

Question S4W-18535: Jenny Marra, North East Scotland, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 22/11/2013

To ask the Scottish Government how it will ensure that deaf British Sign Language (BSL) users have continued access to the NHS 24 service beyond the current three-month funded period.

Current Status: Expected Answer date 09/12/2013

Question S4W-18534: Jenny Marra, North East Scotland, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 22/11/2013

To ask the Scottish Government what the reasons were for the closure of the British Sign Language (BSL) interpreting service for NHS 24 on 29 October 2013.

Current Status: Expected Answer date 09/12/2013

Question S4W-18114: Drew Smith, Glasgow, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 06/11/2013

To ask the Scottish Government what section 16b grants it has awarded in 2013-14.

Answered by Michael Matheson (19/11/2013):

The following Section 16b grants were awarded to organisations for 2013-14.

Organisation Name	Amount
Action for ME	£5,000
Action on Depression	£40,000
Action on Pre-eclampsia	£9,200
Age Concern	£42,235
Alzheimer Scotland	£9,240
Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC)	£18,000
Art in Healthcare	£30,000
National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS)	£15,000
BASICS Scotland	£36,000
Befriending	£10,010
Bipolar Fellowship Scotland	£35,000
Bliss	£38,125
Bobath Scotland	£9,458
Bowel Cancer UK Scotland	£10,000
Breast Cancer Care	£15,000
Breastfeeding Network	£20,004
British Deaf Association	£35,000
British Fluoridation Society	£5,000
British Lung Foundation (BLF) Scotland	£15,000
British Red Cross - Skin Camouflage Project /changing faces	£10,000
Brittle Bone Society	£14,000
Brook	£20,000
Care 4 Carers	£19,277
Care Confidential	£6,500
carr-gomm scotland	£39,820
Children's Hospice Association (Scotland)	£24,664
Clydeside Action on Asbestos	£72,000
Comas	£27,042
Council for Music in Hospitals	£12,000
Crew 2000	£40,113
Cruse Bereavement Care	£30,000
Deaf Connections	£26,000
Deafblind Scotland	£32,000
Diabetes UK Scotland	£10,000
Downs Syndrome Scotland	£10,000
Drugs Action	£14,503
Eczema Outreach Scotland	£10,000
Epilepsy Scotland	£10,000
ERIC	£6,667
Faith in Older People	£20,950

Family Planning Association (FPA) Scotland	£10,000
Fast forward	£34,193
FPA	£21,900
Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens	£10,000
Fertility Care Scotland	£20,000
Genetic Alliance UK	£5,012
Genetic Alliance UK	£11,012
Haemolytic Uraemic Syndrome Help (HUSH)	£12,000
Haemophilia Society	£20,000
Hearts & Minds	£11,300
Indepen-dance	£12,000
Infertility Network Scotland	£11,700
Insight (RNIB Radio)	£15,675
Leuchie house	£11,020
LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing	£25,936
LGBT Youth Scotland	£19,000
Maggies Cancer Centres	£10,000
Medical Foundation Scotland	£35,000
Meningitis Trust	£35,100
Mindroom	£18,000
MRF - Meningitis Research Foundation	£13,000
National Aids Trust	£23,364
Open Secret	£26,000
Pain Association Scotland	£15,000
Pain Concern	£6,000
PAMIS	£9,969
Paths for All	£16,912
PBC Foundation (UK) [Primary Biliary Cirrhosis]	£10,000
People First Scotland	£35,000
Prostate Cancer	£7,000
REACH Community Health	£30,000
Re-solv - The Society for the Prevention of Volatile Substance Misuse (VSM)	£20,130
Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation	£15,000
Saheliya	£15,488
Samaritans	£40,000
SAY Women	£20,000
Scottish Cot Death Trust	£40,000
Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)	£20,000
Scottish Drugs Forum	£31,416
Scottish Healthy Living Centre Alliance	£20,000
Scottish Healthy Living Centre Alliance (SHLCA)	£20,000
Scottish Huntingdon's Association	£5,000
Scottish Motor Neurone Disease	£10,000
Scottish Pre-school Play Association (SPPA)	£30,608
Scottish Spina Bifida Association	£10,000
Sense Scotland	£10,000
Sleep Scotland	£37,961
Streetwork UK	£15,000
The Memory Box Network	£15,000
The Mental Health Foundation	£40,000
The Notre Dame Centre	£26,000
Thistle Foundation	£17,257
Tommy's	£10,000
Tourette Scotland	£6,000
Trellis (Scottish Therapeutic Gardening Network)	£10,000
Trust Rugby International	£12,850
Universal Comedy	£25,000
Visibility	£10,000

Current Status: Answered by Michael Matheson on 19/11/2013

Question S4W-17653: Liz Smith, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 03/10/2013

To ask the Scottish Government what funding it has provided in each year since 1999 to support British Sign Language (BSL).

