



# deafscotland Bulletin February 2021



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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### **Cross Party Group on Deafness Meeting**

The next Cross Party Group on Deafness will be held on Wednesday 3 March 2021 at 1.00pm by Zoom (an online platform). Papers will be circulated closer to the time as well as the invitation to join the meeting. BSL / English Interpreters and Electronic Note-takers will be provided.

If you would like to join the Cross Party Group on Deafness, please email the convenor, Mark Griffin MSP [Mark.Griffin.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Mark.Griffin.msp@parliament.scot) and copy us in.

### **Update on our website**

As some of you may have noticed, our website is receiving a make-over. We would appreciate your feedback on what we have done. Please send your comments to [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org).

## **The Virtual Museum**

Finally after many trials, our Virtual Museum has opened:

<https://deafscotland.org/virtual-museum-info/> Please do go have a look and let us know what you think. If you have a story or an object you would like to see in the museum, please email us at [admin@deafscotland.org](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org) so we can discuss how to make that happen.

## **Walking Project**

We got a grant from Paths for All to provide inclusive information on walking safely in Scotland. We need to start the evaluation process with a baseline survey. We would appreciate it if you share the survey with all the deaf people across the four pillars of deafness who you know.

This is the link to the survey:

<https://forms.gle/QAYHZR2ACKCZY4PV8> The survey will be available for a month and will close on **Monday 1 March 2021**.

## **Virtual Assistant Project – Volunteers needed for our Working Group**

deafscotland is pleased to announce we have received funding from Foundation Scotland to produce a toolkit to help people with hearing loss and dementia use Virtual Assistant technology. We are looking for volunteers to join our Working Group and be part of creating this valuable resource. We will provide language/communication support for the group meetings.

The COVID-19 Lockdown has brought the impact and understanding of social isolation into the mainstream. Evidence shows that those with hearing loss are at greater risk of increased social isolation than others; those with hearing loss and dementia are doubly vulnerable.

We have recently produced a set of accessible factsheets containing general information and tips on how to get started using virtual communication technology. <https://deafscotland.org/news/virtual-assistant-technology-for-those-with-hearing-loss-and-dementia/>

## **What do we want to do?**

With help from those living with dementia, we want to produce accessible factsheets on how to use Virtual Assistant technology to help improve the quality of life for people with hearing loss and dementia and their carers, now and after lockdown is over.

If you live with hearing loss and dementia or care for someone who has hearing loss and dementia and would like to be part of a Working Group or you would like more information on the project, please contact:

**Andrena McMenemy**

e: [research@deafscotland.org](mailto:research@deafscotland.org) t: 07947 835969

## **BSL translation**

To read our news in BSL, please go to

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7TPJkTbihG8KRdNNw\\_cdQP3z11qMWks8](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7TPJkTbihG8KRdNNw_cdQP3z11qMWks8)

Best wishes, Janis & deafscotland Team

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## **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**

The First Minister has provided an update on national restrictions in relation to COVID-19. We know this will be a particularly worrying time for those who were previously advised to shield. Recognising the role that your organisation plays in supporting those shielding I would like to share the attached information with you to allow you to prepare for any enquiries you may receive.

The First Minister has provided an update on national restrictions in relation to COVID-19. We know this will be a particularly worrying time for those who were previously advised to shield. Recognising the role that your organisation plays in supporting those shielding I would like to

share the attached information with you to allow you to prepare for any enquiries you may receive.

We are not advising people to return to the shielding advice that was issued in March. Those who were previously advised to shield are advised to continue following the advice for the general public and to be particularly careful in following FACTS guidance, which you can access in different languages and BSL here [FACTS Guidance](#).

Advice on staying safe can be found on [mygov.scot](#) and in this [Staying Safe with Daily Activities pdf](#), which we'd be grateful if you could share via your channels.

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## **NEWS / INFORMATION**

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### **From Ai-Media**

#### **Access as a Black Deaf Woman during COVID-19: Interview with Vilma Jackson – Part 2**

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.

This is the second part of our interview with her, the first appeared in the deafscotland December 2020 bulletin.

