



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01777

Name of petitioner

Scott Macmillan

Petition title

To introduce British Sign Language (BSL) into the Curriculum for Excellence

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to introduce the British Sign Language (BSL) into the Curriculum for Excellence.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

I contacted Linda Fabiani MSP about this issue. Her office explained that the petition is a good idea as there is nothing to suggest that it has previously been considered by Parliament.

Petition background information

The organisation Deaf Action published a report, Deafness in Scotland (<http://www.deafaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Deafness-in-Scotland-A-recent-analysis.pdf>), in July 2016, which showed that there were 348,500 deaf adults in Scotland, aged 18-80.

So, my proposal to the Scottish Parliament is that the British Sign Language (BSL) should in fact be introduced to the Curriculum for Excellence. This skill will help many deaf people communicate with others and should be introduced along with English in Primary Schools. Children would therefore be able to take up BSL should they wish to, but not having BSL in the current Curriculum of Excellence separates people.

This not only separates people as a whole but also denies friendship opportunities. We know we should include others in activities and not to exclude them, although there is a barrier with communication. So, I think it's time for the Scottish Parliament to step up and accept that we need BSL in schools across Scotland.

Unique web address

<https://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/BSL>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion