



deafscotland Bulletin July 2019

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. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS ON THE 24TH OF EVERY MONTH.****

Thank you.

Monthly Newsletter for deafscotland Members

We've made changes to our Bulletin!

You will see we've made a number of changes in our monthly Bulletin. We've listened to you! Thank you for your feedback.

Changes are:

Now back to monthly circulation

New sections for 'Funding Opportunities' and 'Volunteering Opportunities'

Deadline for next monthly edition – 24th of every month

More film clips from deafscotland news section

If we've missed anything or you have an idea, please get in touch with us by email: admin@deafscotland.org.

Deafblind Awareness Week 2019

On Monday 24 to Sunday 30 June 2019 was Deafblind Awareness Week. Many thanks to those of you who have supported and promoted Deafblind Awareness Week. One of our members, Deafblind Scotland had a number of events for everyone to participate and learn more about Deafblindness. Did you go? Check out the news / information on social media.

Twitter: @deafscotMedia / @dbscotland

Hashtag: #DeafblindAwarenessWeek

deafscotland Training Programme

Did you know we launched our new training programme?

Check it out! We offer a wide range of training: face-to-face and online - in areas such as **deaf awareness; human rights; working with integrated boards; and communication for all.**

Remember our members get a discount. For further information, please go to our website: <http://deafscotland.org/what-we-do/training/>.

Bespoke training

Don't forget we also offer bespoke / tailored training.

If you have more than 10 members of staff you would like to receive training, then why not contact us to arrange a course delivered using examples specific to the work that you do. You might not have 10 members of staff, but you could share the cost with a partner organisation, so that both organisations benefit.

To request a meeting to discuss (which can be done through Skype/Facetime if you are not in the Glasgow / Edinburgh area) by emailing us: admin@deafscotland.org.

Your training / events

As a member organisation, do you offer training and want to publicise it? Also hosting any events? Then tell us and we will include them in the Bulletin training / events sections by emailing us the details in the template at the end of this Bulletin to: admin@deafscotland.org.

Save the date! Two major events!

First National BSL Summit – British Sign Language

On Monday 23 September 2019 in Glasgow

‘Connect Us Too’ Summit – Mental Health and deafness

On Thursday 10 October 2019 in Edinburgh

Please get in touch with us at deafscotland if you're interested in the following below:

- 1.) Sponsorship opportunities** – we do have sponsorship opportunities for both events if you are interested in sponsoring.
- 2.) Workshop opportunities** – we have a small number of workshops available for anyone wishing to deliver a workshop.
- 3.) Volunteering opportunities** – if you are interested in volunteering with us at both / either conferences.

For more information or if you have any questions, please get in touch with us by email: admin@deafscotland.org.

deafscotland Membership

The deadline for renewing your membership is fast approaching, if you haven't already been in touch with us regarding your invoice/quote then you have until **Wednesday 31 July 2019** to do so or you will be removed from our mailing lists. This means you will be charged if you wish to have your articles in the future bulletins and will lose out on your discounts for training and events.

For further information on the benefits of deafscotland membership, go to our website: <http://deafscotland.org/who-we-are/our-membership/>

Cross Party Group on Deafness

Save the date! The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 04 September 2019 at the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh at 1.00pm-2.30pm. This meeting will include the AGM.

If you would like to join the CPGD, please email the convenor, Mark Griffin MSP, copying in admin@deafscotland.org.

Growing the Virtual Museum for the deaf sector

Our Virtual Museum has a lot of objects ready for the website. At the moment, we are looking for newspaper articles. If any of our members have some, please let us know. Why? We would like your history and achievements to be included.

For more information, please email us: admin@deafscotland.org.

Disclosure: Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG)

Do you or a member of your staff require a PVG? We can help.

We can countersign disclosure applications on behalf of other organisations which may be too small to become signatories themselves or for individuals who are self-employed and need to have a disclosure to work in their chosen field.

You might need to join the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme as you will be doing “regulated” work – working directly with children and/or protected adults, often in an educational or caring role.

For more information about PVGs and to book an appointment go to: <http://deafscotland.org/disclosure-for-working-with-protected-groups/>

BSL translation

We have translated our news / information into BSL (British Sign Language). Please use this link below to our YouTube page to find the information:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Y2NXi7E8vA&list=PL7TPJkTbihG_iFZHjSk8tXHMyly7bHhQU

Best wishes, Janis & deafscotland Team

NEWS / INFORMATION

From contactSCOTLAND-BSL VRS For All and 24/7

contactSCOTLAND-BSL is the Scottish Government's fully funded online BSL/English interpreting video relay service (VRS) delivered by Sign Language Interactions (SLi).

From Saturday 1 June 2019, contactSCOTLAND-BSL will be:
VRS For All and 24/7 – 365 days a year.

For the past 3 years Deaf and Deafblind BSL users were able to contact any public body in Scotland as well as any of the 1,000s of third sector/voluntary organisations between the hours of 8am and 12 midnight.

Although ground-breaking when launched in 2016, and a first for any country in the UK (and further afield), it was felt that access could be further improved by incorporating the ability to contact anyone without restrictions. Either by number or by time.

Quote from Clare Haughey MSP

“...Now the service is being enhanced so that, for the first time, users will be able to contact anyone they wish and at any time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

I'm delighted to be able to support this innovation to help the users of the service to live as independently as possible.”

After all, it is all about equity and opportunity. Direct and independent communication to book a party for your child can be as important as calling the local council or health centre. We are extremely proud to be delivering and developing contactSCOTLAND-BSL and look forward to taking this service to the next level.

Our slogan is 'Go on, who do you want to call' Now this is so fitting and so true.

Calling government to garages, from health centres to hairdressers or from charities to Chinese takeaways the opportunities are endless.

From Research Institute for Disabled Consumers (RiDC)

Deaf and disabled researchers wanted – join now!

The Research Institute for Disabled Consumers (RiDC) – www.ridc.org.uk – is a leading UK expert in user-centred research involving disabled and older consumers. An independent charity with over 50 years' experience of specialist research, RiDC has an active consumer research panel.

The RiDC panel consists of people of all ages throughout the UK who've a wide range of disabilities, experience, knowledge and insight.

Or if you haven't signed up yet, just do it – now.

[Join the RiDC consumer research panel online now](#)

To sign up over the phone, ring us on 020 7427 2460. We'll ring you back at a convenient time for you.

[Find out more about RiDC's consumer research panel](#)

Check out a new product review website [called Rate it! – product reviews by and for disabled people](#).

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RiDCUK/>

Twitter: [@RiDC UK](#)

Contact Chris Lofthouse: chrislofthouse@ridc.org.uk

From Transport Scotland

Accessible Travel Annual Delivery Plan 2019/20

Transport Scotland has just published the first Annual Delivery Plan in conjunction with the Accessible Travel Framework and the Plan is now available on the Transport Scotland website.

The report can be accessed using the link below (PDF format):

<http://bit.ly/2xeCJl6>

From Alzheimer Scotland Fair Dementia Care

On Tuesday 4 June, marking Dementia Awareness Week, the Scottish Parliament debated Fair Dementia Care. We are delighted that MSPs from all parties spoke out to support our campaign. If you want to read all the speeches, you can do so by [clicking here](#), or if you want to watch what happened, you can do so by [clicking here](#).

In the end, a massive **53 MSPs supported the Fair Dementia Care motion**. This would not have happened without the efforts of our campaign supporters asking their MSPs to back the campaign. We will now ask those MSPs to follow up on their support for the campaign in Parliament by committing to ensuring that their party supports Fair Dementia Care in their next manifesto. We can help them to take this forward by showing them the support that exists across the country for Fair Dementia Care.

From the Scottish Government Social Security Directorate

The Scottish Government is planning to be responsible for the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) benefit from 2021.

We want to find out about the experiences people have when being assessed for PIP. This is so we can improve the assessment process and make it easier to understand.

We are hoping to start research as soon as possible. It should last until midway through next year sometime.

We will never give the participants name to anyone else.

We use what people tell us for research only. Nothing someone tells us will affect any the benefits they get.

We do everything we can to protect the participants identity and personal details. We will also ensure that the research session itself does not create any undue stress or anxiety. We will book BSL/English interpreters when required, who are registered with an appropriate registration body, and/or is somebody who the individual specifically requests.

Would you be able to help me find people that we can talk to?

Please contact Clare Young for more information by email:

Claire.Young@gov.scot.

From National Records Scotland Census (Amendment)(Scotland) Bill passed

New questions can be asked – but answering will be voluntary.

New voluntary questions can be asked in Scotland's 2021 Census on transgender status and history, and sexual orientation, following the passing of the Census (Amendment)(Scotland) Bill last Wednesday. The Bill will make changes to the 1920 Census Act to enable National Records of Scotland to ask these questions on a voluntary basis. The final proposed questions will be laid before the Scottish Parliament for agreement before the census takes place.

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop, said:

“Our country has relied on the census for over 200 years and it remains the best way to gather the information government, councils, NHS and other users need.

“This is an important Bill that will enable questions on transgender status and history, and sexual orientation to be asked on a voluntary basis for the very first time, with no penalty for not answering them.

“It is widely accepted that there are currently data gaps on sexual orientation and trans status. Including questions on these demographics in the census will provide valuable data for public service planning purposes and will help public bodies meet duties under the Equality Act 2010.”

Paul Lowe, Registrar General for Scotland, said:

“National Records of Scotland are consulting extensively with groups all over Scotland to develop and test proposed questions to ensure they are supported by the public.

“By asking questions which reflect a modern, inclusive Scotland, we will ensure the census will continue to be a vital source of information for decades to come.”

The power to ask new questions on a compulsory basis already exists in the Census Act 1920 but refusing to answer a census question or neglecting to do so is an offence under the section 8 of the Census Act 1920. This Bill allows questions on sexual orientation and trans status and history to be asked on a voluntary basis. These questions are aimed at improving data used for public service planning purposes and will be entirely voluntary.

Background

You can read the details of the bill, including the Official Report of last Wednesday’s debate, on the [Scottish Parliament’s website](#).

Scotland’s next census will take place on Sunday 21 March 2021, subject to the approval of the Scottish Parliament.

[Plans for Scotland’s Census 2021](#) include details on question development, privacy and confidentiality, collecting and publishing information and the legislative process.

A census is organised in Scotland every 10 years and collects information on households and individuals to inform public services, policy and research.

Scotland’s Registrars General have taken responsibility for the country’s census since 1861.

National Statistics Accreditation

Today we have published our report "[How the National Records of Scotland is ensuring Census 2021 is trustworthy, high quality and of value to users](#)". This is our first step towards measuring our progress against the Code and will form part of the Office for Statistics Regulation assessment.

