

## Weekly Political Update

### 19 September 2018

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

#### Hearing Aids

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#">Written question on audiology services – broken down nationally and by CCG</a></p>	<p><b>Action on Hearing Loss supported the drafting of the following questions on the amount spent on audiology services and the provision of hearing aids asked by Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Labour, Poplar and Limehouse) below:</b></p> <p><i>“To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how much was spent on audiology services (a) nationally and (b) by each clinical commissioning group in each of the last five years for which figures are available.”</i></p> <p><i>“To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, how many people have been supplied with NHS-funded hearing aids in each clinical commissioning group area in each of the last five years for which figures are available.”</i></p> <p><i>“To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what the projected spend on audiology services is (a) this year and (b) next year, broken down (i) nationally and (ii) by clinical commissioning group.”</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) provided the same response to each of the questions:</p> <p><i>“The information requested on the number of people supplied with National Health Services-funded hearing aids is not collated centrally.</i></p> <p><i>The requested information for spend on audiology services by each clinical commissioning group (CCG) is not collected centrally.</i></p> <p><i>Data on national spend is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.</i></p> <p><i>Total spend on audiology services in £ million</i></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2012-13</th> <th>2013-14</th> <th>2014-15</th> <th>2015-16</th> <th>2016-17</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Admitted Patient Care</i></td> <td>25.8</td> <td>124.5</td> <td>161.8</td> <td>163.5</td> <td>152.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Outpatient Attendances</i></td> <td>21.2</td> <td>30.8</td> <td>24.2</td> <td>32.0</td> <td>36.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Community Health Services</i></td> <td>208.5</td> <td>172.9</td> <td>193.5</td> <td>201.0</td> <td>196.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Total</i></td> <td>255.5</td> <td>328.2</td> <td>379.5</td> <td>396.5</td> <td>385.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	<i>Admitted Patient Care</i>	25.8	124.5	161.8	163.5	152.5	<i>Outpatient Attendances</i>	21.2	30.8	24.2	32.0	36.5	<i>Community Health Services</i>	208.5	172.9	193.5	201.0	196.2	<i>Total</i>	255.5	328.2	379.5	396.5	385.2
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	<p>Source: <a href="https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/reference-costs/">https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/reference-costs/</a></p> <p>The information requested on projected spend on audiology services is not collected centrally.</p> <p>CCGs are responsible for commissioning audiology services. The Commissioning Services for People with Hearing Loss framework will help CCGs to deliver on their responsibility to commission high quality, responsive hearing services by establishing what good commissioning looks like.”</p>												
<p><u>Written question on what proportion of 16-65 year olds and people over 65 receive hearing aids on the NHS</u></p>	<p>Royston Smith MP (Conservatives, Southampton Itchen) has asked:</p> <p>“The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of (a) 16-65 year olds and (b) people over 65 receive hearing aids on the NHS.”</p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>This information is not collected centrally.</i></p> <p><i>However, the following table shows data published by industry on the number of Hearing Aid units supplied to the National Health Service in 2017.</i></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 1048 1497 1310"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Q1</th> <th>Q2</th> <th>Q3</th> <th>Q4</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total number of hearing aid units supplied to the NHS in 2017</td> <td>343,690</td> <td>341,070</td> <td>337,228</td> <td>388,754</td> <td>1,410,742</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Total number of hearing aid units supplied to the NHS in 2017	343,690	341,070	337,228	388,754	1,410,742
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### **British Sign Language Interpreters**

*Click on link for source*

<p><u>Written question on how many BSL interpreters are available to support people with hearing loss use public services</u></p>	<p>Royston Smith MP (Conservatives, Southampton Itchen) has asked:</p> <p>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many British Sign Language interpreters are available to support hearing impaired people in using public services.”</p> <p>Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p>“The Government does not collect information on numbers of British Sign Language interpreters.</p> <p><i>The National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCDP), the Association of Sign Language interpreters (ASLI) and the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters (SASLI) are the registration bodies for interpreters in England Wales and Scotland.</i></p>
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	<p>The British Deaf Association published numbers of British Sign Language Interpreters in October 2015 available at <a href="https://bda.org.uk/help-resources/">https://bda.org.uk/help-resources/</a>"</p>
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### **Assistive Technology**

