

**Question S4W-11785: Iain Gray, East Lothian, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 10/12/2012**

To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent on the promotion of (a) Gaelic, (b) the Scots language and (c) other indigenous languages in each year from 2007-08, broken down by category of expenditure.

**Answered by Alasdair Allan (24/12/2012):**

Iain Gray (East Lothian) (Scottish Labour): To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent on the promotion of (a) Gaelic, (b) the Scots language and (c) other indigenous languages in each year from 2007-08, broken down by category of expenditure. (S4W-11785)

Alasdair Allan: In the following table we have listed the amounts spent by the Scottish Government on Gaelic and Scots broken down by categories of expenditure.

**Gaelic and Scots Spend since 2007**

Body / Area of Expenditure	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
<b>MG ALBA</b>	£11.9m	£12.4m	£12.4m	£12.4m	£11.8m	£11.8m
<b>Bòrd na Gidhlig</b>	£4.459m	£5.459m	£5.459m	£5.459m	£5.150m	£5.150m
<b>Gaelic Education</b>	£6.141m	£6.641m	£8.941m	£8.150m	£7.565m	£7.930m
<b>Gaelic Spend</b>	£22.5m	£24.5m	£26.8m	£26.009m	£24.635m	£25.0m
<b>Scottish Language Dictionaries</b>	£0	£0	£200k	£200k	£200k	£200k
<b>Scots Language Centre</b>	£0	£0	£70k	£70k	£70k	£70k
<b>Scots Development Fund</b>	£0	£0	£30k	£30k	£0	£0
<b>Scots Spend</b>	£0	£0	£300k	£300k	£270k	£270k

\* The Scottish Government also supports various services using **British Sign Language** but figures are not held centrally.

\*\* The Scottish Government also spends significant funds on the English language. This information also is not held centrally.

**Current Status:** Answered by Alasdair Allan on 24/12/2012

**Question S4W-11671: Nanette Milne, North East Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 04/12/2012**

To ask the Scottish Government what the average waiting time to receive a **hearing** aid has been in each year since 2007, broken down by NHS board.

**Answered by Alex Neil (18/12/2012):**

Audiology Services is included in the Scottish Government's target that no patient should wait more than 18 weeks from a GP referral to start of treatment since the end of 2011.

Information on Audiology services is collected on an aggregated form. Consequently, it is not possible to provide the information requested. However, information on the median wait from referral to assessment, assessment to fitting of a **hearing** aid and from referral to a one stop clinic in each financial year from July 2009 (first published data) to 31 September 2012 (latest available published data), by NHS board is provided in the following table.

Nationally collected waiting times information for Audiology services is relatively new data and figures should be treated with caution. ISD continue to work with NHS boards to improve data quality.

**Experienced Waiting Time from Referral to Audiology Assessment**

NHS Board	July 2009-Mar 2010 (Weeks)	April 2010 – Mar 2011 (Weeks)	Apr 2011-Mar 2012 (Weeks)	Apr 2012-Sep 2012 (Weeks)
Ayrshire and Arran	x	x	9(a)	6
Borders	14	7	7	8
Dumfries and Galloway	1 <sup>(b)</sup>	10	4	4
Fife	10(c)	7	5	5
Forth Valley	9(d)	23(d)	10	15
Grampian	7	7	7	8
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	5(e)	6(e)	6	4
Highland	6(f)	11(f)	6	3
Lanarkshire	x	4(g)	3	6(h)
Lothian	12 <sup>(i)</sup>	6 <sup>(i)</sup>	7	6
Orkney	3	2	2	2
Shetland	3	7	8	7
Tayside	x	5 <sup>(j)</sup>	5	4
Western Isles	x	28 <sup>(k)</sup>	6	5

**Median Waiting Time from Assessment to Fitting of **Hearing** Aid from Each Financial Year from July 2009 to September 2012**

