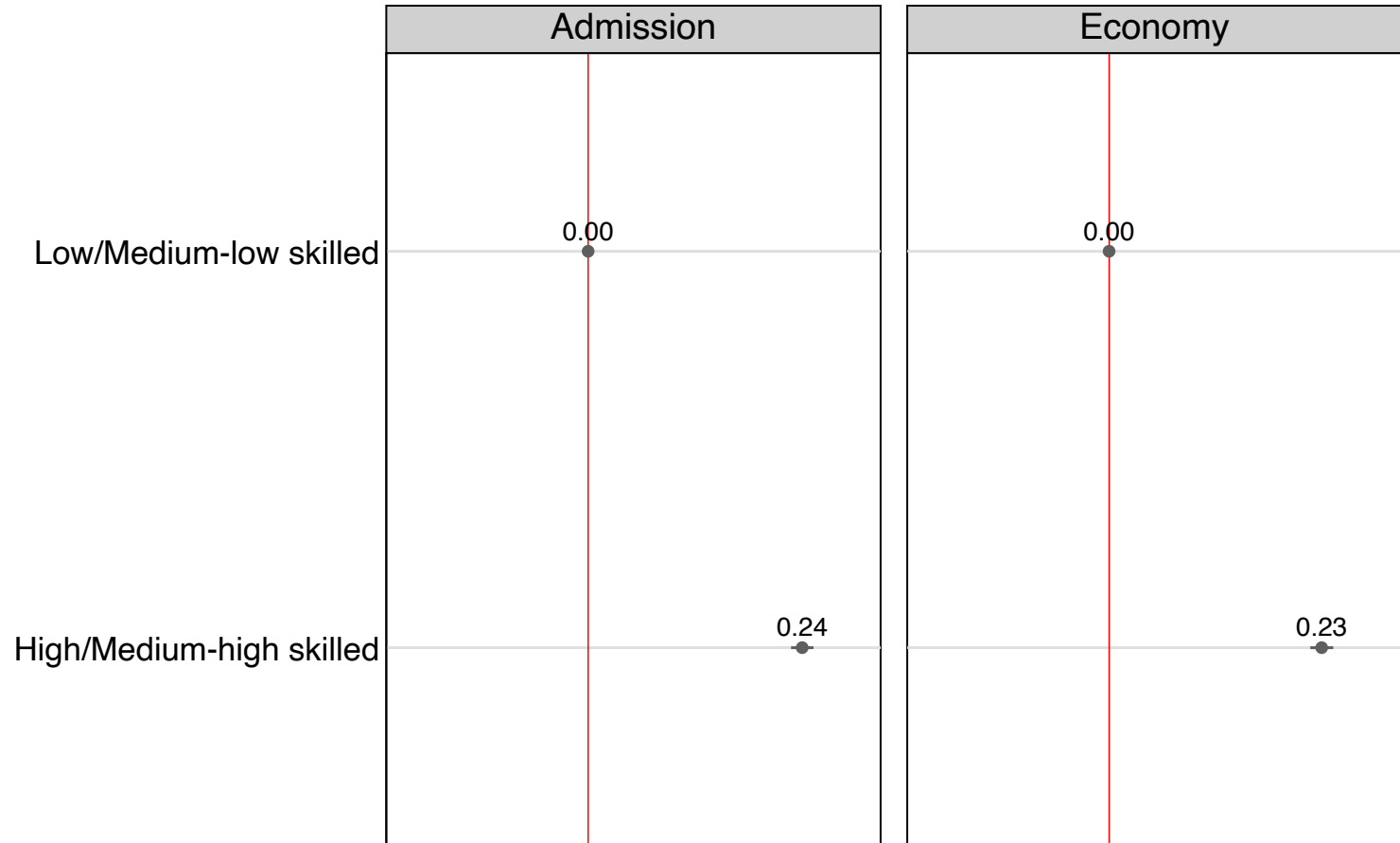
Reference group: migrants in low-skilled jobs

