

## **IX MINISTRY AND DEAF CONGREGATIONS ACT (ACT IX 2017)**

*Edinburgh, 24 May 2017, Session IV*

The General Assembly enact and ordain as follows:

1. A person seeking to be appointed to work as a minister for a congregation of deaf people (as such congregations are specified in the Congregations of Deaf People Regulations (Regs II 2017)) shall fulfil all of the following conditions:
  - (a) he or she shall be a member of the Church of Scotland in full communion, failing which he or she shall be a person who would qualify to receive a Certificate of Eligibility under the Admission and Readmission of Ministers Act (Act IX 2002) were he or she to undergo that process;
  - (b) he or she shall possess communication skills to a level described by the National Occupational Standard CFALANG4.6, i.e. to “Understand Complex Signed Language in a Wide Range of Work Situations”, failing which he or she shall be a person who has attained communication skills to a level CFALANG4.5, i.e. to “Understand Extended Signed Language in a Wide Range of Familiar or Work Situations”, in which latter case he or she shall be appointed subject to a condition of working to improve signed language skills up to CFALANG4.6 within a specified timescale, the appropriate course or method being funded by the Ministries Council;
  - (c) he or she shall have fulfilled as a minimum the requirements for academic study specified in sections 9 and 10 of the Ordained Local Ministry Act (Act IX 2011); and
  - (d) he or she shall be able to demonstrate practical experience of working with the deaf community for a total period of at least three years in the last five years.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, a person appointed to work as a minister for a congregation of deaf people in terms of this Act shall be restricted to this ministry, unless he or she is otherwise qualified to undertake other forms of ministry consistent with the Ministry Act (Act II 2000)\*.
3. The Missionaries among Deaf People Act (Act XXIII 1969) is hereby repealed.

\*If the Registration of Ministries Overture is converted into a Standing Law of the Church by the General Assembly of 2017, then on 1.1.18 replace the words “the Ministry Act (Act II 2000)” with the words “the Registration of Ministry Act (Act II 2017)”.