



deafscotland Bulletin July 2018

We want the bulletin to be accessible therefore we **CANNOT** use the information in the form of posters, PDF, JPEG, GIF or publisher in the bulletin.

****PLEASE NOTE:** at the end of this bulletin is a template. If you want the information included in future bulletins, please copy and use this template. If the information is not sent to us in the template, we will not include it.**
Thankyou.

deafscotland | Bi-Monthly Newsletter for deafscotland Members



SCoD Re-branding >>>>>> deafscotland emerges.....

Remember we are now called **deafscotland**. We changed our name during Deaf Awareness Week in May 2018. Please do note that it will take some months to get all the changes in place, so please be patient with our exciting transformation. It will not disrupt our activities.



Our new image above is intended to convey a modern, inclusive approach focussing on “connections” (people, membership and partnership), joined up working with other networks and explain what we do. Our slogan is ‘**equality & integration through communication for all**’. This reflects our beneficial “Connect and Thrive” programme. We thank all of you that sent messages of support and do hope you can **all** get behind the changes. Our power as a group is far greater than as individual people or organisations.

As the rebranding process will take several months, we have started revamping and updating our information, changing all of our new email addresses, our new website is currently under construction, our social media have been updated and most importantly we're on the process of changing our stationery. We are gradually developing our marketing and media campaign with advice and will keep you as informed as we progress.

Our new Admin email address: admin@deafscotland.org

Our Twitter hashtags are: **#alldeaf** **#notequalyet**

We, both Board members and staff at deafscotland are very excited about the change. Watch this space for further developments / news.

Conference 2019 – Save the date!

We are starting to plan our 2019 conference which will take place on Friday 15 March 2019. It will be in Glasgow and called “communication4all”. Further details will follow.

Please let us know as soon as possible, if you are **interested in sponsoring a part of the event or presenting a workshop**: admin@deafscotland.org.

Mental Health and Wellbeing for all people affected by deafness: Past, Present and Future

deafscotland (formerly Scottish Council on Deafness) started to campaign for inclusive mental health services for people with a hearing loss in Scotland in 1927, the year the organisation was set up. Today it continues to campaign for mental health and wellbeing services and information to be fully inclusive for everyone, including people across the four pillars of deafness – Deaf / Deaf Sign Language users; Deafblind; Deafened and Hard of Hearing.

It is 10 years since deafscotland published the research paper “Making the Case for Specialist Mental Health Services in Scotland”. The current paper shows the developments that have been put in place for people with a hearing loss in Scotland who need support to maintain good mental health and wellbeing. It also shows what still needs to be done. To read the paper, go to www.scod.org.uk/briefings/.

deafscotland Membership

We have started to engage with our members for 2018/19 and invoices are out. Please continue to work with us together.

We have two categories of membership:

- **FULL MEMBERS.** These are the organisations that have a major interest in deaf issues, make up the National Council, have voting rights and can put forward nominations to the deafscotland Board.
- **ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**
Organisations. These are organisations who are interested in deaf issues but it is not their main work, cannot have voting rights, be full members or do not want the responsibility of full membership.
Individuals. These are individuals, people who are deaf or have an interest in deafness and want to support our work.

We are revising our membership offer and fees this year. Fees are held at the same price this year and have not increased for more than five years. In the future we want to be clearer on the content of the membership offer.

We also want to recruit **new members** to support our work.

- On BSL language development
- Communication barriers and solutions
- General deaf awareness

For more information, contact us on 0141 248 2474 or email us at: admin@deafscotland.org. If you are a BSL user, you can use [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](#) to contact us.

Participation Consultation and Communication

Please use the link or check out the website www.scod.org.uk to see our latest briefing. If you have any comments or feedback please send them to chiefofficer@deafscotland.org or bsl@deafscotland.org.

We are interested in your opinion.

To read the paper, go to: <http://www.scod.org.uk/briefing-participation-consultation-and-communication/>.

Disclosure: Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG)

If you have staff who will be working with children and/or vulnerable adults they will need to be a member of the PVG Scheme.

Need your PVG forms signed off? Come to deafscotland to get them done. Or make an appointment and we will come to you if you have several members of staff needing forms completed.

For more information about booking an appointment or general information, please visit our website: <http://www.scod.org.uk/disclosure-for-working-with-protected-groups/>.

Practical Rights Training

We have postponed the training scheduled for Thursday 14 June 2018. See the training section for new date.