The probability of being preferred for admission is 24% higher for high-skilled migrants than for low-skilled migrants

Same effect of job skills on both outcomes

Preference for migrants coming to work in high-skilled jobs

Ref. migrants coming to low/medium-low skilled jobs



N= 4,951 respondents, Wave 1 (Jan 2021) 3 trials per respondent
Linear probability models with clustered and robust SE

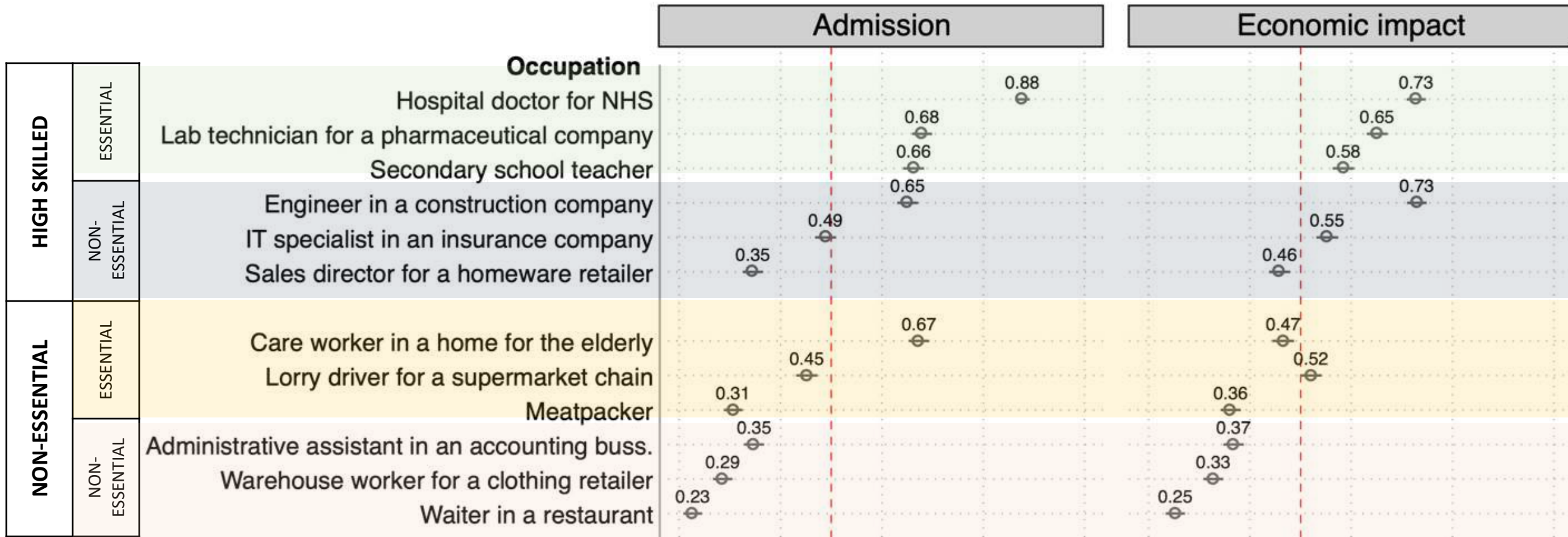
Average rating of essential and non-essential migrants, by region

Averages based on 1-7 scale



Note: Premiums are calculated prior to rounding the rating averages. Source: *Tracking Public Attitudes and Preferences for Post-COVID-19 Labour Migration Policies Project*, wave 1 (January 2021).

How often respondents choose migrants in essential jobs?



