

Julie Doyle
via email

16 October 2025

Dear Julie

British Sign Language (Wales) Bill

Thank you very much for the interpretation services you provided recently at a meeting of the Equality and Social Justice Committee in which Members undertook scrutiny of the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill. The Committee was very grateful for your services and Members found it informative to observe BSL interpretation live and in action.

As part of its work scrutinising the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill the Committee has taken evidence from a number of witnesses. Many have suggested that there is a scarcity of British Sign Language interpreters and that could pose a barrier to implementation.

As a professional British Sign Language interpreter working in Wales, the Committee would be most interested to hear your thoughts on the Bill, particularly how you think the Bill will impact British Sign Language interpreters and the Deaf community in Wales.

The Committee would specifically welcome your thoughts on:

1. The number of BSL interpreters in Wales - are there enough to satisfy demand at present?
2. What would the impact of the Bill have on the demand of BSL interpreters?
3. Whether there are any obstacles facing your profession?
4. What can be done to entice more BSL interpreters into the profession?
5. Whether there is sufficient training available and what are the pathways into the profession?
6. Whether there is anything that the Bill should include to improve the Deaf community's access to BSL interpreters?



Unfortunately the timescales for legislative scrutiny are extremely tight and we would be grateful for your thoughts by 28 October.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Rathbone MS

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice
Committee, Senedd Cymru

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

