



deafscotland Bulletin December 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

Thank you.

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

Monthly Newsletter for deafscotland Members

**Our “virtual office” will be closed from Monday 21 December 2020.
Normal service will resume on Monday 11 January 2021.**



Xmas Message from deafscotland’s Chief Officer, Janis McDonald

I'm pleased to say that Christmas is coming up and I hope everybody gets a bit of a holiday. I know there has been lots of speculation about what the

restrictions and requirements will be but I hope people can enjoy the festive period as much as possible.

deafscotland plans to close for at least two weeks over Christmas and the New Year but there will be administrative support and emails will be monitored occasionally so if there are any issues we will get back you within a day or two.

I'm hoping that people understand that we have had a very difficult year and that there is some good news coming through with vaccine and the learning from managing the Coronavirus is helping people to start to live life differently.

Please do the best you can to stick to the rules. Keep your contacts, your travelling and your need to do things to a minimum to keep sticking with the rules and to try and keep the virus at bay. It's not always about yourself and your own immediate family, passing the virus on to other people has consequences, but we know that it has consequences for us too. It's important that we try to see people when we can to maintain good mental health and well-being and it's nice to see that there's a bit of movement now with people being able to visit others in care homes and family and loved ones can get together on occasion.

I would like to say something today about our learning from the Coronavirus and our work in the New Year. We'll be starting to work on another updated report and we have learned so far that people affected by deafness have particular difficulties because the mitigating actions create huge communication barriers. People are often having to communicate between screens, by social distancing and through masks. The use of clear masks is not increasing significantly, but we know that the NHS has a stock of clear masks that should be used in specific circumstances and we are hoping to see the use of clear masks rolling out further in the New Year. It's not a cure-all as many people still find it difficult to hear better, the masks do muffle noise so it's important that we work to make sure that people understand the exemptions and in many circumstances it would be perfectly acceptable to lower the face covering, to have a conversation and then move on to do other bits of business.

We are concerned that a significant number of people are reporting that they have stopped going out and that they are not having social interaction at all. Even on minor shopping expeditions and things they have found that it's so difficult that is making them more isolated and anxious. We'll be doing what we can to raise these issues with the relevant people and hope to see solutions in the New Year.

I would like to say something about the need to work together and because we are working on a new report it would be helpful to understand what the issues are in local areas? What difficulties do individuals have? Are there difficulties delivering services across the tiers? Do the tiers have an impact in how people are living their lives and how they are able to manage? The more that we can learn about these things, the better. This is an open request for people just to email us directly at admin@deafscotland.org It would be helpful if you could give us an idea of things that are troubling you. It would also be helpful at this point in the year to know more about things that are good, any ideas, hints, tips or tricks that you have learned that make communication easier whether that be through digital means, when out shopping or in communication led environments and anything that makes a difference that we can share with our public sector partners. They are very keen to be able to do what they can to meet their duties.

For the BSL version of this message, click on the link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_PVM4LOgJo&feature=youtu.be

Updates on our website

Don't forget we have a COVID-19 – the Communication Virus Wellbeing and Resilience page on our website which gives information, factsheets and toolkits on the pandemic and the “road to recovery”.

<https://deafscotland.org/covid-19-the-communication-virus/>

There is also more information on the **publications page**:

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

These new publications include:

- Briefing on Communication For All Campaign;
- deafscotland's asks for the Scottish Parliamentary Election in 2021;
- First Minister's National Advisory Council on Women and Girls: Deaf Women Circle Report;
- The second Covid-19 Survey Report

Glasgow Community Lottery – YALDI

We have joined the Glasgow Community Lottery, which is a new, fun way for good causes to raise money.

Tickets are available online and cost £1, with 60p of that going straight to good causes.

To buy your ticket and support us, go to

<https://www.glasgowlottery.scot/support/scottish-council-on-deafness> We have had to use our “Sunday name” to register – so look for the Scottish Council on Deafness.

Ongoing projects

Self-Management Survey

The second Self-Management Survey is now closed. The report will be available soon. The project is ongoing and updates will be available on our website: <https://deafscotland.org/self-management-information/>

Our Virtual Museum

We have had a few technical hitches with our Virtual Museum and due to Covid-19 they are taking longer than usual to put right. We ask that you please bear with us until we can make the whole museum “live”, which will be as soon as we can sort out these technical problems.

Our Campaigns

We have three ongoing campaigns:



Communication For All:

We continue to promote Communication For All, Inclusive Communication and Accessible Information in a number of responses to Scottish Government consultations, Scottish Parliament Committees, and Janis attended a meeting of the UK Parliament’s Scottish Affairs Committee on Wednesday 4 November. The meeting is available on UK Parliament TV 14:01:58 minutes into the recording (the video is only available with audio):

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/16858b78-bd6d-4030-9765-0d222e6d042d>



BSL For All:

We have made a number of BSL clips with different people celebrating the 5 years since the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 was passed. These will be available on our YouTube channel.

<https://deafscotland.org/bsl-for-all/>



Connect Us Too:

We are in discussion with See Me Scotland about our next piece of work on the Connect Us Too agenda. More information will be available next month.

<https://deafscotland.org/resources/connect-us-too/>

Getting in touch

Please contact us at admin@deafscotland.org if you have questions about anything in this news section.

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://youtu.be/F_PVM4LOgJo

Best wishes, Janis & deafscotland Team

NEWS / INFORMATION ON COVID-19

Information from deafscotland:

<https://deafscotland.org/latest-news/>

Information from deafscotland members:

<https://deafscotland.org/covid-19-information-from-members/>

ACAS has information for **employers and employees**:

<https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>

From the Scottish Government

We wanted to update you with Phase 2 of the **FACTS campaign**, which was launched last week. This new campaign looks to remind people of the five key behaviours that FACTS stand for, and how this should be part of our everyday lives to keep us all safe.

The new **FACTS campaign** runs until the 20th December on TV, press, radio, outdoor and social channels.

- [View the new FACTS 30 sec TV ad here](#)
- [View the new FACTS 30 sec TV ad – BSL version - here](#)

NEWS / INFORMATION

From West Scotland Deaf Children's Society (WSDCS)

At our AGM on Monday 30 November, we gave two sets of sisters the deafscotland Award, which was introduced a few years ago as a way of recognising the resiliency, kindness and dedication of an individual towards helping others and also in being a good role model to other deaf children and young people.

This year we had a very tough decision to make and so for the first time ever, we have two joint winners!

The first recipients are Rose Cameron, along with her sister Erin, who cycled 13 miles to raise money for WSDCS. In addition to this, both Rose and Erin are regular attendees at our Saturday Club and are an absolute joy to have. The girls are so positive and fun and always happy to help us with new games and ideas.

Our other recipients are Ellie Ryan, along with her sister Rebecca, who very kindly held their own yard sale and sold their own toys to raise funds for WSDCS. Ellie has also been raising Deaf Awareness at school by helping her class learn to sign a Xmas song! Throughout Lockdown, both Ellie and Rebecca have been at almost every Zoom Club session and have been

amazing at keeping us laughing and have made the Zoom Clubs so much fun – the clubs are definitely the highlights of our week!

GOOD NEWS FOR AYRSHIRE CHARITY - SISG

S.I.S.G (Sensory Impaired Support Group) Charity have just won the bid from Pan Ayrshire Councils for a 3 year contract to provide a “Community Based Hearing Support Service” throughout North, South and East Ayrshire.

This will enable the charity to operate “10 Hearing Support Hubs” in Ayrshire issuing hearing aid batteries, cleaning hearing aids, changing tubing when required, providing support / advice / signposting and onward referral. In addition SISG will be offering “**Peer Support Groups/Service**” to provide emotional and practical support to those with hearing loss in different communities throughout Ayrshire. SISG have also developed additional creative ways in which to help individuals with hearing loss through this pandemic – “Sensory Help Packs” / “Hearing Loss Self-Management Videos” / “Support Calls” / “Hearing Aid Battery Distribution”.

For more information about SISG Charity call 01292 266791 or e-mail denise@sisg.co.uk or write to Denise McClung (Project Manager), SISG, Suite 5 Beresford Court, 6/8 Beresford Lane, Ayr, KA7 2DW or alternatively check out their website www.sisg.co.uk

From the Life Changes Trust

Life Changes Trust launched a new funding stream called **Caring for the Carer**. You can read about it here:

[Funding Opportunities | Life Changes Trust](#)

The fund is open to unpaid carers of people living with dementia, who are resident in Scotland, and offers funding of up to £1,000. People can use the money to help them cope with social distancing and isolation, and to improve their physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

The **deadline** for applications is **5pm on Friday 22 January 2021**. However, please note that we may have to close the fund early if it seems that we will receive too many applications to process.

We would be very grateful if you could pass this information to all the unpaid carers of people with dementia in your network. Please encourage them to consider applying for funding. If you or they have any questions, they are welcome to contact us at:

DementiaProgramme@lifechangestrust.org.uk or by phone: 0141 212 9600

From NHS National Services Scotland and Public Health Scotland

We have developed a short film to explain what to expect when a contact tracer calls.

The **Contact Tracing Video Explainer- What happens when a Test and Protect Contract Tracer calls you?** is available in multiple languages and we would be grateful if you could share with the contacts you have kindly been passing on our key Covid-related messages to.

The film and translated transcripts are available on the NHS Inform website at www.nhsinform.scot/contact-tracing .

From the ALLIANCE

Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland

The ALLIANCE led on some engagement work to help shape and inform the Independent Review of Adult Social Care in Scotland. We delivered engagement sessions between 30 Sept and 11 November 2020 and also hosted an online survey, open call and produced facilitation packs for organisations to use for local or targeted events during the consultation period to access the views of individuals, clients, service users and carers.

We captured insights from partners, organisations and people who access social care services and by using this person centred focus we have now compiled the views/ responses and completed our final report which has been submitted to the Social Care Advisory Panel. <https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/resources/independent-review-of-adult-social-care-in-scotland-engagement-report/>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for contributing to this piece of work and would also like to express huge gratitude to Age Scotland, Alzheimer Scotland, Scottish Commission for Learning Disability and Down's Syndrome Scotland for partnering events during the consultation period.

From Glasgow Disability Alliance

25 years since the Disability Discrimination Act, we need #AllOurRightsInLaw

November sees the start of disability history month, and 25 years since disabled activists, campaigners and our allies achieved a landmark for equality and Human Rights in the UK, as the Disability Discrimination Act was passed.

[Our COVID report, 'Supercharged, a human catastrophe'](#) found that many disabled people have had fundamental rights denied during (and long before) the pandemic – of particular concern is ongoing access to our rights to food, housing, employment, education and health and social care.

From the Scottish Recovery Network

Meaningful connections: How peer support in Scotland adapted to a digital world during Covid-19

- [Read the new research report](#)
- [Book for the online learning event \(20 January 2021 – BSL interpreted\)](#)

The Meaningful connections report is a celebration of the innovative and responsive solutions that peer support facilitators and services are providing across Scotland at a time of challenge and uncertainty. The report is based on engagement with 170 different peer support services and 110 participants. It highlights the benefits, as well as the challenges, of taking peer support into the digital space.

We invite you to join us for an online event in the New Year. The event will provide the opportunity to come together and explore learning from the report. It will be a chance to share experiences and look at how you can create digital peer support spaces that are kind, compassionate, safe, and empowering. As well as the event we would be very happy to discuss with you how learning from this report could support mental health service development in your area. Just drop us an email to get the conversation started!

From the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

BA Performance in BSL and English Virtual Workshop opportunities for people who identify as D/deaf or hard of hearing

- Do you identify as D/deaf or hard of hearing?
- Are your students interested in drama performance?
- Would you like to know more about the BA Performance in BSL and English programme?
- Would you like to take part in a workshop as a starting point for further drama performance exploration?

We are delighted to offer a selection of virtual workshops for community groups and students. These workshops are intended to inform people who identify as D/deaf or hard of hearing about studying drama performance, and careers in the creative industries, as well as providing an opportunity to examine various drama performance styles and techniques.

These workshops are being offered virtually and are free to book. The 4 workshops below are examples of what we can offer, but we can be flexible with the content and duration.

Workshop 1: Visual Storytelling

Using pictures and or text as a starting point, developing storytelling techniques with Deaf theatre makers.

Working with Visual Vernacular, Sign mime and other Visual Theatre techniques.

Suitable for a variety of age groups.

2 x 45 min with brief Q and A.

Delivered in BSL and English

Workshop 2: Principles of Acting

A practical workshop exploring basic Stanislavskian ideas of Objective, Given Circumstances and Action.

2 x 45 min with brief Q and A.

Delivered in BSL and English.

NB: This workshop is suitable for Secondary and college pupils studying Drama.

Workshop 3: Expressing Text

Exploring the variety of options available when working from text into BSL. Looking at expression, register, sign space, communication
Suitable for secondary and college pupils studying Drama and English.
2 x 45 min with brief Q and A.
Delivered in BSL and English.

Workshop 4: Working in the Creative Industries

The various career pathways available within the creative industries. Particular focus on the courses offered at the RCS.
A 45 minute information session delivered in BSL and English including Q and A.