You can now follow us on Facebook and Twitter @scotcensus2021 to keep up to date with what's happening with Scotland's Census 2021.

From Social Security Scotland Best Start Grant School Age Payment Now Open for Applications

Social Security Scotland's new Best Start Grant School Age Payment is now open for applications on-line and by phone. Our stakeholder toolkit is also now available.

To make sure that people are aware of the payment and we get this additional money into the pockets of the families who need it we would once again appreciate if you could help raise awareness of the payment through your organisation and networks.

The payment itself will provide families in Scotland, who are on a low income, with £250 to help with the costs of a child starting school. People can apply around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 and if they get certain benefits or tax credits. For this year that means if their child is born on or between 1 March 2014 to 28 Feb 2015. Applications can be made from 3 June 2019 until 29 February 2020 either online at www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant or by contacting our Freephone helpline on 0800 182 2222. The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm.

The Best Start Grant School Age Payment is the third in our Best Start Grant package of payments that is providing extra money to families in Scotland who are on a low income to help support their child during their early years. For that reason we are keen that people are aware of their entitlement and know how to apply. The assistance that you have already provided in helping promote the Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby and Early Learning Payments has been of enormous benefit. For instance within the first two days of the Early Learning Payment being launched in April we received over 6,000 applications. We want to build on this and with the valuable support that you provide to people and communities meaning that the payment could benefit the families you support any help you and your teams can provide in raising awareness and uptake will be indispensable.

To support you in this we have created a specific Best Start Grant School Age Payment toolkit containing materials for your use. This includes fact sheets on eligibility and how and when to apply, posters, articles that can be used in local newsletters and staff updates and social media posts. These can all be accessed on our website at <https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/what-we-do/stakeholder->

[resources](#) along with our previous toolkits. It would be extremely helpful if you could share this with your wider teams and networks. Also if you are able to share any posts from our social media channels @SocSecScot on Twitter and Social Security Scotland on Facebook that would be really helpful.

Please also let us know if you have a specific need in regards to communications products and we will do our best to accommodate this.

Social Security Scotland's Local Delivery Team are also on hand to attend events, meetings or staff training opportunities. Please contact us by email at localdelivery@socialsecurity.gov.scot in the first instance and we'll be in touch.

Social Security Scotland Snapshot New school age payment launched

A brand new benefit for low income families is now open for applications. The £250 School Age Payment is for families with a child old enough to start primary school this August.

The payment is part of the Best Start Grant, a package of three payments for families in receipt of eligible benefits - including Universal Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit and tax credits - to help at key stages in a child's life.

Social Security Scotland received 9000 applications for the payment in its first week, an exceptional response that shows what a difference we can make.

There is a [toolkit](#) available with lots of useful resources.

To read further click the link below:

<https://mailchi.mp/38069e199adf/social-security-scotland-october-newsletter-350259?e=c44cbb34cb>

From the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (The ALLIANCE)

Humans of Scotland Campaign

The ALLIANCE is currently running a project that gives a voice to those living with long term conditions, disabilities, as unpaid carers and those working to provide support and services, through storytelling.

The project is social media based with stories being shared on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and also on The ALLIANCE's website to reach as many people as possible. The stories take the form of a short body of text of 300 words and an accompanying photograph.

Here is a link to a call for stories on our website for more information: <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/human-of-scotland-series-call-for-stories/>

From SignVideo Launches The UK's First Free BSL Business Directory

SignVideo launches the UK's first Deaf British Sign Language (BSL) Business Directory on their app, with a key difference. SignVideo is investing in Deaf BSL entrepreneurs offering them, free of charge, the opportunity to attract more Deaf BSL customers to their services through a simple click.

The new BSL Business Directory aims to promote and build a new mindset that focuses on the development of a BSL "Ecosystem" concept within the Deaf BSL community.

Deaf tradespeople and/or business owners wishing to register their business on the SignVideo app BSL Business Directory are welcome to add themselves by [registering here](#) or visiting www.signvideo.co.uk/business-directory. Download our app by searching "SignVideo" on the Apple or Play app store or from [here](#).

Letter from Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

Service User Questionnaire: Sensory Impairment Needs Assessment

Dear colleague

Many thanks for your input into the adult side of the sensory impairment needs assessment. Our workshops 1 and 2 have shaped the questions for service users, and I'm delighted to be able to send you now this [link](#) to the Council's consultation hub. The consultation with adults with sensory impairments and their carers living in Edinburgh starts today, and runs for the next six weeks.

The chief way we're going to gather the information is through the web link.

However, there are other ways that people can access the survey:-

- We are working on a protocol for gaining insight from BSL users, hands-on BSL users and Deafblind manual users with Deaf Action and this will be added to the hub web page ASAP. If more time is needed to gather insight given the delay on this, I have allowed for that in the project plan.
- Large print, Braille and various computer and language formats are available by contacting the Council's Interpretation and Translation service as indicated on the first page
- A pdf version of the questionnaire can be sent to you to circulate if service users prefer, and they can complete in writing and send to me (available soon – please e-mail me if you want this)
- My phone number is on the contact page if people want to complete the questionnaire over the phone

Please publicise the link and the other ways of expressing views widely to your clients/patients/service users and their carers through all your communication channels including social media, encouraging everyone to complete it and ensuring they know the deadline of 17 July.

Please forward to anyone missing from the circulation list.

I'm working on a date for our final meeting in late August/early September but as ever venues are presenting a problem! I'll be in touch soon with a write up of workshop 2 and meeting details soon.

You'll hear in due course from Iona and Lynsey what's happening on the children's side.

Kind regards, and thank you again for your support. Any questions, please let me know.

Susan Shippey, Strategic Planning and Commissioning Officer and See Hear Lead, Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership, Business Centre 1/8, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG. Email: susan.shippey@edinburgh.gov.uk

From BBC Scotland

BBC decision on free licences for the over 75s

The Future of Free Television Licences for Those Aged 75 and Over

The BBC Board believes this is the fairest option to help the poorest pensioners. It is also the fairest option for all licence fee payers, as this means everyone will continue to receive the best programmes and services that the BBC can provide. We think it is important, that the BBC does not take on the role of making a judgment about poverty. Instead, the BBC Board has decided to use the UK Government's own framework. The UK Government sets and controls Pension Credit, not the BBC.

Context

As you may remember the UK Government decided to stop funding free TV licences for the over 75s in 2015. Under the Digital Economy Act, which the UK Parliament passed in 2017, the responsibility for deciding what the future of any concession should be rests solely with the BBC. Unlike the scheme that was funded by Government, any new scheme would need to be funded by the BBC from its budget for programmes and services. The BBC was required to consult under the Act. The feedback from the consultation was that there is no easy solution that everyone agrees.

Whilst many supported copying the concession, there was also strong support for reforming it. The BBC Board considered it significant that, across all of the feedback, many felt changing the concession was the right way forward, to help support those most in need, and ensure that the BBC could continue to provide a range of services that served all audiences. The BBC Board considered the issues very carefully. It has had detailed discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of a range of options using three criteria of fairness, financial impact and feasibility.

Fairness

The Board believes this is the fairest option to help the poorest pensioners; it protects those most in need. It is also the fairest option for all licence fee payers as this means everyone will continue to receive the best programmes and services that the BBC can provide.

The Board recognises the points raised in the consultation around levels of take-up of Pension Credit, but thinks this is still the right course to take. The BBC will work with organisations representing older age groups and charities to help raise the visibility of Pension Credit as a way of claiming a free TV licence.

Financial Impact

The funding available today for the BBC's UK public services is already 24% lower than if the licence fee had risen with inflation from 2010. The BBC will of course continue to find efficiency savings. Independent benchmarking found that the BBC spent less than 6% of its controllable spend on support activities and was within the most efficient 25% of global telecommunications and media companies.

Even if the BBC employed no presenters paid over £150,000 a year that would save less than £20m a year. If the BBC reduced pay for senior managers so that no manager were paid more than £150,000 a year, that would save around £5m a year. The new scheme will cost the BBC around £250 million by 2021/22 depending on take-up of the scheme.

The Board is clear that diverting £250m a year of the BBC's spend on programmes and services risks weakening the delivery of the BBC's mission and purposes - particularly in a much more competitive global market. Therefore, the cost of this new scheme will require difficult choices. In addition, the BBC will need to continue to find new savings and expand its commercial revenue to keep pace with audience expectations.

The acute financial pressures on the BBC remain in a very competitive, global marketplace where costs in key areas are rising much faster than general inflation. The Board believes this is going to be a significant factor in judgements about the level of the licence fee when it next comes up for review in 2021/22.

The impact of copying the previous concession would require unprecedented closures of services, including BBC Two, BBC Four, the BBC News Channel, the BBC Scotland channel, Radio 5live and 5live Sports Extra, and a number of local radio stations. The Board believes these closures would profoundly damage the BBC for everyone, especially older people who use the BBC the most. They would have a severe impact on the BBC's ability to deliver its mission to serve all audiences. These cuts would damage the creative economy, particularly in the nations and regions and make the BBC much worse value for money for those who do pay for their TV licence.

Feasibility

The BBC Board recognises that its decision will now mean changes for around 4.6 million households consisting of two groups. Around 1.5m of those could be eligible for a free TV licence funded by the BBC, of which 900,000 currently receive Pension Credit. We estimate that up to 3.75 million households will need to pay, although this figure would reduce if more people aged over 75 took up Pension Credit. The Board considers it important that the BBC and TV Licensing take steps to support people to make this transition simple. This is a significant change for everyone.

So far as implementation is concerned, the BBC Board has decided that those aged over 75 who receive Pension Credit will be able to apply for a free TV licence using a self-verification scheme. And those households that will now have to pay for their TV licence will be able to pay by small instalments.

Role of Government

The BBC Board considers it is vital that the BBC remains independent of Government. In the discharge of its legal responsibilities under the Digital Economy Act, the Board has taken what it is satisfied is the right decision, on the basis of all the material it considered.

The BBC Board recognises the strong feelings expressed during the consultation about the Government taking back responsibility and funding the existing concession. This is not a matter that the BBC can resolve. The BBC Board's view is that it is a matter for Government whether, in the light of the BBC Board's decision, Government would now wish to pay the additional costs to ensure that all over 75s could continue to receive a free TV licence. Or it could take back responsibility for the over-75s concession in its entirety, and pay for it in full.

The Board is satisfied that, in summary, the BBC cannot afford to do this without making the BBC substantially worse for audiences. It has done all it can reasonably to protect the poorest over 75s. The Board has made its decision, in the discharge of its statutory functions.

The BBC believes strongly that there needs to be a much more transparent public debate about funding settlements in future, rather than a process behind closed doors which does not involve the public. The BBC will begin to set out its case and consult with audiences in the run-up to the licence fee funding negotiations in 2021/22.

The Voice of the Listener and Viewer – which represents the interests of consumers – has suggested a Licence Fee Commission be established to set the level of the licence fee in the future. This is one option, among others, that deserves serious consideration and discussion. It is vital that the BBC and our audiences never again face a Government-imposed process with no consultation and public debate. It is vital that future licence fee decisions are evidence-based and made after proper consultation with the public and Parliament.

From Glasgow Life Opportunity to be a Glasgow Life Mystery Visitor

Get the most out of Glasgow Life.

Would you like to become a Mystery Visitor for Glasgow Life? Can you be objective? Do you have good observation skills? If so then Glasgow Life wants to hear from YOU!

No experience necessary – full training given.

For further details and to sign up email:

mysteryvisitors@glasgowlife.org.uk or call 0141 276 9720 and ask for Gerry McVay.

From Scottish Government Delivery of Disability Assistance to start in 2020

Responsibility for all devolved benefits, including their funding, will sit with the Scottish Government from 1 April next year (2020), with delivery for disability benefits rolled out shortly after.

The system will have a redesigned application process and significantly fewer face to face assessments, which will be carried out through the agency by qualified assessors and audio-recorded as standard. There will be rolling awards with no set end points and those with fluctuating health conditions will not face additional reviews due to regular changes in needs related to their condition. We will also move the burden of collecting information from the client to Social Security Scotland.

For the full report click the following link:

<https://news.gov.scot/news/delivery-of-disability-assistance-to-start-in-2020>

From NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde eHEALTH INNOVATIONS

There are a number of innovative eHealth projects going live across GGC and last week we highlighted two which are helping patients get their care more locally. The first is a joint project with NHS Western Isles. One of our orthopaedic surgeons, Grzegorz Sianos, who specialises in hand surgery, is offering video conference clinics in collaboration with physiotherapists in NHS Western Isles that allows patients in the isles to receive their initial assessments via video, in order to prevent unnecessary travel to mainland Scotland.

The second eHealth innovation is the introduction of remote video consultations on physiotherapy for patients with respiratory conditions which has now gone live in the north sector of NHSGGC. Thanks to a new streamlined approach to physiotherapy advice patients can seek information virtually rather than physically attending a traditional clinic setting. Accessing the service through an app from a phone, PC or tablet, allows the patient to remain at home or work and get the physiotherapy advice and support they need for their condition.

You can find out about all these stories and more by visiting the website below:

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/media-centre/>

From ScotRail Ground-breaking new app for deaf customers on Scotland's Railway

ScotRail has teamed up with InterpreterNow to introduce a new British Sign Language (BSL) app to Scotland's Railway, a first for the UK rail industry.

InterpreterNow is a service that delivers immediate access to online interpreting for deaf BSL users, enabling deaf and hearing people to communicate with each-other.

The service is available via a simple and straight forward app that can be used on both ScotRail staff and customer smartphones.

The pioneering app, launched on Thursday 30 May 2019, is designed to allow ScotRail to aid deaf customers in any part of their journey, from information on trains during time of disruption to customer queries at stations or ticket offices.

Customers will sign to an interpreter via the app through a video call, who will then relay the customer query to the member of ScotRail staff. The interpreter will then be able to sign the answer back to the customer.

From InterpreterNow with ScotRail

InterpreterNow is Sign Language Interactions' video remote interpreting (VRI) service.

From Thursday, 30 May, ScotRail will become the first Train Operating Company in the UK to use the InterpreterNow British Sign language (BSL) App. InterpreterNow have been proud to work with Scotrail over the past 12 months leading up to this ground-breaking launch. InterpreterNow is a service that delivers immediate access to online interpreting for Deaf BSL users, enabling Deaf and hearing people to communicate with each-other. The service is available via a simple and straight forward app that can be used on both customer and employee smart phones. The service can be used in any part of the customers' journey. This could be on a train during times of disruption, or at a station when a customer has misplaced a personal item. By simply opening the app, connection is made to the online BSL/English interpreter, who will interpret between customer and Deaf staff member providing instant access. The app itself is very easy to use and requires no training. We've included a step by step user guide below and a video that allows you to see the app being used in a real-life scenario.

From Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)

New Resources for Advisors

We are pleased to share with you a selection of new resources. We hope these will help you when you're assisting someone who might have been discriminated against.

[Employment Toolkit](#) and Housing Toolkit – useful step-by-step guides for dealing with potential cases of discrimination.

The Commission recently funded Citizens Advice and Citizens Advice Scotland to produce these two online toolkits for those who are advising victims of discrimination – one focussed on employment and the other on housing.

Speaking about the toolkits, Citizens Advice Scotland's CEO Derek Mitchell said: "These toolkits are a great example of what joint working across organisations can achieve. They will enable people to identify instances of discrimination and take appropriate action, helping make our society fairer."

[New Scotland guide on discrimination and the benefits system](#) – a comprehensive resource for anyone working on discrimination issues in the context of benefits.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Keep Scotland Beautiful: Development Grants

To help Scottish community-led organisations to scope out a potential climate action project.

CCF Development Grants up to £500 (per organisation) are intended to:

Enable community-led organisations to develop ideas for a climate change action project which would support low-carbon behaviour changes, increase climate literacy and reduce carbon emissions.

Assist in progressing to a full CCF Grant application or similar activities for another funder.

Organise a community consultation event and survey work.

Engaging a consultant or advisor to support project development.

Cover expenses associated with visit(s) to other projects/organisations within Scotland (flights excluded).

Develop a low-carbon project idea.

Host an event using the Scottish Government's Climate Conversation toolkit.

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/sustainability-climate-change/climate-challenge-fund/applying-for-ccf-funding/development-grants/>

Les Mills Fund For Children

Grants of up to £1,000 for registered charities and non-profit organisations who work to improve the education and physical and emotional wellbeing of children. Applicants applying for funding may focus on one or more of these areas: Living in Poverty; Physical & Mental Health Problems; Health & Wellbeing; Living With Disability.

<https://lesmillsfundforchildren.org.uk/apply/>

Finnis Scott Foundation

Charities and charitable organisations - including school Parent Teacher Associations – are eligible to apply for grants of between £500 and £10,000 to support horticulture, plant sciences, fine art and art history projects. Grants awarded may cover capital or revenue expenditure. Preference is given to smaller organisations where the grant will have a significant impact. Apply by the 20th September 2019 for the next trustees meeting of the Finnis Scott Foundation.

<https://www.finnis-scott-foundation.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

Inter Faith Youth Trust Small Grants Programme for young people

Maximum value: £800

The Inter Faith Youth Trust offers grants to organisations throughout the UK for projects taking place during the annual Inter Faith week.

The scheme aims to fund projects providing informal inter faith educational projects for young people, in order to improve collaboration and understanding between religious groups.

http://www.ifyouthtrust.org.uk/?page_id=8

Hilden Charitable Fund

Grants of an average of £5,000 are available to charities working at community level in the UK and developing countries on causes which are less likely to be able to raise funds from public subscriptions.

In the UK: Hilden's grant making priorities are: Homelessness, Penal Affairs, Asylum Seekers and Refugees, and Community Based initiatives for Disadvantaged Young People Aged 16 to 25.

The next closing date is Thursday 12th September 2019

<http://www.hildencharitablefund.org.uk/>

Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust: Grants for Projects Supporting Young People

From 1st July 2019, registered and exempted Charities will be able to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to help them to deliver projects that offer support for young people aged between 11 and 25 years. Projects supported will focus on mentoring and support, feature clubs and activities and priority will be given to those addressing mental health. Organisations eligible to apply will have an operating income of at least £100,000 and under £1,000,000. This Round will close on 31st July 2019.

<https://austin-hope-pilkington.org.uk/>

EVENTS

From National Galleries Scotland BSL tours at National Galleries of Scotland

Welcome to our exciting new programme of upcoming BSL tours, March to September 2019. All of our tours for adults are led by a Deaf guide in BSL. There will be a Deaf volunteer to greet you, and all participants are invited to enjoy light refreshments in our education rooms afterwards.

For more information on various BSL tours:

<https://mailchi.mp/nationalgalleries/bsl-march2019?e=2732580272>

From Historic Environment Scotland Stirling Castle BSL Tours

Join us to explore the Castle with Deaf tour guide John Hay, whose BSL tour will be translated into English by interpreter Linda Duncan. The tour will run at 10:30am and is included in the admission price.

On the same day at 3pm, we're running a free BSL tour of the Engine Shed - Scotland's national conservation centre. You can buy your tickets on the day or book your place in advance.

Tour will take place on Saturday 5 October 2019.

For further information about the BSL tours, please contact:

Historic Environment Scotland Interpretation **Sally Gall**,

sally.gall@hes.scot

The link to the event online:

<https://www.stirlingcastle.scot/whatson/events/british-sign-language-tours/>

The link directly to the video detailing the events:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_s5L7rbyTrc

Edinburgh Castle BSL Tours

Explore Edinburgh Castle and Edinburgh's Deaf history with Deaf tour guide John Hay, whose BSL tour will be translated into English by interpreter Linda Duncan. Tours will run at 10am, 12noon and 2:30pm and are included in the admission price. You can buy your tickets on the day or book your place in advance.

Tour will take place on Saturday 21 September 2019.

<https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/whatson/events/british-sign-language-tours>

Here is the link directly to the video detailing the events-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yPP6_fRkLJw

From TPAS Scotland Annual Conference & AGM 2019

The Tenant Participation Advisory Service Scotland are holding their annual conference and AGM 2019 at the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews. From **Friday 6 December** until **Sunday 8 December 2019**.

More information will be made available soon.

From Hearing Link Scotland LinkUp Groups – dates announced for 2019

Hearing Link will host two LinkUp groups in Scotland later this year for people living with hearing loss and their partners or family members.

The programme will take place on the following dates:

Edinburgh – 27 - 29 September 2019

If you are struggling to manage your hearing and would find it helpful to share your experiences with like-minded people, then please get in touch.

LinkUps are led by experienced volunteers who have a sensitive understanding of what it means to live with hearing loss, many of whom also have personal experience. These courses aim to give you, a

partner, family member or friend the information to help you each better manage the changes hearing loss can bring.

Communication support will be made available including hearing loops and Speech-To-Text-Reporting (STTR) where you can follow what is being said on a screen.

Accommodation and meals are provided. All you need to cover is your own travel costs.

To find out more about LinkUps and to register your interest in attending, visit www.hearinglink.org/services/linkups.

Alternatively email helpdesk@hearinglink.org.

From West Scotland Deaf Children's Society & Scottish Minority Deaf Children's Society SUMMER TRIPS 2019!

It's time for our annual Summer Trips for deaf children, deaf young people & their families!!!!

Another year has passed and it's time once again for us all to get together and have some fun! This year we will be going to Ayr Farm Park, 5 Sisters Zoo and M&Ds Theme Park.

Should you need a booking form; more information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We do hope you'll be able to attend and look forward to hearing from you!

9th July – Ayr Farm Park
16th July – 5 Sisters Zoo
23rd July – M&Ds Theme Park

For more information or to register interest please get in touch:
wsdcs@btconnect.com or tas-jim@hotmail.co.uk.

From V&A Dundee

V&A Dundee Access Tours

V&A Dundee runs accessible tours for visitors with sensory loss. We offer monthly British Sign Language interpreted tours for D/deaf visitors and live described tours for those with a visual impairment.

These guided tours run on the first Monday and second Sunday of every month and have a capacity of 15 people. Tickets are free, can be booked online and be used by groups or individuals.

All tours run in the afternoon but the timings of each will vary slightly depending on the type of tour it is. We recommend people arrive 5- 10 minutes before the tour is due to start.

The three tours available are:

Creating V&A Dundee – the incredible story of the building’s design and construction*

The Scottish Design Galleries – our permanent collection showcasing over 500 years of Scottish creativity and innovation

Our major exhibitions – please check our website for more information

If you would like more information on any of these tours or what other facilities V&A Dundee has for visitors with sensory loss, please contact the museum on 01382 411611 or email access@vandadundee.org

From BATOD (British Association of Teachers of the Deaf)

SAVE THE DATE

The BATOD 1/2 day conference will be at the Sensory Resource Centre in Falkirk on Saturday 16 November 2019.

CONSULTATIONS

From the Scottish Government

Improving children's rights.

Scottish Government Consultation on incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Scottish Government is seeking views on how best to incorporate the UN's 'gold standard' for children's rights into Scots Law and improve the lives of children and young people.

Full details can be [found here](#). The consultation runs until **Wednesday 14 August 2019**.

A consultation on a new National Public Health body: 'Public Health Scotland'

The focus in this consultation is on describing and seeking input on the role, functions and structure of a new Special Health Board to be called 'Public Health Scotland'. This will include some discussion of how the body will interact with other organisations and partnership frameworks.

For further information, please see:

<https://consult.gov.scot/public-health/public-health-scotland/>

Deadline: Monday 08 July 2019.

Children’s Rights: Consultation on Incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into our domestic law in Scotland

I am pleased to let you know that we have today published a consultation on how best to incorporate the UNCRC into domestic law in Scotland. I invite your views on how Scotland’s policy, law and decision making can take account of children’s rights by incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Full details of this consultation are available on our [website](#).

The Scottish Government believes that delivering the rights of children and young people, as enshrined in the UNCRC, is fundamental to making children’s rights real and Scotland becoming the best place in the world to grow up. The value of incorporation to children, young people and families in Scotland is that children’s rights will be built into policy, law and practice so all children can benefit from and exercise these rights in their daily lives. Incorporating the UNCRC in Scotland will also enable people to defend their rights in the Scottish courts.

It is important that we hear your views as this will help us to legislate in this parliamentary session to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law. Please note that the consultation will close on **Wednesday 14 August 2019**. Any response received after this date is unlikely to be included in the consultation analysis.

Please feel free to forward copies of these consultation documents to anyone else that you think might have an interest in them. I would also welcome your support in promoting the consultation. The enclosed information sheet provides further background and explains how you can help.

If you have queries or can help us highlight the consultation at one of your organisation’s events please contact Louise McCue UNCRCIncorporation@gov.scot.

From Holyrood (Magazine)

Our forthcoming [Social Media and Children's Mental Health](#) event (9 October, Edinburgh) is shaping up and you are still on time to get your early bird discount!

We have a great outline of speakers ready to discuss the impact of social media usage on our children's mental wellbeing. We're pleased to announce that among them will be Lesley Franklin, Principal of George Heriot's School, who will discuss how to best promote a healthy social media life in the classroom.

For more information visit the following link:

<https://www.holyrood.com/event/social-media-and-children%E2%80%99s-mental-health>

VACANCIES / PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Scottish Environment Protection Agency – Board Members

Scottish Ministers are looking to make up to four appointments to the Board of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) has been going through profound changes in recent years, and continues to do so. We have been given a unique and visionary Statutory Purpose: to protect and improve the environment in ways that, as far as possible, also create health and well-being benefits and sustainable economic growth. It's a very powerful purpose for an environment protection agency. Delivering this successfully requires new ways of thinking and new ways of acting.

SEPA is responsible for delivering two core services - regulation and flood risk management. Our "One Planet Prosperity" strategy reflects the challenge all nations face of reducing the over-use of the planet's natural resources. At SEPA, we are going to use the new powers provided to us in the Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014 to help Scotland be one of the first places in the world to successfully tackle this challenge. Environmental compliance is non-negotiable. Every Scottish business will comply with the law, and we'll work to support as many as possible to go even further.

For further information and to apply, please see:

https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org/pages/job_search_view.aspx?jobId=1662&JobIndex=1&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingPatternList=&keywords=&PageIndex=1&Number=8

Deadline: Monday 15 July 2019.

