

**The Scottish Parliament has been in recess this month due to the Referendum**

**S4W-22334: Jenny Marra, North East Scotland, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 11/08/2014**

**To ask the Scottish Government how many people teaching deaf pupils (a) have and (b) do not have the appropriate qualifications to do so, broken down by local authority.**

**Answered by Michael Russell (08/09/2014):**

This information is not held centrally.

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 places a [duty](#) on education authorities to establish procedures for identifying and meeting the additional support needs of children and young people.

It is a matter for local authorities, as employers, to ensure that their teachers have the appropriate professional skills and knowledge necessary to enable them to undertake the teaching duties allocated to them. In the case of teachers who are employed to wholly or mainly teach pupils with a hearing impairment, a visual impairment or both a hearing and visual impairment it is a requirement that they have an additional appropriate qualification to teach such pupils. Alternatively, it is acceptable that they are in the process of obtaining such a qualification providing they do so within five years.

The Scottish Government funds the Scottish Sensory Centre to provide high quality career long professional learning for teachers of children and young people with sensory impairments, including those with hearing impairments.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22334&ResultsPerPage=10>

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**S4W-22333: Jenny Marra, North East Scotland, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 11/08/2014**

**To ask the Scottish Government how many people who teach deaf pupils are not formally registered to do so, broken down by local authority.**

**Answered by Michael Russell (08/09/2014):**

The supplementary dataset to the Scottish Government's annual teacher census identifies the numbers of primary, secondary, special and centrally employed teachers who have indicated that their main subject taught, or other subject taught, is categorised as 'Hearing Impairment'.

The 2013 dataset can be viewed at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/School-Education/teachcenssuppdata>

The all Scotland totals are shown at tables 2.8, 3.9, 4.8 and 5.2 respectively. The breakdowns by local authority, where identifiable, are shown at tables 7.9, 8.9, 9.8 and 10.2 respectively.

As explained in the answer to S4W-22332 on 8 September 2014, none of these teachers is registered to teach deaf pupils.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22333&ResultsPerPage=10>

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**S4W-22332: Jenny Marra, North East Scotland, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 11/08/2014**

**To ask the Scottish Government how many people are registered to teach deaf pupils and how many are in post, broken down by local authority.**

**Answered by Michael Russell (08/09/2014):**

The General Teaching Council for Scotland registers teachers to teach either in the primary sector or in the secondary sector. 'To teach deaf pupils' is not a registration category used by the General Teaching Council for Scotland.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S4W-22332&ResultsPerPage=10>

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**S4O-03531: Jamie Hepburn, Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, SNP**

**To ask the Scottish Government how it will reduce poverty among disabled people.**

**Answered by The Minister for Housing and Welfare, Margaret Burgess**

We are committed to promoting and protecting equality and human rights for disabled people and we are supporting disabled people's organisations to increase their capacity and effectiveness to engage in the redesign of public services, as well as supporting independent living.

We recognise that households containing a disabled person have a substantially greater risk of poverty. Recently published Scottish Government research shows that a significant number of disabled people in Scotland will lose some or all of their disability benefits by 2018. The research also shows that the cumulative impacts of tax and welfare reforms will mainly affect families containing at least one disabled person, particularly a disabled child. We remain committed to doing all that we can to help those who are affected by welfare changes, including investing £7 million in each year from 2013-14 to 2015-16 on welfare mitigation activity, such as advice and support services.

**Jamie Hepburn:**

The minister mentions the welfare reform process. Does she agree with me that the United Kingdom Government's decision to replace the disability living allowance with the personal independence payment puts 100,000 disabled Scots at risk of losing income of £1,120 per annum and that that policy, which seems to be supported across the Westminster parties, including the Labour Party, puts disabled people under real pressure?

**Margaret Burgess:**

I certainly agree with Jamie Hepburn that disabled people are being put under significant pressure because of decisions that have been made at Westminster and supported by all the main Westminster parties.

