

Reference number

[REDACTED]

What is your name?

[REDACTED]

What is your email address?

[REDACTED]

If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please state its name.

Individual

(Required) Please review the Committee privacy notice at this link. Please tick here to confirm you have read the notice.

Yes

(Required) Do you consent to your submission being published on the Committee's website and included in the Committee's report? (For signed responses, these will be transcribed into written English before publication)

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.

Access to Work is my biggest barrier. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] repeatedly been refused

Access to Work support [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to justify the need for support. It was a long and arduous process. In the end, they were able to part-fund an interpreter for my work.

Unfortunately, this system is not sustainable. It means I am dependent on hearing companies to advocate for me. Not every company has the resources or capacity to go through the difficult process of securing Access to Work on my behalf. This significantly limits my opportunities. My career could be incredible, but right now, I'm being held back because I am repeatedly refused Access to Work.

I've also dreamt of setting up my own company to support and grow the arts for Deaf people in Northern Ireland. But without Access to Work, I would be operating in a hearing world that cannot communicate with me. That prospect makes me reluctant and nervous, because without communication support, it simply wouldn't work.

Elsewhere in the UK, Deaf artists are fully supported by Access to Work without needing to fight for it. I would love to see that level of support here. At the moment, [REDACTED] a clear disadvantage.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Often, interpreters are brought into concerts, plays, or productions, but many interpreters only know sign language as a second language. Interpreting in the arts is incredibly nuanced and challenging. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] how to translate hearing theatre or music into a culturally rich and enjoyable experience for Deaf audiences.

I would love to see formal guidelines include the use of Deaf consultants in arts work. But for that to happen, Deaf freelancers must have access to Access to Work

Clause 2

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

Please give details to support your answer.

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/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

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/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 4

Do you support the approach taken by Clause 4? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 5

Do you support the approach to consultation required in clause 5? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 6

Do you support the approach taken in this clause? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Do you feel there is anything else this Clause should include? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 7

Do you support the provision for the Department for Communities to make regulations detailed in clause 7? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Do you support the approach to consultation detailed in clause 7? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 8

Do you feel the level of consultation required in clause 8 is sufficient? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 9

Do you think evaluating the impact of the Bill in a report every five years is an appropriate length of time? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 10

Do you support the creation of a scheme for accrediting BSL and ISL teachers? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Do you support the creation of a scheme for accrediting BSL and ISL interpreters? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

Clause 11

Do you agree with the definition of the deaf community provided for in the Bill? YES/NO

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

Clause 12

Do you agree with the definition of BSL and ISL provided for in the Bill? YES/NO

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

Clause 13

Do you agree with the definition of “everyday reliance” provided in the Bill? YES/NO

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

Any other comments

Is there anything which you expected the Bill to make provision for which has not been included in the Bill? YES/NO

Please give details to support your answer.

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