

## Response ID ANON-PYJC-FRHS-9

Submitted to Sign Language Bill - Call for Evidence  
Submitted on 2025-04-24 03:20:42

### Consent and introduction

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Please confirm you have read the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee privacy notice by clicking the button below.

I have read the privacy notice

Do you consent to your submission being published on the Committee's website and included in the Committee's report?

Yes, publish in full.

### Clause 1

Do you feel Clause 1 goes far enough in formally recognising BSL and ISL as languages of Northern Ireland?

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

Just recognising BSL and ISL isn't enough and there should be initiatives for those that don't have to use BSL/ISL on a daily basis to encourage a more inclusive society showing acceptance and understanding of others.

### Clause 2

Do you feel Clause 2 goes far enough in promoting the use of BSL and ISL and developing deaf culture?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

Promoting the use in the general population will help to show an inclusive culture and see it as normal in communities and promoting it in wider society would help lead the way forward for other nations.

Are there any other approaches (apart from providing for the availability of classes) that could help to meet the objective of the greater use and understanding of BSL and ISL?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

Have mandatory basic training across public sector and voluntary training for private sector and include BSL/ISL into other programmes for organisations that are monitored by a public sector committee, as this will help private sector business to consider sign language when it comes to inspections/awards i.e. NISCC inspections or funding schemes from the executive office.  
This should also be a subject in school just like French and Spanish are, as this allows young people to integrate it from a young age and there is an opportunity and need for cross departmental co-operation

### Clause 3

Do you think the duty placed on prescribed organisations to make the information and services accessible to members of the deaf community is sufficient?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

### Clause 4

Do you support the approach taken by Clause 4?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

It is good to have the list but it would be good to identify an action plan moving forward but ensuring they are held to it such as 5/10 year action plan, to allow for realistic changes to be done, one year can be very tokenistic and will be done just to say they have done it.

### Clause 5

Do you support the approach to consultation required in Clause 5?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

Ensuring to include prescribed and representatives from the deaf community is important and trying to integrate them into mainstream society is important as it can be seen that people from the deaf community stick together which is good as they are comfortable with their own community but would be great if we could all be one community. Young people need to be included in this as they are the future and will be taking over from us and every effort should be taken to have young people from deaf and non-deaf community involved in the conversations.

### Clause 6

Do you support the approach taken in this clause?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

But follow up needs to be done to ensure this is being done and could be done by individual departments and feedback to an multiple departmental groups which represents all departments regulates of ministers thinking they don't need to be involved

Do you feel there is anything else this Clause should include?

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

### Clause 7

Do you support the provision for the Department for Communities to make regulations detailed in Clause 7?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

The office of FM & DFM should also be involved and have this on their agenda to promote support across all parties and all communities in NI

Do you support the approach to consultation detailed in Clause 7?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

### Clause 8

Do you feel the level of consultation required in Clause 8 is sufficient?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

### Clause 9

Do you think evaluating the impact of the Bill in a report every five years is an appropriate length of time?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

### Clause 10

Do you support the creation of a scheme for accrediting BSL and ISL teachers?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

Do you support the creation of a scheme for accrediting BSL and ISL interpreters?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

### Clause 11

Do you agree with the definition of the deaf community provided for in the Bill?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer. Please outline what people or groups you think should be included or excluded and why.

Text box for entering additional information:

Young people in the general population - they will be able to integrate it throughout their lives and encourage others to take part as well as promoting change to society and culture

### Clause 12

Do you agree with the definition of BSL and ISL provided for in the Bill?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer. If you think there are any aspects missing, please outline what you think should be included.

Text box for entering additional information:

### Clause 13

Do you agree with the definition of “everyday reliance” provided in the Bill?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer. If you think there are any aspects missing, please outline what you think should be included.

Text box for entering additional information:

### Any other comments

Is there anything which you expected the Bill to make provision for which has not been included in the Bill?

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

If you have any other comments in relation to the Bill please tell us here.

Text box to enter additional details: