

Cross Party Group on Deafness

Wednesday 15 March at 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Via Zoom (an online video conferencing platform)

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Convenor – Colin Beattie MSP

Annabelle Ewing MSP

Invited guests

John Day – Vice Chair, National Audiology Review

Andrena McMenemy – Datafakts

The Scottish Sensory Hub, the ALLIANCE – Amy White

Kirsten Abioye – Lived Experience /Family member

Linda Sharkey, Graham Allan – Heads of Audiology

Non-MSP Group Members

Secretariat – Janis McDonald (the ALLIANCE)

Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults Scotland (ATLA Scotland) – Jill Bradshaw

Deafblind Scotland (DbS) – Isabella Goldie, Jonathan Reid, and John Whitfield

Deaf Links – Alana Harper

Disability Equality Scotland – Lyn Pornaro

EIS – Julie Ferguson

Edinburgh University/SSC – Prof John Ravenscroft

Forth Valley Sensory Centre – Jacquie Winning

Hearing Link – Nicholas Orpin

North East Sensory Services (NESS) – Graham Findlay

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) – Teri Devine

Scottish Register of Language Professionals with the Deaf Community (SRLPDC) – Leona Glennie

Sense Scotland – Joanne O'Donnell

Highland Sensory – Gillian Mitchell

Scottish Mental Health Service for Deaf people – Dr Debbie Innes

WSDCS – Charlene Dolan

Individuals

Donald Richards
Dr Peter Spencer Davies

Language Service Professionals

BSL / English Interpreter – Edward Foley
BSL / English Interpreter – Kelly Michael
Electronic Notetaker – Gail Richardson
Electronic Notetaker – Melanie Coulter

APOLOGIES

MSPs

Paul O’Kane MSP
Karen Adams MSP
Douglas Lumsden MSP
Mark Griffin MSP
Roz McColl MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Association of Sign Language Interpreters Scotland (ASLI Scotland) –
Tessa Slaughter, Marion Fletcher, Roy Thomson
British Deaf Association Scotland (BDA Scotland) – Avril Hepner
Deaf Equality and Accessibility Forum South Lanarkshire (D.E.A.F.
South Lanarkshire) – Enrique Canton
Hearing & Sight Care-Caithness – Deirdre Aitken
National Deaf Children’s Society Scotland (NDCS Scotland) – Lois
Drake, Mark Ballard
Deaf Action – Philip Gerrard
Donaldson’s School – Kath Cooper
NHS Highland Deaf Services – Amanda Wilson
Queen Margaret University (QMU) – Rachel Mapson
Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Scotland (RCSLT
Scotland) – Glenn Carter
Scottish Register of Language Professionals with the Deaf Community
(SRLPDC) – Mags Greig

Agenda item 1

Welcome and Introductions.

The Convenor, Colin Beattie MSP, opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and reminded everyone to say who they were prior to speaking.

Agenda item 2

Apologies listed in this record.

New Individual Member
Dr Peter Spencer Davies

New Group Member
Heads of Service, Audiology Group in Scotland representatives will be Linda Sharkey and Graham Allan

Agenda item 3

Minutes of the Meeting Tuesday 1 November were approved with one change agreed that Dr Glen Reynolds is not an MSP.

Agenda Item 4

John Day, the Vice Chair of the National Audiology Review and Clinical Director of Audiology, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales.

Update on National Audiology Review. See Brief note.

The answer to one question was advised separately, in writing. The question was the number of Scots affected by deafness.

I can advise that figure is 945,000 as of 2014. The reference is 'Hearing Matters: Taking action on hearing loss in the 21st century, Action on Hearing Loss', [Hearing Matters - RNID](#)

And <https://rnid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Hearing-Matters-Scotland-Supplement.pdf>

Action: To circulate Report when it is available.
Review in May meeting.

Agenda Item 5

Definition of Deafblindness – “Seen and Heard”

Speakers: Isabella Goldie, CEO of Deafblind Scotland,
Andrena McMenemy, Datafakts.

Paper developed at the request of the Cross Party Group on Deafness.
See presentation and presentation notes attached.

Actions:

1. Working Group established with Anabelle Ewing MSP in Chair
2. Take paper to Civil Servants. Discuss pragmatic ways forward.

Agenda item 6

Any Other Business

Janis spoke on behalf of Rachel Mapson regarding a new
'microcredential' online course we will be offered by QMU in June.

It will run for 8 weeks over the summer and is titled Working with Sign Language Users and Interpreters. It has funding from the SFC with some free places available for people who work in the public sector or for charities and has been validated at SCQF Level 10 with both a 0 credit and 10 credit options.

Agenda Item 7

Date of next meetings and closing remarks

Dates for 2023 at 6.00pm

Wednesday 17 May 2023

Wednesday 6 September 2023 (for General Meeting & AGM)

Wednesday 6 December 2023

The Convenor looked forward to the reporting of the National Audiology Review, noted the work that had been involved and thanked everyone for participating.

Please note, any items for the May 2023 meeting to be submitted before 12.00pm on Friday 12 May 2023.