If you are interested in any of these workshops, or would like to know more, please get in touch with our recruitment team at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on hello@rcs.ac.uk to discuss the various options and your specific requirements.

From the Scottish Government

Scottish Government Face Covering Exemption Cards

Face coverings are an important non-pharmaceutical intervention and bring a benefit in reducing transmission of Covid-19 as they provide a barrier to protect the wearer from droplet and aerosols and they provide protection to those around the wearer should the wearer be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic. As such, we have made face coverings mandatory in a large range of indoor public places, indoor communal workplaces, shops and on public transport, where we know the risks are highest.

In developing our policy on face coverings we were aware that there would be circumstances where a person would be unable to, or it would be inappropriate, for them to wear a face covering and as such there are exemptions within the regulations and guidance. Our exemption policy, which was developed in consultation with Disabled People's Organisations, promotes understanding and kindness.

However, despite guidance reinforced by public health messaging, we are aware through discussions with third sector stakeholders and the media of reports of incidences of hate crime and of people being denied access to shops and essential services and products when not wearing a face covering.

The purpose of this card is to support people to feel more confident and safe when accessing public spaces and using public services.

The service will be delivered by **Disability Equality Scotland (DES)** on behalf of the Scottish Government and physical and digital cards are available to request online at www.exempt.scot or via a free helpline on **0800 121 6240**.

This exemption card, which is available upon request, is distinct from the UK Government exemption card which can simply be downloaded from the gov.uk website. The Scottish Government recognises that other forms of exemption cards exist and are valid.

It is important to remember that it is only the minority of people who are exempt from wearing a face covering and we should all continue to follow the FACTS for a safer Scotland in order to reduce transmission of Covid-19 and protect ourselves, each other and the NHS.

The No One Left Behind: Delivery Plan

The publication can be found on the Scottish Government website at: No One Left Behind - Delivery Plan: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781800042964>

From Ai-Media

Access as a Black Deaf Woman during COVID-19: An Interview with Vilma Jackson

For people in marginalised communities, access to information – and even healthcare – has been even harder during COVID-19.

Vilma Jackson is a performance artist who lives in the UK. Ai-Media spoke to Vilma to hear her reflections on the pandemic, and the Black Lives Matter movement, as a Black Deaf Woman and artist interpreting this moment.

Here is Part 1 of our interview, below.

How have you found access to information during the COVID-19 pandemic as a Deaf person?

Vilma: One of the main issues when the pandemic occurred was gaining access to information because the provision of BSL [British Sign Language] interpreters at official government announcements was non-existent. When there were any instances of interpreted information, we were receiving this

information long after non-BSL users, therefore the access to that information was not current.

Fortunately, there were instances when information was provided voluntarily by BSL interpreters or videos with captioning were shared on Deaf forums and social media. This was greatly appreciated. In addition, I was fortunate to have my family supporting me and ensuring that I was kept informed about what was going on.

The British government took too long to acknowledge the feedback from the Deaf community. There were numerous campaigns and online petitions such as #wherestheinterpreter that were set up out of frustration of being ignored.

When the government finally succumbed to the pressure, interpreters were only provided for a short section of announcements. After a short period, they would suddenly be removed and once again we were left without access, wondering what information we were now missing out on. For me, this was a clear case of the government simply ticking the accessibility box and moving on.

It's important to understand the necessity of sign language interpreters, especially when the provision of [captions] is sometimes used as the sole access provision. For some Deaf people in the community, English is not their first language, so in fact [captions] are not suitable for them to access the information.

For such a scary time in everyone's lives when official information was critical, I feel the Government should have done a better job of providing accessible information for every section of their society.

If you'd like more information on Ai-Media's range of accessible media services, contact our team or visit our website at ai-media.tv.

From Generations Working Together

Keeping our Care Homes connected – How we can help you!

Get involved, we are working to keep Care Homes connected and assist in making new connections with younger generations.

We have been contacting Care Homes in Scotland to provide, advice support and resources to staying connected and reconnecting throughout the pandemic. Intergenerational practice has been massively affected in Care

Homes. Established projects and initiatives relied heavily upon face- to-face contact, with groups of younger generations entering the care setting. The need to halt the spread of the virus and protect lives brought these to an immediate stop.

The health emergency has shone a light on the importance of more cohesive communities and **intergenerational relationships**. We recognise the impact this has had on not only Care Home residents but staff and residents' families also.