NHS Board	July 2009-Mar 2010 (Weeks)	April 2010 – Mar 2011 (Weeks)	Apr 2011-Mar 2012 (Weeks)	Apr 2012-Sep 2012 (Weeks)
Ayrshire and Arran	x	x	6 <sup>(a)</sup>	7
Borders	6	6	4	6
Dumfries and Galloway	8 <sup>(b)</sup>	6	6	7
Fife	0 <sup>(c)</sup>	6	2	2
Forth Valley	4 <sup>(d)</sup>	0 <sup>(d)</sup>	1	0
Grampian	9	8	7	7
Greater Glasgow and Clyde(d)	4 <sup>(e)</sup>	5 <sup>(e)</sup>	5	4
Highland	6 <sup>(f)</sup>	6 <sup>(f)</sup>	4	4
Lanarkshire	4 <sup>(g)</sup>	4 <sup>(g)</sup>	3	4
Lothian	11 <sup>(i)</sup>	16 <sup>(i)</sup>	8	7
Orkney	3	3	3	3
Shetland	4	6	7	5
Tayside	x	5 <sup>(j)</sup>	5	4
Western Isles	x	28 <sup>(k)</sup>	6	5

**Median Waiting Time (Weeks) from Referral to One-Stop Clinic**

NHS Board	July 2011-Mar 2010 (Weeks)	April 2010 – Mar 2011 (Weeks)	Apr 2011-Mar 2012 (Weeks)
Ayrshire and Arran	..	SP	SP
Borders	7	5	13
Dumfries and Galloway(a)	x	x	x
Fife	13	12	13
Forth Valley	x	18(l)	24
Grampian	SP	SP	SP
Greater Glasgow and Clyde	SP	SP	SP
Highland	x	9	9
Lanarkshire	x	x	x
Lothian	x	7(m)	7
Orkney	SP	SP	SP

Shetland	x	x	x
Tayside	36	14	13
Western Isles <sup>(i)</sup>	x	x	x

Source: ISD Scotland.

Notes:

- a. Data not available until January 2012
- b. Data not available for until December 2009.
- c. Data not available from December 2009 to March 2010
- d. Data not available from March 2010 to June 2010
- e. Data for Clyde sites not available until June 2011.
- f. Data not available from October 2009 to December 2009 and from February 2010 to April 2010.
- g. Data not available until January 2010 and from April 2010 to May 2010
- h. Data not available from July 2012 to September 2012
- l. Data not available from January 2010 to September 2010
- j. Data not available until April 2010. Data for adult patients only (not paediatric patients) available in June 2010
- k. Data not available until July 2010
- l. One-stop data first submitted in November 2011
- m. One-stop data first submitted in February 2012.
- .. data not available due to system issues.
- x One-stop service, not provided.
- SP Service provided but data not available.

**In the Debating Chamber, 22/11/12:**

**Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Lab):**

5. To ask the Scottish Government what progress the Scottish studies working group has made in promoting opportunities to learn British Sign Language in schools. (S4O-01520)

**The Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland’s Languages (Dr Alasdair Allan):** The promotion of opportunities to learn British Sign Language arose during the work of the languages working group. British Sign Language is already part of the learning experience of pupils in a number of Scottish schools. Local authorities and schools have the responsibility for developing language approaches that meet the needs of all their learners, including British Sign Language where appropriate.

**Mark Griffin:** The minister will know that students in our schools are under pressure to study courses to achieve formal qualifications, whether that is for the purposes of employability or going to college or university. Will there be a qualification attached to the opportunity to learn—and learn about—British Sign Language?

**Dr Allan:** Mark Griffin raises an important subject. There are, of course, some schools in which British Sign Language-related courses are happening, including Dingwall academy and Clydevew academy in Gourrock. There are other schools, although there are perhaps no centrally held figures on them.

I am certainly open to ensuring that we have the widest possible access to British Sign Language courses. For instance, in the one-plus-two languages programme for Scotland, there is recognition of the fact that, if someone’s first language is sign language, that should be recognised and celebrated as a linguistic achievement.