

**Question S4W-21442: Richard Simpson, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 29/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what progress has been made on the programme that is studying screening for hearing loss in adults that is jointly funded by the Medical Research Council and the Chief Scientist's Office.

Current Status: Expected Answer date 12/06/2014

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**Question S4O-03229: Mark Griffin, Central Scotland, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 07/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government how many local authorities have adapted the loop equipment that they provide to people with hearing loss since the introduction of digital televisions and radios.

Taken in the Chamber on 15<sup>th</sup> May:

**Hearing Loop Equipment (Local Authority Provision)  
Mark Griffin (Central Scotland) (Lab):**

4. To ask the Scottish Government how many local authorities have adapted the loop equipment that they provide to people with hearing loss since the introduction of digital televisions and radios. (S4O-03229)

**The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing (Alex Neil):** That information is not held centrally by the Scottish Government. It is a matter for individual local authorities to assess which hearing loop equipment they will provide to people with a hearing impairment.

**Mark Griffin:** Hard-of-hearing people rely on loop equipment to get any enjoyment from their television or radio, but some local authorities have not adapted the equipment since the switchover from analogue to digital. Is the cabinet secretary willing to write to local authorities to get an understanding of the situation nationally? Will he issue guidance to local authorities, encouraging them to switch over to the modernised equipment as soon as possible?

**Alex Neil:** We have been encouraging local authorities to make the switchover, but I am more than happy to write to them again, encouraging them to do so. As the member rightly says, that would be of huge material benefit to the recipients of the equipment.

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**Motion S4M-10055: Kenneth Gibson, Cunninghame North, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 14/05/2014**

Deaf Awareness Week

That the Parliament recognises that Deaf Awareness Week will be held from 19 to 23 May 2014; considers that this will serve as a valuable opportunity to highlight some of the challenges faced by deaf people living in Scotland; commends the work of charities, such as the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), which undertakes campaigns and other relevant work with the aim of bettering the situation of deaf people in Scotland; understands that, on 30 April, NDCS launched its Close the Gap report at the Parliament, in which the organisation highlights some of the challenges faced by deaf young people as they make the transition from school into training, work and further or higher education; hopes that Deaf Awareness Week will be a great success in raising awareness about the issues faced by deaf people in Scotland, and wishes NDCS and other organisations offering support to people with hearing impairments in Scotland, every success in their future work.

Supported by: Roderick Campbell, Annabelle Ewing, Dennis Robertson, George Adam, Joan McAlpine, Stuart McMillan, Aileen McLeod, Liam McArthur, Nanette Milne, Liz Smith, Gil Paterson, Fiona McLeod, Drew Smith, Patricia Ferguson, John Mason, David Torrance, Alison McInnes, Bill

Kidd, Neil Findlay, Rob Gibson, Richard Lyle, Mike MacKenzie, Christina McKelvie, Anne McTaggart, Kevin Stewart, Jackie Baillie, Maureen Watt, Margaret McDougall, John Finnie, Sandra White, Sarah Boyack, Colin Beattie, Mark McDonald, Angus MacDonald, Bob Doris, Dave Thompson, Jean Urquhart, Nigel Don, Stewart Stevenson, Jackson Carlaw, Mark Griffin, Hugh Henry, Alison Johnstone, Neil Bibby, Willie Coffey, Stewart Maxwell

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**Motion S4M-09954: Richard Simpson, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 06/05/2014**

Deafness Awareness Week

That the Parliament recognises Deaf Awareness Week, which runs from 19 to 25 May 2014; notes that the theme this year is Equality in Communication for All; understands that there are an estimated 1,012,000 people in Scotland with some degree of hearing loss, of whom approximately 546,000 are over the age of 60, who face challenges that might lead to isolation and exclusion at home, in education, in the workplace, when using public services and in social situations; further understands that Deaf Awareness Week is a unique campaign due to the number of organisations that participate, with over 100 charities and other organisations providing support, each able to promote its own work within the broad spectrum of deafness, and supports what it considers the important work of these charities in Scotland.