We have produced resources such as directories and a 'how to' Connect Safely Online guide packed full of unique ideas and activities to staying connected. Two Care Home Representative Meetings have taken place via zoom which have proved hugely successful. We discussed barriers and how to overcome them and shared ideas of ways for Care Homes to stay connected. Hearing positive and inspiring stories of work which is taking place at the moment and planned for the future. Intergenerational work was identified as having a unique and significant contribution to make to the recovery process of this pandemic. <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/news/keeping-our-care-homes-connected-how-we-can-help-you-30-11-2020>

We have our **next Care Home Representatives meeting 28th January 2021**, please share your positive intergenerational stories and any barriers which you feel may be worth exploring with us before the meeting.

[Book your place now](#)

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 3rd February 2021, 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Zoom - online

Book Your Place: <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events/gwt-agm-2020-03-02-2021>

From Deafblind Scotland

Deafblind Scotland Christmas Campaign.

Here's the link to our fundraising pack:

<https://dbscotland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Final-Final-Fundraising-Pack-8-Page-17.11.20.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0hllKieiqAibSur-dR7uWlo1dTdScO2Od0S3nfL5sdDHMANREaADAF9ZA>

From the Scottish Government

Flu is Serious seasonal flu campaign will run across TV, radio, press and digital for 6 weeks. The flu vaccination programme started on the 1st October, and this year we are already seeing unprecedented interest to get the flu vaccine.

NHS Scotland strongly recommends those eligible get their free flu vaccine this year. This is for three reasons:

1. Flu can be serious and life threatening. Every year thousands of people in Scotland are hospitalised because of flu, with people 65 and over being at particular risk.
2. To reduce the risk of you spreading flu to friends and family.
3. To reduce the pressure that a spike in seasonal flu would put on our NHS on top of COVID-19.

Campaign Information

The Flu is Serious campaign aims to highlight the seriousness of flu, especially with COVID-19 around and importance of getting vaccinated. We are also looking to inform new audiences eligible for the flu vaccine, including:

- social care workers
- household contacts of those that were shielding, and
- from December 55-64 year olds will also be eligible.

We are asking people that if they are offered the vaccine, to please get it. They should visit www.nhsinform.scot/flu or call [0800 22 44 88](tel:0800224488) to find out about local arrangements as not all vaccinations will take place this year at GP surgeries.

Improved fire safety for new flats and social homes

[Public safety and emergencies](#), [Housing](#)

Changes to sprinkler regulations

Guidance has been published for the house building industry ahead of new regulations on sprinklers coming into effect next year.

The changes mean all new-build social homes, flats, and shared multi-occupied residential buildings must be fitted with automatic fire suppression systems from March 2021.

Previously, this was only required in new high rise blocks of flats above 18 metres.

It comes after David Stewart MSP proposed a private members Bill to improve safety in new social housing following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017.

A number of outreach events are being held with providers of new homes in the run-up to implementation next March.

<https://www.gov.scot/news/improved-fire-safety-for-new-flats-and-social-homes/>

From Police Scotland

Winter Road Safety: Get ready for winter

Winter is coming, which means changes in road conditions, daylight hours and unpredictable weather. Pedestrians, cyclists and drivers all have a responsibility to keep Scotland's roads safe this winter.

You can find advice on how to stay safe this winter whether you are travelling on foot, by cycle or car here: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/road-safety/winter-road-safety/>

TRAINING

From the Visual Impairment Network for Children & Young People

An Introduction to Childhood Visual Impairment – Online Course – February to March 2021

Course for professionals working with and caring for children who may have a visual impairment

This course is primarily designed for those working in health, however, is suitable for those working in the field of childhood VI from an education, social work or voluntary sector background.

Previously delivered as a face-to-face 3-day course this has been converted into a 6-module programme with each module open to attendees for a period of a week with a live online webinar/question and answer session at the end of each module. Each module consists of a series of lectures lasting a total of 1.5 to 2 hours per module and the course is run over a 6-week period with a new module available each week.

This is a 6-module programme, however applications can be for 4 or 6 modules, dependent on profession and previous training/knowledge. Applicants may apply for all 6, or the most relevant of modules 1&2 or 3&4 along with 5&6.

The cost is £60 for 4 modules or £80 for 6 modules.

Please note that there will be a maximum of 50 places so please book early, and well before the closing date of Friday, 29th January, 2021.

