

**S3M-6139# Bill Kidd: Deaf Awareness Week 2010**—That the Parliament welcomes Deaf Awareness Week 2010, which is to take place between 28 June and 4 July 2010 and aims to improve understanding of different types of deafness by highlighting the many different methods of communication used by deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard-of-hearing people, such as sign language and lip-reading; also welcomes the launch and presentation of an exclusive corporate DVD on behalf of the Hearing Company by Julie McElroy, which aims to raise awareness and understanding of issues surrounding deafness by drawing on Julie's own experiences with deafness, and applauds the efforts of the UK Council on Deafness, Julie McElroy and all others involved in coordinating and contributing to the 2010 Deaf Awareness Week Campaign.

Supported by: Dave Thompson, Kenneth Gibson, Brian Adam, Alison McInnes, Robin Harper, Ian McKee, Rob Gibson, Dr Richard Simpson, Aileen Campbell, Bill Wilson, Jackie Baillie, Nanette Milne, Hugh O'Donnell, Karen Gillon, Stuart McMillan, Jamie Hepburn, Mike Pringle, Sandra White, Hugh Henry, Mary Scanlon, Gil Paterson, Robert Brown, Willie Coffey, John Wilson, Trish Godman, Jack McConnell, Maureen Watt\*

<http://www.youtube.com/user/MacDonaldStudio#p/a/u/0/3B6AIKp0aG0>

<http://www.juliemcelroy.com/?page=News>

#### Questions (most recent first)

#### Speech and Language Therapy

**Robert Brown (Glasgow) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the average waiting time is for (a) children and (b) adults to be assessed for speech and language therapy services, broken down by NHS board area. (S3W-32923)

**Robert Brown (Glasgow) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the average waiting time is for (a) children and (b) adults for speech and language therapy interventions from first presentation, broken down by NHS board area. (S3W-32924)

**Alex Neil:** Information on waiting times for speech and language therapy is not currently collected centrally.

The Scottish Government has funded, as part of the National Workforce and Workload Programme, a project to develop an extension to the Allied Health Professions (AHP) data set. This will allow more detailed and accurate information to be captured in relation to AHP activity and workload.

**Robert Brown (Glasgow) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many speech and language therapists were employed in each NHS board area in each of the last five years. (S3W-32925)

**Alex Neil:** Information on staff in post is published annually by NHS Services Scotland Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland, as part of the workforce census as at 30 September each year. Data for speech and language therapists staff in post by NHS region and NHS board 2007-09 are available at:

<http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=Allied%20health%20professions%202009.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment>

Data for therapeutic staff is also available by trend and NHS board 1998-2006 at:

[http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=WFF02\\_HB\\_REG.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment](http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/servlet/FileBuffer?namedFile=WFF02_HB_REG.xls&pContentDispositionType=attachment)

The published data show an increase in speech and language therapy staff (which includes speech and language therapists and speech and language therapy assistants) from 1,107 at 30 September 2005 to 1268 at 30 September 2009 a 14.5% increase of 161 (head count).

## Voluntary Organisations

**Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it will ensure that care charities, such as Caithness Crossroads and East Sutherland Crossroads, continue to receive sufficient funding to enable them to continue to operate, in light of increasing demand for home-care respite services and the pressures on services from insufficient funding. (S3W-33148)

**Shona Robison:** In 2010-11 the Scottish Government is providing £42,369 to Crossroads Caring Scotland under section 10 of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. Crossroads helps develop local services throughout Scotland, providing practical support, including respite, for carers and their families.

Under the 1968 Act, the Scottish Government funds Scotland-wide organisations, rather than locally-based ones. Crossroads Caring Scotland can support locally based Crossroads services to apply for funding from various sources.

Following the concordat with COSLA, the Scottish Government provided extra funding of £4.19 million between 2009 and 2011 to local authorities to help them deliver by 2011 the concordat commitment to an additional 10,000 respite weeks. Highland Council's share of these additional resources is £0.175 million. It is a matter for Highland Council to work with partners to deliver flexible, personalised short breaks provision.

We will be publishing the Young Carers and Carers Strategy in June this year. It will include a chapter on short breaks/respite provision.

## Mental Health

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Executive what stage it has reached in its consideration of the draft report of the working group on applied psychologists and psychology in the NHS and what plans it has to take forward the recommendations. (S3W-33263)

**Shona Robison:** The draft report was previously circulated to NHS chief executives for their comments and discussed with NHS chief executives on 21 April 2010. The working group will now reconvene to produce a final version of the report.

