

From: **[Redacted]**
Equality & Human Rights,
Equality Unit
29 September 2020

Minister for Children & Young People

GOVERNMENT INITIATED QUESTION - DELAYING BSL PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose

1. This paper seeks the Minister's approval of a proposed question and answer for a Government Initiated Question (GIQ) on delaying the BSL Progress Report to 2021, **[Redacted]**

Priority

2. Routine. A response by 8 October 2020 is requested, in order to allow adequate time for officials to liaise with the Parliamentary Clerks in advance of 24 October 2020, the latest date for formally announcing the delay.

Background

3. In our submission of 16 July 2020, officials outlined a process for delaying the BSL Progress Report to October 2021 by means of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020. This was agreed by the Minister.

4. We are required to make a statement to this effect before the date that the Progress Report was due, 24 October 2020.

5. **[Redacted]**

Proposed GIQ text

6. The proposed question is:

To ask the Scottish Government what its plans are to publish the British Sign Language Progress Report that is due by 24 October 2020.

7. The proposed response is:

The COVID-19 crisis has prevented the engagement activity and evidence-gathering required to inform the BSL Progress Report. Engagement was planned with BSL users across Scotland, and through engagement by the BSL partner organisations. In addition, the Scottish Government has focused all activity on mitigating the impacts of COVID-19.

Therefore, for the reasons given, Scottish Ministers have taken the decision to postpone the publication of the Progress Report. It will be published as soon as

reasonably practicable. It is anticipated that this will be by 24 October 2021 in order to allow for the necessary public engagement.

This does not mean that work around BSL is being paused – we remain fully committed to the actions set out in the BSL National Plan, and will continue work to make progress on our shared outcomes.

8. [Redacted]

Conclusion

9. You are invited to:

- i. Indicate that you are content with the proposed process, including the question and answer, for a GIQ to announce the BSL Progress Report delay.**
- ii. [Redacted]**

[Redacted]

Equality & Human Rights, Equality Unit

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Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Education					X
Cabinet Secretary for Social Security & Older People					X
Minister for Older People & Equalities					X

DG Education, Communities & Justice Stephen Gallagher Lisa Bird [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] Parliamentary Clerks Office Communications DFM & Education Communications SSE [Redacted] [Redacted]
