

## Response ID ANON-PYJC-FRRB-2

Submitted to Sign Language Bill - Call for Evidence  
Submitted on 2025-05-09 20:43:31

### Consent and introduction

What is your name?

Name:

██████

What is your email address?

Email:

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 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?

Yes

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?

Yes

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

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:

Increased visibility in mainstream television and media

### 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:

What is reasonable taking account of affordability and practicability is not strong enough

#### 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:

#### 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:

One person is insufficient.

One group SLPG is insufficient; it will likely consist of organisations and those Deaf community members who are actively involved in such initiatives. This may not represent more marginalised members of the Deaf community.

#### 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:

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:

#### 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:

Accessibility of consultation needs to be considered. Translation into BSL and ISL alone does not make a consultation process accessible. Systemic barriers throughout a deaf persons life can lead to a depleted 'knowledge fund' or 'fund of information', which can make engagement with such processes difficult. Translation alone is unable to overcome this. The consultation process must be considered holistically and novel approaches developed. Ideally the consultation process would be codesigned with the Deaf community.

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?

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

As prvw

### 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:

We don't only need to increase our pool of interpreters but also ensure that we are upskilling our interpreting cohort.

It is appropriate to attempt to develop an academic research base at QUB, however this should be Deaf led. The current MA is hearing led with very little Deaf input. It is vastly inadequate in comparison to its counterparts in other areas of the UK. If we want to ensure an increase in the number of high quality interpreters in NI we need to ensure that our teaching programmes are adequate to culturally and linguistically prepare our new interpreters. Quality is better than quantity.

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

No

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box to enter additional details:

We need more information on this than what is in the bill

### 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?

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: