British Sign Language (BSL)

Draft National Plan 2017 – 2023

Tell us what you think of this plan

Easy Read
INTRODUCTION

MARK MCDONALD

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SINCE 2011

LOOK THROUGH 'LANGUAGE LENS' NOT 'DISABILITY LENS'

BSL IN SCOTLAND

PROPERTY CONSIDER
PROPERTY REPRESENT

THE DEAF COMMUNITY

CONTACT ME IF I CAN HELP!

BE ACTIVE, HEALTHY CITIZENS

ABLE TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES

I WANT THE BSL COMMUNITY TO FEEL LISTENED TO.

I MEASURE MY ROLE THROUGH THIS!

I THINK THE BSL SCOTLAND ACT IS VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION!

ALL PARTIES ARE BEHIND IT

ENABLED TO MAKE A FULL CONTRIBUTION TO DAILY LIFE AND PUBLIC LIFE

END OF A JOURNEY

START OF A JOURNEY

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WE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS

BSL TRAINING within the legislation

EDUCATION
DOCTORS
SERVICES
TRANSPORT

WORK TOGETHER TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER, TO ACHIEVE LONG TERM GOALS!

HOW WILL THE BSL SCOTLAND ACT IMPACT ON OUR OPPORTUNITIES?

AIM FOR AN EQUAL AND OPEN SOCIETY

VIBRANT AND LIVING LANGUAGE IN SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH GOV'T
AIM TO SHOW LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING BSL...

PERSON CENTRED SERVICES

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

MAKE SCOTLAND THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR BSL USERS TO LIVE!
About this Survey

The Scottish Government and the Minister responsible for British Sign Language want to know what you think of this draft British Sign Language National Plan 2017 to 2023.

Throughout this document British Sign Language will be referred to as BSL.

BSL is a language. It is the language that Deaf and Deafblind people use in every day life.

A group of people called the BSL National Advisory Group have been working together to help develop this Plan.

This Plan will set the rules for all national bodies in Scotland. This includes the Scottish Government.
A national body works with the Scottish Government to help the Government meets its aims.

The Plan has ten goals that the Scottish Government want to reach over a long time.

This Plan sets out what the goals are over the next six years, from 2017 to 2023.

Other Plans will be made for the future to meet all the goals the Scottish Government has in mind.

The Scottish Government want to know what you think about the goals they have set.

They want to know if you think they are the right goals and if you think the goals can be achieved.
There are some questions for you to answer.

The goals are set out in different sections. Please read each section and answer the questions at the end of each section.

Please answer them if you can

**How to tell us what you think**

The closing date for this survey is 31 May 2017

**Online**

To respond online, please use the Scottish Government’s Consultation Hub, Citizen Space


**Respond in BSL**

If you want to respond in BSL you can use the following options:
Youtube or Vimeo

Upload your videos and paste the website link into the Citizen Space consultation or into an email.

Facebook

Post your videos on this public Facebook page
http://www.facebook.com/bslnationalplan

other people will see your responses

Email

Send us an email with links to videos of your responses
BSLConsult@gov.scot

Post

Send your responses in English or in BSL on a DVD or USB to:

Hilary Third
The Equality Unit
Area 3H-North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
PUBLIC SERVICES

Encourage best practice across Scotland

Substantial training for all public sector staff

Make the Scottish Government more accessible

At street level

Make systems more accessible

Raise awareness of accessible services

Support public services to improve access for all

BSL used here

WE NEED MORE QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS IN SCOTLAND

Look at national procurement of BSL services
Goal One: Public Services

Information and services in the public sector will be accessible to all BSL users by 2023.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:

1. Write guidelines for all public services that will improve access to information services for all BSL users

2. Promote contact SCOTLAND-BSL. This is a Scottish Government service

3. Promote BSL awareness training for all public services staff

4. Review the BSL training and training regulation

5. Look at how BSL interpreters can complete specialist training

6. Make BSL easier to access for people who need it

7. Look at making public services BSL person centred
Goal One: Public Services

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Public Services goals?
EARLY YEARS

90% of deaf babies are born to hearing parents

Don't focus on the medical model
Different perspective
Reduce isolation

Deaf and hearing parents round the same table

Parents would appreciate well-informed discussions

Give children access to that social conversation

BSL training for families
Accessible
Consistent

Teach siblings
Teach friends
Teach wider family

Support

A list of options
Gather information from far and wide

Need quality information
Right from birth
Goal Two: Children in their Early Years

Families and carers of Deaf or Deafblind children will be given information about BSL and services for Deaf people. They will also be offered training in signing to children.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:

8. Make sure information is given about BSL and Deaf culture for new parents whose baby is diagnosed as deaf.

9. Promise to give support for families and carers with D/deaf and Deafblind children age 0-5 years old to learn BSL.

10. Make sure that families of D/deaf and Deafblind children have access to BSL support and information.

11. Make sure that all children can have happy play experiences.

12. Give information and access to early years services for parents who use BSL.

13. Look at the best ways of bringing together children who use BSL.
Goal Two: Children in their Early Years

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes ☐  No ☐

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Children in their Early Years goals?
Goal Three: Education

Children and young people who use BSL will reach their full potential at school.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:

14. Work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to remove barriers for BSL users who want to register as a teacher.

15. Work with the General Teaching Council for Scotland to update guidance and BSL qualifications.

16. Work with Scottish Qualifications Authority on a potential SQA Award in BSL.

17. Make sure schools and councils have up to date BSL guidance and training materials.
Parents who use BSL will have the same opportunities to be involved with their children’s education as all other parents.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by doing the following:

18. Make sure guidance is given to schools and councils to consider the needs of parents who use BSL.

19. Look at how parents who use BSL can be more involved with their children’s schools.

That BSL will could be offered to children at school as a language.

Scottish Ministers will reach this goal by:

20. Telling schools that they can offer BSL as a language.

21. Find out which schools offer BSL as a language each year.

22. Teachers of BSL will share knowledge of teaching methods. Teachers will have written guidance on teaching BSL.
Goal Three: Education

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Education goals?
POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION

SCHOOL

FURTHER EDUCATION

SUPPORTED TRANSITION

WORK TO IMPROVE INFO FOR BSL USERS

FUNDING FOR DEAF STUDENTS TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY

CHANCE TO REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL

SCHOOLS

COLLEGES

UNIVERSITIES

ALL AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES

Scottish Funding Council will establish a steering group to help...

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN BSL PLANS

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Goal Four: School Leavers

Young people who use BSL, who leave school, will be supported if they want to go to college or university or if they want to get a job.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by:

23. Making sure colleges or universities or employers know how to include a BSL user. BSL users will get better information to help them move from school to higher education or work.

24. The Scottish Funding Council will work with colleges and universities to form their own BSL Plans.
Goal Four: School Leavers

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes ☐  No ☐

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about School Leavers goals?
Goal Five: Employment

BSL users will have the same access to work opportunities as everyone else.

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by:

25. Making sure BSL users have the same access to employment schemes as everyone else

26. From April 2018, start a new Scottish employability programme. The programme will support BSL users to find work and stay in work.

BSL users will get help and support so they can stay in work and get promoted if that is the job they want to do

Scottish Ministers will reach these goals by:

27. BSL users can use the Scottish Government support service for a year after they start their job.

28. Staff who work in employment services will work with specialist employment support staff to tackle barriers BSL users face in the workplace.
29. We will promote the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Access to Work (ATW) to employers and BSL users.

Goal Five: Employment

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tell us why?
Is there anything else you want to tell us about Employment goals?
HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH + SOCIAL CARE

Health Information Changes Quickly
What's the key info we need to know?

