

## Response ID ANON-PYJC-FR1Q-G

Submitted to Sign Language Bill - Call for Evidence  
Submitted on 2025-05-09 10:57:56

### Consent and introduction

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

N/A

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:

What does "general" entitlement mean?

I feel this clause could be a lot stronger. The majority of society is "hearing", therefore the majority of professionals working with Deaf families are hearing. If these professionals have no lived experience of Deaf people or the community there can be a negative bias, conscious or otherwise, placed on Deaf people, sign language, Deaf culture and the community. Therefore as a result of this bias / stigma / underestimation of Deaf people, families with Deaf children can be misinformed ie don't sign, best to use medical interventions, the desire to "fix" or "normalise" a Deaf child.

Families with newly diagnosed/ identified Deaf children should be facilitated in meeting Deaf adults or children, that use SL, early on, as part of their discovery journey.

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:

See above.

GCSE BSL or ISL

It's important that Deaf people teach the language. I [REDACTED] have been using both BSL and ISL all my life however it's inappropriate and cultural appropriation for people who are not Deaf to teach the language. [REDACTED] Therefore when departments are funding projects please check that all teachers are Deaf.

### 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:

A "Voucher Scheme" is required to ensure Deaf people have full access to services. There are examples of these schemes throughout Europe eg ROI and Finland.

These vouchers would be useful for weddings, funerals etc. [REDACTED] find it difficult to secure a booking with an interpreter for these types of assignments. I often wonder is the difficulty due to, (shortage of interpreters also a factor, especially in short notice bookings) the reluctance of interpreters to charge Deaf families, directly, for their services.

### 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:

"at least one person or group appearing to the Department to be acting on behalf of the deaf community." - this is not robust enough.

### 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:

Deaf people should be coproducers in this process.

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

Not Answered

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:

Again Deaf people must be coproducers

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

Not Answered

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:

Needs a more robust process than "one person".

## 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:

Annually would be more effective.

## Clause 10

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

Not Answered

Please give details to support your answer.

Text box for entering additional information:

I fully support the training of new Deaf teachers, however I don't understand the need to create an accreditation scheme.

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:

NRCPD already provides this service no need for duplication. The numbers don't warrant it.

## 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:

██████████ for adding CODAs!!

### Clause 12

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

Not Answered

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:

Voucher Scheme

Older Deaf people care provision

Deaf Hub in belfast?

Creation of a Deaf studies unit in NI.

Support for Deaf families?

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

Text box to enter additional details: