



ALBERTO PEZZALI/AP

Eyes on the tiger A neon sculpture called Janu, by the artist Chila Kumari Singh Burman, appears at Sotheby's in London for the Tomorrow's Tigers exhibition, which is open now and ends on Tuesday. A rug by the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei is among the pieces put on sale to fund the World Wildlife Fund's conservation efforts

Quintagram® No 1483

Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Carry out (a trade) (3)
- - -

2 Displaying adult sensibilities (6)
- - - - -

3 Wise, judicious (7)
- - - - -

4 Dedicated monument (8)
- - - - -

5 Hindered, harmed (8)
- - - - -

A	A	A	D	D	E	E	E
E	I	I	I	L	L	M	M
M	M	N	O	P	P	P	R
R	R	R	T	T	U	U	Y

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Cryptic clues see Review page 53

Pupil with Strep A dies

A six-year-old pupil has died and another was taken to hospital after a bacteria outbreak at Ashford Primary School in Surrey. The children had caught the invasive group A streptococcal (Strep A) infection, which can cause scarlet fever, throat infections and invasive diseases. The UK Health Security Agency recommended antibiotics to pupils and staff.

Transgender charity chief steps down

Ross Kaniuk

The chief executive of Mermaids has left the transgender children's charity after six years at the organisation.

The departure of Susie Green was announced last night on the charity's website without an explanation.

Belinda Bell, chairwoman of trustees, wrote that the charity was grateful to Green for all she had done "to support trans, non-binary and gender-diverse young people and their families".

The charity said an interim chief executive would be appointed shortly.

Mermaids was founded in 1995 and staffed by volunteers until 2016. Green



Susie Green has quit after six years in her position

became its first member of staff. The charity, which is based in Leeds with an office in London, has about 44 staff members and 110 volunteers.

It has come under scrutiny recently, partly as a result of its appeal against the Charity Commission's awarding of charitable status to LGB Alliance, which has been critical of "gender ideology". It is believed to be the first time one charity has attempted to strip legal status from another.

Mermaids has also been the focus of a number of newspaper articles. The Times reported that Dr Jacob Breslow, a trustee, gave a presentation in 2011 on "a science-informed understanding" of people attracted to children.

He resigned but Green last week acknowledged his appointment was a mistake.

Britain has not sent back a single migrant to France

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Britain has not deported a single Channel migrant to France under its post-Brexit returns policy, Home Office figures show.

The government introduced new immigration rules in January last year that allow it to declare asylum seekers "inadmissible" if they have travelled through a safe third country where they could have applied for asylum.

However, since then only 83 asylum seekers were served with decisions of inadmissibility. Of those 21 have been returned, and none were returned to France. This is even though most of the 70,000 migrants who have crossed the Channel in small boats set off from northern France.

Immigration experts say the rules are meaningless unless the government has the co-operation of other countries that will accept the return of migrants.

The inadmissibility rules were designed to replace the Dublin III regulation, an EU law that governs which member state is responsible for processing asylum applications.

The returns agreement enabled Britain to remove only a handful of asylum seekers — 263 in 2019 — but the number crossing in small boats was also far lower, at about 1,900.

The figures published by the Home Office on Thursday pile further pressure on Suella Braverman, the home secretary, to introduce tougher measures. She is planning legislation that will make it easier to deport migrants who cross in small boats. She is said to be considering how asylum claims from "safe" countries such as Albania could be fast-tracked, enabling migrants from those nations to be removed within weeks of their arrival.

Ministers are also working on plans



Suella Braverman is planning new laws but details won't be out this year

Channel migrant decisions

Breakdown of asylum seekers told that they were being considered under inadmissibility rules

Admitted into asylum process	9,772
Still no decision	8,722
Decision served	83
Deported	21

Data from Jan 1, 2021 to Sept 30, 2022
Source: Home Office

to agree a deal with countries such as Albania to accept "rapid returns" of rejected asylum seekers.

However, Braverman told the Commons home affairs committee that legislation was unlikely until next year.

There are 143,000 asylum seekers awaiting a decision on their application. More than 100,000 are in receipt of taxpayers' support, which includes a weekly subsistence allowance of £40.85. About 40,000 are being put up in hotels at a cost of £7 million per day.

The 21 who were deported under the

inadmissibility rules were sent to Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

In total, the government considered 20,605 asylum seekers for removal because their claims were inadmissible under the rules between January last year and September this year.

Of those, 18,494 "notices of intent" were issued to individuals to inform them that their case was being reviewed to determine whether removal action on inadmissibility grounds was "appropriate and possible".

Just over half, 9,772, were admitted into the asylum system after the government failed to remove them. Some 8,722 migrants are awaiting a decision.

In the 83 cases in which individuals were served with inadmissibility decisions, the government was able to find evidence that another country was responsible for their asylum claim because of their previous presence or connection to a safe country.

Peter Walsh, of Oxford University's Migration Observatory, said: "The government knows that to be able to return people, they need the co-operation of countries to return them to."

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, said: "The home secretary has no grip on the asylum system and is failing to get even the basics right."

A Home Office spokesman said: "People should claim asylum in the first safe country they reach, rather than making dangerous journeys to the UK. That is why we have rules in place to make asylum claims inadmissible where people have travelled through or have a connection to safe countries.

"We continue to seek readmissions arrangements with other countries who have a mutual interest in preventing asylum seekers making dangerous and unnecessary journeys."

Students are 'inflating' the figures

Matt Dathan

Britain should copy the United States by removing foreign students from immigration figures, a think tank said.

A report by Policy Exchange said that international students tend to be in the UK temporarily and artificially inflate figures, with little evidence that they overstay.

David Goodhart, the author of the report, said they should count towards official numbers if they switch to another visa scheme because it is at that point they begin their route to staying in the UK permanently. The report follows criticism of government plans to crack down on international students after immigration figures this week revealed a 76 per cent increase in migrants coming to the UK to study.

The Times reported yesterday that international students could be barred from Britain unless they win a place at a top university. The government is also considering banning them from studying "low quality degrees", and limiting their ability to bring family members.

However, universities have warned Rishi Sunak that targeting foreign students would be "an act of economic self-harm". The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading universities in Britain, said proposals that limit or restrict international students would be "a mistake" because it would damage local economies and contradict a 2019 strategy to boost international student numbers.

Universities UK, which represents 140 universities, said: "Limiting international students would be an act of economic self-harm that would damage many parts of the country the government aims to make more prosperous."

Curbs on international students would stunt economic growth, letters, page 34