Supported by: Hugh Henry, Patricia Ferguson, Fiona McLeod, Anne McTaggart, Richard Lyle, Margaret McCulloch, Nanette Milne, John Pentland, Gil Paterson, Cara Hilton, Mary Scanlon, Mark Griffin, Iain Gray, Dennis Robertson, Alison McInnes, Jackie Baillie, John Finnie, Graeme Dey, Liam McArthur, Kevin Stewart, David Stewart, Annabelle Ewing, Aileen McLeod, Liz Smith, Colin Beattie, Maureen Watt, Angus MacDonald, Mike MacKenzie, Neil Findlay, Jackson Carlaw, Hanzala Malik, Elaine Murray, Adam Ingram, Jamie McGrigor, Kenneth Gibson, Jenny Marra, Cameron Buchanan, David Torrance, Bob Doris, Linda Fabiani, Mary Fee, Nigel Don, Sandra White, John Mason, Neil Bibby, Clare Adamson

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**Motion S4M-10103: Graeme Dey, Angus South, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 20/05/2014**

Angus Man Completes Mountain Trek Challenge

That the Parliament congratulates John Whitfield from Carnoustie in Angus on recently completing an epic South American mountain trek, and acknowledges that John, who has Usher syndrome, is registered blind and has limited hearing, completed the gruelling four-day Inca Trail in Peru with the help of guides, covering almost 30 miles and climbing to over 13,000 feet in order to raise awareness and funds for Deafblind Scotland.

Supported by: Nanette Milne, Liz Smith, Alex Johnstone, Fiona McLeod, Stuart McMillan, Kevin Stewart, Rob Gibson, Christian Allard, David Torrance, Annabelle Ewing, Joan McAlpine, Maureen Watt, Angus MacDonald, Mike MacKenzie, Bill Kidd, Adam Ingram, Colin Beattie, Sandra White, Dennis Robertson, Richard Lyle, Bob Doris, Jim Eadie, Gil Paterson, Mark McDonald, Nigel Don

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**Question S4W-20982: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government when it will issue further guidance in relation to deaf children and young people in line with recommendation 7 of the See Hear framework published in April 2014 and what opportunity there will be for public engagement on this guidance.

Current Status: Expected Answer date 19/05/2014

**Answered by Michael Matheson (13/05/2014):**

Publication of statutory guidance is scheduled for spring/summer 2015. A formal consultation exercise will be undertaken in the early part of 2015.

Current Status: Answered by Michael Matheson on 13/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20980: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government how much it has spent in each year from 2007 on programmes that target or contribute to the reduction of the attainment gap between deaf children and children with no additional support requirements, also broken down by programme.

Answered by Alasdair Allan (19/05/2014):

**2006-07**

Scottish Sensory Centre – Core grant - £201,310

Scottish Sensory Centre - British Sign Language glossary - £25,375

**2007-08**

Scottish Sensory Centre - £215,550

Scottish Sensory Centre - Development of Early Support journal: Developmental journal for babies and children with visual impairment - £3,000

Scottish Sensory Centre - in partnership with the National Deaf Children's Society to undertake a scoping study to record the current state of linguistic access for deaf pupils and students - £10,000

**2008-09**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £219,861

**2009-10**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £219,861

**2010-11**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £200,074

**2011-12**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £150,000

**2012-13**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £150,000

**2013-14**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £150,000

**2014-15**

Scottish Sensory Centre - Core grant - £150,000

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**Question S4W-20979: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government which provisions of its See Hear framework will work to close the attainment gap between deaf children and children with no additional support requirements.

Current Status: Expected Answer date 19/05/2014

**Answered by Michael Matheson (13/05/2014):**

The See Hear sensory impairment strategy aims generally to achieve the seamless provision of assessment, care and support to children and adults with a sensory impairment.

According to the strategy, children and adults with a sensory impairment should expect the same access to education, employment, healthcare, social care and leisure as everyone else and, in addition, children and young people with a sensory impairment should expect appropriate and timely intervention in the early years and for as long as is required.

Implementation of the strategy will be led by local partnerships and driven by local partnership leads with support from Scottish Government officials.

