



# deafscotland Bulletin May 2020



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:** We realise that many people are working at home and may not have the equipment they normally use. During this crisis, if you want an activity or a piece of news in the bulletin, email it to us – text and web links only – to [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org)

Thank you.

If your contact details have changed, please let us know so we can update our records.

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## Monthly Newsletter for deafscotland Members

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We hope that you, your staff, your service users/members and your families remain safe and healthy. We realise that we are fortunate in that we can all work at home and that for many of our member organisations that provide essential services for people with a hearing loss and their families across Scotland, this is not an option.

Please accept our warmest thoughts and know we are hoping that you all keep well during this crisis. If you are working remotely, please remember to be kind to yourselves but also to others who might share your space. We will get through this together...

## Connect and Capitalise would have taken place on Tuesday 17 March 2020

These are the organisations that offered us sponsorship and support for our Connect and Capitalise Conference and we hope that we will be able to take forward our postponed conference in the autumn.



## Recent publications

We have recently published a number of publications on our website. These can be found on a number of different pages as well as on our publications page:

<https://deafscotland.org/deafscotland-publications/>

These reports are the:

- Data Census Report 2020
- Safety First... Keeping people safe with Communication for All. This report contains the baseline survey reports from four deafscotland projects: Self-Management, Cycling, Safety, and Mental Health.
- First National BSL Summit Report; and
- Connect Us Too Mental Health Summit Report.

## Ongoing projects

It is that time of year again, when we are **drafting our Annual Report** and when we ask you, as our members, for your opinions on how we are doing and what we could do better. If you haven't already, please do take some time out to **complete the survey**; we have extended the closing date a bit to make sure anyone who wants to have their say can: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/98JYX2Q>

The **Self-Management project** is about to start its second phase. A new survey will be coming out about this shortly. To find out more, go to <https://deafscotland.org/self-management-information/>

The **Cycling Safely Project** is also moving onto its next phase. The baseline survey will be repeated across deaf and mainstream cycling clubs to see if the films have made any difference to how safe deaf people and their families feel when cycling about Scotland. To view the films, go to <https://deafscotland.org/cycling-safely-for-deaf-people/>

We have put together a **survey on the Covid-19 crisis for people with a hearing loss** to complete to give us actual evidence to take to the Scottish and UK Governments on the information and support provided for individuals, those in employment and those who employ others. To complete the survey, go to <https://forms.gle/pdHRH1MDVCdS5CfFA>

## The next National Council meeting

The next meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 24 June 2020 at Deafblind Scotland in Lenzie. At the present time, we are not sure if this meeting will go ahead, but we will make sure members are kept informed through the bulletin and by email.

## Our Virtual Museum

As we are all stuck at home because of the Coronavirus, some of us may be doing a spring clean. Now is the perfect time to find photographs and films you may have stored up in the attic or under the bed that show what life is like for deaf people in Scotland.

Would you be willing in telling us about your time being isolated during this Coronavirus situation in a film or as a written story? Have you learned any new skills? Have you felt you have been kept aware of what's happening? Do you understand the First Minister/Prime Minister's briefings?

We have stories from those who worked and went to school at Donaldson's. We have displays about technology which assist deaf people in their day to day lives and ones on up and coming sports stars.

We are interested in all your stories, memories and inspirations. We can email you a "how to..." guide to filming/recording your stories.

If you are interested and want to know more about how to record your story or prepare your photos/films for sharing, please email me, Stewart at [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org) and I will get back to you.

## Our Campaigns

We would like all our members to promote our **Communication For All** campaign and see that the interest is growing behind the principle.



Once the Covid-19 Virus crisis is over, we will be able to send out more stickers and will let you know what happens next! With your support, Scotland can come a few steps closer to becoming the first "Inclusive Communication Nation".

There is more information about our "**Communication For All**", "**BSL For All**" and "**Connect us Too**" campaigns on our website: <https://deafscotland.org/campaign/>

## **Disclosure: Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG): Covid-19 Update**

**Disclosure Scotland** is making a temporary change to how applications are processed. They have been working closely with the Scottish Government and key stakeholders on their response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

In addition to their prioritising of checks for those who have the most vital roles supporting the country during this time, they are no longer accepting paper applications. For more information, go to <https://www.mygov.scot/coronavirus-disclosure/>

We, at **deafscotland**, can still 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. But will have to do it in a different way as we cannot put ourselves or anyone else at risk. The disclosure form needs to be submitted electronically, but as countersignatories we still need to be able to check ID. It might be possible to do this by Skype or Zoom.

Please contact us at [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org) to discuss your need for a disclosure and arrangements for countersigning the form.