Best wishes, Janis & deafscotland Team

Sponsored Material

The Signature Annual Awards are back for a 10th anniversary celebration!

Signature has announced that this year it will host the 10th anniversary of the Signature Annual Awards 2018.



The Signature Annual Awards are a cornerstone of Signature's work to recognise people who are going above and beyond to improve access for deaf people. For the past nine years, these prestigious awards have been awarded to business leaders, community groups, volunteers, and teachers to name a few.

This year, the awards will be held at the iconic BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art on the stunning Newcastle Gateshead Quayside on **Friday 9 November 2018**, and nominations are now open.

Signature wants to know who is doing incredible work to inspire a brighter future for their community. For more information, and to nominate somebody, go to www.signatureannualawards.co.uk.

Nominations closes on **Monday 30 July 2018 at 5.00pm**.

BSL (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 PARTNERS' NEWS

BSL Authority (Local) Plans

Public bodies / authorities have already started working on their BSL Authority (Local) Plans and looking to engage with members from BSL Communities. This is very important that Deaf and Deafblind BSL users engage, communicate, contribute and work with public bodies / authorities. They are looking for local BSL users who use their services. There's a number of BSL Engagement events happening at the moment, check out the information below.

BSL Engagement events

Please note that we have kept all the details for events, including past events for your information.

AYRSHIRE SHARED BSL LOCAL CONSULTATION

Saturday 16 June 2018 at 11.30am-1.30pm and 4.30pm-5.30pm at Grange Academy (The Street), Kilmarnock

Wednesday 20 June 2018 at 6.00pm-8.30pm at Irvine Townhouse, Irvine

Sunday 1 July 2018 at 2.00pm-5.00pm at Gaiety Theatre, Ayr

DUNDEE & ANGUS COUNCILS SHARED BSL LOCAL CONSULTATION

Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 4.00pm-7.00pm at The Steeple, Dundee

EDINBURGH BSL CONSULTATION REFERENCE GROUP

Wednesday 27 June 2018 at 6.00pm-7.30pm at South Bridge Resource Centre, Edinburgh

FIFE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP BSL LOCAL CONSULTATION

Thursday 28 June 2018 at 10.00am-12.00pm, 2.00pm-4.00pm and 5.30pm-7.30pm at Town House, Kirkcaldy

FORTH VALLEY SHARED BSL LOCAL PLAN (NHS Forth Valley & Falkirk Council)

Wednesday 27 June 2018 at 5.30pm-7.30pm at Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Camelon

GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL AND NHS GREATER GLASGOW & CLYDE SHARED BSL LOCAL PLAN

Wednesday 11 July 2018 at 6.30pm-9.00pm at Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow

HIGHLAND COUNCIL BSL DROP-IN EVENT

Wednesday 14 July 2018 at 3.00pm-5.00pm at Cameron Youth Centre, Inverness

MORAY COUNCIL BSL DRAFT PLAN

Wednesday 4 July 2018 at 7.00pm-9.00pm

Saturday 28 July 2018 at 7.00pm-9.00pm

Both will be held at NESS Elgin office, Elizabeth House, 10 Victoria Crescent, Elgin

NORTH & SOUTH LANARKSHIRE SHARED BSL LOCAL CONSULTATION

Friday 15 June 2018 at 2.00pm-4.00pm and 4.00pm-6.00pm at Deaf Services Lanarkshire, Coatbridge ML5 3AA

Tuesday 19 June 2018 at 10.00am-12.00pm at Hamilton Deaf Club, Hamilton

Saturday 30 June 2018 at 1.00pm-3.30pm at Bellshill Cultural Centre, Bellshill

PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL BSL LOCAL CONSULTATION

Monday 11 June 2018 at 4.00pm-6.00pm at VisionPK, Perth

SCOTTISH BORDERS SHARED BSL LOCAL ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Saturday 21 July 2018 at 10.30am-12.00pm or 12.30pm-2.00pm at Borders College, Galashiels

TAYSIDE BSL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EVENT

Saturday 27 June 2018 at 4.00pm-7.00pm at The Marryat Hall, City Square, Dundee

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL BSL LOCAL CONSULTATION

Tuesday 5 June 2018 at 5.00pm-8.00pm at Ability Centre, Livingston

HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY BSL LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

Thursday 25 June 2018 at 10.30am-12.00pm at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh (Mary Burton Building)

UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING AND FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE BSL CONSULTATION EVENT

Wednesday 27 June 2018 at 5.30pm-7.30pm at University of Stirling, Airthrey Road, Stirling

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SHARED BSL EVENT (WITH OTHER PUBLIC BODIES)

Friday 18 May 2018 at 2.00pm-5.00pm at The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

Saturday 19 May 2018 at 10.00am-1.00pm at The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh

There's many more events organised, keep checking out various partners' or public bodies' websites, Facebook and Twitter for further updates / information. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with Derek Todd, BSL Consultant at deafscotland by email: bsl@deafscotland.org.

