Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol | Equality and Social Justice Committee

Bil laith Arwyddion Prydain (Cymru) | British Sign Language (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Jodie Gallagher-Smith | Evidence from Jodie Gallagher-Smith

What are your views on the general principles of the Bill?

I feel strongly that the government needs to support the inclusivity of BSL across Wales, BSL should be mandatory in primary education and optional at GCSE level in schools. One of the issues is that to learn BSL, in terms of training through each accredited level there is an large expense that many can't afford. There should be more readily available opportunities to learn and teach BSL, and the government needs to provide a platform for this. The principle of the bill is very important, and the implementation needs to be focused around providing learning opportunities, and awareness.

What are your views on the Bill's key provisions (set out below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

Legislation is important to ensure workplaces and schools have opportunities to learn and use BSL. Staff should be supported to have time and funding to learn BSL and children should learn BSL from primary school age. The policy is essential to create a more inclusive society in Wales, where nobody is disadvantaged or left out.

What are your views on the Bill's key provisions (set out below), in particular are they workable and will they deliver the stated policy intention?

1 – A duty on Welsh Ministers to promote and facilitate the use of BSL

This is essential to deliver the policy intention

2 - A duty on Welsh Ministers to publish national strategy and guidance

This is also essential to show a cohesive and seamless response for the need for BSL to be mandatory when providing services

3 - A duty on Welsh Ministers to publish BSL guidance

This is essential

4 - A duty on specified public bodies to publish BSL plans

This is important for the public to become more aware of BSL

5 - The appointment of a BSL adviser

This is essential and would provide meaningful insight into the difficulties of learning, teaching and practicing BSL in Wales

6 - Reporting duties to be imposed on the public bodies and Welsh Ministers in relation to these duties.

This needs to be done for the policy to be taken seriously

How appropriate are the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate Legislation?

The powers are appropriate and Ministers legislation needs to make workplaces inclusive of BSL

Are there any barriers to the implementation of the Bill's provisions and does the Bill take account of them?

The cost of learning BSL, the availability of courses, the learning time, the inability for teachers to feel confident teaching BSL without training, the lack of interpreters and sign teachers available

What are your views on the assessment of the financial implications of the Bill as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum?

I feel that the Bill is essential the importance of this means financial investment needs to be made

Are there any other issues that you would like to raise about the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum?

No

Anything else?

No