Scottish Funding Council – Board Members

Can you use your experience and skills to play a part in growing Scotland's economy by making Scotland the best place to learn, to educate to research and to innovate?

The Scottish Funding Council – the national strategic body responsible for funding teaching, learning and research – is looking for up to seven new members.

You could bring your passion for making a difference to Scotland's learners and work with colleges and universities to make a major contribution to Scotland's economic, social and cultural development ensuring that learners and employers can secure the skills of the future.

For further information and to apply, please see:

https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org/pages/job_search_view.aspx?jobId=1663&JobIndex=2&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingPatternList=&keywords=&PageIndex=1&Number=8

Deadline: Monday 15 July 2019.

Moray College UHI – Board Members

The role of a board member is a non-executive one and concerns oversight of the College at the strategic level in line with the corporate plan rather than be concerned with the day to day executive management.

The duties and remit of a Board Member is expressed in various documents including the Constitution and Standing Orders of the College.

For further information and to apply, please see:

https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org/pages/job_search_view.aspx?jobId=1661&JobIndex=3&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingPatternList=&keywords=&PageIndex=1&Number=8

Deadline: Sunday 14 July 2019.

Accountant in Bankruptcy – Non-Executive Member

Accountant in Bankruptcy (AiB) is an executive agency of the Scottish Government with responsibility for administering the process of personal insolvency, administering the Debt Arrangement Scheme and recording corporate insolvencies in Scotland. AiB's mission is to ensure access to fair and just processes of debt relief and debt management for the people of Scotland, which takes account of the rights and interests of those involved.

The Agency is seeking one additional non-executive board member. We are looking for someone who will bring specialist knowledge and experience at a strategic level with a background in any of the following sectors:

The provision of free debt advice

Academic research into insolvency matters

Legal advice in insolvency matters

For further information and to apply, please see:

https://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org/pages/job_search_view.aspx?jobId=1660&JobIndex=4&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingPatternList=&keywords=&PageIndex=1&Number=8

Deadline: Sunday 07 July 2019.

The Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited

The Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited board are looking to appoint a Non-Executive Director.

For more information and to apply please see: <http://bit.ly/2Fn8HjA>

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

deafscotland seeking volunteers

deafscotland are looking for volunteers to support their two major events in September and October 2019:

BSL Summit on Monday 23 September 2019 in Glasgow

Connect Us Too Summit on Thursday 10 October 2019 in Edinburgh

If you are interested in volunteering with us at both / either events, please get in touch with us.

For more information or if you have any questions, please get in touch with us by email: admin@deafscotland.org.

Childline / NSPCC deaf volunteer recruitment

Childline Glasgow is really keen to have more deaf volunteers trained and supporting children. The minimum age to apply is 16, you do not have to have any specific qualifications although you must be able to communicate in written English as currently we support children online through email and 1-2-1 chat (like instant messenger). The training is 10 weeks and will be fully interpreted in BSL.

We are also looking for communication shift supports – these would be hearing people who are either qualified BSL interpreter, have level 6 BSL or CODA's. Please see a video with two of our volunteers explaining their experience of this role. https://youtu.be/Fw_yqd1LozQ

It would be great if you could help us spread the word or would be happy for a representative from your organisation to attend the latest volunteer information meeting for deaf volunteers on 09/06/2019 at 6.30pm in the Glasgow childline base Templeton House, 62 Templeton Street, Glasgow, G40 1DA.

If anyone you know is interested in attending please encourage them to contact: ahood@nspcc.or.uk

TRAINING

deafscotland Training

deafscotland offers a wide range of training: face-to-face and online - in areas such as **deaf awareness; human rights; working with integrated boards;** and **communication for all.**

We are putting together a new training programme. Members can book places and receive a discount. For more information, please go to our website: <http://deafscotland.org/what-we-do/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.

From Scottish Sensory Centre Meeting the social care needs of deaf children and young people Wednesday, 2nd October 2019

This course will be of interest to teachers of the deaf, speech and language therapists, educational psychologists, social workers, support staff, and anyone who supports deaf children to get the support they need. Deaf children and young people may face a range of challenges and risks that make them particularly vulnerable. Our one-day interactive workshop will help you understand the issues and relevant legislation and give you the tools to improve your support and practice. Through a mix of group work, presentations and case studies you'll learn approaches that address the needs of deaf children and their families.

You'll have opportunity to use the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) assessment framework and know how to ensure effective communication – helping you to promote positive outcomes for the deaf children and young people you work with.

Presenter: Christopher Mullen, Social Care Policy Adviser, NDCS

Course fee: £110

Venue: Scottish Sensory Centre, Edinburgh

Closing date: 11th September 2019

Course application forms are available to download from the following link:

<http://www.ssc.education.ed.ac.uk/courses/deaf/doct19.html>



Copy Deadline for the Next Issue

The NEW deadline is on the 24th of every 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 (ARTICLES) IN THE DEAFSCOTLAND MONTHLY BULLETIN

We appreciate the time that you take to send us your information, training, 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 (British Sign Language) – please share the links, so that we can.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTHLY EDITION – 24TH DAY OF EVERY MONTH

Organisation's 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)	

**ALL ARTICLES TO BE EMAILED TO:
admin@deafscotland.org BEFORE THE 24TH DAY
OF EVERY MONTH.**