Draft BSL Plans: consultations are live

The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) have launched their Draft BSL Plan for consultation. You can view this on the link below:

OSCR: <https://www.oscr.org.uk/news/have-your-say-on-oscr-s-bsl-plan>

The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) has also launched their consultation, which can be viewed on the link below:

SHR: <https://www.scottishhousingregulator.gov.uk/news/housing-regulator-launches-consultation-british-sign-language-plan>

We would be grateful if you could share these links as widely as possible among your stakeholders.

Thank you for being a part of our reference group and for showing an interest in helping OSCR and the SHR with our draft BSL Plans for consultation.

GENERAL NEWS

West of Scotland Deaf Children's Society

PLEASE SUPPORT WSDCS!!!

We are delighted to announce that West Scotland Deaf Children's Society has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round began on 12 November 2017 and will run for 11 months until the 27 October 2018.

Every time a Co-op member shops and chooses selected Co-op branded products both the member and the community benefit!

5% for the Co-op member: paid into membership account which can be spent next time you shop; or saved to spend whenever you want.

AND

1% for your community - 1% of what members spend goes to the Co-op Local Community Fund and you can choose where this money goes from a number of local causes. Members will be able to choose and give their 1% as of **now until 27 October 2018**. The more you shop, the more raised for the charity. We will also receive, along with the other causes in our community, an equal share of the money raised from sales of carrier bags.

EVENTS

British Deaf Association Scotland (BDA Scotland) Deaf Roots and Pride

Is inviting young Deaf people between the ages of 12 - 18 to join us for a tour of Glasgow Central Station on Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 11.30am.

The tour is free for young Deaf people.

They can be accompanied by parents/guardians who will pay £13 each. Numbers are limited!

People interested in coming along should contact Louise Sloan at the British Deaf Association Scotland (BDA Scotland) directly to book a place.

Louise Sloan at mentorscot.drp@bda.org.uk

Scottish Government: Consultation events

As part of the Fair Work Directorate at the Scottish Government are holding events with stakeholders to discuss how we increase the employment rates of disabled people in the public sector.

Only around 11.7% disabled people are employment in the public sector, with around 20% of the working age population having a disability/ long term health issue. The SG has in its Disability Action Plan committed to consult with public sector bodies and DPOs on setting a target for public sector disability employment ([The consultation is open 30 April – 15 August 2018](#)). The full linked address is: <https://consult.gov.scot/fair-work-employability-and-skills/disability-employment/>.

Accessibility: If anyone has any accessibility needs e.g. BSL, or palantypist please contact: ConsultationDisabilityEmployment@gov.scot, or phone: 0300 244 1355, but please provide advance notice because BSL & palantypist are in short supply in Scotland, but we will endeavour to make sure that all adjustments are in place. All venues are wheelchair accessible.

Please follow the links below to book your place note that places are limited. If you are an employability support organisation please feel free to also book a place for a disabled person you are supporting towards employment:

Thursday 12 July 2018 – Inverness

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/increasing-the-employment-of-disabled-people-in-the-public-sector-a-consultation-inverness-event-tickets-46179376759>

Tuesday 17 July 2018 – Edinburgh

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/increasing-the-employment-of-disabled-people-in-the-public-sector-a-consultation-edinburgh-event-tickets-46068985576>

Wednesday 18 July 2018 – Aberdeen

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/increasing-the-employment-of-disabled-people-in-the-public-sector-a-consultation-aberdeen-event-tickets-46179317582>

Refreshments will be provided on arrival.

Scottish Government Consultation - Increasing Employment of Disabled People in the Public Sector - Closing 15th August 2018 - Apologies in advance for any cross posting

With apologies for any cross posting and duplications of emails, on the 30th April the Scottish Government launched its consultation on increasing the Employment of Disabled People in the Public Sector:

<https://consult.gov.scot/fair-work-employability-and-skills/disability-employment>

This was a commitment made in A Fairer Scotland for Disabled People, and the consultation sets out on-going commitment to support disabled people into sustainable and fair work, as well as to stay in work if their disability or health issues become worse. It focusses specifically on what more can be done to support more disabled people into work in the public sector. But it will also touch on related issues, such as improvement to data collections of staff information, recruitment processes, and support while in work.

