

Submission from Harold Nicolson

As a deaf person, who was educated in a deaf-only school, I think that those of us who were put into separate schools didn't tend to achieve the same levels of English reading and writing that deaf children in mainstream schools can today. Most of us aren't nearly as efficient at reading text as we are at following sign language.

In situations such as reading subtitles on the television, long conversations and long words can be very difficult to follow. By contrast a British Sign Language interpreter translating is very easy to understand and we can follow with confidence.

If the BSL (Scotland) Bill is passed signers or community support workers would be provided to deaf people for visiting hospitals, doctors, police or lawyers, important situations where deaf people might otherwise be very vulnerable to misunderstanding.

I fully support the people of Scotland who seek to bring about the BSL (Scotland) Bill.

Yours Sincerely,

Harold Nicolson