
Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol | Equality and Social Justice Committee

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

Ymateb gan David Reader | Evidence from David Reader

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

I am extremely pleased that the Senedd is finally taking this step towards achieving equality for deaf people and BSL. The Bill will eventually be transformational for future generations of deaf people in Wales.

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 the best instrument for ensuring compliance and cooperation.

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

My professional experience included mental health & deafness and so I look forward to Ministers working with the deaf community, including specific groups with an interest in mental health & deafness, to ensure providers deliver services in BSL.

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

Clearly the key here is that strategy and guidance are implemented and evaluated rigorously.

3 - A duty on Welsh Ministers to publish BSL guidance

Again, guidance without monitoring and funding runs the risk of tokenism.

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

In collaboration ofcourse with deaf people.

5 - The appointment of a BSL adviser

This role should have the same status as the Welsh Language Commissioner.

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

What might be the sanctions/consequences for poor performance and who will examine such reports?

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

Seems entirely appropriate that experience and learning from the Bill should trigger subordinate legislation.

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

I don't have a view on this.

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

Can't comment.

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

No

Anything else?

No