

Response ID ANON-PYJC-FRRA-1

Submitted to Sign Language Bill - Call for Evidence
Submitted on 2025-05-09 21:00:08

Consent and introduction

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

[REDACTED]

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 but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.

Clause 1

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

Not Answered

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

Clause 2

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

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

I feel that there should be

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:

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?

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

I believe that every single organisations need to provide information and services in accessible way that the deaf community can used. We should not have to wait for 2 weeks or more for an interpreter or BSL/ISL translation to become available. We should be able to access it at the same time as the information & service become available to the public. We do not need to be the second thought or forgotten about. Deaf community should not have to do the extra work to chase for information or services to be made accessible for them. It should already to be there. All organisations should be involved, not selected fews.

Clause 4

Do you support the approach taken by Clause 4?

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

Because prescribed organisations is not enough, who get to decided the lists of prescribed organisations and unprescribed organisations. I believe that all organisations that provide information and services should be made available/accessible for the Deaf community.

Clause 5

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

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

I refer back to my last answer to clause 4. Also who would be the deaf person or group that represent the deaf community? Will there be a voting in place for this or will deaf community members have opportunity to decide who they feel would be the right person or group to represent us?

Clause 6

Do you support the approach taken in this clause?

Not Answered

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

Same for clause 4 and 5-
Prescribed organisations need to be clear. Who is part of that list and why only selected few?

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

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

Everyone should be involved in that list- if they are offering services and information to members of public.

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:

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:

As long there is a fair process of choosing that deaf person or group to represent for us to the department of communities. It can't be people who is already involved. Fresh eyes is needed to see from the outside perspective

Clause 9

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

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

We have waited far too long for this Bill to happen and it is not fair for us to wait every 5 years to make a change within the Bill. The society is changing as we go along. We need to be keeping up with the changes- we can't wait to be approved every 5 years as the changes, if approved will be no use to use as it was 5 or few years old plan.

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:

Yes, there are far too many people out there who is teaching BSL/ISL that is not qualified to do so. This is harming our deaf community and we are left with people who can't even communicate with us because they are learning from the wrong people. I'm aware that there is shortage of BSL/ISL Deaf teachers in NI but we should always ensure that the jobs that comes in, should be offered to them first.

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:

It is vital that the interpreters are trained and have accreditation to interpret for us. There are situations where it may be life or death situation. We need to be able to Trish the interpreters to be able to interpret the vital information and understand us when we are in the panic state. We also don't need to be spending time to slow down in our own language for the interpreter to keep up. They need to be able to match the pace and understand our language before becoming qualified. If they are struggling, more training is needed and we should not be giving out badges or accreditation that easy.

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:

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?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

We need to ensure that there are enough support for deaf children of hearing parents, to ensure that they know all the information and terminology needed to be change. The medical model is old. We need doctors, nurses, health visitors, audiologists and community workers to change their attitudes toward a deaf baby or a deaf child. It is not negative to be Deaf and they need to open up their mind to understand our community better.

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

Text box to enter additional details: