BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) BILL:
FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION
FROM NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Consultation
Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. Yes, North Ayrshire Council made a response to the consultation exercise. No comments were made on the financial assumptions.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. There were no comments made by NAC.

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Yes.

Costs
If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
4. Yes. For children the service is provided on a pan Ayrshire basis and consequently the indicative costs when grouped with the other Ayrshire LA’s should be sufficient to produce an Ayrshire wide plan. The performance reporting costs should be covered within this financial envelope also.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
5. Yes. There is no evidence to suggest that the range suggested is unreasonable.

If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
6. The bill itself deals with the cost of producing a plan. The financial memorandum indicates costs that are likely to be incurred as a result of producing this plan. These costs are not part of North Ayrshire’s existing budget and can only be met from additional resources paid to the council.

The financial memorandum also indicates that there can be future issues about additional services that may be required as service users put more pressure on LA’s by demanding more services. These additional costs should be met from central government.

Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?
7. Yes as the range of costs have been set at between £5k and £50K. The timescales are indicated as per parliamentary session. It is not clear whether local government would be in the same timescale.

Wider Issues
Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
8. Yes