#### **What would you like to see happening to support access for Deaf and hard-of-hearing people during the pandemic?**

I would like to see the provision of more sign language interpreters at official Government announcements and for the full duration of that announcement, including any following discussions. Also, I feel it's important that if the government has one source where the public can go for information, for example a dedicated website, that the English text on that website should have the equivalent information provided in sign language videos, so that the Deaf community have equal access to that information.

**The Black Deaf community faces unique challenges during COVID-19, but not only during the pandemic. Can you tell us about your own experience in a world that still has a lot to learn about accessibility and racial equality?**

In terms of me as a Deaf Black Woman, when the COVID-19 outbreak began, there were instances in my daily life when I found it difficult to communicate. This of course depended on the circumstance and who I was communicating with.

For example, I would have my face mask on and be in a shop trying to communicate. Without the possibility of lip-reading to assist either of us with communication, I would encounter negative reactions or blatant impatience from the other person with the situation. It got me thinking, would a Deaf White person be treated differently. Also, is gender a factor for being treated differently in this situation?

It certainly prompted some thought around the matter of equality. As a Deaf person, being part of the Deaf community, we undoubtedly share the same barriers in regard to access. However, the occurrence of COVID-19 coinciding with the Black Lives Matter movement propelled me to consider how my experiences were also being shaped by my race and my gender.

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

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## **From the Scottish Government**

### **Organ Donation and Tissue Donation Opt Out Campaign,**

#### **The law is changing in Scotland on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March.**

The TV/VOD and radio will run for 2 weeks from today, and digital will run until early April. There will also be a national mailing to all homes in Scotland during the month of February, so please expect this to land at your door. As per previous door drop mailings, additional languages and formats for the mailing will be available online.

The new advert will be on TV (VOD) and radio for two weeks, with the digital campaign running until early April, a national leaflet door drop in February, and the multi-channel campaign going live in March.

You can find out more on [organdonationscotland.org](http://organdonationscotland.org), and there is a section for Frequently Asked Questions that you may find helpful: [Law change facts | Organ Donation Scotland](#)

[View the Organ Donation TV ad here](#)

## Connecting Scotland – Residential Care Application

The Scottish Government's £1M programme to provide care homes with a digital device and connectivity support, if required, is still open and we are still inviting applications.

### **If you have a family member or a friend in a residential care home:**

You can ask that the care home applies for a tablet so that your loved one can communicate with you during Covid lockdowns. The link is here:

<https://connecting.scot/organisations/forms/residential-care-application>

Pass it on to the Care Home Manager so that they can apply.

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## Self-Isolation Information and Support available in additional formats

The existing **Self Isolation Fact Sheet** was updated to reflect the change in self-isolation guidance from 14 days to 10 days. You can access the updated Self-Isolation Fact Sheet here:

- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-self-isolation-factsheet/>

The information is available online in the following accessible formats and languages:

- **Accessible formats:** Audio MP3, Easy Read and Large Print Format
- **Languages:** Arabic, Bengali, BSL, Bulgarian, Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, Farsi, French, Gaelic, Hindi, Hungarian, Kurdish Sorani, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Slovakian, Somali, Spanish, Urdu and Vietnamese

## Self-Isolation Video Assets

Please see below additional for the video assets available for your audiences:

- [View the Self-Isolation TV Ad Here](#)
- [View the Self-Isolation TV Ad – BSL Version Here](#)

MECOPP have created additional language versions of the Self-Isolation TV Ad n [Arabic](#), [Cantonese](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Polish](#), [Romanian](#) and [Urdu](#).

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## **National Covid-19 Vaccination Campaign – Scotland, it’s time to roll up our sleeves.**

The Covid-19 Vaccine campaign is targeted at all adults in Scotland, and will aim to communicate the importance and safety of the vaccine, and encourage people to get the vaccine when they are offered it. The campaign will run from 21st January to 21st February, and will be live across TV, radio, digital, social, OOH and press. You can find further information on the COVID-19 vaccines on NHS Inform here: [Roll Up Your Sleeves | NHS inform](#) and can find all available leaflets here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine leaflets | NHS inform](#)

[View the Covid Vaccine TV Ad here](#)

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## **Parent Club – Money Talk Team Campaign**

January can always be a difficult month financially for families but given the pandemic more families than ever are feeling financial pressures. The Money Talk Team is a confidential and personalised service delivered by the Citizens Advice Network in Scotland and funded by the Scottish Government, offering families free financial advice and support during these tough times.