Provide it in BSL
Mental Health is a big issue for deaf people

All health boards work differently

Pharmacy
Hospital
Employment

All

Doctor

Dental Health

If you get to your doctor's appointment and there's no interpreter...

Terrible issues trying to communicate with dentists

Interpreters don't value dental appointments

Really need help here

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Goal Six: Health and Mental Health and Social Care

BSL users will have access to information they need to live as healthy and active a life as they want to. They will also be able to make informed decisions that affect their lives.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

30. Making sure information on immunisations and health checks are always available in BSL.

31. Make sure that professional health information that is online is available in BSL.

32. Make sure all health and social care staff receive training in BSL awareness.

33. BSL users’ health records should say clearly that the patient’s first language is BSL.

34. Make sure that information on self directed support is available in BSL.

35. Make sure that information on mental health is available in BSL.
Goal Six: Health and Mental Health and Social Care

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes □  No □

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Health and Mental Health and Social Care goals?
Goal Seven: Transport

BSL users will have safe, fair and inclusive access to public transport and the systems that support all transport use in Scotland

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

36. Ensuring that transport users, including BSL users, can participate in the on-going feedback process of the Accessible Travel Framework.

37. Research technical solutions for providing accessible information in transport hubs (like train stations, airports etc.)

38. Creating guidance on how to contact transport providers when things go wrong on a journey.

39. Developing training for transport providers which includes strategies for communicating with BSL users.
Goal Seven: Transport

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes □       No □

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Transport goals?
Goal Eight: Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Arts

BSL users will enjoy fair and inclusive access to Scotland’s culture, leisure pursuits, sport and the arts and will have every opportunity to share their own Deaf culture with the people of Scotland.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

40. Encouraging BSL users to take part in the culture, leisure, sport and the arts

41. Supporting BSL users to consider culture, leisure, sport or the arts as a career choice

42. Encouraging BSL to be used in performing arts and film.

43. Working with the bodies delivering culture, leisure, sport and the arts to make sure that websites are easy to access and inclusive for BSL users.

44. Increasing the number of public events and arts programmes that have BSL interpretation.
45. Working with Historic Environment Scotland to introduce BSL tours in historic buildings to improve access for BSL users.

46. Working to make sure that everyone can access and take part in Scotland’s culture.

47. Working with sportscotland to provide information on their website about good practice when working with BSL users and increasing awareness and understanding about BSL.
Goal Eight: Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Arts

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes □  No □

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Culture, Leisure, Sport and the Arts goals?
JUSTICE

ENABLE INTERACTION WITH POLICE TO BE MORE IMMEDIATE

IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING

PLAN OF IMPROVEMENTS

IMPROVE OUR RESPONSE

GUIDANCE

FAIR

EQUAL

ACCESS TO JUSTICE SYSTEM

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

AIM TO IMPROVE BSL USERS ACCESS

SPECIALISED TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME

ROLL OUT PLD ACROSS SCOTLAND

LOOK AT RESEARCH
Goal Nine: Justice

BSL users will have fair and equal access to the civil, criminal and juvenile justice systems in Scotland.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

48. Assessing how the justice system could better meet the needs of BSL users and carry out a plan of improvements.

49. Researching technology to improve BSL user access to our Justice systems.

50. Making sure information is available to BSL users to help them understand the justice sector.
Goal Nine: Justice

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes  [ ]  No  [ ]

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Justice goals?
DEMOCRACY

PEOPLE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORKINGS OF GOVERNMENT

EMPOWERED AND FACILITATED TO REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND

LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

BSL USERS...

ACCESSING DEMOCRACY

A LOT MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE SINCE THE INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

INVOLVE AND INFORM

MORE BSL PROMOTION

SERVE ON PUBLIC BOARDS

ACCESS TO THE POLITICAL ARENA

BSL INTERPRETERS ON LIVE POLITICAL DEBATES

ALL PARTY MANIFESTOS ACCESSIBLE TO BSL USERS
Goal Ten: Democracy

BSL users should be able to represent the people of Scotland as elected politicians at national and local level, and to serve on boards of our public bodies.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

51. Reporting on the Access to Elected Office fund to find out if this meets the needs of BSL users.

52. Offering advice and support to BSL users about how to take part in politics.

53. We will raise awareness of public appointments as a way to take part in public life.

BSL users should have full access to information about democracy, including voting.

Scottish Ministers will reach their goals by:

54. Providing better information about voting in BSL and reviewing if it has been effective.

55. We will encourage political parties to produce election information in BSL.
Goal Ten: Democracy

Questions

Do you think these are the right goals?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please tell us why?

Is there anything else you want to tell us about Justice goals?
List of Policies and Services used in this plan and what they mean

1+2 language learning policy
Scottish Government policy which enables children to learn two languages in addition to the language used at home.

contactSCOTLAND-BSL
This is the service which the Scottish Government has established to connect deaf BSL users throughout Scotland through a video relay service (VRS) with all of Scotland’s public authorities and voluntary organisations (Third Sector).

Department for Work and Pensions’ Access to Work (ATW)
An Access to Work grant can pay for practical support if you have a disability, health or mental health condition. This is offered by the UK Government.

Website: [https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview](https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/overview)
Family Information Service website
This website provides free, impartial information for families.

Website:
https://www.scottishfamilies.gov.uk/

Going Further: Scotland’s Accessible Travel Framework
This is the Scottish Government’s plan for transport services. This was coproduced with disabled people, including BSL users.

Website:
http://accessibletravel.scot/accessible-travel/

General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS)
This organisation promotes, supports and develops the professional learning of teachers.

Website: http://www.gtcs.org.uk/

Historical Environment Scotland
This is the lead public body set up to investigate, care for and promote Scotland’s historic environment.

Website:
https://www.historicenvironment.scot/
Play Strategy

This is the Scottish Government’s Play Strategy for Scotland. The definition for Play tells us that “key characteristics of play are fun, uncertainty, challenge, flexibility and non-productivity. Play can happen indoors or outdoors, with or without the oversight of adults, in everyday spaces, in environments designed for play and places chosen by children and young people.”

Website:

Self-directed Support

This is a service for people who use social care services and health and social care professionals.

Website:
http://www.selfdirectedsupportscotland.org.uk/

Scottish Funding Council

This is the non-departmental public body charged with funding Scotland’s further and higher education institutions.

Website:
http://www.sfc.ac.uk/Priorities/Priorities.aspx
Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA)
Has two main functions: accreditation, and awarding qualifications

Website: http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/70972.html

sportscotland

This is the national agency for sport in Scotland. We see a Scotland where sport is a way of life, where sport is at the heart of society, making a positive impact on people and communities.

Website: https://sportscotland.org.uk/

The Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland

This has been set up to offer financial assistance to disabled people who are seeking selection or have already been selected to stand in the 2017 Scottish Local Authority Elections.

Website: http://inclusionscotland.org/information/employability-and-civic-participation/access-to-politics/aeofs/
List of words used in this plan and what they mean

The Arts
Examples of the arts are literature, performing arts and theatre, music, dance and photography.

deaf
This word is used to refer to people who are unable to hear

Deaf
This word is used to refer to people who identify as being part of a linguistic and cultural minority who use British Sign Language

Deafblind
This is the term used to refer to people who are both Deaf and have sight loss

BSL users
This covers all people whose first or preferred language is BSL, including those who receive the language in a tactile form due to sight loss
Long-term goals
These goals represent our collective dream for BSL in Scotland and will take more than the lifetime of this BSL National Plan.

Justice System
The justice system is the terminology commonly used to encompass the civil, criminal and juvenile systems— and organisation’s include: Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service, Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Scottish Prison Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Police Scotland, and Scotland Children’s Reporter Administration.