The policy change will have a significant impact on disabled people in Scotland and many disabled people will get no PIP award at all after being reassessed. Others will receive a reduced award. The loss of more than £1,000 per year reflects the lowest value loss or reduction of any one component of the disability living allowance. We share the concerns of disability organisations that many disabled people will face financial hardship as a result of the move to PIP.

We will do all that we can to help and we will continue to impress on the UK Government that the most vulnerable people in our society must be protected and that any changes to the welfare system must not further reduce their income.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9529#.VCwflfldUTo>

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**S4M-10949 Clare Adamson:**

**The Macular Society Launches its 300th Support Group in Motherwell**

That the Parliament congratulates the Macular Society, which aims to help increase the confidence and independence of people affected by macular degeneration, on launching its 300th support group

at the GLO Centre in Motherwell on 11 September 2014; acknowledges that age-related macular degeneration can cause central vision loss and is estimated to affect more than half a million people in the UK alone; understands that the group will offer information, encouragement and friendship to people in Motherwell and the surrounding area who are affected by macular conditions, and recognises the hard work and commitment of the staff and volunteers who set up and run the society's 300 groups.

Supported by: Maureen Watt, Dennis Robertson, Kenneth Gibson, Stuart McMillan, Joan McAlpine, Roderick Campbell, Bill Kidd, John Mason, Annabelle Ewing, Adam Ingram, Christina McKelvie, Rob Gibson, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Kevin Stewart, Jackie Baillie, Colin Beattie.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/81553.aspx>

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**S4M-10947 Dennis Robertson:  
National Eye Health Week**

That the Parliament welcomes National Eye Health Week from 22 to 28 September 2014, which aims to spread awareness of proper eye care, with events to be held across Scotland and the UK; recognises that sight loss affects a great number of people, with 18,942 people registered as blind and 15,550 people registered as partially sighted in Scotland as of April 2014 and a total of 1.8 million people in the UK living with sight loss; understands that sight tests are essential in detecting early signs of conditions such as glaucoma, diabetes and high blood pressure, which can be treated if found soon enough, and notes that eye tests are free of charge in Scotland.

Supported by: Nanette Milne, John Mason, Kenneth Gibson, Joan McAlpine, Hanzala Malik, Stuart McMillan, Annabelle Ewing, Christine Grahame, Christina McKelvie, Adam Ingram, Rob Gibson, Maureen Watt, David Torrance, Bill Kidd, Chic Brodie, Neil Findlay, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Kevin Stewart, Aileen McLeod, Colin Beattie.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/81553.aspx>

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**S4M-10986 John Wilson:  
Agricultural Wages Come into Line with the Scottish Living Wage**

That the Parliament welcomes the announcement of an increase in the minimum wage for agricultural workers to £7.14 per hour from 1 October 2014; notes that this 15p hourly increase for workers with over 26 weeks continuous employment, which has been agreed by the Scottish Agricultural Wages Board, brings the minimum wage for a 39-hour week to £278.46; recognises that this increase will see the minimum agricultural wage rate come closer to the recommended Scottish living wage of £7.65 per hour, and encourages other sectors of employment to take note.

Supported by: Christina McKelvie\*, Angus MacDonald\*, Rob Gibson\*, Kenneth Gibson\*, Annabelle Ewing\*, Graeme Dey\*, David Stewart\*

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/81704.aspx>

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9529#.VCwflfldUTo>

**The Deputy Presiding Officer (Elaine Smith):**

Good afternoon. The first item of business this afternoon is a debate on motion **S4M-10988**, in the name of **Fergus Ewing**, on **accessible tourism**.