The campaign aims to encourage families to find out what benefits they are entitled to and what household bills they can save money on during these challenging times by contacting the Money Talk Team. This will run on TV, digital, OOH, Radio and Social Media until the 4th of February, with activity sign-posting to the freephone number - 0800 085 7145 and the new Parent Club page: <http://parentclub.scot/articles/who-are-money-talk-team>

View the Parent Club Income Maximisation TV Ad here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dndtojINFKU>

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The **Social Renewal Advisory Board** was set up by Scottish Ministers to make proposals that can renew Scotland once we start to emerge from the pandemic. The final report “If not now, when?” sets a course towards this future.

The report is available to read/download here:  
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/not-now-social-renewal-advisory-board-report-january-2021/pages/13/>

There is a BSL version of the Summary available here:  
<https://vimeo.com/502372045/dea043b785>

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## **From The Equality and Human Rights Commission in Scotland**

The EHRC has published two documents that they wanted to bring to your attention.

Our [annual report for 2019-20](#) can be downloaded from our website and gives an overview of some of our achievements including successful legal interventions on key equality and human rights concerns, our agenda-setting work to tackle harassment in the workplace and our work to influence policy using our ground-breaking *Is Scotland Fairer?* Research.

We have also [published a briefing](#) ahead of the May elections which can also be downloaded from our website. We believe Scotland has the opportunity, the capability, and the will to tackle deeply entrenched inequalities and become a fairer, more prosperous and inclusive society – if that will is reflected in the next Scottish Parliament – and we have laid out policy priorities which we hope to see reflected in commitments made ahead of the election.

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## **CONSULTATIONS**

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**Transport Scotland and the Scottish Road Research Board** are undertaking research on people's experience and views of zebra crossings. These views and experiences will contribute to a wider study looking at improving zebra crossings, especially for vulnerable users. Jacobs are assisting in the development and distribution of an online questionnaire for the study. We would be grateful if you could share the link below to invite people to take part in a short multiple choice survey.

<https://zebracrossingresearch.com/>

If anyone requires assistance with the survey, such as completing the survey over the phone or would like to request a Word Document or Easy Read version, they can do so by contacting [zebracrossingresearch@jacobs.com](mailto:zebracrossingresearch@jacobs.com) . Details are contained within the link.

We are requesting completion of the survey by **Friday 12 February 2021**.

If you have any queries regarding the survey please contact Jacobs as follows: Megan Airey ([megan.airey@jacobs.com](mailto:megan.airey@jacobs.com) ) or Colm Smyth ([colm.smyth@jacobs.com](mailto:colm.smyth@jacobs.com) ).

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## **From the Scottish Government**

**Consultation on the draft regulations for Adult Disability Payment, a new Scottish benefit which will replace Personal Independence Payment and be delivered by Social Security Scotland.**

If you wish to respond electronically, please use the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<https://consult.gov.scot/social-security/adult-disability-payment-regulations/> ). The list of questions can also be found at Annex K.

All responses should be submitted to us by **Monday 15 March 2021**.

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## **From the UK Government**

### **UK-wide strategy for disabled people**

A survey seeking the views of disabled people, carers, charities and stakeholders on the content of a National Strategy for Disabled People was launched 14th January 2021

The survey is based on what disability organisations have said needs addressing and covers many aspects of life, from employment opportunities to making sure public services are accessible to all. The survey also provides a place for disabled people to share their experiences of discrimination and abuse, signposting any victims to further support.

The survey, hosted on Citizen Space, is fully accessible to ensure as many people as possible have their voices heard. It is available in Easy

Read, BSL and written responses can be sent to:

[DUCitizenspace@cabinetoffice.gov.uk](mailto:DUCitizenspace@cabinetoffice.gov.uk).

