

Weekly Political Update

3rd May 2016

The consultations section is at the end of this document.

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

Employment

Click on link for source

Item	Summary
<p><u>Written question on the publication of the White Paper on employment support for disabled people</u></p>	<p>Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Owen Smith MP (Lab, Pontypridd) has asked the Department for Work and Pensions when it plans to publish its White Paper on improving support for disabled people.</p> <p>In response the Minister for Disabled People, Justin Tomlinson MP (Con, Swindon North) said:</p> <p><i>“Improving support for disabled people and people with health conditions to get into and stay in work is a key priority for Government. The Secretary of State has outlined that he is starting a new conversation with disabled people and people with health conditions, their representatives, healthcare professionals and employers. He is listening to all of their ideas and this will help inform our plans. These will be set out in due course.”</i></p>
<p><u>Oral question on the provision of apprenticeships for disabled people</u></p>	<p>Shadow Education Minister, Gordon Marsden MP (Lab, Blackpool South) has used an oral question to the Department for Education to ask about the number of disabled people undertaking apprenticeships. He said that The Government want to promote apprenticeships in post-16 training and colleges, yet the proportion of apprentices with learning difficulties or disabilities decreased from 11% to 8% between 2010 and 2013. He asked if the Minister would be able to specifically guarantee decent outcomes for young people with disabilities?</p> <p>In response the Minister of State for Skills, Nick Boles MP (Con, Grantham and Stamford) said:</p> <p><i>“I recently had an excellent meeting, facilitated by my hon. Friend the Member for Bedford (Richard Fuller, Con), with groups representing deaf people, and I will shortly be holding a round table with groups representing people with other kinds of disability. It is essential to ensure that everyone can benefit from the opportunity of apprenticeships and other forms of technical education, and we are determined to do that.”</i></p>

Disability

Click on link for source

Item	Summary
<u>Written question on the prosecution of disability hate crime</u>	<p>Jim Shannon MP (DUP, Strangford) has asked the Attorney General what progress his Department has made on providing disability hate crime training for all prosecutors; and what improvements this training will bring to conviction rates.</p> <p>In response the Attorney General, Jeremy Wright MP (Con, Kenilworth and Southam) said that:</p> <p><i>“Mandatory training relating to disability hate crime was delivered, across the Crown Prosecution Service, between September 2015 and January 2016. Prosecutors will deploy the knowledge gained from the training in the course of prosecutions thereby improving performance. The CPS are enhancing the support provided to prosecutors in dealing with crimes committed against disabled people. They are reviewing their policy and legal guidance on disability hate crime, which will provide assurance to the public of how the CPS intends to deal with such crimes.”</i></p>

Charity

Click on link for source

Item	Summary
<u>Government publishes its response to the Public Administration Select Committee report The 2015 charity fundraising controversy: lessons for trustees, the Charity Commission, and regulators</u>	<p>The Government has published its response to the House of Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Reform Select Committee’s report on the 2015 charity fundraising controversy. The Committee’s original inquiry and report, published in January 2016, were launched in the aftermath of the death of Olive Cooke, whose suicide was linked to reports she received hundreds of fundraising requests a month.</p> <p>Throughout its response the Government reiterates that this represents the sectors ‘last chance’ at self-regulation and it ‘notes’ the recommendation that the Government should not be ‘deterred’ from using its reserve powers to introduce statutory regulation of fundraising as set out in the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2015 if necessary.</p> <p>The Committee’s recommendation on the proposed preference service stated:</p> <p>The key Committee recommendation and Government response on the preference service and opt-ins is:</p> <p><i>“We are not persuaded of the case for a new fundraising telephone preference service. It would duplicate the function of the existing Telephone Preference Service (TPS), and add</i></p>

	<p><i>limitations to the activity of charities that do not exist for any other sector. If a new preference service is to be introduced, the new fundraising regulator should urgently seek to discuss with the Information Commissioner how the new telephone preference service can work alongside TPS, without creating conflict and confusion in the minds of the public.”</i></p> <p>To which the Government responded:</p> <p><i>“The Government supports the Fundraising Preference Service (FPS) which will give people who feel inundated by fundraising requests a simple way to opt out of everything. It may also give more nuanced options to remain opted in contact with those charities a person genuinely supports. The details of this are currently being worked out by a sector-led working group. The FPS will cut across all direct channels, including telephone, text message and mail and will therefore not simply duplicate existing services. It will also address the issue that other services, such as the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) and Mail Preference Service (MPS), were often ignored in the past and are not an effective way of removing consent across a number of fundraising channels. Finally, while such limitations may not exist for other sectors, the need arises because people involuntarily find themselves subscribed to multiple lists following ongoing poor practice such as data sharing and selling without consent.”</i></p>
<p><u>Government postpones the implementation of the anti-lobbying clause in grant agreements</u></p>	<p>The Cabinet Office has announced that it will delay the implementation of the proposed anti-lobbying clause in Government grant agreements. The new measure, which was first announced in February, is intended to stop organisations from using Government money to lobby Government or Parliament and was due to come into effect from 1st May.</p> <p>The Cabinet Office has said that it is currently considering the comments of all interested parties ahead of the introduction into grant agreements and is pausing the implementation whilst this is on-going. No new date has been given for the implementation and the Government have said that issue revised guidance before the clause comes into use.</p> <p><u>Speaking in Parliament</u> after the delay in implementation was announced the responsible minister, Matthew Hancock MP (Con, West Suffolk), robustly defended the proposed policy, saying ‘We are pausing on implementation, but we are committed to ensuring that taxpayers’ money is used for the good causes for which it is intended and not wasted on Government lobbying Government’.</p>
<p><u>Written question on the Equality Impact Assessment for the anti-lobbying clause of Government grants</u></p>	<p>Margaret Hodge MP (Lab, Barking) has asked the Cabinet Office if it has conducted an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of the policy of including an anti-lobbying clause in government grant agreements.</p>

	<p>In response the Cabinet Office Minister, Matthew Hancock MP (Con, West Suffolk) that Government departments are currently working with grant recipients on the implementation of the guidance, in relation to the new grants clause. This will include a consideration of equality impact issues, which will be reported centrally to the Cabinet Office for assessment, with regards to finalising the central policy by 1 May 2016.</p> <p>This answer was published before the Cabinet Office announced it was delaying the implementation of the new clause (see item above).</p>
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Health and Social Care

Click on Link for Source

Item	Summary
<p><u>Written question on social services financing</u></p>	<p>Derek Twigg MP (Lab, Halton) has asked the Department for Communities and Local Government what estimate it has made of the number of local authorities expected to have a shortfall in adult social care funding after implementation of the two per cent social care precept.</p> <p>In response the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP (con, Nuneaton) said that no such estimate has been made. Local authorities have the freedom and flexibility to prioritise and make their own decisions on how they spend their budgets and meet their statutory duties (including in relation to adult social care). The Government has provided a package of support of up to £3.5 billion to ensure councils are able to support up to some of their older and most vulnerable residents. He pointed out that this funding is greater than the Local Government Association's £2.9 billion estimate set out in their Spending Review submission.</p>

Consultations

Title: Older people with social care needs and multiple long-term conditions: Quality Standard consultation

Source: NICE

Deadline for written evidence: 24 May 2016

NICE have opened a consultation for a Quality Standard on the planning and delivery of coordinated, person centred social care and support for older people with social care needs and multiple long-term conditions. The quality standard is focused on people aged over 65, but it may also be relevant to some people younger than 65 who have complex needs. It includes older people living in their own homes, in specialist settings or in care homes

Further details can be found [here](#)

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