

**PE1777/B**

Petitioner submission of 4 March 2020

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee for bringing my petition forward and asking for the Scottish Government and Education Scotland's response on this. I understand that the Government has brought the 1+2 system approach for languages into the curriculum, and how this system should be implemented fully across Scotland by August 2021, along with the BSL National plan that had been launched in 2017 by the Scottish Government to give more people in Scotland the opportunity to learn the language.

Yet, the reasoning of my petition was not only introducing BSL into the curriculum for excellence but also to raise awareness for all Scots and how more councils should be looking into this matter, along with this there should be more funding involved for councils to support not only children who need BSL but those wishing to learn, my petition was not only aimed at those needing the language it was for everyone so that there is no barrier between communication, I feel that their needs to be more awareness in schools and how the Scottish government plans to tackle this.

Also, I would like to quote what the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills had said: "The first additional language, known as L2, should be taught from P1 onwards, and the second additional language, known as L3, at the latest from P5 onwards." (L3) including BSL. Pupils are taught BSL from language column L3, however, this only starts from the latest P5 onwards. There has been evidence to show that languages are best taught at the earliest of ages (P1 onwards) and what better of a language to learn at an early age than BSL? After all, BSL should be an essential language to learn currently and shouldn't be left to the side for people to pick up in later years. I think that the Scottish Government should reconsider the arrangement of which languages are being taught in schools and move BSL to P1 onwards.

Again, I would like to thank the Public Petitions committee for the positive action taken on my petition and the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills response.