Current Status: Answered by Michael Matheson on 13/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20978: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what steps it will take to review education provision for deaf learners to ensure that it is achieving the best possible outcomes.

**Answered by Alasdair Allan (19/05/2014):**

In November 2010, Education Scotland published the Review of the Additional Support for Learning Act: Adding Benefits for Learners which noted that children with sensory impairments continue to have their additional support needs identified and addressed at an early stage through well-established partnership working between health and education and through the implementation of early intervention strategies.

As part of its core objectives, the Scottish Sensory Centre continues to inform the Scottish Government about the types of effective educational provision offered to children and young people with hearing impairments in Scotland. These findings help to inform current and future Scottish Government policy development.

The Scottish Government will also meet with the National Deaf Children's Society to discuss the findings from their Close the Gap report, published on 30 April 2014.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 19/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20946: Jackie Baillie, Dumbarton, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 01/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government whether the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme is now available for every newborn child.

**Answered by Michael Matheson (12/05/2014):**

Yes, the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening Programme is offered to all newborns in Scotland and has been since April 2005.

Current Status: Answered by Michael Matheson on 12/05/2014

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**Meeting of the Parliament 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014:**

**Audiology (Waiting Times)**

**The Minister for Public Health (Michael Matheson):** The way in which audiology services are provided has continued to evolve in recent years, with many boards now offering a one-stop clinic service. That means that some patients receive their consultation and, where appropriate, start treatment or are fitted with a hearing aid in one visit.

Progress is monitored regularly against the treatment time standards set as part of the delivery of the 18-week referral-to-treatment target. In February, the latest figures were published for all specialties for December 2013. They showed that 90.8 per cent of patients in NHS Scotland received their treatment within the current national standard of 18 weeks. The compliance rate is 90 per cent.

**Liz Smith:** The figures that the minister has just mentioned, which appeared in February, point to the fact that there is considerable inconsistency in how the statistics per region are calculated. Does he plan to address that? Will he ensure that audiology departments in every health board address the

issue of how quickly we can get the basic equipment to people with hearing difficulties, which would include training people in the third sector to help?

Michael Matheson: If the member has specific examples of where she feels that there is inconsistency in how the data is being collected, if she passes that information to me I would be more than happy to look at it. We expect consistency of approach across all our boards in Scotland so that we can measure their performance against the RTT.

It must be said that there has been a significant improvement in how audiology services have been delivered in the past four to five years, because of our national strategy, which has resulted in the redesign of services. I am not sure whether the member participated in yesterday evening's debate in the chamber, but in that debate we heard examples of partnerships that have been forged between NHS boards, local authorities and the third sector to deliver audiology services that can be delivered by third sector organisations, such as the replacement of small bits of equipment, tubes and so on.

Only last week, I launched our new sensory impairment strategy, see hear, which is the first sensory impairment strategy of its type in the United Kingdom and brings together visual impairment and hearing impairment services to ensure that they are much more effectively aligned and patient focused. A key part of the work that we expect to take forward as part of the strategy will be to ensure that we have good co-ordination between the statutory sector and the third sector with regard to how the services are delivered.

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**Question S4W-20977: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government how it will address the potential (a) 15% decrease in the number of teachers of deaf pupils and (b) 23% decrease in the number of qualified teachers of deaf pupils over the last two years.

**Answered by Alasdair Allan (19/05/2014):**

The Scottish Government conducts an annual teacher workforce planning exercise, in consultation and discussion with all relevant stakeholders, to ensure that teacher supply and demand are kept broadly balanced at an all-Scotland level.

It is for local authorities to employ adequate numbers of teachers in the schools under their management, with the appropriate professional skills and knowledge necessary to enable those teachers 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 also funds the Scottish Sensory Centre, Scotland's main provider of specialist continuous professional learning and development training, and qualifications for teachers of pupils with sensory impairments, to:

Provide high quality continuous professional learning and development (CPLD) training. The Centre consults with all levels of professionals, including non-specialist mainstream teachers and teachers of the deaf, to identify the CPLD requirements needed to achieve the Scottish Government's outcomes for all children and young people; and

Extend its role in supporting specialist teachers to enhance their critical knowledge and understanding of issues relating to their work in supporting classroom teachers and the children and young people themselves.