<https://www.vincyp.scot.nhs.uk/newsletters/>

CONSULTATIONS

From Historic Environment Scotland

Give us your views - Talking About Heritage Guidance

We want to hear your thoughts about new guidance that aims to help individuals, groups, communities and organisations investigate, share, celebrate, and to achieve recognition for the heritage that matters to them.

Historic Environment Scotland is currently consulting on the draft guidance – we want to know, does this document work for you? Or could we make changes?

You can give us your views by downloading the policy guidance document and completing the consultation survey, by **Tuesday 15th December 2020**. The consultation survey can be found here <https://consultations.historicenvironment.scot/heritage/your-heritage>.

If you would like to give feedback without completing the survey and want to find out more then please let us know at talkingaboutheritage@hes.scot.

What is the guidance about?

‘Talking About Heritage’ is intended to be used as a tool by anyone with an interest in exploring and talking about heritage. The guidance aims to equip people to have new – sometimes difficult – conversations about our places, people and traditions.

To find out more about Talking About Heritage you can also read our [blog](#) or get in touch at talkingaboutheritage@hes.scot.

From Strathclyde Passenger Transport

The link to the online survey: <https://ns55.askia.com/WebProd/cgi-bin/askiaext.dll?Action=StartSurvey&SurveyName=SPT>

Closing date for the survey will be the **18th December 2020**.

Further information on the study is available at <http://www.spt.co.uk/scts/>

Should you have questions or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact SCTS@spt.co.uk

From the Scottish Government

A consultation on the regulation of electricians

Currently anyone can call themselves an electrician, without the need for any qualifications or competency. This can lead to customers, especially domestic consumers, hiring unqualified or less competent individuals, resulting in faults that can lead to fire or personal injury, such as electric shocks.

The consultation considers whether regulatory measures are required to give greater protection to the public and reduce the level of poor electrical workmanship by a persistent rogue trader element.

The consultation also discusses increasing consumer awareness and helping consumers identify or verify competent and qualified electricians.

Why we are consulting

The Scottish Government is gathering information and views on whether regulations should be introduced in relation to electricians. We want to hear whether you think there is a need for electricians to be regulated. While the focus of the consultation is on domestic work carried out for individual consumers, it will also apply to commercial and industrial work.

<https://consult.gov.scot/energy-and-climate-change-directorate/a-consultation-on-the-regulation-of-electricians/>

Closing date: **12 Feb 2021**

From Skills Development Scotland

As parents and carers are one of the main influencers over the choices young people make about subjects and careers. SDS works in close partnership with the school to support your child make informed career choices and would value feedback from parents and carers on their services. You can do this by taking [a short survey](#).

All responses to this survey are confidential and anonymous. The results will be used to improve SDS services in schools. The survey will be live from 9 November 2020 to **26 March 2021** and should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

SDS is keen to help parents and carers understand our services and we know that one of the best ways to get our messages out to this audience is through school communication channels.

To make this as easy as possible, new ready-to-use digital resources have been created including a parent comms toolkit with messaging on some of our products and service offers to be used by schools across their channels to help us spread the message.

This toolkit [is available to download from the SDS website](#) and has suggested ready-to-use content on the following:

- SDS school career service
- Parents and carers research
- Foundation Apprenticeships
- Subject choices

We also have a [weblinking and social media guide](#) for schools which has copy, links and graphics related to our careers service that schools can use, as well as [school link building and social media audit](#) information which advisers can use to support upcoming school partnership agreement discussions.

From the Human Rights Consortium Scotland

All Our Rights in Law

A National Taskforce is putting together recommendations for a new human rights law.

This law would put all our rights directly into Scotland's laws. For the first time, this would include rights such as:

- the right to food

- the right to housing
- the right to health.

Find out more about what rights might be in this new law:

<https://www.allourrightsinlaw.scot/new-human-rights-law/>

Want to give your views? Respond here:

<https://www.allourrightsinlaw.scot/respond/> .

EVENTS

From Your Local Cinema

Accessible, Inclusive, Subtitled/Captioned Cinema Shows!

Cinemas are closing/opening/closing/opening, due to coronavirus-related restrictions.

All cinemas can screen the latest films with subtitles - when open!

Latest releases:

Honest Thief, Ma Rainey's Black Bottom, Mank, Pixie, The Prom, Mogul Mowgli, Total Recall, The Secret Garden, Two By Two Overboard, Cats and Dogs 3 and more!

Subtitled trailers!

Dune, The Batman, Tenet, No Time To Die, Top Gun Maverick, Wonder Woman, Pixar's Soul and more!

