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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y  
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip  
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/651/25

Mike Hedges MS  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution  
Committee

15 December 2025

Dear Mike,

### **British Sign Language (Wales) Bill**

Thank you for the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee Report published on 4 December 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.

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 Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee’s report on the British Sign Language (Wales) Bill – December 2025**

<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b> The Member in charge should table an amendment to the Bill to require that the statutory guidance issued under section 3, and any future revisions to it, are laid before the Senedd.</p>
<p><b>Reject</b> Welsh Government agrees with Equality and Social Justice committee that the Member in Charge of the Bill should bring forward amendments to consult on the content of the BSL guidance prior to its publication and to publish the BSL guidance within a similar timescale to the national BSL strategy.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b> The Member in charge should consider the merits of specifying a minimum and maximum number of members that should sit on the panel</p>
<p><b>Accept</b> Welsh Government will support the Member in Charge to consider the merits of specifying a minimum and maximum number of members for the BSL panel and to ensure any approach maintains inclusivity and flexibility, while providing clarity on the panel’s composition for the future.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b> For clarity, the Member in charge should table an amendment to section 8(1)(c) to reflect the full names of the specified Welsh NHS Trusts by reference to their corresponding establishment orders.</p>
<p><b>Accept</b> Welsh Government supports the Member in Charge tabling an amendment to section 8(1)(c) to reflect the full names of the specified Welsh NHS Trusts by reference to their corresponding establishment orders, in line with the Committee’s recommendation.</p>