### **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/playlist?list=PL7TPJkTbihG8S7Euy\\_y\\_IMOpoGsu0Pjzs](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7TPJkTbihG8S7Euy_y_IMOpoGsu0Pjzs)

Best wishes, Janis & deafscotland Team

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## **NEWS / INFORMATION ON COVID-19**

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Dear Colleague,

deafscotland is not producing information on Covid-19 or advice on how to stay safe a protect your staff as plenty other

organisations are doing this. If you haven't received any information either for your service users/members or as an employer, please email me at [chiefofficer@deafscotland.org](mailto:chiefofficer@deafscotland.org) and I can send you the most appropriate links.

If you have a hearing loss yourself, please go to our survey at <https://forms.gle/pdHRH1MDVCdS5CfFA>

Kind regards Janis

**ACAS** has information for **employers and employees**:  
<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

## **NHS Inform**

NHS Inform has produced information for people providing essential care and support to others throughout the crisis as well as a toolkit:  
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-professionals>

There is information about Covid- 19 in **BSL**:  
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/translations/languages/british-sign-language-bsl/illnesses-and-conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

And in **Easy Read**:  
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/translations/formats/easy-read/coronavirus-covid-19>

## **From the Scottish Government**

Following the UK Government's announcement to expand its testing capacity to include the testing of key workers, demand across England has been significant. This has resulted in the website being closed from time to time to help manage the demand.

The Scottish Government published guidance on Saturday 25 April regarding the expanded testing programme in Scotland and for testing of key workers – links to this guidance are below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-access-to-testing/>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-testing-for-key-workers-in-Scotland/>

For general information about Covid-19, go to <https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

## **From Police Scotland**

Police Scotland are continuing to monitor community tensions and hate crime as a result of Covid-19. If you have any concerns or become aware of any increasing tensions within your community, please contact Police Scotland at the email address:

[Diversityunit@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Diversityunit@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

For information on how Police Scotland is managing the Covid-19 emergency, go to <https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/covid-19-policescotlandresponse/>

## **Scammers and fraudsters**

Please be aware that as more people are working at home and communicating with family and friends, people need to be aware the scammers and fraudsters are also online more trying to catch you out. Please make sure you stay safe online. If you are scammed/caught out, please report it to the police. They can help.

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## **NEWS / INFORMATION**

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### **From NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Audiologists**

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde have updated their Audiology Service web-pages.

Due to current Coronavirus restrictions, all Audiology Departments are closed to patient visits, but hearing aid batteries and repairs can be offered by post.

Our updated website provides information and support materials that may assist hearing aid wearers: [www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-services/audiology/](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-services/audiology/)

And for a list of contacts including email addresses, click here:

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/health-services/audiology/audiology-sites-contact-info/>

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## **From SignHealth**

### **On Demand Remote BSL Interpreting Service**

[www.BSLHealthAccess.co.uk](http://www.BSLHealthAccess.co.uk) **Launches For UK's Deaf Community**

**BSL version** <https://vimeo.com/408089137>

The Deaf Health Charity, SignHealth and online interpreting company InterpreterNow, have together launched 'BSLHealthAccess' which enables the provision of immediate, on demand access to British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters for communication with Deaf people in health settings free of charge during the current Coronavirus situation.

More than 70,000 Deaf people across the UK use British Sign Language (BSL) to communicate as our first and preferred language, but we know from research that Deaf people's health is already much poorer than hearing people's. Deaf people often rely on asking family and friends to interpret for them but they can't do that with the current social distancing and stay at home policies.

When people wear PPE it makes communication and lip-reading impossible and Deaf people are being left frustrated and isolated. We need to be able to communicate with doctors and nurses now. As a result, SignHealth have teamed up with InterpreterNow to provide a solution, to fill the gaps in BSL interpreter provision in health settings and provide on demand BSL interpreting when it's really needed.

We are optimistic that NHS England and Improvement or another government body will pay for this service but in the meantime SignHealth has agreed to pay for the service so that it can begin immediately. Deaf people cannot wait.

James Watson-O'Neill, SignHealth Chief Executive, says: "I am proud that SignHealth has agreed to fund this service and look forward to it being funded by the public sector in due course. Deaf people must be able to access healthcare, whether to visit their GP, have a scan during pregnancy or be treated in intensive care for coronavirus. We should all be able to talk to our doctors and nurses, and for them to talk to us."

Andrew Dewey, Sign Language Interactions, says: “I am delighted that as the leading Video BSL Interpreting provider to the Health Care sector, InterpreterNow is able to provide access to a video BSL/English interpreter, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week for the BSL community's Health Care needs. At a time when there is less access to face to face interpreting and with more healthcare services only being provided over the phone, the BSL community and health professionals can still use an interpreter by simply downloading the InterpreterNow App or by using a PC and clicking on the 'BSLHealthAccess' website”  
<https://www.bslhealthaccess.co.uk/>

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## **From Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks**

### **SSEN works with deafscotland and Dingwall Academy to bolster resilience**

A partnership with deafscotland and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) has seen the electricity distributor begin work with Dingwall Academy to promote resilience and electrical safety with the school's Deaf Base.

