BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) BILL:  
FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION  
FROM PERTH & KINROSS 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. Perth and Kinross Council did not respond individually to the consultation exercise preceding the Bill. PKC have a contract with North East Sensory Services to provide statutory social work services on behalf of the Council. NESS responded to the consultation exercise preceding the Bill.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. Not applicable

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Not applicable

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. The estimated cost for producing an “Authority Plan” is given as £5000 - £50,000 for a local authority to develop and publish a an initial Authority Plan, with the likely real cost being £20,000 – £30,000. Perth and Kinross Council feel that it is fair to estimate that this amount will be enough to produce an “Authority Plan”. However, it is likely that there would be additional costs to Perth and Kinross Council such as training, providing BSL training / support to parents and training additional BSL tutors be.

It is also likely that there may be additional costs in relation to reviewing access needs of constituents who use BSL, particularly within education services.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
5. Perth and Kinross Council feel the costs for producing an “Authority Plan” are reasonable.

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. Perth and Kinross Council will plan over the next year as to how it will budget for additional costs arising from the publication of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill.
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. Perth and Kinross Council accept that there will be uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs.

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. Perth and Kinross Council feel that there are likely to be additional costs associated with the Bill, particularly due to the fact that there is a very small pool of BSL Interpreters in Scotland and most of them are based in Central Scotland. There will be additional costs going forward in training additional BSL Interpreters and possibly in training more staff to become BSL Trainers / tutors.

Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?
9. Perth and Kinross Council feel there will be additional costs going forward in areas such as training new BSL Interpreters, providing “free” opportunities to learn BSL to a range of people such as parents / carers and families of Deaf children.