<https://www.yourlocalcinema.com/>

VACANCIES

From Deafblind Scotland

Trustees

Position: Trustees - Board of Directors

Salary: Unpaid -Travel Expenses Paid

Location: Lenzie or by video call

Closing date: **6th January 2021**

Additional Information: Initial Term 3 years

Role: This is an exciting time for Deafblind Scotland, having gone through a period of growth including to develop a unique specialist Guide Communication service for people with a dual sensory impairment and to undertake a capital fundraising campaign that allowed us to build a Learning and Development Centre within our own 'Field of Dreams'. We now want to raise our ambitions still further to reach the very many people living with dual sensory impairment across Scotland to ensure that they live connected and fulfilling lives. This is a big ambition and one which requires committed and aspirational leadership to enable the staff team and organisation to flourish. If that sounds like you then please read further.

Deafblind Scotland are an organisation that is determined that all our efforts to improve the lives of deafblind people should be guided by those who most understand what needs to change – deafblind people. We are therefore committed to ensuring that we are led by this experience and to this end 50% of our Board of Trustees are deafblind. We also want to ensure that we engage the most talented and passionate external experts that can bring onto the Board a range of experience from business, third and public sector leadership or policy making in Scotland. We are therefore seeking applications from candidates that have either lived experience of a dual sensory impairment or those who can bring us that key external reflection and guidance. All candidates must share the values of the organisation of equality, inclusion and integrity and meet the essential criteria within our Person Specification. Our Governing documents do not allow for applications from current employees of Local Authorities, however if you have this experience and you are no longer employed by a local authority your application would be welcome. We are also not able to accept applications for those who have been employed by Deafblind Scotland over the past 2 years. Please note all Trustees are required to be members of the PVG scheme and will be asked to apply if being offered the role as Trustee.

The Board regularly considers all areas of governance at 6 Board meetings per year. In addition, a Finance and Risk Sub-Committee and a Fundraising and Development Sub-Committee meet quarterly. To support deafblind Trustees to fully participate within the Board of Directors, specialist communication support is provided, including formatted documentation, additional briefing sessions, electronic note-takers and British Sign Language, Tactile BSL and Deafblind Manual interpreters. We take equality very seriously

and value the diverse range of perspectives this brings. We are therefore seeking applications from a range of interested individuals

If you wish to apply please send a CV and a Vision Statement outlining what you would bring to the role and the way in which your experience would align with the criteria outlined within the role description. This statement should be no more than 2 pages in Arial point 11. Please send your application to ce@dbscotland.org.uk by 6th January 2021.

From Public Appointments Scotland

NHS Borders are looking for a new Board Member!

You don't need to be an expert in health or have previous experience of being on a Board. They are looking for people who have the capacity & commitment to develop their skills. For more information and to apply, please see: <https://bit.ly/2JdHlfp>

Bord na Gaidhlig are looking for up to three new Members to join their Board.

They are looking for Board Members who have previous experience of Change Management; Corporate Governance and understanding of financial oversight; Corporate Communication skills; are Strategic Planners; able to work with others and who are able to create organisational value through constructive challenge.

For more information, please see: <https://bit.ly/334cE8q>

The Risk Management Authority are looking for two new Board Members.

All applicants should have a sound understanding of both offender risk assessment and management and the Scottish Criminal Justice system. They should also have expertise and experience of the operations of multi-agency risk assessment and risk management particularly from within Community Justice Social Work, the Scottish Prison Service or the Parole Board.

For further information and to apply, please see: <https://bit.ly/3nTw3AW>

Scottish Legal Complaints Commission

Do you want to play your part to develop good professional legal practice in Scotland?

Scottish Ministers are looking to appointment 7 new members (3 lawyer members and 4 non-lawyer members) to the Scottish Legal Complaints Commission (SLCC). To enable the SLCC Board to work effectively and efficiently it is vital they have people with a variety of skills and experience from all walks of life – previous board experience is **not** required and they are looking for both lawyer and non-lawyer members. For information and to apply, please see: <https://bit.ly/3oqcWz0>

The closing date for applications is **Thursday January 7 2021**.

Revenue Scotland

Revenue Scotland (@RevenueScotland) | Twitter

Do you want to be part of an organisation that is vital to the funding of Scotland's public services?