That the Parliament recognises the important contribution to the Scottish economy that accessible tourism makes across many sectors; further recognises that disabled people should be able to enjoy a holiday or break in the same way as others do; acknowledges the work underway and

notes the progress made by VisitScotland and partners in developing the accessible tourism online training tools for managers and staff in individual enterprises; recognises that the whole tourism sector and wider public and private sectors need to work together closely to make accessible tourism ever more successful, and notes the efforts made to ensure that the tourism industry recognises the mutual benefit to businesses and consumers from the opportunities for accessibility being maximised for all events taking place during the next four themed years.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/msps/currentmsps/Fergus-Ewing-MSP.aspx>

**S4M-10988.1 Jenny Marra: Accessible Tourism**—As an amendment to motion S4M-10988 in the name of Fergus Ewing (Accessible Tourism), insert at end “; applauds the work of the Accessible Tourism Project in trying to make Scotland the most accessible tourist destination in Europe by identifying the barriers faced by disabled people holidaying in Scotland and promoting the business benefits of accessible tourism to the industry, and recognises the importance of accessible tourism to securing delivery of opportunities for sustainable economic growth and employment in communities across Scotland”.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/BusinessBulletin/81747.aspx>

### **The Minister for Energy, Enterprise and Tourism (Fergus Ewing):**

Today in the chamber we are particularly grateful that the Scottish Parliament has provided its assistance so that British Sign Language users can follow the debate in their language, a palantypist is providing text content to other visitors and the gallery is fully accessible to visitors who use wheelchairs. We are proud of the continuing efforts that the Parliament makes to be accessible to all, through a range of facilities that are freely available, to enhance visitor experience and engagement. Of course, we are always keen to get feedback from people about the sufficiency and quality of provision.

I am delighted to open this debate on accessible tourism. As I think that this is the first occasion on which we have debated this most important topic, at least on a Government motion, it might be helpful if I set out what we mean by it.

There are 11 million disabled people living in the United Kingdom—about 16 per cent of the population—and only 2 million of them enjoy an annual holiday. Let us bear in mind that only 4 per cent of those people use a wheelchair, 2 million have sight impairments and 9 million are registered deaf and hard of hearing.

Let us consider the issue in the global context. There are 1.3 billion—1,300 million—people with a disability. That is an emerging market the size of China. In 2009-10 the accessible tourism spend in Scotland was £325 million; by 2013 spend had risen to £391 million, which is an increase of £66 million. The most significant aspect of the figures is the proportion of overall spend that they represent: in 2009 it was 6 per cent but by 2013 it had risen to 14 per cent of the overall figure.

When disabled people find accommodation that suits their needs, they can be loyal customers who return year on year. It is estimated that around 70 per cent of disabled people are able to travel but do not do so because of a lack of accessible accommodation and basic facilities. Disabled people tend not to travel alone; they are often accompanied by carers, family and friends, which increases occupancy and brings in extra revenue for accommodation providers.

What does all that signify? I think that we can draw two clear conclusions. First and most important, it is a matter of social responsibility to seek to facilitate the enjoyment of a holiday or break for everyone, including people with a disability. Secondly, by doing that we create business opportunities for the whole sector and the whole country. On the one hand, accessible tourism is a matter of social responsibility, in that disabled people, like everyone else, should have the opportunity and ability to enjoy a holiday; on the other, our ensuring that that happens creates business opportunities.

Those are the two key points on which I hope that we can all agree. I hope that we can take those points away from the debate and build on the excellent progress on accessible tourism that is being made in Scotland. I hope that we can work together to achieve the enormous potential benefits to disabled people—and their families, friends and carers—of adding to their lives the pleasure and enjoyment that holidays bring, and I hope that we can enable the tourism sector to lead the way in grabbing new opportunities in a world in which more and more people are able to enjoy a holiday.

I suspect that most or all of us in the chamber enjoy a holiday each year, whether it is in Scotland, elsewhere in the UK or further afield. Perhaps it is fair to say that most of us here and many throughout the country take it for granted that we will enjoy a holiday—a break from the routine and a chance to get away from it all, relax and recharge the batteries. We are fortunate.

