

### UHI Appointment of Gaelic Research Professor Dr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin

That the Parliament welcomes the appointment of Dr Conchúr Ó Giollagáin as Gaelic Research Professor at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) and director of Soillse, the national research network for the maintenance and revitalisation of Gaelic language and culture, which is effective from April 2014; understands that Dr Ó Giollagáin has an international reputation in language planning and minority language culture and sociology; further understands that, as director of Soillse, Dr Ó Giollagáin will lead a team of four research fellows, one lecturer and 10 PhD students in their research; notes that his research will cover the intergenerational transmission of Gaelic practice and policy in Gaelic medium education and the assessment of government policies on the revitalisation of the language; considers that this appointment demonstrates the commitment of UHI to Gaelic language and culture and the growing reputation of UHI as a centre of academic excellence; further considers the work of academics, the Scottish Government and other partners in supporting Gaelic language and culture to be of paramount importance to the Highlands and Islands and to Scotland, and looks forward to working with Dr Ó Giollagáin and others in support of the Gaelic language and culture.

Supported by: Bill Kidd, Dennis Robertson, John Finnie, Roderick Campbell, David Torrance, Christian Allard, Kevin Stewart, Angus MacDonald, Mike MacKenzie, Sandra White, Mary Scanlon, Colin Beattie, Gil Paterson, Chic Brodie, Maureen Watt, Jamie Hepburn

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#### **Question S4O-03082: Cara Hilton, Dunfermline, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 20/03/2014**

To ask the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body what plans it has to promote access to parliamentary proceedings for people who are deaf or have a hearing impairment.

Current Status: Taken in the Chamber on 29/04/2009 (?? – *that's what it says on the Parliament website!*)

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#### **Question S4W-20080: Fiona McLeod, Strathkelvin and Bearsden, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 10/03/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the distribution of and costs associated with Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland.

#### **Answered by Nicola Sturgeon (11/03/2014):**

Since its launch in November, demand for Scotland's Future – Your guide to an independent Scotland has exceeded 100,000 copies.

Scotland's Future - Your guide to an independent Scotland has been available to order at no cost to individuals in hard copy or digital formats since its launch. Latest available figures confirm that 114,441 copies of the white paper have been ordered, 57,708 in digital format, and 56,733 as a hard copy.

To meet this demand, production, printing and distribution costs to date are:

<b>Scotland's Future -Your guide to an independent Scotland</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Production	£75,000
Print	£350,000
Distribution	£375,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£800,000</b>

Final costs for printing and distribution will not be available until final demand is known.

A 44 page summary of Scotland's Future has also been produced and has been translated into 14 languages, versions for people who are deaf or blind as well as an easy read publication for people with learning disabilities. The cost to date for this is £60,000.

Current Status: Answered by Nicola Sturgeon on 11/03/2014

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**Motion S4M-09166: Bill Kidd, Glasgow Anniesland, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 26/02/2014**

**Making Dreams Come True**

That the Parliament congratulates the **West of Scotland Deaf Children's Society** on its performance of the musical play, *The Dreamer*, showing the world that deaf children can be involved in a music and drama performance; considers that the hard work and dedication displayed by the children and the volunteers who organised the performance made musical dreams come true and proved that there are no barriers to deaf children participating in the arts; recognises the efforts of The Symphony of Dreams Charitable Trust, which provided the children with music and dance lessons that made the dream of the children come true, and commends the Evening Times, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, L.A.M. Productions and Vortex Events, whose generous charitable donations made the performance possible.