The consultation is open from 30th April – 15th August 2018 and is aimed at public sector bodies, Disabled People's Organisations and disabled people. The Scottish Government will also arrange consultation events around Scotland, and we invite organisations to hold their own events to pull together

responses from people they support or represent. Information about this is set out in the consultation document.

If you have any queries please direct them to:
ConsultationDisabilityEmployment@gov.scot

Hearing Link Scotland – drop-in sessions set for Edinburgh

NHS patients in Edinburgh will soon be able to access Hearing Link Scotland's unique support through a new pilot service.

Hearing Link Scotland volunteers will be providing emotional and practical support at monthly drop-in sessions to be held at the Adult Audiology Department, Lauriston Place, Edinburgh.

Our team, who all have direct experience of living with hearing loss, will be on hand to support individuals and their family members with any questions they may have for managing changes in their hearing, as well as signposting to local services that could support them.

The pilot programme, which will run for 6 months initially, begins on Friday 29 June 2018 from 1.30 and 4pm. Sessions will then run at two-week intervals thereafter.

The service is open to patients of NHS Lothian only. To find out more, [download our poster](#). For further details email scotland@hearinglink.org.

If you are looking for hearing loss support for you, or a loved one, please contact the Hearing Link Helpdesk by emailing helpdesk@hearinglink.org.

West of Scotland Deaf Children's Society – Family Summer Outings

Friday 17 July 2018 – Blair Drummond Safari Park

Friday 24 July 2018 – Craigtoun country Park

Friday 31 July 2018 – M&Ds Theme Park

Coaches for Blair Drummond (Friday 17 July 2018) will be leaving 10:00am SHARP from Glasgow Caledonian University opposite Buchanan Bus Station, Cowcaddens Road. Please meet at 9:45am.

Coaches for Craigtoun Country Park (Friday 24 July 2018) will be leaving 9:30am SHARP from Glasgow Caledonian University opposite Buchanan Bus Station, Cowcaddens Road. Please meet at 9:15am.

Coaches for M&Ds Theme Park (Friday 31 July 2018) will be leaving 10:00am SHARP from Glasgow Caledonian University opposite Buchanan Bus Station, Cowcaddens Road. Please meet at 9:45am.

Alternatively, you can make your own way there and meet us!

Places on coaches will be allocated on a First Come, First Served basis. Please note that coaches will leave promptly and will not be able to wait for latecomers on the day.

We will pay entrance to all places for 1 carer and deaf child/young person. Additional family members will pay £5 for adults & £3 for siblings. There will also be an additional charge of £1 per person for a seat on the coach.

Due to delays in taking payments on the day, many of the children become unsettled. We feel it will be better for all the families if we collected all monies before the trips. Therefore, all payments have to be made when you book your place for the trip(s) - All payments are NON-REFUNDABLE!

Please confirm your place by filling out the attached form and send back to us by Sunday 8 July 2018

For more information, please contact:
West Scotland Deaf Children's Society
281a Central Chambers
93 Hope Street
Glasgow G2 6LD wsdcs@btconnect.com

VACANCIES

No vacancies available at the time of compiling.

TRAINING

AWARENESSbites



AWARENESSbites online Deaf Awareness course

<http://www.scod.org.uk/scod-training/awarenessbites/>

deafscotland has teamed up with **AWARENESSbites** to provide quality online learning and development to front-line and public facing staff who may not be able to attend face-to-face training courses.

We are offering two packages:

Learn at your own speed – login and logout when suits and restart where you left off.

The Package Contents:

Green package – £15 per user

- Aimed at those who require to know the basics and may come across a deaf or deafblind person occasionally. This package can easily be completed in under 2 hours.

Purple package – £28 per user

- Aimed at those who would require a little more detail and understanding and meet deaf or deafblind people more frequently within their day to day service provision. This package can take between 2.5 – 3.5 hours depending on activities taken.

If you would like to purchase packages, please contact us directly at admin@deafscotland.org.

We would consider an organisational discount that offers value for money for large numbers of users.

Human Rights Practical Training

When: Thursday 30 August 2018 at 9.30am – 4.00pm

Where: Scottish Sensory Centre, Old Moray House, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh.