## Mental Health

**Dr Richard Simpson (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what steps it is taking to ensure that the law does not discriminate against people with mental health problems and, with reference to section 141(8) of the Mental Health Act 1983, whether it will make representations to the UK Government to end the situation whereby an MSP might lose his or her seat as a result of being detained under mental health legislation. (S3W-33156)

**Shona Robison:** The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA), which is reserved to Westminster, protects disabled people from discrimination in employment, access to goods, facilities and services, the buying, renting or selling of land or property, education, transport and the exercise of public functions. The (DDA) defines a disabled person as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out

normal day-to-day activities. Enforcement of the DDA is a matter for the Equality and Human Rights Commission, the courts and tribunals

Elections for membership of the House of Commons, the European Parliament and the Scottish Parliament are matters reserved to Westminster under Schedule 5, Head B3 of the Scotland Act 1998. Accordingly the Mental Health Act 1983, section 141(8), which was amended by the Scotland Act 1998 relates to Members of the Scottish Parliament suffering from mental illness.

In such a case the Presiding Officer will arrange for two registered medical practitioners to be appointed to report back to him/her on whether a member is suffering from a detainable mental disorder. If the report is to the effect that the member is suffering from mental disorder and authorised to be detained the Presiding Officer will arrange for the member to be visited and examined by two registered medical practitioners six months after the date of the original report. If the second report is that the member is suffering from mental disorder and authorised to be detained the Presiding Officer will lay both reports before the Scottish Parliament, whereupon the seat of the member will become vacant.

The Scottish Government is committed to the principle of non-discrimination. The Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003, which is the basis of Scottish mental health law, is based around a set of principles which provide for non-discrimination, equality and diversity and respect.

### **People with Learning Disabilities**

**Mary Scanlon (Highlands and Islands) (Con):** To ask the Scottish Executive what is being done to ensure access to lip-reading courses for people with learning difficulties and their carers. (S3W-33170)

**Alex Neil:** Provision of services for people with learning difficulties and learning disability is increasingly based on the principle of improving access to mainstream services. Lip-reading courses are provided by a range of different community agencies, such as health, social work, and further education. The providers of the courses are responsible for making their services accessible to their local communities and classes across Scotland are locally determined and are variable.

Individuals with learning difficulties or learning disability may join local lip-reading classes, but maybe more likely to have one to one sessions as part of an individual support package. Lip-reading is a difficult skill for adults who lose their hearing in later life to acquire. It will be even more difficult for those with learning difficulties and for learning disabled people, especially if they do not have an established language base. Speech and language therapists will often be involved in the assessment of the communication skills of a learning disabled person and would recommend strategies to improve these which would involve their carers.

### **Voluntary Organisations**

**Andy Kerr (East Kilbride) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth will report to the Parliament on the progress made in the Enterprising Third Sector Action Plan. (S3W-32809)

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government will publish an update on progress of the action plan in summer 2010.

**Andy Kerr (East Kilbride) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what actions it is taking to encourage commercial banks to invest in the third sector. (S3W-32810)

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government is committed to encouraging investment in, and development of, the Scottish economy. This includes encouraging lenders to support the cash, credit and capital needs of viable businesses, including those in the third sector.

**Andy Kerr (East Kilbride) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what consideration it has given to the role of social investment bonds in financing third sector organisations. (S3W-32811)

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government is committed to investing in an enterprising third sector. This includes exploring with a range of stakeholders the development of innovative approaches to financing the sector.

**Andy Kerr (East Kilbride) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive how much it has spent on the campaign to attract people from mainstream businesses onto the boards of enterprising third sector organisations and what success it has had. (S3W-32814)

**John Swinney:** The Scottish Government has committed, over two years until March 2011, £82,000 to the Business on Board programme, delivered by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. The Business on Board programme includes encouraging and supporting people with business skills to join the boards of third sector organisations. To date over 50 third sector organisations have signed up and 42 business contacts have been identified and are being carefully matched to third sector organisations.

**Andy Kerr (East Kilbride) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive how it is measuring the impact of the money allocated under the (a) Social Entrepreneurs Fund, (b) Enterprising Third Sector Fund and (c) Scottish Investment Fund. (S3W-32815)

**John Swinney:** Each of the funds is delivered by a different body, each of which has put in place specific monitoring mechanisms.

(a) The Social Entrepreneurs Fund is delivered by Firstport who are measuring the journey travelled by awardees against five indicators: governance, leadership, business planning, operations, and marketing.

(b) The Third Sector Enterprise Fund is delivered in-house by Scottish Government. Each awardee is asked to provide a regular monitoring report and a final report at the end of the funded period, covering the following areas: what the investment has been used for; the difference it has made; progress achieved towards meeting expected outcomes, and any unexpected outcomes.

