

Weekly Political Update

15 October 2018

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

Hearing Loss

Click on link for source

<u>NICE Consultation – Quality Standards (Hearing Loss)</u>	<p>The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has launched its consultation on quality standards for Adult Onset Hearing Loss.</p> <p>The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday 23 October.</p> <p>To read more on the consultation, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Tackling Loneliness

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<u>Government Strategy – ‘A Connected Society: A Strategy for Tackling Loneliness’</u>	<p>Action on Hearing Loss’s services have been featured as a case study in the Government’s recently published strategy for tackling loneliness.</p> <p>The strategy launched today, showcases the role of our <i>Hear to Meet</i> service in supporting people with hearing loss, and in helping to reduce feelings of loneliness.</p> <p>To read the strategy in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Social Care

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<u>Speech – Health and Social Care Secretary announces additional funding for social care</u>	<p>During his address to the Conservative Party Conference, Health and Social Care Secretary, Mathew Hancock MP (Conservatives, West Suffolk) announced that the social care system will receive an additional £240 million to be used for social care packages this winter.</p> <p>To read Matthew Hancock MP’s speech in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
<u>CQC – State of Care report</u>	<p>The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published its annual report on the State of Care.</p> <p>In its report, the CQC considers people’s experiences of care, noting five key areas that can affect the delivery of good care. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Access</i>2. <i>Quality</i>3. <i>Workforce</i>4. <i>Demand and Capacity</i>5. <i>Funding and Commissioning</i> <p>The report also refers to the number of trusts adhering to the Accessible Information Standard.</p> <p>To read the report in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>

Employment

Click on link for source

<p><u>EHRC – ‘Progress on Disability Rights in the United Kingdom’</u></p>	<p>The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and others, have published a report on the <i>‘Progress on Disability Rights in the United Kingdom.’</i></p> <p>In particular, the report notes the discrepancy between “<i>the highest employment rate for a health condition group (difficulty in hearing)</i>” and the equivalent figure for non-disabled people of working age.</p> <p>To read the report in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Healthcare

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<p><u>NHS Continuing Healthcare in England – House of Commons Briefing</u></p>	<p>The House of Commons Library has published a briefing paper on NHS Continuing Healthcare in England.</p> <p>The briefing provides information about the eligibility criteria for continuing care. It also summarises key aspects of the updated <i>National Framework for NHS Continuing Care</i>, published in this October, which sets out “<i>the principles and processes of NHS Continuing Healthcare and NHS-funded Nursing Care.</i>”</p> <p>To read the briefing, 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