The UK Disability Survey can be accessed by clicking the link below

<https://disabilityunit.citizenspace.com/cabinet-office/ukdisabilitysurvey/>

<https://tinyurl.com/yytqrtso>

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## **From the University of the Highlands and Islands**

### **Research Priorities in Primary Care**

The University of Highlands and Islands is seeking your views about research priorities in primary care. This is the first comprehensive, patient-centred and generalist health professional project of setting priorities for primary care research since the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

The goal is to provide a clear direction for future primary care research so that it benefits the lives of individuals and families, and increases the amount of funding for the most important primary care research. VHS is a partner in this project.

Please complete/distribute this link to the online survey: <https://uhi.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/pcrp>

The survey will remain open until **1st March 2021**.

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## **From the UK Government Scottish Affairs Committee**

### **Welfare policy in Scotland Inquiry**

The inquiry will examine the effect of welfare policies on the lives of claimants and poverty and inequality levels more broadly in Scotland.

It will:

- assess the effectiveness of Scottish Choices which provide a unique degree of flexibility for those on Universal Credit in Scotland

- explore the consequences of Universal Credit policies specific to Scotland, including; inaccessibility in rural areas, and the issue of debt spiralling for those taking advanced payments
- understand how effective cooperation has been between the UK and Scottish Governments on the devolution of new welfare powers to Scotland
- evaluate the likely long-term impacts of coronavirus on the devolution of welfare

Read the call for evidence for more detail about the inquiry:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/272/welfare-policy-in-scotland/>

### **Welfare policy in Scotland survey**

We have launched a survey asking for people to tell us about their experience with the benefits system in Scotland. This survey will take roughly 10 minutes to complete. Please only complete this survey if you live in Scotland.

Complete the survey:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nt3mHDeziEC-Xo277ASzSq6aCdmBZ\\_pOuZA4tNB2vTNUNVBaVDMxNIVIQ1BWT0ZOQzMzMlo4QINRVC4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nt3mHDeziEC-Xo277ASzSq6aCdmBZ_pOuZA4tNB2vTNUNVBaVDMxNIVIQ1BWT0ZOQzMzMlo4QINRVC4u)

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## **EVENTS**

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### **From the Citizens Rights Project**

The Citizens Rights Project together with the Royal Association for Deaf people will organise a **free online information session for EU citizens and their family members** in British Sign Language. Regulated immigration advisers will explain recent changes for EU citizens after the end of the transition period.

The session will take place on Zoom on **26th February 2021 at 2 PM.**

More information on our website:

<https://citizensrightsproject.org/event/information-session-in-british-sign-language-2/>

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### **From Generations Working Together (GWT)**

## [National Intergenerational Week](#) (8 – 14 March 2021)

This year GWT is excited to be leading the National Intergenerational Week in partnership with Linking Generations Northern Ireland, Bridging the Generations, Wales and The Cares Family, England. In its second year, the campaign is about celebrating those ideas, moments and opportunities local to us where different age groups come together and intergenerational friendships are made! It gives us a chance to consider planning for the future and developing new themes such as developing spaces and places. Opportunities for generations to connect will become even more important as we emerge from the current pandemic, so we aim to inspire more people to build relationships between different generations!

Show your support for all things intergenerational by adding your company logo to the National Intergenerational Week website at <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/national-intergenerational-week>. Join us on #IntergenerationalWeek as we say no to the age gap.

## [National Intergenerational Conference](#)

Generations Working Together is hosting its annual Conference online, over three days from the **8th - 12th March 2021**. This year, we will host six Zoom webinars covering topics including: housing, ageism, faith communities, food, research and innovation, each lasting one and a half hours. Prices start at £10 per day for members/£15 for non-members, or you can book a week's pass for all three days costing £25 for members and £38 for non-members. GWT's [Excellence Awards](#) will be celebrated during the week and presented during some of the webinars. Please note [membership](#) is free to everyone living in Scotland and to International Students. To find out more, visit our website here at: <https://generationsworkingtogether.org/events/national-conference-2021>

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## **From Your Local Cinema**

**Accessible, Inclusive, Subtitled/Captioned Cinema Shows!**

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

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# VACANCIES

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## From Inclusion Scotland

### Join the People-led Policy Panel

Do you have experience of using or trying to use adult social care support? Would you like to use your experiences to make change and directly influence Scottish Government policy about adult social care support? Join us! Closing date: **Monday 22 February 2021**

Apply to join the People-led Policy Panel (PLPP) and be part of working with the Scottish Government and others to help build a new social care support system for Scotland based on human rights.