Deaf Scotland and SSEN began their partnership in 2018 when they gave a joint talk at the Scottish Government's Resilience Conference. More recently, a grant from SSEN's Resilient Community Fund saw deafscotland receive £20,000 to help raise awareness of individual and community resilience.

To learn more about SSEN's partnership with Dingwall Academy, please click here - <https://vimeo.com/389759697> - to watch a short video.

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## **From BT**

### **Skills for Tomorrow – Family time online**

With the school summer term having started this week, David Walliams is back to share how to support and structure kids' learning at home.

Go to <https://www.bt.com/tech-tips> where you will be able to watch the video and download a PDF guide.

## **Would you recognise a phishing email?**

I would like to share our first Top Tips on Tech from Angellica Bell.

We know there is world of opportunity online, but it's not always easy to know what's safe and what's not. In times of crisis, it's important to be extra cautious because scams can increase.

## **Help us spread the word**

### **There is information on Home Working, Digital Wellbeing and Barefoot Home Learning available.**

Take a look and please share with someone you know who might be new to using tech and would find it useful to learn how to stay safe online.

Go to <https://www.bt.com/tech-tips> where you can watch the video and download a PDF guide.

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## **From Scottish Government Connected Communities**

The Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill has been published by the Scottish Parliament: <https://beta.parliament.scot/bills/hate-crime-and-public-order-scotland-bill>

On 14 November 2018 the Scottish Government launched a 14 week consultation, One Scotland: hate has no home, to seek views on what should be included in future hate crime legislation. From December 2018 to February 2019, 12 public consultation events were held throughout Scotland. The responses received from the consultation and public awareness events have yielded valuable information both from individual and organisational perspectives; helping to inform the development of the Bill.

The Scottish Government's hate crime webpage provides further information, including links to the Bill's various impact assessments: <https://www.gov.scot/policies/crime-prevention-and-reduction/hate-crime/>

The Scottish Government welcomes your views on any aspect of the Bill as it begins its passage through Parliament. Please send any queries titled 'Hate Crime Bill Launch' to [ConnectedCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:ConnectedCommunities@gov.scot).

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## From Historic Environment Scotland

### AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) PhD Scholarship 2020

The Department of Languages & Intercultural Studies (LINCS) within the School of Social Sciences of Heriot-Watt is offering one full-time PhD scholarship to start in the academic year 2020-21 and is looking for an outstanding, British Sign Language using candidate who is excited about undertaking an interdisciplinary PhD.

This scholarship arises through an award made by the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to a partnership of Heriot-Watt University and Historic Environment Scotland (HES, a member of the Scottish Cultural Heritage Consortium) under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme.

For information in BSL, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BETUSn05n7E&feature=youtu.be>

For more information go to: <https://www.hw.ac.uk/uk/scholarships/phd-scholarships-languages-intercultural.htm>

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## From Disclosure Scotland

Disclosure Scotland has updated its information about **disregards** – see website for more details. <https://www.mygov.scot/disregards-historical-sexual-convictions/> This could impact on people who you want to employ or who want to volunteer with you.

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## From Social Security Scotland

The Scottish Government has temporarily changed eligibility for a number of our benefits. This is to help people who are impacted by coronavirus and can't get an application in on time - due to illness or caring responsibilities - to still get the support that they need.

We are working to update our online forms at the moment to reflect these changes, so if a client gets a warning to say that their application is late, they should make sure that they continue and submit so that we can process this.

More information is available on the Social Security Scotland website:  
<https://www.socialsecurity.gov.scot/news/re-determination-and-appeals-timescales-extended>

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## EVENTS

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### From the V&A Dundee

**Cancelled - due to Covid-19.**

#### BSL Interpreted Tour: Mary Quant

**Sunday 10th May 2020, 10:30 – 11:30**

Supported by a British Sign Language interpreter, explore the story of this iconic British designer who revolutionised the fashion world with a youthful brand and a desire to make quality fashion affordable for everyone.

Her clothes capture the zeitgeist of the 1960s, however from the way we shop to the way we dress, Mary Quant continues to have a profound impact on the fashion world today.

Portable hearing loops are also available, to support non-BSL users who may still have a hearing impairment. Meet at the welcome desk in the Lower Locke Hall 10 minutes before the start.

BSL interpreter: Jennifer Ramsay.

N.B. For groups wishing to organise a BSL interpreted and/or amplified tour outwith these times, please get in touch.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/event/264/bsl-interpreted-tour-mary-quant>

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### From EU Citizens Rights

A series of free on-line seminars on EU citizens' rights is being organised by the Citizens Rights Project, which works with EU citizens across Scotland. The webinars will focus mainly on the 'Settled Status' scheme under which EU citizens currently in the UK can get a permanent right to stay in the country. The series of five webinars will run from 29 April until mid-May, and will feature a range of legal and other experts. Each webinar will run for an hour, with time for Q & A.