It is for local authorities to ensure that their teachers of deaf pupils have or are in the process of obtaining appropriate qualifications.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 19/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20976: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what measures and programmes it (a) has supported in each year from 2007 and (b) supports that address the education difficulties experienced by deaf pupils.

**Answered by Alasdair Allan (19/05/2014):**

I refer the member to the answer to question S4W-20974 on 19 May 2014. All answers to written Parliamentary Questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 19/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20974: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on the attainment gap for deaf learners set out in the National Deaf Children's Society Scotland's report, Close the Gap, and whether it will commit to closing that gap.

**Answered by Alasdair Allan (19/05/2014):**

The Scottish Government is committed to ensuring that all children and young people with additional support needs, including those who are deaf, are provided with the support they need to reach their full potential.

To support this commitment, the Scottish Government is involved in a number of measures and programmes, these include:

The Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended, which places a duty on education authorities to identify, meet and keep under review the additional support needs of all their pupils and to tailor provision according to their individual needs. The Act also provides parents with the right to be involved in decision making. To ensure this happens, the Act introduced a range of mechanisms for dealing with disagreements, including mediation and independent adjudication.

The Scottish Government has funded a number of organisations to ensure that parents get the help and support they need. These include Enquire and the Govan Law Centre's Education Law Unit. Also, under the Act, each education authority must have a named contact who will be responsible for providing information and advice on the local arrangements for children and young people with additional support needs.

The Scottish Government also funds the Scottish Sensory Centre to provide high-quality continuous professional learning and development to teachers of children and young people with sensory impairments, including those with hearing impairments.

Skills Development Scotland, along with the Deaf Children's Society and Donaldson's school, have developed A Template for Success for supporting young people with hearing impairments to move into positive and sustained destinations. All 32 Scottish local authorities have been encouraged to use A Template for Success.

We are seeking to raise attainment for every child and close the inequity gap through our key implementation programmes for children and young people - including the Early Years Framework, Getting it right for every child, Curriculum for Excellence and Opportunities for All - which set out what needs to be done to support a child's/young person's successful learning journey from early years, through school and post-16 learning - including university and college - and on into positive destinations. We are also working to ensure that teachers and school leaders have the right skills and experience in the right numbers to deliver improved outcomes for all children and young people, including those who are most disadvantaged. We have developed a range of integrated policies and programmes to help realise our ambition of making Scotland the best place to go to school.

We will continue to work with stakeholders to identify innovative solutions to further improve the educational system. We know the reasons for the attainment gap are complex and require partnership working over a range of related policy areas in order to make progress in this vital area.

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 19/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20981: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government when it will conclude its work assessing the implications of the strategic review of learning provision for children and young people with complex additional support needs (Doran Review).

**Answered by Alasdair Allan (14/05/2014):**

The Scottish Government issued a response to the Doran Review report, 'The Right Help at the Right Time in the Right Place', in November 2012. The Doran Review provided 21 recommendations in total. The Scottish Government accepted 16 in full, 3 in part and 2 were deemed outwith the Scottish Government's capacity to deliver.

Recommendations 7, 17-18 (in part) and 19-21 will be delivered through the Strategic Commissioning Project. A project board and five workstreams have been established to support delivery of this project by 2017.

Recommendations 1-6 and 8-16 are part of a broader work plan and will be delivered before the conclusion of the strategic commissioning project in 2017.

Further information can be found on the Scottish Government website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/DoranReview>

Current Status: Answered by Alasdair Allan on 14/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20985: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what funding will be made available to local authorities to pursue the local partnerships by means of which the See Hear framework will be implemented.

**Answered by Michael Matheson (13/05/2014):**

I refer the member to the answer to Jackie Baillie's question S4W-20941 on 8 May 2014. All answers to written parliamentary questions are available on the Parliament's website, the search facility for which can be found at: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx>.

