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**Question S4W-13613: Liz Smith, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 12/03/2013**

To ask the Scottish Government what advice it has given to education authorities on the use of frequency-modulated (FM) amplification technology.

Answered by Alasdair Allan (22/03/2013):

The Scottish Government has not provided any advice to education authorities on the use of frequency-modulated (FM) amplification technology. Responsibility for the design, construction and maintenance of schools rests with local authorities.

However, following consideration of a Review of assistive technology and environmental aids to pupils with a sensory impairment in Scotland, published in November 2012 by the Scottish Sensory Centre. The Scottish Government will instruct that over the next two financial years, the Scottish Sensory Centre will:

Establish a national hearing impairment technology group in order to bring together local authority staff and other specialists to share knowledge and expertise.

Develop their expertise in this area in order to establish themselves as a source of advice and support for local authorities on the use of assistive technology and environmental aids to pupils with a sensory impairment in Scotland.

Assistive technology such as frequency-modulated (FM) amplification can be an important element of the additional support a pupil with a hearing impairment received in order to access learning. By increasing their capacity in this area, the Scottish Sensory Centre will help ensure that pupils across Scotland with a hearing impairment can benefit from the latest technological developments.

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**Motion S4M-05884: John Lamont, Etrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 08/03/2013**  
**Roxburgh and Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau We Hear You Project**

That the Parliament congratulates Roxburgh and Berwickshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) on becoming the first CAB to be fully accessible to clients who are deaf or hard of hearing through its We Hear You project; understands that this involved providing special training to staff and implementing a programme of structural and technological improvements to its buildings to enable smoother communication; notes that what it considers this groundbreaking project was developed with engagement from local deaf community groups and with funding from Citizens Advice Scotland, and commends Roxburgh and Berwickshire CAB staff and volunteers for getting involved in this long-term project, which will help clients with hearing difficulties.

Supported by: Graeme Pearson, Bill Kidd, Nigel Don, Jamie McGrigor, Anne McTaggart, Claudia Beamish, Mark McDonald, Jackie Baillie, Roderick Campbell, Margaret Mitchell, Nanette Milne, Liz Smith, Kevin Stewart, Jim Hume, Liam McArthur, Bob Doris, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Christine Grahame, Gil Paterson, Sandra White

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**Question S4W-12947: Richard Simpson, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 06/02/2013**

To ask the Scottish Government how many deaf children with mental health problems have been referred to specialist units in England in each year since 2010 and what the cost was.

Answered by Michael Matheson (05/03/2013): This information is not held nationally

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**Question S4W-12946: Richard Simpson, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 06/02/2013**

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will extend outpatient access to the specialist unit at St John's Hospital to include deaf children with mental health problems.

Answered by Michael Matheson (05/03/2013):

Generally the approach taken to serious and enduring mental illness in adults is different to the approach taken with children and young people in that there are often complexities related to the developmental process.

There are different approaches to diagnosis and treatment reflecting the plasticity of the brain and fluidity of social and family factors. Child and adolescent psychiatry and clinical psychology are particular specialisms for this reason.

While deafness increases the complexity of the case and requires additional diagnosis skills and understanding, our objective is that it shouldn't be seen to increase severity. Deaf children and young people will be treated by their local CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) team in the community with clinicians ensuring all their needs are met and calling on support from other service providers such as British Sign Language interpreters when required.

There are currently no plans to develop a specialist CAMHS solely for deaf children and young people using specialist NHS child and adolescent mental health services. Our approach to improving services over the last few years has been to shorten waiting lists, invest in more staff, and to measure the performance of services by using a wide range of indicators, with the ultimate aim being improving outcomes for patients including those with a sensory impairment. We now have over 850 specialist child and adolescent clinicians in the workforce nationally and this has been a rise of over 36% since 2008.

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**Question S4W-12829: Angus MacDonald, Falkirk East, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 04/02/2013**

To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to provide a Gaelic language version of the independence referendum ballot paper.

**Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (25/02/2013):**

The Scottish Government does not plan to provide a Gaelic language version of the ballot paper for the independence referendum.

As part of the question assessment process, the Electoral Commission tested the proposed question with voters who speak Gaelic as a first language. The Commission found that these participants could understand the question easily and experienced no difficulties in completing the ballot paper. The Commission's report is published at:

[http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/153691/Referendum-on-independence-for-Scotland-our-advice-on-referendum-question.pdf](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/153691/Referendum-on-independence-for-Scotland-our-advice-on-referendum-question.pdf)

Voter information will be available in other languages, including Gaelic, on request. Counting officers may also choose to display a translation of the ballot paper at polling stations if they consider this appropriate. This is standard practice for all elections.

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