Social care support is the practical and support deaf and disabled people may need to take part in society and live an ordinary life. This could include support for day-to-day tasks in order to live independently. Independent Living means having the same freedom, choice, dignity and control as other citizens at home, at work and in the community. Carers may also rely on social care support to assist them with providing care and support to someone else. We believe that good decisions and policy about social care support should be created in partnership with disabled people, that policy should be “people-led.”

We would like to recruit 13 new members from all over Scotland. We are particularly welcoming applications from:

- People who are Deaf/BSL users, Deafblind, Deafened or Hard of Hearing;
- People with experience of Dementia either as an unpaid carer/supporter or a person with Dementia;
- BAME and LGBTQI+ deaf or disabled people or unpaid carers;
- Deaf or disabled people and unpaid carers who also have experience of mental health issues;
- Deaf or disabled people and unpaid carers who live in a remote island community.

The People-led Policy Panel meets every 6 – 8 weeks, usually for two hours. We are meeting using Zoom just now because of the Covid pandemic.

Join us and develop additional skills and knowledge that will be useful in the future.

Learn more about how decision and policy-making works in Scotland and how to influence it.

Meet new people.  
Build your confidence.

BSL/English Interpreters and Electronic Notetakers will be provided for meetings and events on request as well as any other requests for accessible information and communications from panel members. Training and induction from Inclusion Scotland and peer support from existing members will be available for new members.

To find out more and to apply, please see our website

<https://inclusionScotland.org/join-the-plpp/>

Or contact April O'Neil

[april@inclusionScotland.org](mailto:april@inclusionScotland.org)

0131 370 6718

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## **From Public Appointments Scotland**

### **Food Standards Agency**

Scottish Ministers are looking to appoint up to three new Members of the Board of Food Standards Scotland. The appointments will take effect on and from 1 July 2021. Closing date: **15 February 2021 at midday**

<http://bit.ly/3qRe7IU>

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## **TRAINING**

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## **Working with deaf people during lockdown and want to know more...AWARENESSbites online: Learn how to communicate better with deaf people**

<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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**From Generations Working Together**

## **International Diploma in Intergenerational Learning - Edition 2**

Generations Working Together in partnership with the University of Granada is delighted to be able to offer another opportunity to participate on this accredited on-line course.

The course is aimed at anyone who wants to gain a deeper understanding of intergenerational work, its purpose, impact and practical application to enable them to apply this within their own work. Students can complete their studies at times which are suitable to them as long as this falls between the start and finish date.

course is open to all including: community workers, care home activity coordinators, nursery/playgroup staff, primary/secondary teachers, classroom assistants, community learning & development, social care professionals, social workers, sociologists, psychologists, leisure & physical activity professionals, employment advisors, doctors, nurses and healthcare workers, librarians and third sector professionals of all backgrounds and levels.

Cost: Members: £170

Non Members £195

Application deadline: **Tuesday 20th April 2021**

For more information, go to

<https://generationsworkingtogether.org/training/international-diploma-in-intergenerational-learning-edition-2-27-04-2021>

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## **From Visibility Scotland**

### **Introduction to Social Security Scotland Benefits**

Visibility Scotland has received funding from the Scottish Government to raise awareness of the benefits that have been devolved to Scotland, including planned changes to disability benefits. We are offering a free **“Introduction to Social Security Scotland Benefits”** online training session to staff who work with people with a sensory impairment. If you would like to book a session for a group of staff, or for further details,

please contact us: [natasha.johnston@visibilityscotland.org.uk](mailto:natasha.johnston@visibilityscotland.org.uk) or by telephone on 0141 332 4632 or 07748325201.

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## From the ALLIANCE

### PhD with the University of Glasgow

The ALLIANCE is establishing a PhD with the University of Glasgow. The PhD will focus on how best to engage people with lived experience of gambling harm in policy and research, with a particular focus on engaging seldom heard groups. For example, women and people from ethnic minorities are often underrepresented in engagement on gambling harm.

