

## Weekly Political Update

### 11 June 2018

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For further information on any of the parliamentary terms used in this document, please click [here](#).

### **Cochlear Implants**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on how many patients received a cochlear implant in each of the last three years</u></a></p>	<p>David Simpson MP (Democratic Unionist Party, Upper Bann) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many patients have received a cochlear implant in each of the last three years.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinéage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“The information requested is not collected centrally. This is because Hospital Episode Statistics are a count of episodes and not people. We are able to provide a count of finished admission episodes (FAEs) with a primary or secondary procedure or intervention for cochlear implants between 2014/15 and 2016/17. These are activity in English National Health Service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.</i></p> <p><i>A count of FAEs with a primary or secondary procedure or intervention for cochlear implants in each of the years between 2014/15 and 2016/17 is shown in the following table:</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 1240 1043 1594"><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>FAE count of Cochlear Implant</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2014/15</td><td>1,016</td></tr><tr><td>2015/16</td><td>1,136</td></tr><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>1,256</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><i>A FAE is the first period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FAEs are counted against the year or month in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the period.”</i></p>	Year	FAE count of Cochlear Implant	2014/15	1,016	2015/16	1,136	2016/17	1,256
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2014/15	1,016								
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### **Accessible Information Standard**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on how many hospitals are compliant with the Accessible</u></a></p>	<p>Nigel Evans MP (Conservatives, Ribble Valley) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many hospitals are compliant with the Accessible Information Standard.”</i></p>
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<p><u>Information Standard</u></p>	<p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“Information on how many hospitals are compliant with the Accessible Information Standard is not held centrally.</i></p> <p><i>Compliance with the Standard is a legal duty and organisations that provide National Health Service care or adult social care have been required to follow the Standard in full since 1 August 2016. Compliance with the Standard is also a requirement of the NHS Standard Contract 2018/19.</i></p> <p><i>The specification for the Standard makes it clear that commissioning organisations must actively support compliance by organisations from which they commission services and must also seek assurance from providers in this regard.”</i></p>
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## **British Sign Language**

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<p><u>Written question on how much the Government spends supporting sign language users across the UK</u></p>	<p>Lord Bruce of Bennachie (Liberal Democrats) has asked:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty’s Government how much they spend in supporting sign language users across the UK.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Baroness Buscombe (Conservatives) responded:</p> <p><i>“The information requested to answer the question in full, is not centrally available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on whether the Government recognises sign language as a valid and legal means of communication with all Government Departments</u></p>	<p>Lord Bruce of Bennachie (Liberal Democrats) has asked:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty’s Government whether they recognise sign language as a valid and legal means of communication with all Government departments.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Baroness Buscombe (Conservatives) responded:</p> <p><i>“British Sign Language (BSL) was recognised as a language in its own right by the UK Government in March 2003. All Government departments are under a legal duty under the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments when communicating with disabled people, which might include the provision of BSL interpreters.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on what steps are being taken to improve the availability of BSL translation services in hospitals and GP practices in England</u></p>	<p>Wes Streeting MP (Labour, Ilford North) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps are being taken to improve the availability of British Sign Language translation services at hospitals and GP practices in England.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p>

	<p><i>“The Accessible Information Standard is intended to make sure that people who have a disability, impairment or sensory loss get information that they can access and understand. The Accessible Information Standard was published by NHS England in July 2015. From 1 August 2016, all organisations that provide National Health Service care and or publicly-funded adult social care are required to follow the standard in full.</i></p> <p><i>Commissioning organisations, including clinical commissioning groups and local authorities, are required to support implementation and compliance with the standard by providers from which they commission services. They may do this through contracts and performance management arrangements, for example.”</i></p>
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### **Telecommunications**

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<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on what consideration the Government has given to setting up a free-to-access video relay service for public services in England</u></a></p>	<p>Lord Bruce of Bennachie (Liberal Democrats) has asked:</p> <p><i>“Her Majesty's Government what consideration they have given to setting up a free-to-access video relay service for public services in England; and what assessment they have made of the take-up of such services in Scotland.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Baroness Buscombe (Conservatives) responded:</p> <p><i>“British Sign Language (BSL) users already have a well-established, free-to-access Video Relay Service network allowing accessible communication with a range of public services in England, including the Department for Work and Pensions, NHS providers and Local Authorities.</i></p> <p><i>Equality legislation means that public bodies and others have to provide services in BSL and other formats when it is reasonable to do so and the Public Sector Equality Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the needs of all those with protected characteristics.</i></p> <p><i>BSL is a devolved matter and the Scottish Parliament decided to introduce the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act and have different arrangements to England and Wales. We are looking at developments in Scotland including the take-up of such services to inform our thinking for England and Wales.”</i></p>
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### **Advocacy services for people with hearing loss**

