

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig
Kate Forbes MSP
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



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Karen Adam MSP Convenor, Equalities, Human
Rights and Civil Justice Committee
ehrcj.committee@parliament.scot

1 December 2025

Dear Karen,

I am writing to you as Convenor for the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee leading on the committee's Inquiry into the BSL (Scotland) Act and associated plans to provide a further update on Contact Scotland BSL.

I am pleased to confirm that the new service was successfully launched at one minute past midnight today, meaning that there was no break in the service for BSL users.

The Scottish Government remains committed to improving the lives of BSL users, this service supports our wider ambition to remove systemic barriers faced by Deaf and Deafblind BSL users in their daily lives. Our BSL National Plan 2023-29 details the wider actions we will deliver to make Scotland the best place in the world for BSL users to live, work, visit and learn.

I thank you again for your support and I ask that you continue to promote the service amongst your members so we can increase its use.

Further details, including a video in BSL that explains the changes and what users can do to access the service is available at the link below.

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/languages/british-sign-language/>

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As we progress with the new service, we will continue to keep the CPG updated on any key developments, including the pilot of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI).

Yours Sincerely,

KATE FORBES

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