Discussion

Previous literature only considered job skills as a relevant dimension conditioning attitudes

However, the perceived essentialness of an occupation also conditions public attitudes

The essentialness premium may have been present before the pandemic



University
of Glasgow

EU Nationals: Language Learning and Successful Settlement

Prof Rebecca Kay

Dr Francesca Stella (PI)

**WORLD
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GLASGOW**

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

**GOOD
UNIVERSITY
GUIDE
2022**

**SCOTTISH
UNIVERSITY
OF THE YEAR**

Language Learning and Successful Settlement

- Tangible/material aspects of settlement
 - Employment / career progression
 - Access to services
 - Knowing and claiming rights
- Social/cultural aspects of settlement
 - Wider positive social ties
 - Discussing cultural differences and similarities
 - Signposting and support networks



Where, When, How EU Nationals Learn English

- A vibrant and diverse ESOL* landscape across Scotland
 - FE college courses (FT and PT)
 - Community-based classes (Local Authority/Third Sector)
 - Language cafes, conversation groups, befriending schemes etc.

*English for Speakers of Other Languages



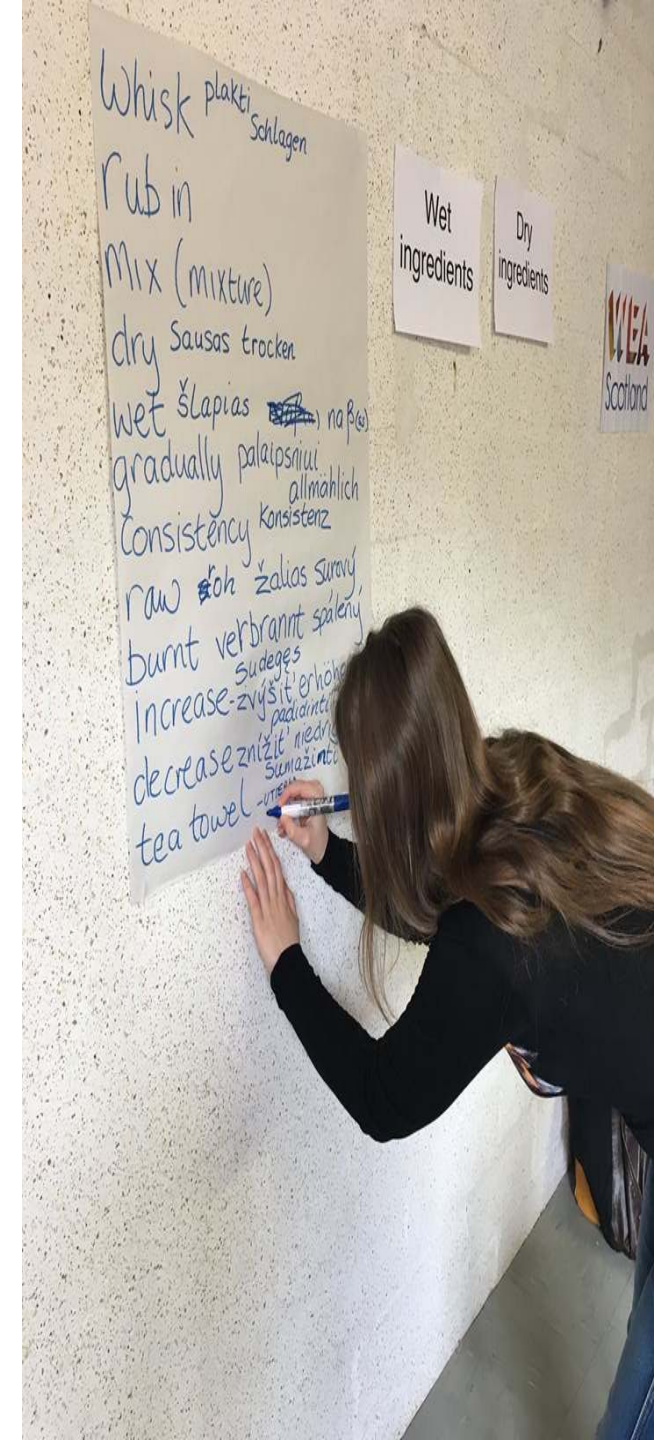
Recruitment and access to language learning

- Many providers have minimal resource for outreach and recruitment.
- Most learners find classes by word of mouth and informal referrals.
- Some targeted initiatives involving employers or family learning.
- EU nationals seen as less of a key group of learners than in the past.



