

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](#).

**Television**

*Click on link for source*

<p><u>'Subtitle It! clause' gains royal assent</u></p>	<p>Having been passed in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords before the dissolution of Parliament, The Digital Economy Bill received royal assent on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 and is now the Digital Economy Act 2017. Minister of State for Digital and Culture, Matt Hancock MP (Con, West Suffolk), said:</p> <p><i>"I'm delighted the Digital Economy Act has become law. This legislation will help build a more connected and stronger economy. The Act will enable major improvements in broadband rollout, better support for consumers, better protection for children on the Internet, and further transformation of government services."</i></p> <p>The 'Subtitle It!' amendment was added to the Bill during its passage through Parliament. The amendment gives the Government the power to create a statutory code for the provision of subtitles on on-demand services. During the first debate at ping-pong stage in the House of Commons, Matt Hancock said:</p> <p><i>"Lords amendment 241 concerns the accessibility of on-demand programmes. We debated that on Report in this House last November. I pay tribute to Action on Hearing Loss as well as to the many hon. Members who have pressed this matter. Ofcom will now have the power to ensure that subtitles or other appropriate provision is put in place."</i></p> <p>Ofcom will begin a consultation over the summer on the contents of the statutory code which will set the final requirements for the volume of subtitles which on-demand providers will be required to offer. Action on Hearing Loss will engage with this consultation process.</p>
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## General

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<p><b>UK General Election has been called</b></p>	<p>The UK will now hold a general election on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This was called by Prime Minister Theresa May MP (Con., Maidenhead). The General Election process will take place along the following format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> – Dissolution of Parliament. From this point, there will be no standing MPs and all MPs must stand for election again. The same is true of the Commons speaker. The House of Lords remains intact, but all business is concluded by the Dissolution of Parliament.</li><li>• <b>11<sup>th</sup> May</b> – Deadline for the delivery of nomination papers to Returning Officer and deadline for candidates to withdraw.</li><li>• <b>22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b> – Deadline for people to register to vote, followed by the deadline for people for postal votes. Additionally, if someone has an existing proxy vote arrangement, this is the deadline for changing this arrangement.</li><li>• <b>31<sup>st</sup> May</b> – Deadline for applying for a new proxy vote.</li><li>• <b>8<sup>th</sup> June</b> – Polling day. Polls will be open between 7am and 10pm. Counting will begin once polls are closed.</li><li>• <b>13<sup>th</sup> June</b> - Parliament is expected to return for the election of a new Speaker. The speaker must be elected on the first day that the house meets after the general election.</li><li>• <b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b> – State Opening of Parliament including the Queen’s Speech.</li></ul> <p>During this period, the Transparency of Lobbying, Third Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act 2014 is in effect and must be adhered to by not for profit organisations who undertake campaigning work. Guidance from <a href="#">NCVO</a> and the <a href="#">Charity Commission</a> exist to help charities comply with this law.</p> <p>The Policy and Campaigns team have compiled a document which maps the requirements of the legislation against our campaigning work. This paper sets out the reasons why Action on Hearing Loss will not be registering with the Electoral Commission as a third party campaigner.</p>
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## Disability

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<p><a href="#">London Assembly reports ‘considerable difficulty’ for disabled people accessing the support they require</a></p>	<p>The London Assembly Health Committee published recommendations on how the Mayor of London can better support the mental health of disabled and Deaf people. They recommend that:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor should help commission pan-London communications support for Deaf Londoners...</li> <li>• The Mayor and London Health Board should address issues around employment, housing, crime and transport to ensure people are given control and choice over their lives.</li> <li>• The Mayor and London Health Board should capture data on physical and sensory impairment across London to assess need.</li> </ul> <p>Dr Onkar Sahota AM (Lab, Ealing and Hillingdon), Chair of the Health Committee, says:</p> <p><i>“It’s appalling that such a major health inequality exists within the health system, especially when there are quick wins, which could make a significant difference to the lives of disabled people and Deaf people. Simple changes, like providing a mobile number to text when a Deaf person is in a crisis situation could open up services.”</i></p> <p>This report was developed with consultation input from a variety of charities including Action on Hearing Loss.</p>
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## **Health and Social Care**