**Other contributors include Graeme Day, Jenny Marra and Mark Griffin.**

To read the rest of the debate, go to

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28862.aspx?r=9529#.VCwflfdUTo>



#### **207823, 207838, 207839 and 207913 Employment: Hearing Impairment**

**Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions**

- (1) what guidance his Department issues on the funding and allocation of support for deaf people in work;**
- (2) what financial support his Department provides to deaf people in work while they await a decision on their Access to Work budget;**
- (3) what communication support his Department provides for deaf people who are (a) in work or (b) actively seeking work;**
- (4) what additional support his Department makes available for deaf people whose Access to Work budgets do not cover the support they require to carry out their work.**

**Mr Harper:** Access to Work provides practical and financial support with the additional costs faced by individuals whose health or disability affects the way they do their job. The support provided is tailored to individuals needs and can include travel to work, support workers, and specialist aids and equipment. Access to Work does not replace the duty an employer has under the Equality Act to make reasonable adjustments. Instead it provides support that is over and above that which is a reasonable adjustment. Access to Work can pay for communication support workers and British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters where these are required to enable deaf people to work. Access to Work is delivered by Jobcentre Plus in accordance with Department for Work and Pensions Access to Work guidance. The amount of help an individual may receive from Access to Work depends on their individual needs and personal circumstances. The award will also vary depending on how long they have been employed, what support they need, the size of the employer and whether they are self-employed.

The Department does not provide alternative financial support for communication for deaf people who are in work.

Where necessary, the Department can provide British Sign Language interpreters and in some cases other non-spoken language interpreters to enable deaf people to communicate with our staff and to participate in job interviews. Where it is appropriate and where they are able to do so, deaf people and people with hearing impairments can utilise lip reading in face-to-face communications.

The Department also provides induction loops and text phones. Our staff can also communicate by e-mail or through a representative, with the claimant's permission.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140909/text/140909w0001.htm#14090966000015>

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## 905122 Personal Independence Payment

**Meg Hillier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long the average wait for an assessment for a personal independence payment was on the latest date for which figures are available.**

**Mr Harper:** The wait for an assessment faced by some claimants is unacceptable. We are committed to putting that right by clearing backlogs and improving processing times. We intend to publish statistics on the time taken to clear cases in the near future and my analysts are considering what information the publication will include. We will pre-announce the publication in due course, in line with the UK Statistics Authority code of practice.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0002.htm#14090210000015>

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## 206577 Employment Services: Disability

**Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability employment advisers were employed by his Department and its executive agencies in each of the last 60 months; and what his future policy is on the number of advisers employed.**

**Esther McVey** [*holding answer 22 July 2014*]: The information is as follows.

*ABM FTE disability employment adviser function figures, 2009/10 to 2104/15*

<i>2009/10</i>	<i>ABM FTE</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>ABM FTE</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>ABM FTE</i>
Apr-09	430.24	Apr-10	490.90	Apr-11	572.80
May-09	431.11	May-10	498.74	May-11	583.20
Jun-09	417.78	Jun-10	490.63	Jun-11	586.62
Jul-09	416.37	Jul-10	491.24	Jul-11	579.83
Aug-09	420.70	Aug-10	488.76	Aug-11	570.24
Sep-09	441.73	Sep-10	490.79	Sep-11	557.13
Oct-09	460.50	Oct-10	500.23	Oct-11	552.32
Nov-09	471.50	Nov-10	516.62	Nov-11	546.90
Dec-09	478.65	Dec-10	503.00	Dec-11	538.82
Jan-10	475.18	Jan-11	501.00	Jan-12	528.10
Feb-10	481.02	Feb-11	510.77	Feb-12	527.35
Mar-10	487.83	Mar-11	523.26	Mar-12	526.39