(c) The Scottish Investment Fund is delivered by Social Investment Scotland, who are using Social Return on Investment (SROI) to measure the social impact of the investment.

In addition, the Scottish Government has recently commissioned EkosGen to carry out an evaluation of the three third sector funds and business support package. The main focus of this work is to look at the needs of the sector going forward but it will also give some initial indications of the impact of the funds. However, much of the money has only recently been allocated so it is a little early to measure fully the impact of the funds.

## **Concessionary Travel**

**Charlie Gordon (Glasgow Cathcart) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive when it will respond to the request from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport for additional resources for local concessionary travel and what that response will be. (S3W-32878)

**Stewart Stevenson:** A reply was issued on 14 April 2010 to Councillor Robert Burrows, Chairman of the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee, request to include the free ferry element of its concessionary travel scheme in the Scotland-wide Free Bus Travel Scheme for Older and Disabled People. It advised that the Scottish Government has no plans to extend the Scotland-wide scheme to include additional ferry travel concessions.

**Patrick Harvie (Glasgow) (Green):** To ask the Scottish Executive when it expects to extend the provision of concessionary bus travel to injured veterans as stated in Scotland's Veterans and Forces' Communities: meeting our commitment. (S3W-33068)

**Stewart Stevenson:** Our intention remains to change the eligibility criteria from 1 April 2011. Scottish Government officials are in regular contact with the Department for Transport and the Ministry of Defence to ensure that this takes place.

## Gaelic Language

**Dave Thompson (Highlands and Islands) (SNP):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it considers that the development of Gaelic is progressing at a satisfactory pace. (S3O-10248)

**Fiona Hyslop:** Gaelic development is progressing well but there is still much to be accomplished before we would describe the achievements as satisfactory. The Scottish Government's clear aim is to ensure that the measures we are putting in place are effective in increasing the acquisition and use of Gaelic.

## Mental Health

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive what the (a) average and (b) longest waiting time is for a first appointment with a psychologist, broken down by NHS board. (S3W-32638)

**Shona Robison:** I refer the member to the answer to question S3W-32641 on 20 April 2010. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/Business/PQA/Default.aspx>.

**Jackie Baillie (Dumbarton) (Lab):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many people are waiting for an appointment with a psychologist, broken down by NHS board. (S3W-32641)

**Shona Robison:** This information is not held centrally.

Good quality psychological care depends on boards having in place the right number of qualified staff to meet their local needs.

Differences occur in staffing levels in psychology services across NHS boards are due to the differences in how services are tailored to meet local need across Scotland.

## Mental Health

**Robert Brown (Glasgow) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive whether it will lodge amendments to Part 2 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill to safeguard the independence and standing of the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland. (S3W-32559)

**Shona Robison:** The Order-making powers in Part 2 of the Public Services Reform (Scotland) Bill apply to the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland in the same way as they do to other public bodies listed in schedule 3 to the Bill. Any proposals for an Order under Part 2 of the Bill would have to satisfy the stringent statutory and procedural safeguards set out in the Bill and would be subject to public consultation and Parliamentary approval by affirmative resolution. The Bill was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 25 March 2010.

## Audiology

**Ross Finnie (West of Scotland) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many students have entered the BSc honours in audiology course at Queen Margaret University in each year since 2005. (S3W-32543)

**Shona Robison:** I refer the member to the answer to question **S3W-26844** on 9 September 2009.

Question **S3W-26844** was:

**Tom McCabe (Hamilton South) (Lab)** (Date Lodged Tuesday, September 01, 2009): To ask the Scottish Executive how many students have entered the BSc honours degree in audiology course at Queen Margaret University since 2005.

Answered by Fiona Hyslop (Wednesday, September 09, 2009): Sixty-five students have entered the BSc honours degree in audiology course at Queen Margaret University since 2005.

**Ross Finnie (West of Scotland) (LD):** To ask the Scottish Executive how many students have entered the graduate diploma in audiology course at Queen Margaret University in each year since 2005. (S3W-32545)

**Shona Robison:** I refer the member to the answer to question **S3W-26843** on 9 September 2009.

Question **S3W-26843** was: Tom McCabe (Hamilton South) (Lab) (Date Lodged Tuesday, September 01, 2009): To ask the Scottish Executive how many students have entered the graduate diploma in audiology course at Queen Margaret University since the course began in 2005.

Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (Wednesday, September 09, 2009): Since September 2005, 49 students have entered the Graduate Diploma in Audiology at Queen Margaret University.