An interactive and informed training session geared to help people understand how Human Rights can be practically effective and enforced. With particular reference to Inclusive Communication, the training is for everyone who wants to understand how to adopt a rights-based approach to their work to enable positive action for all.

Attendees will gain:

- A better understanding of the legal foundation of Human Rights and how they relate with Equality Rights.
- Examples of how human rights are observed (or not observed) in day to day practice.
- Insight on how rights-based Inclusive Communication principles affect their practices.

Book your place via Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/practical-rights-training-for-you-your-organisation-and-those-you-help-tickets-45722749976>

Quality Assurance of Assessment Arrangements for Deaf and Visually Impaired Candidates: Tuesday 28 August 2018

This free event will be of interest to Teachers of Visual Impairment of Hearing Impairment and other practitioners supporting candidates in SQA Assessments and Exams.

This free full-day event, in partnership with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), will provide the opportunity for teachers of the deaf, teachers of the visually impaired, support for learning teachers, college lecturers and other practitioners supporting candidates with hearing or visual impairments in SQA Assessments to discuss a range of assessment issues with staff from the SQA.

10.00am to 12.45pm (Visual Impairment)

The aims of the morning session are to consider SQA's approaches to the modification of SQA external examination question papers for visually impaired candidates through a range of case studies/ scenarios, the assessment issues for candidates with visual impairment related to using:

- ICT and Digital Question Papers in SQA external examinations;
- Braille and adapted question papers.

1.30pm to 3.30pm (Hearing Impairment)

The aims of the afternoon session are to consider issues for deaf candidates undertaking the speaking component in National Qualifications in English through a range of case studies/scenarios, the assessment issues for deaf candidates related to:

- using BSL in SQA external examinations;
- the specific assessment demands of particular National courses.

There will be opportunities in both sessions to ask about any specific issues/questions participants wish to raise with SQA staff.

Teas and coffees will be provided – please bring own packed lunch

The course is free to attend but you must register so that the requisite number of course materials are made up and brought to the venue by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA). Please book early as we expect places to be taken up quickly.

Application forms are available to download from the following link.

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/general/gaug18.html>

The Accidental Counsellor: Supporting Others in Additional Support Needs Work: Tuesday 18 September 2018

This course will be of interest to all those who work with and support the parents and school staff of children with additional support needs including visual impairment and deafness.

Staff often find themselves cast in the role of the 'accidental counsellor' to colleagues and parents. This can leave staff feeling unsure how best to respond. Course participants will have opportunities to explore and better understand:

- issues underlying parent and staff anxieties and challenges
- options for helpful responding: theory and practice
- how to address the expectations of others.

The course will have a practical focus, including opportunities both to explore typical situations and to practice different approaches. Participants may have had no previous CPD in interpersonal or counselling skills, whilst those who have such experience will have opportunities to share and deepen their skill set.

Participants are expected to undertake some brief pre-course reading which will be available in advance of the course.

Presenter: Richard Hendry, ASN Consultant Trainer - see below for brief biography.

Course fee: £110

Closing date: Tuesday 28 August 2018

Venue: Aberdeen Science Centre

Applications are available to download from the following link:

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/general/gsep18.html>

CINEMA / THEATRE

This spring: Visible Cinema screens Oscar-winning short [The Silent Child](#), part of London Short Film Festival touring shorts programme [Lives in Sign](#)



[Languages](#), hosted by deaf programmer, Zoe McWhinney; GFT celebrates [World Autism Awareness Week](#) with Access Film Club, screening the Oscar-winning Chilean film starring trans actress Daniela Vega, [A Fantastic Woman](#) and GFT's dementia friendly programme presents a second chance to see the Oscar-winning short [The Silent Child](#) as part of Movie Memories. Major new releases [Isle of Dogs](#), [Wonderstruck](#) and [Early Man](#) screen with Audio Description, and with Captions on selected screenings.

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS, MOTIONS AND DEBATES



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

[Question S5W-15102: Alex Cole-Hamilton, Edinburgh Western, Scottish Liberal Democrats, Date Lodged: 06/03/2018](#)

To ask the Scottish Government what guidance the NHS issues on the font size and typeface that should be used in communications with people with sight issues.