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<p><u><a href="#">Written question regarding deaf participation in sports</a></u></p>	<p>Margaret Ferrier MP (SNP, Rutherglen and Hamilton West) asked the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taken to support deaf people who participate in sports. She also asked what funding the Department plans to provide for UK teams to compete in the Deaflympics in the future, and how much lottery funding had been allocated for it in each of the last three years (grouped question).</p> <p>Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Sport, Tracey Crouch MP (Con, Chatham and Aylesford) said that Sport England is currently in discussions with National Disability Sports Organisations including UK Deaf Sport about the role they can play to support delivery of Government’s strategy for sports and physical activity (Sporting Future). Sporting future is focused in tackling inactivity in priority groups, such as disabled people. She went on to say that:</p> <p><i>“Between 2014 and 2017 Sport England is investing £365,791 in UK Deaf Sport to provide disability and impairment specific expertise to create more opportunities for deaf people to play sport regularly. This was an increase of £83,817 (30%) from its 2011-2014 investment.”</i></p>
<p><u><a href="#">Health committee publishes its report on</a></u></p>	<p>This report is the first phase of the inquiry into the effect of Brexit has on all aspects of the UK’s health and social care sector. It is</p>

[the effect of Brexit on Health and Social Care](#)

expected that after the general election the successor committee will return to this issue for further enquiry.

**Preparation** – the committee found concerns that inadequate resources were being given to preparation and resource planning for Brexit, and that the Department of Health was not planning to be active enough in negotiations considering the UK and EU differences in what is called ‘health policy’.

**Workforce** – 60,000 people from EU countries outside the UK work in the English NHS, and 90,000 in adult social care. It is vital that we retain the presence of EU staff in health and social care. Staff are currently experiencing a moral impact over uncertainty over their future, and the UK needs to ensure its ability to recruit and retain the ‘best and brightest’ across the world. The committee:

*“... welcome the opportunity for the UK to negotiate a more pragmatic approach to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications directive within the British regulatory model and we make recommendations about how that might be achieved.”*

**Reciprocal healthcare** - the impact to people who rely on the EU’s reciprocal healthcare arrangements should not be underestimated. Travellers and holiday makers could lose cheap and easily accessible care provided under the EHIC and retired British citizens in the EU, disabled people and people with multiple conditions could face particular challenges. The committee:

*“We welcome the Government’s signal that they wish to prioritise and resolve the existing rights of all R-EU nationals resident in the UK and UK nationals resident in the R-EU. We call on both sides of the negotiation to prioritise and resolve this matter at the earliest opportunity.”*

**Employment**

*Click on link for source*

[Written question on the employment status of people with hearing loss](#)

Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness, Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Lab, Poplar and Limehouse) has asked the Department for Work and Pensions for the proportion of people with hearing loss who are in employment, unemployed and economically inactive, in each of the last year for which figures are available. He also asked for the same figures for people who list hearing loss as their primary medical condition (reflecting the way the status are compiled through the Labour Force Survey.

The Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work, Penny Mordaunt MP (Con, Portsmouth North) responded providing the figures requested. These showed that in 2016 70% of people who list hearing loss as their primary medical condition

	<p>were in employment, with 4.8% unemployed and 25.2% economically inactive. For all those with hearing loss the employment rate was 47%, with 4% unemployed and 49% economically inactive.</p>
<p><u>Question regarding restrictions on disabled peoples bus passes</u></p>	<p>Steve McCabe (Lab, Birmingham Sell Oak) asks the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on the effect of time restrictions on the disabled person's bus pass had had on the ability of disabled people to access employment.</p> <p>Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department of Transport) Andrew Jones MP (Con., Harrogate and Knaresborough) replied that the Government does engage with the DWP and other Departments and local authorities on this issue. He claimed the statutory times were specifically set out in the Transport Act in 2000 with a view to give access to off-peak travel when there is likely to be unused transport capacity. He claims that despite the current economic climate meaning there are no plans to extend the statutory scheme:</p> <p><i>"It remains very much open to each local authority to decide whether to offer its residents local concessions over and above the statutory minimum, including peak hour concessions."</i></p>

## 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