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<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on what steps are being taken to increase the capacity of community advocacy</u></a></p>	<p>Wes Streeting MP (Labour, Ilford North) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to increase the capacity of community advocacy services for people living with disabilities, including hearing loss.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p>
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<p><a href="#"><u>services for people with hearing loss</u></a></p>	<p><i>“Community advocacy services are not a direct responsibility of the Department.</i></p> <p><i>There are statutory provisions to allow people access to advocacy support in specific circumstances. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 gives people who have an impairment, injury or disability, who have no one able to support or represent them, and who lack capacity, the right to independent support and representation. There is also a legal right to advocacy under the Mental Health Act 2007 and the Care Act 2014. The Children and Families Act 2014, Section 32 reinforced the requirement on local authorities to provide information, advice and support to families who have children and young people with a special educational need, through Information, Advice and Support Services.</i></p> <p><i>From 1 August 2016, all organisations that provide National Health Service care and / or publicly-funded adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard, which requires them to meet the information and communication support needs of patients, service users, carers and parents with a disability, impairment or sensory loss.”</i></p>
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### **Health and Social Care – the Better Care Fund**

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<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on whether the innovation and better care fund elements of the additional £2bn announced in the Spring Budget 2017 will be subject to the four National Conditions of the Better Care Fund</u></a></p>	<p>Diana Johnson MP (Labour, Kingston Upon Hull North) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with reference to the innovation and Better Care Fund element of the additional £2 billion funding for social care announced in Spring Budget 2017, whether that funding is subject to the four National Conditions of the Better Care Fund; and if he will provide detail of any other conditions and requirements that funding is subject to.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“As stated in the Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2017-19 and the Integration and Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2017-19, the Better Care Fund (BCF) brings together health and care funding including minimum contributions from clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), the Disabled Facilities Grant and funding paid directly to local government for adult social care services, i.e. the Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). Spring Budget 2017 announced an additional £2 billion to support adult social care in England. This money is included in the iBCF grant to local authorities and in local BCF pooled funding and plans.</i></p> <p><i>The conditions and requirements in relation to the current BCF plans, which cover 2017-19, are set out in detail in the abovementioned Policy Framework and Planning Requirements. This includes the four national conditions. The iBCF grant is made available through the BCF and is therefore subject to the conditions and requirements of the BCF. The iBCF grant is also subject to the grant conditions set out in the grant determinations made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.”</i></p>
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The Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2017-19 can be found GOV.UK website at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/605164/Integration\\_and\\_BCF\\_policy\\_framework\\_2017-19.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605164/Integration_and_BCF_policy_framework_2017-19.pdf)

The Integration and Better Care Fund Planning Requirements for 2017-19 can be found on NHS England's website at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/integration-and-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-for-2017-19/>

**Written question on how much funding for social care was delivered through the Better Care Fund in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18.**

Diana Johnson MP (Labour, Kingston Upon Hull North) has asked:

*“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, pursuant to the Answer of 29 January 2018 to Question 124751, how much funding for social care was delivered through the Better Care Fund by source of funding in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18.”*

Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinéage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:

*“The Better Care Fund (BCF) brings together health and social care funding. As set out in the Integration and BCF Policy Frameworks for each of 2015-16<sup>1</sup>, 2016-17<sup>2</sup> and 2017-18<sup>3</sup>, the breakdown of the BCF by the mandatory funding streams is shown in the following table.*

Mandatory BCF funding streams	2015-16	2016-17
Minimum clinical commissioning groups (CCG) contribution	£3.46 billion	£3.519 billion
Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)	£0.354 billion <sup>4</sup>	£0.394 billion
Grant allocation for adult social care – Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF)	-	-
<b>Total mandatory size of the BCF</b>	<b>£3.8 billion</b>	<b>£3.9 billion</b>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2015-16