Supported by: Angus MacDonald, Stuart McMillan, Roderick Campbell, Jamie Hepburn, Jackson Carlaw, Annabelle Ewing, Kevin Stewart, Liam McArthur, Joan McAlpine, Chic Brodie, Jean Urquhart, Jenny Marra, Colin Beattie, Rob Gibson, Richard Lyle, Mark Griffin, Adam Ingram, Mike MacKenzie, Christina McKelvie, Anne McTaggart, Hanzala Malik, Patricia Ferguson, Colin Keir, Dave Thompson, Gil Paterson, David Torrance, Stewart Maxwell, Sandra White, Linda Fabiani, Dennis Robertson, Clare Adamson, Maureen Watt, Elaine Murray, Mark McDonald, Fiona McLeod

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**Motion S4M-09192: Mark McDonald, Aberdeen Donside, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 27/02/2014**

**Local Primary Schools Hold Day Dedicated to Chinese Culture and Language**

That the Parliament welcomes the announcement that five Donside schools have dedicated a day to Chinese language and culture; notes that Danestone, Forehill, Greenbrae, Middleton Park and Glashieburn primary schools each sent four pupils from P6 and P7 to the event; further notes that these pupils took part in activities such as lantern craft, dumpling making and Chinese vocabulary and met the special guest speaker, Professor Fajun Li from Sun Yat Sen University in China, a visiting scholar at the University of Cambridge; is aware that this programme was organised by teachers from Aberdeen's Confucius Institute; considers that these teachers put a lot of effort into producing fun activities for the children, which also improved their Mandarin, and wishes them all the best with future plans to expand this event and hold it every year.

Supported by: Liam McArthur, Joan McAlpine, Stuart McMillan, Richard Lyle, Nanette Milne, Colin Beattie, Chic Brodie, Jackie Baillie, Rob Gibson, Adam Ingram, Christina McKelvie, Mike MacKenzie, Roderick Campbell, Jamie Hepburn, Angus MacDonald, Nigel Don, Gil Paterson, David Torrance, Annabelle Ewing, Sandra White, Kevin Stewart, Bill Kidd, Dennis Robertson, Christian Allard, Clare Adamson, Maureen Watt

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**Question S4O-02919: Stewart Maxwell, West Scotland, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 12/02/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what support it provides to people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

**The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing (Alex Neil):** Last summer we consulted widely on a new sensory impairment strategy, which we will be publishing shortly. The strategy, which will apply to people with a hearing impairment, visual impairment or dual sensory impairment, aims to deliver the seamless provision of assessment, care and support to people with a sensory impairment and the same access to education, employment, healthcare, social care and leisure as everyone

else. Funding is being made available to local partnerships to support implementation of the strategy, and close partnership working between statutory and third sector agencies will be crucial to its success.

**Stewart Maxwell:** The cabinet secretary is probably aware that under the disability reduction scheme, people with disabilities are, rightly, able to apply for a council tax reduction so that they do not have to pay more council tax as a result of adaptations to their home. One of my constituents has alerted me to a lack of consistency among local authorities over whether deaf people are eligible for a reduction in council tax under the scheme. Can the cabinet secretary clarify whether deaf people are able to apply for a council tax reduction and under which circumstances they should do so?

**Alex Neil:** Statutory responsibility for the implementation and administration of council tax, including eligibility for reductions or exemptions, lies with the relevant local authority. Ministers have no power to intervene in individual cases or comment on potential entitlement in specific circumstances, although obviously I would wish, as the cabinet secretary with responsibility for health and social care, that local authorities would be empathetic and sympathetic to any such applications.

Current Status: Taken in the Chamber on 20/02/2014

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**Motion S4M-08960: Margaret Mitchell, Central Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 05/02/2014**

### **Congratulating Deafblind Scotland**

That the Parliament congratulates Deafblind Scotland on its 25th anniversary in 2014; understands that it carries out invaluable work supporting adults throughout the country who have a severe dual sensory loss; notes that, in 2014, the charity aims to host a number of events in order to raise funds for its Field of Dreams site in Lenzie, East Dunbartonshire, which will include the annual Gala Ball on 28 March, and welcomes Deafblind Scotland's plans to build a learning and development centre on the site in order to improve the opportunities available to deafblind people.

