**EBU Questionnaire on Article 26: Habilitation and Rehabilitation**

# Law and Policy

* 1. Is there a legal right to habilitation and rehabilitation services in your country? Please describe relevant laws and give links to further information for:

1. Health
2. Blind persons
3. Partially sighted persons

There are no legal rights. Each local authority has its own standards and good practice with an individual entitled to various health provisions under health and social care.

1. Education
2. Blind persons
3. Partially sighted persons

Education would be placed under the Equality Standards <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/research-and-policy/equality-and-diversity/guides/equality-standards/> and

Disability Rights <https://beta.gov.scot/policies/social-security/benefits-disabled-people-ill-health/>

1. Employment – equal opportunities – quote the employment service
2. Blind persons
3. Partially sighted persons

RNIB Scotland supports blind and partially sighted people who

are looking for work, starting work or want help to keep their job.

We've developed different services in different towns throughout

Scotland to help people in the ways they tell us they want.

Other services include: assessment towards employment, pre-

employment courses and employment ‘hubs’

<http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland/employment-support>

1. Social Services – equality standards
2. Blind persons
3. Partially sighted persons

Equality Standards <https://www.lawscot.org.uk/research-and-policy/equality-and-diversity/guides/equality-standards/>

* 1. Is there a legal right to assistive technology, aids and equipment?

No – but there is good practice which varies depending on the local authority area.

1. Blind persons
2. Partially sighted persons
   1. Do laws on rehabilitation recognise and support participation in all aspects of community life? Yes under equal opportunities act
3. Blind persons
4. Partially sighted persons

Yes, under the Equal Opportunities Act <https://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/home/the-law/equal-opportunity-act>

* 1. Are there policies on habilitation and rehabilitation services for people who are blind or partially sighted?

1. For children who are
2. Blind persons
3. Partially sighted persons
4. For adults of working age who are
5. Blind persons
6. Partially sighted persons
7. For older people who are
8. Blind persons
9. Partially sighted persons

In relation to a, b and c - our RNIB Edinburgh and Lothians section provides an assessment and care management service for blind and partially sighted children and adults on behalf of the local authorities in Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian (West Lothian provides its own services in this particular field).

Our rehabilitation team also provides specialist assessment, training, information and advice about mobility, communication, independent living skills and low vision assessments.

Each local authority also provides these services but varies in each local authority area.

* 1. Do policies recognise the importance of a personalised multidisciplinary assessment of each individual´s needs and circumstances? Please describe the policies and give web links to more information, for people who are:

1. Blind persons
2. Partially sighted persons

The Health and Social Care Delivery Plan sets out a series of key actions for government and local health and care services to deliver better patient care and better population health: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Policy/HSC-DeliveryPlan>

The Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002 <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/5/contents>

* 1. Are there policies on developing peer support for habilitation and rehabilitation?

1. For children (please also include policies on family support) who are
2. Blind
3. Partially sighted
4. For people of working age who are
5. Blind persons
6. Partially sighted persons
7. For older people who are
8. Blind persons
9. Partially sighted persons

Yes to all – using the examples of peer support below, each group/network has its own policy of support.

* 1. Are there resources for peer support services? Please describe these and give web links where possible for people who are

1. Blind persons
2. Partially sighted persons

There are many examples of peer support services in Scotland. To give examples, they include Connect <http://www.rnib.org.uk/rnibconnect> and Haggeye <http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland/youth-engagement>.

We also offer practical and emotional support through our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers to help people come to terms with sight loss in different parts of Scotland. Our Need to Talk service can offer free counselling and confidence building to people living in Western Scotland.

* 1. Do blind and visually impaired people and their organisations fully participate as equal partners in the development of policies and standards for habilitation and rehabilitation services?

Please give details for people who are

1. Blind persons
2. Partially sighted persons

Yes, under our Equal Opportunities policy.

# Access to Habilitation and Rehabilitation

*Support Services*

* 1. Are there dedicated services for both partially sighted and blind people that meet their distinct needs? Are these habilitation and rehabilitation services focussed on supporting independent living in the community living for people who are:

1. Partially sighted persons
2. Blind persons

Yes, through RNIB’s rehabilitation and social work services <http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland-how-we-can-help/social-work>

* 1. What is the full range of services in your country, for

1. Blind persons
2. Partially sighted persons

There is a vast array of services available throughout Scotland depending on which local authority area you are based in and what funding is available to third sector organisations within that area. Support from NES <http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/>, Fife Society for the Blind <http://www.fifesociety.com/> and RNIB Scotland <http://www.rnib.org.uk/scotland/how-we-can-help>

* 1. How is eligibility determined to access habilitation and rehabilitation services for

1. Blind persons
2. Partially sighted persons

There is no eligibility criteria in Scotland

* 1. Who provides habilitation and rehabilitation services (for example, dedicated blindness and low vision rehabilitation and support centres, hospitals (private and public), NGOs)?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

There are various providers of habilitation and rehabilitation services across Scotland, including RNIB Scotland, the third sector and health and social care teams in each local authority.

* 1. Are services available locally in all parts of the country?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

Yes - in Scotland there is an Eye Clinic Liaison Officer in each local authority except for Shetland

* 1. How are services funded (for example, free, paid for by the user, means tested)?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

Services are either free or paid for by the a local authority contract via RNIB Scotland – for example, in Edinburgh, Mid and West Lothian, RNIB Scotland provides a direct service to blind and partially sighted persons as they are directly responsible through a contract agreement with the local authority.

* 1. If services are not free have any problems of affordability been reported?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

N/A

* 1. Are services available for all age groups: children, adults and older people?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

Yes, services are available for each age group

*Access to Equipment and Technologies*

* 1. The CRPD states that governments should make sure disabled people know about aids, technology and assistive devices and how to use them. How is this done in your country?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

This work is done locally through each local authority, including RNIB. RNIB Scotland provides assistance and purchases of equipment and technology through Online Today for example.