The dates and speakers of the future events in the seminar are as follows:

12 May 2020, 16:00. Specific issues in applying for settled status: Janey Armstrong, Partner, Drummond Miller solicitors. Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/specific-issues-in-applying-for-settled-status-tickets-103340973634>

14 May 2020, 16:00 The experience of applicants for settled status: Dorota Peszkowska, Project Officer, FENIKS EU Settlement Scheme Support project Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-experience-of-applicants-for-settled-status-tickets-103343095982>

Date TBC. The 'suitability test' – the consequences of criminal convictions: Alan Caskie, Advocate. For more information, email: [info@citizensrightsproject.org](mailto:info@citizensrightsproject.org)

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## **CONSULTATIONS**

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### **From The Scottish Mental Health Law Review**

You may be aware that this new Act, which received Royal Assent on 25 March, introduces temporary changes to current mental health law. These changes are not yet in force and will be commenced by Scottish Ministers at the appropriate time, based on the situation in Scotland, in particular if staffing levels are severely affected. The Act allows Scottish Ministers to “switch on” these new powers when they are needed and, crucially, to “switch them off” again when no longer necessary.

The aim is to provide some flexibility to help support the continued running of services under mental health legislation.

The consultation seeking people's views and experiences of current mental health laws in this country is taking place. This can be accessed online via: <https://consult.gov.scot/mental-health-law-secretariat/review-of-mental-health-law-in-scotland>

You can access the consultation via our new website which can be viewed by following this link: <https://www.mentalhealthlawreview.scot/>

This website has been designed so that people can see what stage the review is in (currently phase 1) as well as hosting relevant documentation about the review.

We have formally extended the period of consultation to **29 May 2020**.

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances of this situation, we will continue to monitor the impact and keep the formal deadline under review. Any further changes will be communicated by e-mail in the same way, but you will also find updates and further information on our website at: <https://www.mentalhealthlawreview.scot/>

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## TRAINING

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**AWARENESSbites**



### **AWARENESSbites online Deaf Awareness course**

<https://deafscotland.org/what-we-do/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: Green and Purple

#### **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.

**Please note** the system cannot take multiple log-ins so please make sure you have enough time to complete the course before starting.

If you would like to purchase packages, please contact us directly at [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org).

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

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## **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PQs, MOTIONS AND DEBATES**

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### **Fraud (Vulnerable People)**

#### **2. Alexander Stewart (Mid Scotland and Fife) (Con):**

To ask the Scottish Government what it is doing to tackle fraudsters who are targeting vulnerable people during the Covid-19 outbreak. **(S5T-02112)**

#### **The Minister for Community Safety (Ash Denham):**

Criminals are seeking to capitalise on the Covid-19 pandemic and vulnerable people are especially at risk at this time. Doorstep crime, and scams and fraud, both online and off, are growing in number and it is becoming increasingly important to ensure that people and communities across Scotland are kept safe and resilient. The Scottish Government is working closely with Police Scotland and other partners to encourage the public to be more vigilant against fraud, and especially about sharing financial data and personal information.

We continue to support our partners to help them reprioritise work quickly and put in place resources that will help to inform and reassure the public. There are a number of national initiatives under way—for example, Crimestoppers has launched its shut out scammers campaign to raise awareness of doorstep crime, scams and frauds, with a focus on providing advice to those who are most vulnerable.

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland plays an important role in offering reassurance to local communities, and it has been sharing messages on

potential criminal activities in its areas, offering advice on keeping safe and encouraging communities to look out for one another, especially the elderly and the vulnerable. The national cyber security centre is working with Police Scotland and the Scottish Government to raise awareness of the growing number of internet scams relating to Covid-19. It is important that the public think twice before they click on links.

Many organisations, at local and national levels, are working on protecting the most vulnerable. The Scottish Government recognises more than ever the importance of supporting our community safety partners through stepping up activity to provide advice and information during this time. We encourage anyone who has been the victim of a scam to report it to Police Scotland by calling 101. There is support available to victims of cybercrime via Victim Support Scotland.

To read the full answer to this question, go to <http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=12616&i=114112>



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Please do not include logos, graphics or photographs as we cannot include these in our bulletin. We might be able to share on social media – please email [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org) to ask.

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| Organisation's name |                     |
| Article / news item | (Maximum 400 words) |

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| Important date(s)                                    |  |
| Contact details for the bulletin                     |  |
| Link(s) in social media – Facebook, Twitter, YouTube |  |

ALL ARTICLES TO BE EMAILED TO:  
[admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org) BEFORE THE 24TH DAY OF EVERY MONTH.