Please see below for the advert and news item on the ALLIANCE website:

<https://www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/blog/news/the-alliance-and-university-of-glasgow-partner-on-phd-project/>

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/studentfundingopportunities/postgraduateresearch/#d.en.768193.alliancescotlandphdscholarship-exploringtheroleofindividualswithlivedexperienceofgamblingharmsinpolicyandresearch>

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## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT PQs, MOTIONS AND DEBATES

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### Ministerial portfolio: Justice

#### **S5W-34743 Rhoda Grant (Highlands and Islands) (Scottish Labour):**

To ask the Scottish Government what its position is on whether people over 70 should be called for jury duty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Humza Yousaf:** It is recognised that it may be particularly difficult for some to carry out their civic duty on a jury during the Covid-19 pandemic. That is why the Scottish Government fully supports the approach adopted by The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service whereby the Clerks of Courts will be as sympathetic as they can to requests for excusal, while at the same time balancing the need to have sufficient numbers of prospective jurors from which to ballot a jury. This

is considered a better way of dealing with genuine difficulties rather than by taking substantial categories of people out of those eligible for jury service.

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**Motion S5M-23829: Alison Harris, Central Scotland, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 08/01/2021  
Forth Valley Sensory Centre Manager awarded MBE**

That the Parliament congratulates Jacquie Winning, Centre Manager, Forth Valley Sensory Centre on being appointed an MBE for services to people with sensory loss during the COVID-19 pandemic; understands that Jacquie ensured that despite the restrictions that came with the COVID-19 pandemic, people with sight loss had access to braille copies of essential COVID-19 information, as well as a telephone, text and email befriending service to support those who were isolated as a result of lockdown, and further understands that the sensory centre is a place where people with a visual or hearing loss, their friends, families, carers and the wider community can access quality services and advice from partner organisations.

Supported by: Miles Briggs, Alexander Stewart, Gordon Lindhurst, Angus MacDonald, Margaret Mitchell, Alex Cole-Hamilton, Neil Findlay, Jackson Carlaw, Annie Wells

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**Question S5W-34444: James Kelly, Glasgow, Scottish Labour, Date Lodged: 11/01/2021**

To ask the Scottish Government when all care homes will have access to COVID-19 visitor testing.

**Answered by Mairi Gougeon (20/01/2021):**

The Scottish Government has rolled out rapid testing in care homes to support essential visits, supplying all adult care homes in Scotland with Lateral Flow Devices.

Currently all of mainland Scotland and the islands of Barra and Vatersay are in COVID protection Level 4 with Orkney, Shetland, the rest of the Western Isles and the more remote islands in Argyll and Bute and Highland in Level 3.

For areas in Level 4, only essential visits are now recommended to take place in care homes, alongside window and garden visits, if Directors of Public Health judge this to be safe.

Essential visits include circumstances where there is a concern that the resident's health and wellbeing is changing for the worse, **where visiting may help with communication difficulties**, to ease significant personal stress or other pressing circumstances, such as a concern that the resident may be approaching end of life.

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**Question S5W-33739: Jeremy Balfour, Lothian, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Date Lodged: 03/12/2020**

To ask the Scottish Government what action it will take to ensure that face-to-face appointments with clinicians are restarted as a priority for people with complex needs, **many of whom have issues with communication**, which means that they are unable to access help by telephone or online, and who may also not have had a face-to-face appointment since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Answered by Jeane Freeman (16/12/2020):**

General practice has continued to provide services to patients throughout the pandemic, albeit with unavoidable restrictions to accommodate necessary infection prevention and control.

Patients with complex needs continue to receive the support of GP practices which are working hard to prioritise those at high clinical risk both through remote consultations and, where appropriate, face to face appointments including where patients **have difficulties with remote access**.

Where MSPs have specific concerns on behalf of their constituents on the availability of services from an independent contractor to the NHS, the relevant NHS Board should be able to assist in the first instance.



**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, 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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](mailto:admin@deafscotland.org) before the 24<sup>th</sup> of the month.