



30 May 2025

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

Dear Jenny

British Sign Language (BSL) (Wales) Bill

As you will be aware, on 19 June 2024, I secured the Senedd's agreement to introduce the BSL (Wales) Bill following my success in the Member Bill ballot held in April 2024.

The Bill is scheduled for formal introduction to the Senedd on Monday 14 July 2025. Prior to this, the pre-introduction period will commence on Monday 16 June, during which the Bill will be sent to the Llywydd for her consideration of the Bill under section 110(3) of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

In advance of the pre-introduction period, I have today published the [draft Bill](#) and accompanying [Explanatory Notes](#). My aim in publishing the Bill now is to provide as much time as possible for those affected by the Bill to be able to consider the detail it contains.

MARK ISHERWOOD MS|AS

Member of the Welsh Parliament for **North Wales**
Aelod Senedd Cymru dros **Ogledd Cymru**



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Given the remit of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, I am writing to you as Chair with the assumption that the Bill will be referred to your committee for scrutiny once it has been formally introduced. I hope that early publication of the Bill will help you begins any preparatory work in advance of that formal scrutiny. Whilst it is still currently in development, I hope to also be able to share with the committee a copy of the full Explanatory Memorandum that will accompany the Bill. I aim to do that when it is sent to the Llywydd for pre-introduction.

The timetable for the Bill's progression is yet to be confirmed by the Business Committee. However, given the Standing Order deadlines I have to work to, and that the Senedd's Dissolution period will begin on 8 April 2026, I anticipate that the timetable will be fairly tight. I would be very happy to assist the committee in any way possible that would support that scrutiny process.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Isherwood". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mark Isherwood MS
Member of the Welsh Parliament for North Wales