

18 June 2013

Dear All,

As you may already be aware, Sir Malcolm Bruce MP gained 14th place in the Private Member's Bill Ballot on 16 May. He intends to table a Private Member's Bill on deafness, hearing loss and BSL issues. Many organisations submitted suggestions as to what might be the focus of the bill.

The working short title for the bill is "**Communication Support (Deafness) Bill**". The short title and long title will be formally submitted early next week.

The main aim of the bill is to establish a body that oversees communication skills training, across all forms of need, tuition of BSL teaching and supports children who are deaf or have a hearing loss in schools.

Although tabling a bill of this sort could potentially benefit people who are deaf or have a hearing loss, being 14th in the list reduces the chance of a full and proper "second reading" Without this, it will not get into the critical "committee stage The bill will be tabled (*submitted to Parliament*) tomorrow. The second reading will take place on 25th October this will allow more time for drafting, unfortunately Sir Malcolm is placed 3rd on the day.

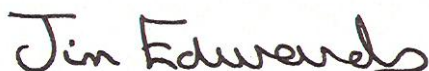
Once the final short and long titles are confirmed, Sir Malcolm and officials will start drafting the bill. This will be based on the range of ideas submitted. They may consult various people from the wider deafness sector for advice, as required.

From July up to the second reading, the sector will need to prepare a coordinated campaign plan, in line with Sir Malcolm's advice, aiming at two specific areas:

- To lobby the relevant government department to support the bill (we should know which department it will be soon); and
- To lobby MPs, with a goal of at least 100 MPs supporting the bill (this is the only way to guarantee that MPs will vote on the bill, to make it law).

So for now, we wait for confirmation of the titles, the date for the second reading and more detail on the bill so we can both test and garner support. Thank you for your contribution so far and for your patience while we await further news from Sir Malcolm.

Yours



Jim Edwards

Chair UKCoD