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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
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Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: British Sign Language
(Wales) Bill
Ein cyf/Our ref: JH/PO/618/25

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Finance Committee

28 November 2025

Dear Peredur,

British Sign Language (Wales) Bill

Thank you for the Finance Committee Report published on 10 November regarding the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill as part of stage 1 scrutiny.

I am grateful to the Committee for its considered stage 1 scrutiny.

Alongside the Member in charge of the Bill, I have carefully considered the Committee's report and am pleased to read at conclusion 1, 2 and 3 the Committee is broadly content with the financial implications and the collaborative approach of this Bill.

Please see my response in Annex 1 to the set of recommendations in advance of the Stage 1 General Principles Debate.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Annex 1: Response to Finance Committee's report on the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill – November 2025

Recommendation 1. The Committee recommends that the Member in charge works with the Cabinet Secretary to analyse the cost benefits of the Bill and updates the Regulatory Impact Assessment to include further information on these benefits, including how they will be analysed and when they are anticipated to be delivered.

Accept

Welsh Government will provide the Member in Charge with information requested on potential cost benefits of the Bill along with any information available to support benefit analysis and delivery timescales. Welsh Government will provide policy details as necessary in order that the Member can update the RIA following stage 2 scrutiny of the Bill.

Recommendation 2. The Committee recommends that the Member in charge works with the Welsh Government to clarify how its existing and planned BSL policies will interact with the provisions of the Bill, to determine whether the cost estimates set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment accurately reflect additional financial requirements, or whether some costs may already be covered through existing commitments

Accept

Welsh Government will provide details of existing and planned BSL Policies to the Member in Charge. This will include details of the BSL Route Map which will be published early 2026, which will set out actions to support BSL in Wales in the eighteen months following publication.

Recommendation 3. The Committee recommends that the Member in Charge works with the Welsh Government to provide further clarity on the costs arising from the Bill for listed public bodies, particularly in relation to the implementation of BSL plans.

Accept in Principle

The costs arising from the Bill for listed public bodies will depend on the content of the National BSL strategy and guidance which will be for a future Government to develop. Listed public bodies will determine the contents of their own plans in response to the guidance and will have the greatest understanding of their own needs. If required however, Welsh Government will provide the Member in Charge with information which may help with consideration of potential costs arising from the Bill for listed public bodies.

Recommendation 4. The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government conducts a post-implementation review of the Bill and for it to include an assessment of the overall costs and benefits of the Bill and whether this meets the expected costs set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment.

Accept

Welsh Government will conduct a post implementation review, which will include assessment of the costs and benefits. The impact of the implementation of the BSL Strategy and guidance will be monitored as part of the role of the BSL Adviser and assisting panel.