Motivations and Practicalities of Language Learning

- Language learning prioritised at different points in time.
- Age and gender affect the kinds of learning people can engage with.
- Timing and frequency of classes can be challenging.
- Language learning as source of sociability and empowerment.



COVID: Impacts of online learning

- Some groups merged creating more diverse groups of learners.
- Digital inequalities, especially in rural areas.
- Formal language learning harder, especially for beginners.
- Important source of social contact, but essential workers struggled to find time.
- Pros and cons to juggling childcare while online.

Free online ESOL
classes starting in
October

weascotland.org.uk

Free ESOL classes

Join our classes and learn everyday English to help you live and work in Aberdeenshire.

There is no certificate for this course.

Elementary - Monday evenings
level 7.00pm - 9.00pm

Pre-intermediate - Monday evenings
level 7.00pm - 9.00pm

To enrol in a class please email k.wilkie@wea.org.uk



Lessons for the future

- There is still a need to support language learning amongst EU nationals.
- No one-size-fits-all ideal in terms of provision.
- Potential benefits to maintaining some digital provision:
 - reaching learners in smaller groups/more rural places.
 - bringing together diverse groups of learners.
 - reducing costs of travel.
 - flexibility around childcare and other commitments.





Picture of a

Experiences of the Coronavirus pandemic amongst
Perth & Kinross' minority ethnic communities

Pandemic

Community Experiences 2020/21

- Redundancy increased & disproportionately low use of furlough.
- High levels of job seeking support requested and a clear appetite for more intensive employability support.
- Reduction in income and impact of NRPF.
- Distinct lack of affordable housing in rural areas.
- Healthcare access became more challenging, with some still seeing after-effects – mental wellbeing indicators a particular example.
- What is “community”? Geography vs demographic populations.
- There is a clear appetite for involvement in local & national decision making, but respondents indicated that they do not feel heard or valued by decision makers.

Case Study – Local Factory

- **1,200 agency and employed staff – 90% migrant workers**
- **17 languages spoken**
- **Covid Outbreak lead to full factory shutdown, with full families in quarantine.**

Key elements:

- **Partnership response**
- **Impact on networks**
- **Reaction of local community**

Looking Forward

- **Gap in response around NRPF and leave to remain**
- **Impact of demographic changes on service availability – particularly ESOL.**
- **Employability support**
- **Cost of Living Crisis & Third Sector Response**



Economic
and Social
Research Council



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of Glasgow



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Middlesex
University
London

Covid-19 and migrant essential workers in Scotland

Professor Sharon Wright
Dr Anna Gawlewicz

Follow us on
twitter:

@MigrEssentWork

**MPS event
16 Sept 2022**



Essential work
is the type of
work that is key
for keeping
British society &
economy
running during
the pandemic

The Migrant Essential Workers Study

UKRI/ESRC Covid-19 rapid response

Nov 2020 - May 2022

- Polish case study 
- Online migrant survey - **1,105 (386 Sc)**
- Migrant interviews - **40 (14 Sc)**
- Expert interviews - **10 (5 Sc)**

Project team:

- Prof. Sharon Wright (Glasgow)
- Dr Anna Gawlewicz (Glasgow)
- Dr Kasia Narkowicz (Middlesex)
- Dr Aneta Piekut (Sheffield)
- Dr Paulina Trevena (Glasgow)



Context: Migration & Covid-19

- Migrant workers in both higher-skilled & lower-skilled jobs
- Precarity of migrant workers, **multiple insecurities** exacerbated:
 - Employment
 - Social security
 - Legal status
 - Health
- Migrant workers disproportionately affected in terms of **mental health**
- Pandemic highlighting contributions to societies & economies



**THANK YOU MIGRANT
ESSENTIAL WORKERS**

Health impacts

*[Got infected] At work for sure. (...) I have a lot of contact with people at work. (...) It was very bad. I had **30% chances to live.***

