

Weekly Political Update

12 November 2018

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

Deafness – funding support for charities

Click on link for source

<p><u>Written question on how much funding the Government has allocated to organisations that support deaf people in each year since 2010</u></p>	<p>Royston Smith MP (Conservatives, Southampton Itchen) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much funding her Department has allocated to organisations that provide support to deaf people in each year since 2010.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“The information requested is in the attached table.</i></p> <p><i>PQ186395 attached table (Word Document, 20.7 KB)”</i></p> <p>The table included in the Minister’s response lists Action on Hearing Loss as recipients of Departmental funding between 2012/2013 to 2017/2018 – with the amounts between £25k and £63k in each year.</p> <p>This funding was awarded for two Action on Hearing Loss projects – Hear to Care and Nursing Practice.</p>
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Loneliness

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<p>New Minister for Loneliness – Mims Davies MP</p>	<p>Tracey Crouch MP (Conservatives, Chatham and Aylesford) has resigned as Minister for Loneliness over the date in which, rules to restrict maximum stakes on fixed odds betting machines will come into force.</p> <p>Mims Davies MP (Conservatives, Eastleigh) replaces Tracey as Minister for Loneliness.</p>
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Equalities

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<p><u>Intellectual Property Office Annual Report – free hearing checks</u></p>	<p>Action on Hearing Loss has been mentioned in the Intellectual Property Office’s annual report 2017/2018. The Intellectual Property Office – the UK Government body responsible for intellectual property rights, highlighted that its <i>“Health & Wellbeing team arranged a series of health related events”</i> including free hearing checks provided by Action on Hearing Loss.</p> <p>To read the annual report, 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