* 1. What training is provided in the use of equipment and technology?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

Online Today provides a variety of training with Online Today now covering the whole of the UK.

* 1. How is eligibility for equipment, technology and training determined?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

There is no eligibility criteria.

* 1. How are aids, equipment and technology funded (for example, free, paid for by the user, means tested)?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

Aids, equipment and technology is funded via RNIB or as part of a local authority contract

* 1. If services are not free have any problems of affordability been reported?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

Most services provided are free or funded, so there are no problems to encounter.

* 1. Are there any limitations on the choice of equipment? What are these?

1. For blind persons
2. For partially sighted persons

There are no limitations, with a wide range of equipment available

# Development of the Competence of Professionals

* 1. Are there training programmes for rehabilitation professionals? Please describe these (If there is accredited training, the qualifications recognised, where people are trained, to what level etc.)

Yes, there are training programmes for rehabilitation professionals, including mobility rehab and competency. Each programme is accredited and the location of this training can depend on each local authority.

* 1. Please describe how rehabilitation professionals are trained. Does training emphasise meeting needs on an individual basis?

A specific example cannot be given as it depends on where the training is being held as it can vary in each local authority area.

* 1. Does professional training incorporate human rights perspectives?

Yes

* 1. Additional comments on professional training

# Your Organisation

* 1. Does your organisation represent both blind and partially sighted people in your country?

Yes, RNIB Scotland does represent both blind and partially sighted people.

* 1. What are the conditions for someone with visual impairment to become a member of your organisation or use its services? Please be as specific as possible both for blind and partially sighted people.

RNIB Scotland welcomes any member of the public to join our Connect Community <http://www.rnib.org.uk/rnibconnect>

* 1. Is this strictly applied, or is there more flexibility in practice?

There is a flexible practice throughout Scotland

* 1. Is there another organisation that a person with visual impairment can turn to if they cannot affiliate to your organisation or if you cannot meet their needs? Please give as many details as possible.

There are many other local societies across Scotland that offer support, for example Fife society <http://www.fifesociety.com/>.

* 1. How is your organisation involved in the implementation of the right to habilitation and rehabilitation support services and programmes for both blind people and people with partial sight? Please give as much detail as possible, especially regarding:

1. policies and standards
2. monitoring of implementation
3. actions to ensure that dedicated services are in place that meet the distinct needs of blind and partially sighted people.
4. actual provision of services to blind and partially sighted people and the rights that people with visual impairment have to services.

In answer to all the above, RNIB Scotland are directly responsible for all policies and standards, monitoring of implementation, actions to ensure that dedicated services are in place and actual provision of services.

This also links to local contracts with local authorities which can depend on what is available.

* 1. Is there an officer or expert appointed in your organisation to work on partial sight matters? Please describe.

The RNIB Scotland rehabilitation team provides specialist assessment, training, information and advice about mobility, communication, independent living skills and low vision assessments.

* 1. What actions is your organisation taking to implement the right to rehabilitation services with dedicated, distinct services for blind people and people who have low vision, and to ensure that these services are/will be available in practice? Please give details (examples: lobbying, cooperation with rehabilitation centres, setting up support services, cooperation with universities to develop specific training for rehabilitation experts etc.)

RNIB Scotland has various contracts with local authorities, including Edinburgh, Mid and West Lothian.

We work closely with the Scottish Parliament in raising important issues through the Cross Party Group on Visual Impairment, for example.

We work closely with the eye care team in the Scottish Government to ensure that the new CVI form asks the right questions to support rehabilitation and through the Eye care review and See Hear Strategy.

Various projects have taken place with Universities including Edinburgh.

* 1. How does your organisation inform people with visual impairments and the general public about living with blindness and partial sight? (Examples: a website, a national helpline, information stands in hospitals, campaigns, etc.)

There are various ways RNIB Scotland informs the public, it includes the newsletter ‘Connect’, website, social media, national telephone helpline and various political campaigns including party conferences.

* 1. How does your organisation inform others about the available habilitation and rehabilitation and support services for blind and partially sighted people?

As above

* 1. In what way is your organisation working with specialised ophthalmologists, optometrists, rehabilitation centres, and teachers, residential homes for older people etc. to prevent, inform and support people with visual impairment?

RNIB Scotland meets with all organisations about various topics including residential homes, sheltered housing, local authorities, museums, art galleries and bus companies.

* 1. Is your organisation involved in the Vision 2020 initiative in your country?

Yes, Ken Reid is the representative for RNIB Scotland.

* 1. Are you familiar with the EBU standards for low vision services in Europe toolkit for implementing the right of partially sighted people to the services they need? How helpful is this resource document?

No

* 1. What, if any, type of support would you like to have to implement UNCRPD article 26 for blind and partially sighted people? Be as specific as possible.

It would be useful to receive more training in relation to Article 26

* 1. If you compare the current situation with five years ago, regarding the implementation of the right to rehabilitation services for blind people and for people with partial sight, would you say that in your country:

1. nothing has changed (explain )
2. The situation has worsened (explain why and how)
3. The situation has improved (explain why and how)

Standards have been raised within the rehabilitation team which is now under a UK remit.

Is further action needed in your country? If yes, please explain what needs to be done.

4.15 Please send any articles, material, training, standards, protocols, or links that you feel could perhaps serve your colleagues in other EBU countries aiming at high standards services for everyone with sight loss.

Thank you so much for participating in this EBU survey on UNCRPD Article 26 on habilitation and rehabilitation.

The results and report will be disseminated early 2018.