2012/13	ABM FTE	2013/14	ABM FTE	2014/15	ABM FTE
Apr-12	531.45	Apr-13	490.99	Apr-14	413.28
May-12	528.66	May-13	484.30	May-14	408.75
Jun-12	527.11	Jun-13	471.13	—	—
Jul-12	524.98	Jul-13	458.84	—	—
Aug-12	523.61	Aug-13	447.90	—	—
Sep-12	520.50	Sep-13	439.40	—	—
Oct-12	519.39	Oct-13	437.78	—	—
Nov-12	517.53	Nov-13	432.26	—	—
Dec-12	507.97	Dec-13	425.84	—	—
Jan-13	506.38	Jan-14	418.09	—	—
Feb-13	512.69	Feb-14	413.61	—	—
Mar-13	516.56	Mar-14	402.75	—	—

*Key:* ABM = Activity Based Management System FTE = Full Time Equivalent staff resource *Note:* Includes all advisory activity conducted by the Disability Employment Adviser function regardless of client group or interview type. Figures do not include any Management, Operational Support or Business Support apportionment.

The table provided is a snapshot of the number of full time equivalent staff deployed in the disability employment adviser function. District Managers ensure these staff are deployed to meet local requirements.

DEA numbers increased in 2010 to support the implementation of the 'Work Choice' programme as the DEA was the main referral route way. The numbers continued to rise as the flow onto the programme increased. Once the demand slowed, DEA numbers were reduced accordingly. During this period, the Work Programme was also launched which provided dedicated specialist support for customers.

In addition the training for DWP mainstream advisers has been enhanced to better equip them to meet the requirements of customers with complex needs.

We recognise the value this role brings in working with claimants with a range of disabilities, and ill health conditions, as well as linking up with local provision of services. Future policy on how many disability employment advisers are employed is being considered as part of the future Disability and Health Employment Strategy.

## **207052 Employment Services: Disability**

**Mr Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions**

**(1) whether disability employment advisers will remain part of the support offered to claimants under universal credit;**

**(2) what his policy is on retaining disability employment advisers as part of the support offered to clients by jobcentre plus.**

**Esther McVey:** The Disability and Health Employment Strategy published in December 2013 sets out our expectation that the work carried out by DEAs in jobcentres will continue.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140901/text/140901w0002.htm#14090210000020>

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### **208574 Employment: Disability**

**Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the employment rate is for people (a) born with a disability and (b) disabled later in life.**

**Mr Harper:** This information is not available.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140911/text/140911w0002.htm#14091149000114>

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### **208206 Terminal Illnesses: Scotland**

**Dame Anne Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Scotland have had DWP form DS1500 signed by their doctor to confirm they are terminally ill in the latest period for which figures are available.**

**Mr Harper:** The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is unable to provide the requested information as the DS1500 is completed by various health care professionals from across the UK and the Department is not required to capture this level of management information.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140911/text/140911w0003.htm#14091149000121>

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### **207976 Telecommunications: Disability**

**Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to ensure that it communicates with deafblind people in accessible ways, including information about preferred means of communication and sending information in the formats requested by deafblind claimants.**

**Mr Harper:** DWP provides support to all claimants and customers who have specific communication needs in order to allow them full access to our services. DWP can provide British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters or other communicator support, which includes Deafblind Communicators, to customers or claimants who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. The Department's staff also undertake diversity and equality learning to raise awareness and help them understand the issues faced by disabled claimants, including those who are deaf or hearing impaired, and provide individual support as required.

Requests for information to be provided in an alternative format are tailored to the personal needs of the individual and will depend on which benefit is being claimed or which service is being used. The support offered by DWP includes a variety of communication methods: face to face contact on our premises; home visits; telephony; online services; and written communications in alternative formats such as Braille. DWP staff can also communicate by e-mail or through a claimant's representative or intermediary. A request for an alternative format from an individual will be detailed on the customer's record of the appropriate benefit system to ensure requests are carried out.

This Department is committed to continuously improving claimant access to benefits and services. DWP officials are currently reviewing the processes we have in place for providing information in alternative formats to see what improvements can be made.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmhansrd/cm140909/text/140909w0001.htm#14090966000025>

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