

Weekly Political Update 19 February 2019

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

Deaf support services

Click on link for source

<p><u>Written question on the provision of deaf support services in Wallasey, Liverpool and Merseyside</u></p>	<p>Angela Eagle MP (Labour, Wallasey) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the provision of deaf support services (a) to constituents in Wallasey, (b) in Liverpool City Region and (c) in Merseyside.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinéage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>“The Care Quality Commission is responsible for assessing the quality of health and social care support, including for those who are deaf. Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are responsible for assessing locally what health services should be commissioned to meet needs; local authorities have duties under the Care Act 2014 for assessing people’s need for social care support.</i></p> <p><i>NHS Wirral CCG recently completed a consultation in relation to Urgent Care Services. This consultation had significant representation from members of the deaf community as well as British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters. They spoke of consistent difficulties in accessing local NHS services, more specifically on provision and quality of BSL interpreters; this was not specific to urgent care services but spanned the range of NHS services in Wirral. A subsequent meeting was held with representatives of the deaf community on 21 December 2018 and the CCG agreed to facilitate an engagement process to include providers in 2019 to understand the issues in more detail and plan actions for providers to take forward over the longer term. A further meeting has been arranged for 18 February 2019. This meeting will be attended by members of the deaf community, BSL interpreters and NHS providers in Wirral.”</i></p>
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Access to Work

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<p><u>Access to Work Cap to rise</u></p>	<p>The cap on Access to Work grants is set to increase this April from the current £57,200 to £59,200. This uprating of the value of the cap maintains the maximum awards at two-times national average earnings. Access to Work grants enable disabled people to cover the cost of equipment and other support in the workplace, including BSL interpretation.</p> <p>To read more, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Equalities

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<p><u>Written question – Government response to the concluding observations from the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities</u></p>	<p>James Frith MP (Labour, Bury North) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the Government’s timescale is for (a) acknowledging the concluding observations from the UN convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and (b) responding to that convention’s recommendations.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“The Government is committed to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to the progressive realisation of the rights for disabled people that it sets out.</i></p> <p><i>We have provided our first report to the UN Committee as requested. We published this report on 6 September 2018. This report and accompanying ministerial letter setting out the UK’s progress are available on GOV.UK website:</i></p> <p><u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-peoples-rights-information-following-the-uks-first-periodic-review</u></p> <p><i>I tabled a Written Statement (HCWS938) on 6 September 2018, providing an update on the UK’s follow-up response to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities:</i></p> <p><u>https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-09-06/HCWS938</u></p> <p><i>We will be responding to the recommendations in the Concluding Observations during our next periodic review, currently scheduled for 2023. In the meantime, we will be preparing in due course, as recommended by the UN Committee, a progress update on the 2016 inquiry recommendations.”</i></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