Supported by: Hanzala Malik, Jamie McGrigor, Bill Kidd, Nanette Milne, Roderick Campbell, Liz Smith, Christina McKelvie, Nigel Don, Jackie Baillie, Dennis Robertson, Kenneth Gibson, Anne McTaggart, Annabelle Ewing, Colin Beattie, Jim Hume, Alison McInnes, Graeme Dey, Neil Findlay, Adam Ingram, Richard Lyle, Kevin Stewart, Mike MacKenzie, Elaine Smith, Fiona McLeod, John Finnie, David Torrance, Sandra White, Elaine Murray, Gil Paterson, Christine Grahame, Maureen Watt, Hugh Henry, Annabel Goldie, Cameron Buchanan, Clare Adamson, Jamie Hepburn



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### **Access to Work Programme -**

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140317/text/140317w0005.htm#1403174400002>

**Teresa Pearce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what consultation his Department undertook with deaf users of the Access to Work scheme and their representative groups prior to introducing recent restrictions on the funding available for communication support through that scheme; and what alternative cost-reduction measures his Department considered; [191235]

(2) whether his Department undertook (a) an impact assessment and (b) consultation with deaf and deafblind users of Access to Work, their representative organisations and with employers prior to the implementation of Access to Work funding limitations for the provision of communication support for deaf and deafblind people in the workplace; [191236]

(3) whether his Department applies quotas to different disability groups for funding available through Access to Work; and if he will make a statement; [191237]

(4) how many fraudulent claims were received by Access to Work for communication support for deaf and deafblind people in each year for which figures are available; [191238]

(5) what proportion of his Department's Access to Work budget was spent on communication support for (a) deaf and (b) deafblind individuals in each year for which figures are available; [191243]  
 (6) what estimate his Department has made of the market value of a NRCPD-registered sign language interpreter; and how this estimate was used during the identification of an appropriate Access to Work funding cap for a full-time sign language interpreter; [191253]  
 (7) what estimate he has made of potential additional financial costs for employers resulting from newly implemented restrictions on Access to work funding for communications support for deaf and deafblind people; and what consultation he undertook with employers of deaf people on that matter; [191254]  
 (8) what assessment his Department made of the potential effect on deaf and deafblind people of restrictions on access to work funding for the provision of communication support for such people prior to the introduction of those restrictions; [191255]  
 (9) how many (a) deaf and (b) deafblind people have employed a full-time communication professional following recent changes in the implementation of access to work guidance; [191256]  
 (10) what the surplus or deficit of the Access to Work budget was in each financial year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [191257]  
 (11) what guidance is provided to deaf and deafblind users of the Access to Work scheme regarding that scheme's complaints procedure and the process for requesting a decision review. [191258]  
 Mike Penning: Access to Work supports employed people with all types of disability; the budget is not allocated to particular disability groups in advance of applications. Existing policies on the cost effective funding of full time support workers are being enforced to ensure the programme remains available for new applicants. Access to Work supports employed people with all types of disability; the budget is not allocated to particular disability groups in advance of applications. Existing policies on the cost effective funding of full time support workers are being enforced to ensure the programme remains available for new applicants. There are no quotas applied to customer numbers or funding for particular disability groups. There are currently a small number of investigations where charges have been made and are due to be heard in court over the summer months. We continue to monitor the system for abuse. Please note that DWP only has information based on Primary Disability type. Therefore total spend on hearing impaired customers is shown, this includes other Access to Work support. However spend relating to Deafblind customers is not available from our records.

<b>Department of Work and Pensions—Access To Work (ATW)</b>				
	Number of people helped with hearing impairments	Amount spent on hearing impairment (£ million)	Total ATW customers	Total ATW spend (£ million)
2008-09	4,950	21.7	32,130	69
2009-10	5,450	28.5	37,280	98
2010-11	5,300	32.7	35,820	107
2011-12	4,960	34.1	30,780	93
2012-13	5,250	34.5	31,460	95.3