Click on link for source

<p><a href="#"><u>Government response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee's report into Assistive Technology</u></a></p>	<p>The Government has published its response to the Work and Pensions Select Committee's tenth report on Assistive Technology.</p> <p>Among other things, the response acknowledges the role of Access to Work in supporting people into and in employment.</p> <p>To read the response in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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### **The NHS**

Click on link for source

<p><a href="#"><u>Government response to Health and Social Care Select Committee report on integrated systems</u></a></p>	<p>The Government has published its response to the Health and Social Care Select Committee's seventh report on integrated care systems.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As part of its response to the Committee's recommendation that the Government confirm current targets to achieve integrated health care across the country by 2020, the Government announced that it will review the Better Care Fund. The purpose of the review will be to ensure that it can further support the integration of health and social care.</li> <li>2. The Committee recommended that the long-term funding settlement announced earlier this year should include "<i>dedicated ring-fenced funding for service transformation and prevention.</i>" The Government announced that as part of the upcoming ten year plan, the NHS will have to stipulate what transformation is needed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Improve productivity and efficiency</i></li> <li>- <i>Eliminate provider deficits</i></li> <li>- <i>Reduce unwarranted variation in the system</i></li> <li>- <i>Manage demand more effectively</i></li> <li>- <i>Make effective use of capital investment</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The Government acknowledges the possible need to change the law as a means of facilitating 'evolutionary change' in the system. It notes that the law will only be changed where the NHS identify "<i>a clear need to do so....including where legislation is making it harder for professionals from different parts of the NHS and different local authorities to work together to integrate care.</i>"</li> </ol> <p>To read in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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	To read the Health and Social Care Select Committee's initial report, please click <a href="#">here</a> .
<a href="#">‘Developing the long term plan for the NHS’ – Consultation</a>	<p>NHS England is inviting individuals and organisations to contribute towards the development of the NHS's ten year plan.</p> <p>The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2018.</p> <p>To read more on the consultation process, please click on the link on the left:</p>

### **Loneliness**

*Click on link for source*

<a href="#">Speech – Public Health England’s Annual Conference</a>	<p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society, Tracey Crouch MP (Conservatives, Chatham and Aylesford) has delivered a speech on loneliness at Public Health England’s Annual Conference. In her speech she sets out three goals that the Government hopes to achieve through its work on loneliness. These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building an evidence base on Loneliness – i.e. why people feel lonely, the impact of loneliness and what interventions are needed. Tracey notes the work that the Government has been doing with the ONS to try to understand loneliness and with the What Works Centre for Wellbeing to review various interventions.</li> <li>2. Developing policies which brings people together – here she highlights the Loneliness Strategy due to be published next month; the idea that tackling loneliness is a cross-departmental initiative – 9 Government ministers and departments have contributed towards the strategy; and the £20m fund available to bring people together in England. She notes that Health Minister, Steve Brine MP is due to speak on social prescribing and dementia friendly communities which may be of interest, but this speech is not currently online yet.</li> <li>3. Expanding the national conversation around loneliness – this includes learning from frontline practitioners and community groups and communicating with the wider public and businesses.</li> </ol> <p>To read more, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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### **Employment**

*Click on link for source*

<a href="#">Written question on how many disabled people entered the workforce in 2010 and 2018</a>	<p>Matthew Offord MP (Conservatives, Hendon) asked:</p> <p><i>“The Minister of Cabinet Office, how many disabled people entered the workforce in (a) 2010 and (b) 2018.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, Oliver Dowden MP (Conservatives, Hertsmere) responded:</p>
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	<p><i>“The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.  <a href="#">UKSA response</a> (PDF Document, 87.95 KB)”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on what steps are being taken by the Government to encourage large employers and SME’s to recruit disabled employees</u></p>	<p>Priti Patel MP (Conservatives, Witham) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps she is taking to encourage (a) large employers and (b) SME employers to recruit disabled employees.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Health and Employment, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“Holding answer received on 11 September 2018</i></p> <p><i>This Government is committed to supporting disabled people to reach their potential. We are engaging with employers through the Disability Confident scheme, which was developed by disabled people, employers and disability organisations to encourage employers to think differently about disability and to take action to improve how they attract, recruit and develop disabled employees.</i></p> <p><i>The Disability Confident Business Leaders Group (BLG), comprising senior leaders from significant British businesses across all sectors, is helping to increase engagement with employers. The group promotes the business benefits of disability employment and works with DWP officials to identify any changes or developments that will improve the effectiveness of the scheme.</i></p> <p><i>DWP is working with a range of stakeholders, including members of the Business Leaders Group and Professional Advisers Group, to drive sign-up to Disability Confident. Through employer-focused events, we are targeting employers of all size and sector and are working with MPs in their constituencies to encourage local community sign-up. We are also working with MPs around the country to arrange local events to get them as employers, and businesses in their constituencies, signed up.</i></p> <p><i>Over 7,500 employers are currently signed up to Disability Confident, of whom over 2,000 are large employers and 5,500 are SMEs.</i></p> <p><i>Over 2,800 employers have completed their self-assessment to become Disability Confident Employers (Level 2). These include organisations ranging in size from large multi nationals to local employers, including private businesses, colleges, sports clubs, NHS trusts and social enterprises. All main government Departments are at Level 3 (Disability Confident Leader) and over 80% of Local Authorities are Disability Confident.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, the department has instigated a requirement that all contractors for major contracts (exceeding £10 million in value) must have achieved Disability Confident Leader Status. DWP will work with its other suppliers to encourage them to become Disability Confident.</i></p> <p><i>Crown Commercial Services are developing a Public Procurement Notice on disability and employment. This will provide guidance on the work and health agenda, on the Stevenson/Farmer Core and Enhanced Standards on mental health, and it will identify how to encourage suppliers to sign up to Disability Confident.”</i></p>

Written questions on Disability Employment Advisors and Work Coaches

Kate Green MP (Labour, Stretford and Urmston) has asked the following questions:

*“To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Disability Employment Advisers were employed by her Department in each of the last five years.”*

*“To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what is the ratio between Disability Employment Advisors and Work Coaches employed in JobCentre Plus centres.”*

Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) provided the same response to these questions:

*“Disability Employment Advisors (DEAs) have been recruited in every country and region of Great Britain. As of July 2018, there are 458 full time equivalent DEAs in place across the Jobcentre network, with the actual headcount being above 500 when taking account of part time and dual role workers.*

*As of July 2018 the ratio of Disability Employment Advisers to Work Coaches is 1:28.*

*Table of full time equivalent DEAs for the last 5 years.*

DEA (FTE)	Year
458.12	July-18
480.28	April-17
202.78	April-16
306.71	April-15
413.28	April-14

*DEAs, in partnership with Community Partners and Work Psychologists, are working to improve the capability of all Work Coaches to better support claimants, including those with disabilities.*

*Disability Employment Advisers have a tailored learning journey that equips them with the skills and knowledge to support work coaches and other DWP staff when they are working with customers with a wide range of health conditions. This includes researching local healthcare and disabled services organisations and identifying sources of support for claimants with physical health conditions.”*

Written question on how many people with a disability have

David Drew MP (Labour, Stroud) has asked:

<p><u>been denied an Access to Work grant at the point of contact</u></p>	<p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many people with a disability have been denied an Access to Work grant at the point of contact.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“The information is not available. An Access to Work application would normally be refused at point of contact if the applicant was not eligible for Access to Work. This might be because they were not in work or about to start work, or that they were not disabled.”</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on what date the budget for Access to Work 2018-19 was approved</u></p>	<p>David Drew MP (Labour, Stroud) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, on what date he approved the 2018-19 budget for the Access to Work programme.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“Holding answer received on 10 September 2018</i></p> <p><i>The Access to Work programme is demand led so the eventual expenditure incurred in 2018-19 will be driven by the demand experienced during the year.”</i></p>