Since its launch in early 2015, Revenue Scotland has collected over £3.4bn in tax revenues from Scotland's devolved taxes, and Scottish Ministers are looking to appoint a new Chair to its Board, which will take effect from 1 August 2021 and run for four years. For information on this exciting opportunity, and to apply, please see: <https://bit.ly/33Qdnuz>

The closing date for applications is **Friday January 8 2021**.

NatureScot

Scotland's nature and landscapes are a superb inheritance and internationally renowned. Do you want to be part of ensuring its success, which is vital to our country and all who live and work here?

Scottish Ministers are looking to make up to six appointments to the Board of NatureScot from 1 April 2021. NatureScot is an Executive Non Departmental Public Body which advises the Scottish Government on all aspects of nature and landscape across Scotland. NatureScot's role is to help secure the sustainable management of Scotland's natural heritage for the benefit of all. For more information and to apply, please see: <https://bit.ly/2VzqBHh>

The closing date for applications is **Monday January 11 2021**.

Creative Scotland

Do you want to be a part of an organisation that promotes and develops creative, vibrant, inclusive activity?

The Scottish Government is seeking to appoint up to 4 new Board members to help Creative Scotland in the delivery of its work to the benefit of the creative and culture sector and to the people of Scotland as a whole.

The closing date for applications is **Friday January 8 2021**.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PQs, MOTIONS AND DEBATES

Motion Number: S5M-23408

Lodged By: Ruth Maguire

Date Lodged: 18/11/2020

Title: Valuing the Third Sector

Motion Text:

That the Parliament notes the findings set out in the Equalities and Human Rights Committee's 4th Report, 2019 (Session 5), *Looking ahead to the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2020-21: Valuing the Third Sector* (SP Paper 614), which was published on 7 November 2019, and its letter to the Scottish Government published on 29 October 2020, which includes an update on its views on the impact of the pandemic on the third sector.

<https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/EHRiC/2019/11/7/Looking-ahead-to-the-Scottish-Government-s-Draft-Budget-2020-21--Valuing-the-Third-Sector/EHRiC-S5-19-04.pdf>

S5W-33287 Donald Cameron (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party): To ask the Scottish Government whether it will provide an update on the development of a communications campaign to promote the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Jeane Freeman: I shall reply to the member as soon as possible.

<https://www.parliament.scot/S5ChamberOffice/20201201.pdf>

Motion S5M-23422: Rachael Hamilton, Etrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 19/11/2020

Scottish Borders Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol, Age Scotland Jess Barrow Award Winner

That the Parliament congratulates Councillor Elaine Thornton-Nicol, who represents the Selkirkshire ward on Scottish Borders Council, on being the recipient of the 2020 Age Scotland Jess Barrow Award for Influencing and Campaigning; recognises that Elaine is one of the first councillors in Scotland to take on the role of Older People's Champion; notes that she is also a champion for deaf people, serves on the Scottish Borders Integration Joint Board and is a founder member of the Borders Older People's Planning Partnership; commends Elaine on her tireless work for older people across the Borders, making sure that their voices are heard and that the issues that are important to them are brought to attention, and thanks Elaine for her hard work and deep commitment to the older population, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Supported by: Miles Briggs, Liam Kerr, Gordon Lindhurst, Brian Whittle, Alexander Stewart, Stuart McMillan, Edward Mountain, Margaret Mitchell, Donald Cameron, Annie Wells, Jeremy Balfour, Peter Chapman

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/28877.aspx?SearchType=Advance&ReferenceNumbers=S5M-23422&ResultsPerPage=10>

Question S5W-32610: Beatrice Wishart, Shetland Islands, Scottish Liberal Democrats, Date Lodged: 15/10/2020

To ask the Scottish Government how many (a) BSL and (b) other language interpreters operate in NHS psychology services.

Answered by Clare Haughey (03/11/2020):

The provision of interpreter support is a matter for local health boards. In addition, at a Scotland level, NHS Scotland provides a Scottish Mental Health Service for Deaf People

(<https://services.nhslothian.scot/mhdeafservice/Pages/default.aspx>) which is staffed by people who sign and are able to communicate directly with BSL signers and deaf people.

The Scottish Government expects mental health services to be accessible to all citizens in Scotland, regardless of circumstances of individual service users, including any disability they may have.



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 of £41 per article per publication.

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, please use this template 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 articles is the 24th 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 to ask.

Organisation's name	
Article / news item	(Maximum 400 words)
Important date(s)	
Contact details you want in the bulletin	

Link(s) in social media – Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube	

All articles should be emailed to admin@deafscotland.org before the 24th of the month.