Answered by Alasdair Allan (31/10/2013):

The Scottish Government via the equality unit has allocated £1,474,000 for the period 2012-15 directly to deaf organisations and a BSL Consortium. This money was provided via the equality fund, which focused on:

Hate crime
Early intervention and prevention
Meeting the Equality Duty
Employment and transitions.
These activities will all involve an element of BSL use.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 31/10/2013

Question S4W-17631: Rhoda Grant, Highlands and Islands, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 03/10/2013

To ask the Scottish Government what the eligibility criteria are for travellers to use the national concessionary travel scheme.

Answered by Keith Brown (28/10/2013):

The Scotland-Wide Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People scheme is available to anyone who is a resident of Scotland and is aged 60 or over and/or meets the eligibility criteria as follows:

- They receive Disability Living Allowance under the higher rate of mobility or higher/middle rate of care.
- They receive a Personal Independence Payment.
- They receive Attendance Allowance.
- They live in a care/residential home or hospital and are eligible for the higher or middle rate of the care component of Disability Living Allowance, or a Personal Independence Payment or Attendance Allowance.
- They are a Blue Badge holder.
- They are profoundly or severely deaf (bilateral hearing loss greater than or equal to 70dBHLs averaged over 1, 2 and 4KHz).
- They are registered blind or partially sighted.
- They are not able to drive because they have been refused a driving licence on medical grounds or have surrendered their licence or had it cancelled due to medical grounds.
- They have a mental illness, learning difficulty or personality disorder that is recognised under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 and need to travel to keep appointments which are part of their treatment, care or rehabilitation.
- They have a terminal illness.
- They have a progressive degenerative condition that severely impedes their mobility and effects their day to day activities
- They have lost one or both legs, both arms or an arm and a leg.
- They are an injured HM Forces veteran with mobility problems. They will qualify if they have received a lump sum benefit under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) within tariff levels 1 - 8 (inclusive) and the Secretary of State certifies that they have a permanent and substantial disability which causes inability to walk or very considerable difficulty in walking. Or, if their injuries do not hinder their mobility but the injury can be cross referenced to the descriptors within the AFCS Injuries Table as supplied by the AFCS. If they receive a War Pensioner Mobility Supplement they are also eligible.

Current Status: Answered by Keith Brown on 28/10/2013

Question S4W-17654: Liz Smith, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 03/10/2013

To ask the Scottish Government what funding it will provide to increase the number of British Sign Language (BSL) teachers in schools.

Answered by Alasdair Allan (31/10/2013):

The Requirements for Teachers (Scotland) Regulations 2005 state that where an education authority employs a teacher wholly or mainly to teach pupils who are hearing impaired, vision impaired or both hearing and vision impaired, then that teacher must possess an appropriate qualification to teach such pupils or be in the process of obtaining such a qualification.

In addition, the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended in 2009, places a duty on education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of all pupils for whom they are responsible and to tailor provision according to their individual needs.

Teachers in Scotland are required to undertake 35 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) each year and local authorities are responsible for ensuring that appropriate development opportunities are made available to teachers to meet personal, school, authority and national priorities.

The Scottish Government has provided £150,000 in 2013-14 to enable the Scottish Sensory Centre to support teachers of pupils who are hearing impaired, visually impaired or both hearing and vision impaired by producing high quality CPD.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 31/10/2013

Question S4W-17648: Liz Smith, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 03/10/2013

To ask the Scottish Government what steps it is taking to support British Sign Language (BSL) in schools.

Answered by Alasdair Allan (31/10/2013):

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended, places a duty on education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of all pupils for whom they are responsible and to tailor provision according to their individual needs.

The new model for language learning and teaching in Scottish schools – 1+2 model - has flexibility to enable local authorities and schools to agree the nature and content of language provision for the children and young people in their area. This could include, where considered appropriate, the learning of British Sign Language.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 31/10/2013