The link to the question and the response on the Scottish Parliament website is here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5W-15102&ResultsPerPage=10>

UK Government Scottish Affairs Committee

The future of working practices in Scotland Inquiry



Technological developments, new business models and changes in consumer behaviour are bringing about huge changes to the ways in which people work, and their relationships with their employers. Many businesses now meet their labour needs in different ways—such as through flexible contracts and digital platforms which rely on self-employed workers. This has created new opportunities in Scotland and across the UK, but there are concerns that it has also led to an increase in low paid and insecure employment and has shifted the relationship between many businesses and their labour force.

In recognition of the challenges arising from changes to business models and the ways in which people work, the Government commissioned Matthew Taylor, Chief Executive of the Royal Society of Arts, to consider how employment practices needed to adapt to keep pace with modern business models. Following publication of the Taylor review's report, *Good work: the Taylor review of modern working practices*, the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Work and Pensions Committees considered its findings and produced a joint Report, *A framework for modern employment*, which looked in detail at the issues considered, and recommendations put forward, by the review. The Government has since published its own response to the Taylor review, which committed to implementing several of Matthew Taylor's recommendations, and launched consultations looking at how other recommendations could most effectively be taken forward.

This Report seeks to build on that work, and examines the particular needs of Scotland and how the devolution settlement affects the way in which the UK and Scottish Governments respond to these challenges; recognising that—while employment law is reserved to the UK Government—both the UK and Scottish Governments have powers which affect the availability and quality of employment opportunities in Scotland, as shown below.

To read the report, go to

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmsscotaf/449/44902.htm>

Universal Credit: Disabled People

903738 Thelma Walker (Colne Valley) (Lab):

What assessment she has made of the effect of the roll-out of universal credit on the number of disabled people living in poverty.

The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work (Sarah Newton):

I do not want to see anyone living in poverty, and no Conservative Member of Parliament wants people living in poverty. Disabled people are some of the biggest beneficiaries of universal credit, with around 1 million disabled households having on average around £110 a month more on universal credit than they would have had on the legacy benefits.

Thelma Walker:

As disability charity Leonard Cheshire has pointed out, many disabled people do not have internet access, assistive technology or the necessary support to fill in the online form to apply for universal credit. Does the Minister agree that the application process needs to be more accessible, so that disabled people can easily apply for these benefits?

Sarah Newton:

The Hon. Lady raises a very important point about accessibility of the benefits system for everyone, which is something we all take very seriously. I am grateful for the support that the Leonard Cheshire foundation and a whole range of stakeholders give us in designing the process, to make sure that it is as accessible as possible.

Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland) (Con):

Does the Minister agree that it is important that we are absolutely scrupulous in our presentation of the facts about universal credit? As the Secretary of State referred to earlier, I wrote to the UK Statistics Authority to query the shadow Secretary of State's claim that "40,000 children will wake up in poverty on Christmas Day because the Tories refuse to pause" the roll-out of universal credit. On Friday, Sir David Norgrove told me: "It is clearly important that statements by a political party should be fully supported by the statistics and sources on which they rely. We do not believe".

To read the rest of the debate, go to

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-02-05/debates/53D4B605-789B-42A0-B7AE-A45CD61EC01D/UniversalCreditDisabledPeople>



Copy Deadline for the Next Issue

As always, the deadline is the end of this month.

Please forward your contributions for the next bulletin to:
admin@deafscotland.org.

We are happy to publish details about your news, information, events, training courses and conferences. Please send us the **English text** you want to be included in the bulletin.

If **you are not a member of deafscotland** and would like to advertise an event, training courses or conferences, please contact us at admin@deafscotland.org before you send us the English text as there will be an admin charge.

deafscotland Disclaimer

Where appropriate, information sources for the bulletin are noted in each article. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of deafscotland. We cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy of information. No endorsement of services, events or products is intended or implied.

Information for inclusion in the deafscotland Bulletin

We appreciate the time that you take to send us your training information, events, and news articles for the deafscotland bulletin. Sometimes we are not getting enough information, sometimes the information is not clear, and at other times, we have a great article, but no contact details.

In order that we get the information we need to put in the bulletin and you reach your intended audiences, we have put together a template that we would appreciate it if you use to send us information / articles.

We cannot use posters, but we are willing to “share” your posts on our Facebook and re-tweet your “tweets” on our Twitter account. You might have information on your website or YouTube or Vimeo in BSL – please share the links, so that we can.

Organisation Name	
Article / News Item	(Maximum 400 words)

Important date(s)	
Contact details for the bulletin	
Link(s) in social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube	
Organisation's Logo (if you want it included)	