

## Local

# Deaf pupils 'missing out' warns campaigner

8 May 2014 11.00am.

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Too many young deaf people are falling behind at school and missing out on higher education and job opportunities, a Dundee campaigner has warned.

Student Nicola Grant, 22, was speaking in the wake of the launch of a report by the National Deaf Children's Society on the difficulties people with hearing loss face.

Almost one in 10 deaf pupils leave school with no qualifications and only one in four go to university.

Nicola said: "Deaf young people like me have ambitions and want to succeed just as much as other young people, but we are not being given the same opportunities to achieve our potential.

"In some places a lack of support can mean deaf young people's talent is wasted. I hope the Scottish Government listen and take action."

Her call is being supported by Dundee-based MSP Jenny Marra, who met Nicola at the Scottish Parliament.

Ms Marra said: "Every young person in Scotland should have the same opportunities to succeed in learning, life and work.

"It is clear we need to take action to make this a reality in Scotland. This means addressing the specific needs of our deaf young people and tackling the inequalities that persist for this group."

Nicola and fellow deaf campaigner Glen Hodgkinson had the chance to put their case directly to Learning Minister Alasdair Allan, who said the Government wanted to see the attainment gap closed.

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