(Zbigniew, M, 60s, fish factory worker)

*I didn't fly home for Christmas (...) I spent Easter in my pyjamas; I **didn't leave my room and hardly ate anything.** Mum would get in touch, but I tried not to worry her. (...) I do have friends but they didn't let me [visit].*

(Kamila, F, 30s, police officer)

Worsening mental health

Overall: **59%**

Education & childcare: **83.3%**

Health & social care: **61.8%**

Food & necessary goods: **60%**

Economic impacts

*When there was an outbreak at the [name of factory] there were 1,200 workers, about 900 of them are migrant workers, and of those about a third were agency staff on zero hour contracts (...) [They] **weren't [paid]** and were **reliant on support** from ourselves and the local authority.*

(Migrant support organisation)

*I had to isolate for 2 weeks. (...) In the meantime, my partner got sick (...) So, I had to stay in another 2 weeks. (...) Of course, they [employer] **were supposed to pay** for that time **but they didn't**.* (Adrianna, F, 20s, care worker)

40% UK
43% SC
FINANCIALLY
WORSE OFF

Social & cultural impacts

*We've had a few people tell us they've **given up work, all women, to home-school.** (...) When the guidance allows a family member to come and care for your child if your child's granny lives in Poland how does that work? (...) Where I could just ask my mum to come over for half an hour that's not an option for a lot of the folk. (Migrant support organisation)*

Vaccination attitudes

*I didn't search on my own [for info about vaccination] until my sister started... pushing me (...) She started telling me [things], sending links, I started reading this. (...) I **believe in what she's shown me.** I mean, I trust, I agree with this, right? (Mira, F, multiple jobs, 40s)*

Key findings

- The pandemic is impacting migrant essential workers in **very different & uneven ways** depending on their individual circumstances
- Unique intersections of gender, age, class, sector of employment, type of job, family circumstances, pre-existing health & socio-economic conditions led to significantly different experiences of Covid-19 impacts
- We have identified some **real ways to improve** the situation!



Impacts of Covid-19 on Migrant Essential Workers in Scotland



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

MAY 2022

By: Dr Paulina Trevena, Dr Anna Gawlewicz, Professor Sharon Wright (University of Glasgow), Dr Aneta Piekut (University of Sheffield) and Dr Kasia Narkowicz (Middlesex University)
With: Professor Robert Gawłowski (WSB University in Toruń, Poland)

Why is change needed?

Covid-19 exposes Scotland's dependence on migrant workers to keep society and the economy running in sectors such as:

- health and social care
- emergency services
- public transport
- food production/sales and product delivery
- justice, religious and mortuary services
- postal services
- cleaning and maintenance of public and communal spaces.

Essential workers (or 'frontline'/'key' workers) in lower- and higher-skilled work risk their own health to tackle the pandemic despite often experiencing insecurity because of restricted citizenship-related rights and precarious employment. This research investigates how Covid-19 impacted on migrant essential workers' health, finances and social/cultural aspects of daily life. The research is with Polish migrant essential workers, who are the largest non-British nationality in Scotland and are overrepresented in essential work.

Key Recommendations

Immediate action:

1. Rename online Covid-19 fact sheets and links in target migrant languages.
2. Improve vaccine take-up amongst migrants.

Top priority:

3. Make mental health support and services more accessible and improve take-up for migrant populations.
4. Establish a network of dedicated community link workers to guide migrants to health services.
5. Protect and raise awareness of migrant essential workers' employment rights.
6. Make all migrant essential workers eligible for Universal Credit.

SCAN ME





Keep in touch

Website:

www.migrantessentialworkers.com

Twitter: [@MigrEssentWork](https://twitter.com/MigrEssentWork)

Facebook: [@MigrantEssentialWorkers](https://www.facebook.com/MigrantEssentialWorkers)

Email:

Sharon.Wright@glasgow.ac.uk

Anna.Gawlewicz@glasgow.ac.uk