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-how-it-will-work-in-2015-to-2016>

<sup>2</sup>Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2016-17

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/better-care-fund-how-it-will-work-in-2016-to-2017>

<sup>3</sup>*Integration and Better Care Fund Policy Framework 2017-19*  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/605164/Integration\\_and\\_BCF\\_policy\\_framework\\_2017-19.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/605164/Integration_and_BCF_policy_framework_2017-19.pdf)

<sup>4</sup>*This includes £0.22 billion DFG and £0.134 billion Social Care Capital Grant. As one of the conditions for the BCF, each Health and Wellbeing Board agrees a contribution to social care from the minimum CCG contribution, and must maintain this contribution at least in real terms in each year subsequent to 2015-16. The overall contributions from the minimum CCG BCF funding stream to social care from 2015-16 to 2017-18 are as follows:*

	2015-16	2016-17
<i>Social care contribution from minimum CCG contribution<sup>5</sup></i>	<i>£1.410 billion</i>	<i>£1.541 billion</i>

*Note:*

<sup>5</sup>*Figures in this table are information collected under standard national BCF planning and quarterly reporting cycles for the respective years by the Better Care Support Team, hosted by NHS England, and planned to be published in due course.*

*Improved Better Care Fund (IBCF) grants and the DFG are paid directly to local authorities, with a condition that they are pooled into local BCF spending plans. The DFG is paid to local authorities with social care responsibilities to pay for capital costs related to housing adaptations for people with care needs. IBCF grant must be used to deliver services for the three purposes set out in the grant conditions, i.e.:*

- Meeting adult social care needs;*
- Reducing pressure on the National Health Service, including supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they are ready; and*
- Ensuring that the local social care provider market is supported.*

*Beyond the mandated minimum for the BCF, local authorities and CCGs often agree to voluntarily make additional contributions to their BCF plans, and use them to fund and deliver services, including integrated services delivered through local authorities. While these voluntary contributions are not subject to the BCF national conditions and the requirements of the fund, they are planned and pooled within the BCF and signify the commitment towards joint working and integrated approaches.*

<i>Voluntary additional BCF funding components<sup>6</sup></i>	2015-16	2016-17
<i>From CCGs</i>	<i>£745 million</i>	<i>£1,048 million</i>
<i>From Local Authorities</i>	<i>£782 million</i>	<i>£941 million</i>

*A Quality and Outcomes of Person-centred Care Policy Research Unit system-level evaluation of the BCF is underway, with the final report planned for this summer. This will contain information on different categories of BCF spend, including social care.*

	<p>Note:</p> <p><sup>6</sup>Figures in this table are information collected under standard national BCF planning and quarterly reporting cycles for the respective years by the Better Care Support Team, hosted by NHS England, and planned to be published in due course.”</p>
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## **Employment**

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<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on what assessment the Government has made of the effect of ending the protected places scheme on (a) organisations that receive funding from and (b) disabled people in work who are supported by that scheme</u></a></p>	<p>Paul Sweeney MP (Labour, Glasgow North East) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment she has made of the effect of ending the protected places scheme on (a) organisations that receive funding from and (b) disabled people in work who are supported by that scheme.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“Work Choice providers and Supported Businesses have been aware that the Protected Places arrangement delivered via the Work Choice contracts would end at the end of December 2018 and will have been transitioning their businesses to manage the end of this funding stream. To support them in the transition funding for Protected Places has been extended until March 2019. We plan to provide long-term sustainable funding for this group of people. Supported businesses use different models to manage the Protected Places provision, so assessments are being made at a range of businesses:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. We are working to introduce arrangements to provide continued support, exploring a new Access to Work element which might be paid to the businesses in respect of the support they provide for individuals once Work Choice funding ceases. Department for Work and Pensions officials are visiting a number of these businesses (including RSBI in Glasgow) to review the models they have in place and evaluate how new support could be implemented.”</i></li> </ol>
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## **Equalities**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Announcement – Government review on how to encourage more disabled people to apply for public appointments</u></a></p>	<p>Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, Oliver Dowden MP (Conservatives, Hertsmere) has announced a review that will examine how disabled people can be encouraged to apply for public appointments.</p> <p>The review will be led by Conservative peer, Lord Holmes and will form part of the Government’s Diversity Action Plan.</p> <p>To read more on the announcement, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on what steps the Government is taking to ensure polling stations are accessible for people with disabilities</u></a></p>	<p>Shadow Minister for Voter Engagement and Youth Affairs, Cat Smith MP (Labour, Lancaster and Fleetwood) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Minister for the Cabinet Office, what steps the Government is taking to ensure that polling stations are accessible for people with disabilities.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, Chloe Smith MP (Conservatives, Norwich North) responded:</p> <p><i>“Local authorities are responsible for designating polling places and must ensure that these places are accessible to the local community, give reasonable facilities for voting and are accessible for voters with a disability. Last year the Government issued a Call for Evidence for information on how voting can be improved for people with disabilities. The responses to that review are being analysed and will help identify any issues and inform any proposals for change to ensure accessibility.”</i></p>
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## **Education**

[Click on link for source](#)

<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on whether the Education Secretary will meet with the National Deaf Children's Society to discuss local authority cuts to deaf children's education</u></a></p>	<p>Former Co-Leader of the Green Party, Caroline Lucas MP (Green Party, Brighton Pavilion) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Education, if he will meet with the National Deaf Children's Society to discuss the Society's recent research finding that over a third of local authorities are cutting funding from deaf children's education.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families, Nadhim Zahawi MP (Conservatives, Stratford on Avon) responded:</p> <p><i>“My right hon. Friend, the Minister for School Standards attended the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness on 12 March and recently met with the Chief Executive of the National Deaf Children's Society to understand the challenges facing children and young people with hearing impairments.</i></p> <p><i>Officials will explore the findings of this research with the National Deaf Children's Society, as members of the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP), to ensure schools have access to the support they need to support pupils with sensory impairments.”</i></p>
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## **Sport**

[Click on link for source](#)

<p><a href="#"><u>Announcement – Activity Alliance launch new inclusive activity programme</u></a></p>	<p>Sport England reveal a new inclusive activity programme, launched by the Activity Alliance that will train local community representatives and others to support disabled people who wish to get active.</p> <p>To read more on the programme, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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## Parliamentary terms

### Early Day Motion (EDM)

Early Day Motions are formal motions for debate submitted by MPs in the House of Commons. There is usually no time available to actually debate an EDM, but they are useful for drawing attention to specific events or campaigns and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view. MPs register their support by signing individual motions.

### Oral Parliamentary Question (OPQ) and Written Parliamentary Question (WPQ)

Parliamentary Questions are used by both MPs and Peers to question Ministers in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. They are used to seek information, and Ministers are obliged to explain and defend the work, policy, decisions and actions of their departments, oral questions can also be used to make political points. Parliamentary questions are a vital tool in holding the Government to account. The Prime Minister answers oral questions from the House of Commons every Wednesday at midday.

### Debates

Both the House of Commons and the House of Lords hold debates in which Members discuss government policy, proposed new laws and current issues. All debates are recorded in a publication called 'Hansard' which is available online or in print.

### All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) are informal groups composed of politicians from all political parties. They provide an opportunity for cross-party discussion and co-operation on particular issues. All-party groups sometimes act as useful pressure groups for specific causes helping to keep the Government, the opposition and MPs informed of parliamentary and outside opinion.

### Select Committees

House of Commons Select Committees exist to scrutinise the work of government departments. Most committees have about 11 members and reflect the relative size of each party in the Commons. They conduct enquiries on a specific issue, and gather evidence from expert witnesses. Findings are reported to the Commons, printed, and published on the Parliament website. The Government then usually has 60 days to reply to the committee's recommendations.

### Written ministerial statements

Government ministers can make written statements to announce:

- The publication of reports by government agencies
- Findings of reviews and inquiries and the government's response
- Financial and statistical information
- Procedure and policy initiatives of government departments

### Private Members' Bills

Private Members' Bills allow backbench MPs or Peers to introduce their own legislation. There are three types of Private Members' Bills introduced into the House of Commons:

- **Ballot Bills:** A ballot is held at the beginning of each parliamentary year the 20 MPs whose names come out top are allowed to introduce legislation on a subject of their choice.
- **Ten Minute Rule Bills:** The sponsoring MP is given a slot in which they may make a speech lasting up to 10 minutes in support of his or her bill
- **Presentation Bill:** a Member is not able to speak in support of it and it stands almost no chance of becoming law