

Weekly Political Update

28 March 2019

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

Video Relay Services

Click on link for source

With the support of Action on Hearing Loss, Rosie Cooper MP asked the following questions on video relay services.

<p><u>Written question on the UK's compliance with the European Electronic Communications Code</u></p>	<p>Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire) has asked:</p> <p><i>"The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, what steps his Department is taking to comply with Article 109, Recital 5 of the European Electronic Communications Code in relation to people whose first language is British Sign Language."</i></p> <p>Minister for Digital and Creative Industries, Margot James MP (Conservatives, Stourbridge) responded:</p> <p><i>"Article 109, Subparagraph (5) of the European Electronic Communications Code states that consumers with disabilities must have an equivalent level of access to emergency services as consumers without disabilities. The Government's position is that no steps need to be taken in order to implement this provision, as it already exists in the current EU framework (at Article 26(4) of the amended Universal Service Directive 2002/22/EC), which the UK implemented in 2011."</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on what steps the Government is taking to enable deaf people to use video relay services</u></p>	<p>Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire) has asked:</p> <p><i>"The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps his Department has taken to enable deaf people to use 999 to contact the ambulance service using video relay services."</i></p> <p>Minister of State for Care, Caroline Dinéage MP (Conservatives, Gosport) responded:</p> <p><i>"In England, the provision of an assistive service such as video relay for deaf people to use 999 to contact ambulance services, is determined by local authorities, local clinical commissioning groups and National Health Service emergency services dependant on individual circumstances. A more common means of contacting ambulance services is the use of text messaging from mobile phones for emergencies. Deaf people can register to do so with local emergency services."</i></p>
<p><u>Written question on calls to NHS 111 and NHS BSL service</u></p>	<p>Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire) has asked:</p> <p><i>"The Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what proportion of calls to the (a) NHS 111 service and (b) NHS 111 BSL service resulted in the dispatch of an ambulance in the last year for which figures are available."</i></p>

Minister of State for Health, Stephen Hammond MP (Conservatives, Wimbledon) responded:

“NHS England publishes monthly performance data for the NHS 111 service at the following link:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/nhs-111-minimum-data-set/statistical-work-areas-nhs-111-minimum-data-set-nhs-111-minimum-data-set-2018-19/>

The following table provides data for ambulance dispositions from NHS 111, including the NHS 111 British Sign Language (BSL) service.

	Total calls to NHS 111	Calls to the NHS 111 BSL Service (including in total calls)	Number of calls triaged ¹	Ambulance dispatches ²	Ambulance dispatches (% of calls triaged)
2017-18 total	15,964,080	458	12,655,745	1,611,447	12.7%
2018-19 to date	15,335,633	411	11,965,173	1,587,584	13.3%
2018 total	16,777,850	427	13,061,937	1,705,942	13.1%
12 months to Feb 2019	16,899,869	454	13,143,866	1,731,701	13.2%

Source: NHS England

Notes:

¹A triaged call is one where the clinical assessment tool has been opened and used.

²Final NHS Pathways disposition was a referral to the Ambulance Service. Further clinical assessment within the Integrated Urgent Care (NHS 111) or 999 service areas may have indicated that an ambulance response and/or conveyance was not required. The actual percentage resulting in an ambulance being dispatched may therefore be lower.”

Written question on video relay services for deaf people wanting

Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire) has asked:

“The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps has his Department has taken to enable deaf people to use 999 to contact the fire brigade using video relay services.”

<p><u>to contact the fire brigade</u></p>	<p>Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, Jake Berry MP (Conservatives, Rossendale and Darwen)</p> <p><i>"The Home Office is responsible for Fire and Rescue policy."</i></p>
<p><u>Written questions on the cost of video relay services for deaf people wanting to contact emergency services</u></p>	<p>Rosie Cooper MP (Labour, West Lancashire) has asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department the following questions:</p> <p><i>"what representations his Department has made to the 999 Liaison Committee on the availability for video relay services to facilitate deaf people contacting the emergency services."</i></p> <p><i>"what estimate his Department has made of the cost of the provision of a Video Relay Service for deaf people who need to contact the emergency services using 999."</i></p> <p><i>"how many incidents were handled by the Emergency SMS service in each of the last five years for which figures are available."</i></p> <p>Minister for Policing, the Fire Service and Minister for London, Nick Hurd MP (Conservatives, Ruislip, Northwood and Pinner) provided the same response to each question:</p> <p><i>"The handling of 999 calls is an operational matter for the police. It is for elected Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables to decide how best to manage their communications and response to the public. This applies to specialist communication technologies such as video relay services and emergency SMS."</i></p> <p><i>The home office does not collect data on Emergency SMS calls."</i></p>

Employment

Click on link for source

<p><u>National Audit Office – 'Supporting Disabled People to Work'</u></p>	<p>The National Audit Office has published a review examining progress made by the Government in implementing its ambition to reduce inequalities faced by disabled people regarding employment. The review considers the Department for Work and Pensions' strategy for supporting disabled people; the Government's employment support programmes and the jobcentre's engagement with disabled people.</p> <p>To read the report in full, please click on the link on the left.</p>
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Disability Benefits

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<p><u>Written question on whether Universal Credit</u></p>	<p>Danielle Rowley MP (Labour, Midlothian) has asked:</p>
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data is disaggregated, taking into account disabilities

“The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether data collected by her Department on universal credit claimants is disaggregated to take account of disabilities.”

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance, Justin Tomlinson MP (Conservatives, Swindon) responded:

“The self-reported health condition or disability of individual Universal Credit claimants are recorded on our system and can be viewed by work coaches. However, it is not centrally collated in a way that allows aggregated analysis to be undertaken.

Universal Credit provides enhanced personalised support for all claimants, including those with a disability. All claimants receive continuous tailored support managed through personal work coaches, who know each person. Our work coaches receive extensive training to ensure they can offer effective support to different claimant groups.

We continue to develop our approach to capturing accurate, aggregate data on claimants, including care leavers and claimants with vulnerabilities. This work is ongoing and has been prioritised for the current Universal Credit development phase.”

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