## **Transport**

*Click on link for source*

<p><u>Written question on how much funding from the public purse the Government plans to allocate towards the implementation of the Inclusive Transport Strategy</u></p>	<p>Helen Hayes MP (Labour, Dulwich and West Norwood) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to his Department Inclusive Transport Strategy, published on 25 July 2018, how much funding from the public purse the Government plans to allocate for the implementation of that strategy.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, Nusrat Ghani MP (Conservatives, Wealden) responded:</p> <p><i>“The Inclusive Transport Strategy sets out the Government’s plans for delivering a genuinely inclusive transport network for disabled and older people. Key funding announcements made from the public purse include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Up to £300m to extend the Access for All programme to make railway stations in Great Britain more accessible;</i></li> <li><i>• £2 million to install Changing Places toilets at motorway service stations in England, supporting disabled people to travel easily and comfortably on the road network;</i></li> <li><i>• The provision of further support for the rollout of audio-visual announcements across the bus sector through the launch of a new £2m fund to help smaller bus operators comply with planned Accessible Information Regulations and so ensure that passengers across Great Britain will know where and when to alight;</i></li> <li><i>• A £2 million passenger awareness campaign to increase disability awareness and reduce hate crime on the network; and</i></li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued funding for Mobility Centres which offer clinical expertise and professional high quality information, advice and assessment to people who need to gain or retain independence through mobility.</li> </ul> <p><i>This funding is in addition to the activities which will be funded directly by transport operators as part of their delivery of the Inclusive Transport Strategy.</i></p>
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## **Wellbeing**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on whether the Government uses ONS estimates of personal wellbeing when formulating policy and what policies the Government have introduced in the last 12 months to improve national wellbeing</u></a></p>	<p>Chris Ruane MP (Labour, Vale of Clwyd) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether her Department uses Office for National Statistics estimates of personal well-being when formulating policy; and what policies her Department has introduced to improve national well-being in the last 12 months.”</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>“The services provided by the Department make a positive difference to citizens’ well-being. The Department does this by helping more people into work, providing a simplified benefits system that is easier to access for those who need it most, delivering support to disabled people and providing security in later life.</i></p> <p><i>The Department has used similar measures to the ONS personal well-being estimates, such as data from the Understanding Society survey which influenced the Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families policy paper. This paper published a number of indicators, including poor parental mental health, which measures the proportion of children living with at least one parent reporting symptoms of anxiety and/or depression. DWP has subsequently introduced the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme to address and measure parental conflict, as evidence shows poor relationships between parents can damage children’s outcomes, including their well-being.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, within the programme of trials being delivered by the joint DWP/DHSC Work and Health Unit, well-being outcomes are being collected alongside employment and health outcomes to appraise the success of the trials and influence future policy development.”</i></p>
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## **Equalities**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Statement – UK’s response regarding the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Person with Disabilities</u></a></p>	<p>The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) made a statement regarding the UK’s implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p> <p>The statement highlighted the actions that have been taken by the Government with respect to the Convention.</p> <p>To read the statement in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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	<p>To read the Government's initial response to the UN, please click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><a href="#">Written question on what the timeframe is for publication of the Government's response to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report</a></p>	<p>Shadow Minister for Disabilities, Marsha De Cordova MP (Labour, Battersea) has asked:</p> <p><i>"The Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions, what the timeframe is for the publication of the Government's response to the report, Concluding observations on the initial report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, published by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities report published in October 2017."</i></p> <p>Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Sarah Newton MP (Conservatives, Truro and Falmouth) responded:</p> <p><i>"This Government's vision for disabled people is to create a society that works for everyone, where all can participate fully, and be included. This vision aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the Convention), which protects and promotes the rights of disabled people.</i></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><a href="https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-09-06/HCWS938">https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-09-06/HCWS938</a></p> <p><i>The response has been placed in the House Library (DEP2018-0871):</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?fd=2018-09-06&amp;td=2018-09-06&amp;search_term=Department+for+Work+and+Pensions&amp;itemId=119004#toqql-e-871">https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/business-papers/commons/deposited-papers/?fd=2018-09-06&amp;td=2018-09-06&amp;search_term=Department+for+Work+and+Pensions&amp;itemId=119004#toqql-e-871</a></p> <p><i>The response has been published on gov.uk:</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-peoples-rights-information-following-the-uks-first-periodic-review">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disabled-peoples-rights-information-following-the-uks-first-periodic-review</a>"</p>
<p><a href="#">Written question on what Government support is available to people with hearing loss regarding assisted access to public buildings and financial support for assistive products.</a></p>	<p>Royston Smith MP (Conservatives, Southampton Itchen) has asked:</p> <p><i>"The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what Government support is available to people with hearing impairments in respect of a) assisted access to public buildings and b) financial support for assistive products."</i></p> <p>Minister of Care, Caroline Dinenage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>"The Equality Act 2010 gives people with disabilities important rights to use and access services without being subjected to disability discrimination. Providers of public services have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to improve accessibility of services for people with disabilities, including sensory impairment.</i></p> <p><i>Local authorities commission community equipment and adaptations and clinical commissioning groups commission hearing aids, and other health-</i></p>

	<p><i>related equipment. NHS England commissions Augmentative and Alternative Communication aids.”</i></p>
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## **Education**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Westminster hall debate on deaf children’s services</u></a></p>	<p>Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Labour, Poplar and Limehouse) introduced a debate on deaf children’s services last week, which was transmitted live with signed simultaneous translation. Whilst the debate was focused on children’s services, Action on Hearing Loss – as part of our role as secretariat to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness, provided support in mobilising MPs to attend and speak in the debate.</p> <p>In his closing remarks, Jim Fitzpatrick MP referenced a host of organisations within the hearing sector for their work, including Action on Hearing Loss, stating:</p> <p><i>“I thank the Backbench Business Committee for our opportunity to have this debate; the signers for their sterling work; the House authorities for providing them with this opportunity; and all colleagues who have contributed to the debate. Many of them made kind comments about me, and I am grateful for them, but they apply to everybody who has participated in the debate and all the members of the all-party parliamentary group on deafness, who work with and for deaf people and with great organisations such as the National Deaf Children’s Society, Action on Hearing Loss, Auditory Verbal, The Ear Foundation and so many others.”</i></p> <p>To read the debate in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on what steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that all deaf children get access to specialist support at school</u></a></p>	<p>Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee, Frank Field MP (Independent, Birkenhead) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Education, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all deaf children get access to the specialist support they need at school.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary for Education, Nadhim Zahawi MP (Conservatives, Stratford on Avon) responded:</p> <p><i>“We want all children and young people, no matter what their special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), to be able to reach their full potential and receive the right support to succeed in their education and as they move into adult life. That is why, since 2014, we have supported the implementation of significant reforms, putting children, young people and their families at the heart of the system, and focusing on outcomes and transition to adult life.</i></p> <p><i>To support the reforms, we provided £900,000 funding to the National Sensory Impairment Partnership between 2016 and 2018 to equip the school workforce to deliver high quality teaching for pupils with sensory impairments.</i></p>

	<p><i>We have announced new contracts worth £23.8 million to help provide children who have SEND, including those who are deaf or have a hearing impairment, with access to excellent support.</i></p> <p><i>New SEND regional leads are bringing together practitioners and networks in their local area to help identify and address SEND school improvement priorities and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise.”</i></p>
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### **Online forums**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Tem Minute Rule Bill - Online Forums</u></a></p>	<p>Lucy Powell MP (Labour, Manchester Central) brought forward a motion for a ten minute rule bill on online forums. The bill would make operators and moderators of certain online forums responsible for content published on those forums. It would also require operators and moderators to remove certain content and publish information about such platforms.</p> <p>Ten minute rule bills allow MPs to discuss issues and make the case for a bill. They are highly unlikely to ever become law but can however, serve as a useful way of gauging member’s views on topical issues.</p> <p>This Bill provides insight into the views of some parliamentarians who believe requirements and obligations ought to be placed on the administrators of certain online forums.</p> <p>To read in full, please click on the link on the left</p>
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### **Sport**

*Click on link for source*

<p><a href="#"><u>Written question on what support the Government provides deaf athletes</u></a></p>	<p>Angela Eagle MP (Labour, Wallasey) has asked:</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what support his Department provides for deaf athletes.”</i></p> <p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Sport and Civil Society, Tracey Crouch MP (Conservatives, Chatham and Aylesford) responded:</p> <p><i>“Sport England is investing over £360,000 in UK Deaf sport between 2017 and 2020 - this is to help them work with sport and physical activity organisations to increase awareness of deaf people’s needs, share good practice, conduct research and develop the workforce.</i></p> <p><i>UK Deaf Sport are also working closely with deaf people to inspire them to take part in sport and activity, as well as training a number to be qualified sports leaders to their peers and non-deaf people.”</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