Current Status: Answered by Michael Matheson on 13/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20984: Jayne Baxter, Mid Scotland and Fife, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 02/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government how it will "scope out the range of formal and informal training opportunities around sensory impairment awareness" as suggested in recommendation 2 of the See Hear framework published in April 2014.

**Answered by Michael Matheson (13/05/2014):**

The Scottish Government will, in the first instance, engage with NHS Education for Scotland and the Scottish Social Services Council to scope out formal and informal training opportunities around sensory impairment awareness.

Current Status: Answered by Michael Matheson on 13/05/2014

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**Question S4W-20945: Jackie Baillie, Dumbarton, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 01/05/2014**

To ask the Scottish Government what the prevalence is of people with (a) hearing loss, (b) sight loss and (c) deafblindness and what the prevalence is in ethnic minority communities, broken down by local authority.

Current Status: Expected Answer date 16/05/2014





## **Evidence needed: Parliament inquiry into Access to Work**

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/access-to-work/>

### **Employment support for disabled people: Access to Work**

12 May 2014

The inquiry will consider the Department for Work and Pensions' (DWP) Access to Work programme (AtW).

#### **Background**

AtW is designed to help long-term disabled people to start a new job, or remain in employment, with practical support which goes beyond the "reasonable adjustments" which employers are required to make by law.

AtW grants can cover, or go towards, a range of practical solutions to problems faced by disabled people in the workplace—for example, adaptations to equipment; taxis to work for those who cannot use public transport; and support workers.

The programme helped around 31,000 people in 2012/13.

In 2011 the coalition Government commissioned Liz Sayce to conduct an independent review of employment support for disabled people. The Sayce review highlighted the effectiveness of AtW but found a lack of awareness about the programme, particularly amongst smaller employers and people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities. Liz Sayce recommended that DWP "transform [AtW] from Government's best-kept secret to a recognised passport to successful employment".

The Government has since taken some steps to increase the reach of AtW, for example through increased marketing of the scheme to employers, and extending it to cover a broader range of work experience, traineeship and apprenticeship placements.

#### **Terms of reference for the inquiry**

Submissions of no more than 3,000 words are invited from interested organisations and individuals.

The Committee is particularly interested in:

The AtW application and assessment processes, from the perspectives of employees and employers;

The adequacy of ongoing support, both in terms of the aids, adaptations and support workers provided through AtW, and the help and advice offered by DWP;

The effectiveness of AtW in supporting people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities;

AtW's effectiveness in terms of helping disabled people to:

Secure a job; Stay in employment; and Develop their careers; and The steps taken so far by DWP to extend AtW, including its marketing and funding of the scheme.

Submissions do not need to address all of these points.

The deadline for submitting evidence is **Friday 20 June**.

#### **How to submit your evidence**

To encourage paperless working and maximise efficiency, select committees are now using a new web portal for online submission of written evidence. The web portal is available on the website (<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/access-to-work/>).

The personal information you supply will be processed in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998 for the purposes of attributing the evidence you submit and contacting you as necessary in connection with its processing.

**Each submission should:**

be no more than 3,000 words in length  
be in Word format with as little use of colour or logos as possible  
have numbered paragraphs

If you need to send a paper copy please send it to: *The Clerk, Work and Pensions Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA*

Material already published elsewhere should not form the basis of a submission, but may be referred to within a proposed memorandum, in which case a web link to the published work should be included.

Once submitted, evidence is the property of the Committee. It is the Committee's decision whether or not to accept a submission as formal written evidence.

The Committee normally, though not always, chooses to make public the written evidence it receives, by publishing it on the internet (where it will be searchable), or by making it available through the Parliamentary Archives. If there is any information you believe to be sensitive you should highlight it and explain what harm you believe would result from its disclosure. The Committee will take this into account in deciding whether to publish or further disclose the evidence.

Select Committees are unable to investigate individual cases.

Further guidance on submitting evidence to Select Committees is available on the parliamentary website ( PDF 2.46 MB).

The deadline for submitting evidence is **Friday 20th June**.

Further guidance on submitting evidence to Select Committees is available on the parliamentary website

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/witnessguide.pdf> [PDF].