

**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb  
a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

**Equality and Social Justice  
Committee**

Lynne Neagle MS,  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social  
Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

**Senedd Cymru**

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN  
SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru  
senedd.cymru/SeneddCydraddoldeb  
0300 200 6565

**Welsh Parliament**

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN  
SeneddEquality@senedd.wales  
senedd.wales/SeneddEquality  
0300 200 6565

11 November 2024

Dear Lynne and Jane,

In our meeting on 14 October, we considered a letter from National Deaf Children's Society Cymru sent to you and copied for our attention. We write to express our disappointment with the decision to suspend the development of the Made for Wales British Sign Language (BSL) GCSE and seek clarity about why this decision was taken.

The development of the BSL GCSE in Wales is considered a positive step forward in terms of equality and ensuring that education in Wales is more inclusive. It is considered an important development, not only for pupils to be able to gain a qualification in their own language, but also in terms of raising awareness and understanding and improving the skills of the future workforce.

We support the NDCS's call for this to be considered further. We would like more information on the challenges cited as the reasons for the decision so this can be explored with them and other stakeholders who have been campaigning and working to make this a reality.

We would appreciate clarity on the reasoning and challenges which have arisen and what actions have been considered to overcome these issues. We look forward to receiving your response in advance of the Committee's scrutiny session with Jane on Disability and Employment on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

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

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament