



SCOTLAND'S DEMOCRATIC DEAFICIT A MODEL SIGNING PARLIAMENT

Graham H. Turner & Stefanie Reher



- **Introductions:** Organisers, SUII, SPICe
- <https://www.scottishinsight.ac.uk/Programmes/ThemedCall201819/DemocraticDeaficit.aspx>
- **@DemDeaficit #DemocraticDeaficit**
- **Housekeeping & Communication**
 - Emergencies
 - Comfort breaks & refreshments – any time
 - Multimodal interaction
 - Microphones & text
 - Role of the Chair
 - Filming bit.ly/2XfFAFM

The project

- **May 31st (Edinburgh)**
 - This event focused on **WHY** we are talking about the idea of a ‘Signing Parliament’? Do BSL users feel well represented in society? Are changes ‘in the air’ that make now a good time to discuss this question?
- **August 23rd (Glasgow)**
 - Our second workshop asks **WHAT** might be the best way to bring BSL users’ views forward in democratic processes? Can we take inspiration from other communities in Scotland (eg Gaelic speakers) or Deaf communities around the world?
- **November 22nd (today!)**
 - In our final workshop, we address the question of **HOW** the changes you want to see could really happen. What action is needed and who needs to take it?

Today's Programme

- 10.00** Introduction to today – Graham Turner
- 10.30** *Implications and applications: What's needed from a Scottish Government perspective?* – Frankie Mclean
- 11.00** Working groups: #1
SHAPING A REPRESENTATIVE BODY
- 12.00** Plenary for groups' feedback
- 12.20** Lunch
- 1.20** Reflections and projections from Debra Wherrett (Chair)
- 1.35** *Prototype* – Ben Fletcher
- 2.00** Working groups: #2
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, ACTION & RESPONSIBILITIES
- 3.00** Plenary for groups' feedback
- 3.20** Coffee
- 3.50** *Towards a Signing Parliament* – Jeff McWhinney
- 4.10** Outcomes and forward strategy – All
- 4.30** Close



WHEN DECIDES



Two levels

1. Mainstream politics

(national, regional, local)

**2. Deaf/BSL community
politics & policy**



What's our task today?

We need:

- Social justice and equal participation for deaf signers in wider society
- Policy that takes the views of the BSL community into account
- Practical ways to deliver the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015

We must focus on achieving **practical outcomes** from all these meetings

That means we must design a body (a 'Signing Parliament') that will be seen as USEFUL and LEGITIMATE from as many perspectives as possible.

WHAT YOU SAY TODAY MATTERS, because

- The Scottish Government is plainly attentive to what's going on here (look at Frankie Mclean and Maree Todd's participation), and
- They **HAVE TO** come up with **SOME** mechanism/structure/body for generating the next BSL National Plan.

- 3 equal groups, 3 Deaf chairs - Lilian, Mark, John B
- A team of experts in the room
- Each group has a notetaker who doesn't make comments, just captures key points. The chair will use the notes to summarise for us all at the end of the session.

MORNING

- MODEL 1. an elected group (ie the kind of Signing Parliament I sketched at event #1);
- MODEL 2. a selected group (where the Government fundamentally 'licences' the resulting body, and therefore controls the selection process for membership of that body – Bord na Gaidhlig and the BSL NAG were both selected through a process 'owned' by the Government);
- MODEL 3. a randomly-generated group (ie some form of Citizen's Assembly kind of arrangement)?
- QUESTION: "What's good, bad, problematic about that model? If you don't like it, *then what would you prefer?*"

- 3 equal groups, 3 Deaf chairs - Lilian, Mark, John B
- A team of experts in the room
- Each group has a notetaker who doesn't make comments, just captures key points. The chair will use the notes to summarise for us all at the end of the session.

AFTERNOON

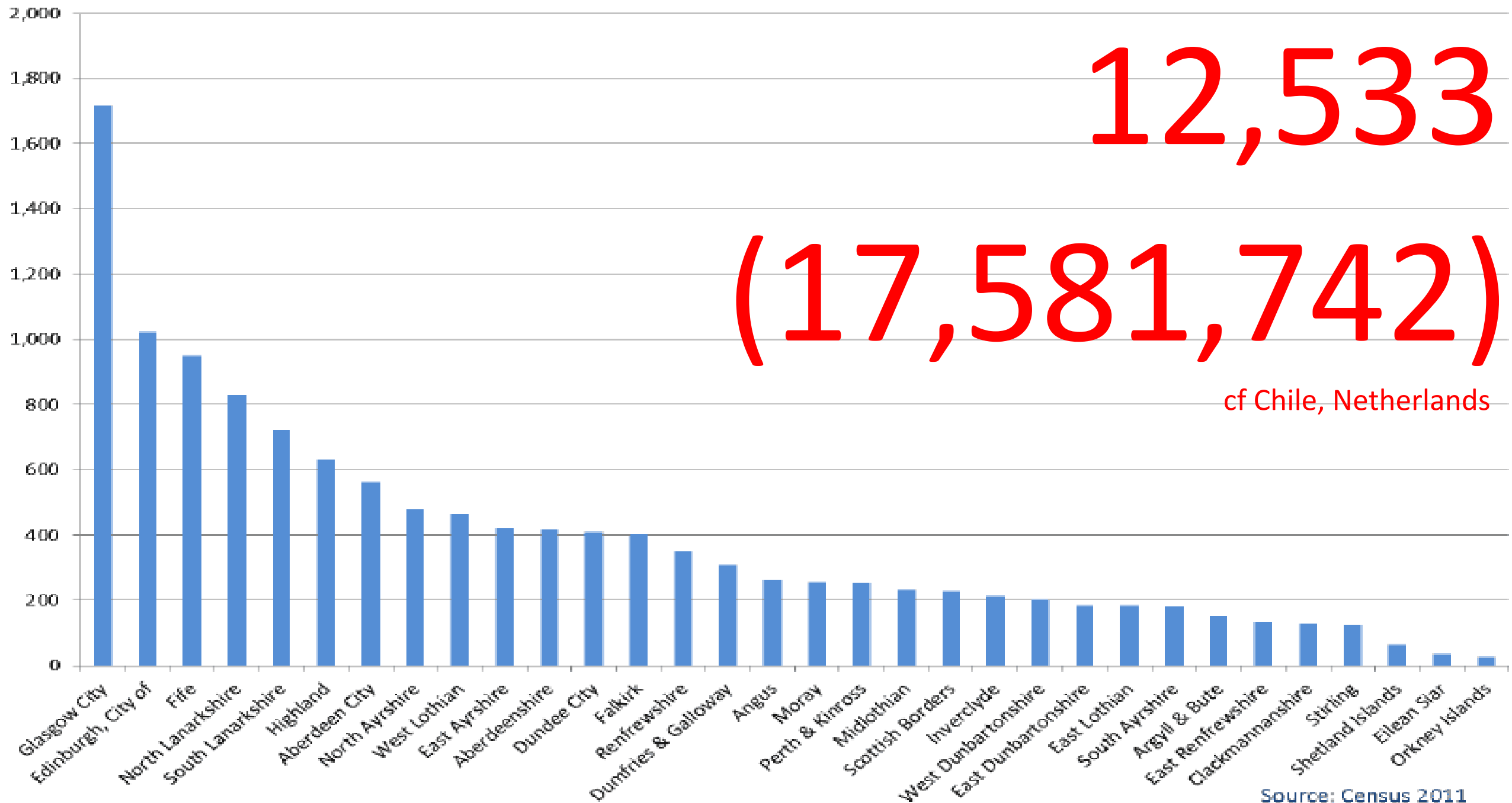
- What are the top actions that should be taken to ensure the best possible signing community engagement in mainstream decision-making?
 - i. Local Authority
 - ii. Holyrood
 - iii. Westminster

Today's Programme

- 10.00 Introduction to today – Graham Turner
- 10.30 *Implications and applications: What's needed from a Scottish Government perspective?* – Frankie Mclean
- 11.00 Working groups: #1
SHAPING A REPRESENTATIVE BODY
- 12.00 Plenary for groups' feedback
- 12.20 **Lunch**
- 1.20 Reflections and projections from Debra Wherrett (Chair)
- 1.35 *Prototype* – Ben Fletcher
- 2.00 Working groups: #2
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION, ACTION & RESPONSIBILITIES
- 3.00 Plenary for groups' feedback
- 3.20 **Coffee**
- 3.50 *Towards a Signing Parliament* – Jeff McWhinney
- 4.10 Outcomes and forward strategy – All
- 4.30 Close



Number of users



cf Chile, Netherlands

Scotland's Census 2011 - National Records of Scotland:

Long-term health conditions by language other than English used at home (table DC3208SC)

Scotland								
Language (Flat)		All people aged 3 and over	English only	Gaelic	Scots	British Sign Language	Polish	Other
Nature of health condition : deaf or partially								
All people aged 3		5118223	4740547	24974	55817	12533	54186	230166
No condition		3539742	3242084	17121	30770	5640	49323	194804
One or more		1578481	1498463	7853	25047	6893	4863	35362
Deafness or		350492	333635	2089	6207	3729	456	4376
Blindness or		125370	118727	819	2370	663	439	2352
Learning disability		25872	23361	66	255	682	69	1439
Learning difficulty		105874	99932	333	1597	833	475	2704
Developmental		31209	28843	77	388	468	103	1330
Physical disability		354390	338484	1999	5935	1547	575	5850
Mental health		232833	221789	696	3794	1044	603	4907
Other condition		983595	932011	4916	16597	2879	3129	24063