**Your email letter to your local MP – Labour, SNP, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru, Green, Democratic Unionist, Sinn Fein, Independents**

Look at the email letter – that letter only aims for Labour, SNP, Liberal Democrat, Plaid Cymru, Green, Demoratic Unionist, Sinn Fein and Independents – why?

Their party election manifestos or pledges already said they will support a BSL Act so they cannot say no to a BSL Act. That is why this letter urges MPs to sign the Early Day Motion to show their support for a UK-wide BSL Act.

If you are not sure who is your local MP, please email BSLActNow@bda.org.uk and we will help you. If you know your local MP is Labour, SNP, Liberal Democrat or other party, please copy and paste email letter, add your name, address and postcode at the top and put your name at the end, then send your email letter to your local MP with a copy to BSLActNow@bda.org.uk, thank you.

Your name

Your address

Your postcode

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MP

**Early Day Motion 14 – Deaf Awareness Week 2021**

First of all, thank you very much for responding to my previous email letter regarding the Private Member’s Bill regarding the British Sign Language (BSL) Bill.  You have shown a positive understanding of the access needs of Deaf people who use BSL, and I sincerely thank you for this.

As you may know, I have, together with other Deaf friends, have written to our local MPs, reaching out to a total of 572 MPs.  This shows how committed we are and the cohesive effort we have demonstrated in the hope that one of the top seven MPs who have been drawn from the Private Member’s Bill Ballot on Thursday 20th May 2021, will introduce a BSL Bill.

However, whether such a Bill is introduced or not, we have just found out there was an Early Day Motion 14 (see below) which we think is a good opportunity for you to consider and show your support of your local Deaf community.

*That this House celebrates Deaf Awareness Week, which ran from 4-9 May 2021; recognises that there are around 151,000 users of British Sign Language in the UK, about 87,000 of whom are Deaf; notes with concern that too many deaf people in the UK still face social exclusion as a direct result of linguistic exclusion, affecting employment, education and access to healthcare; further notes that it has been 18 years since the Government formally recognised British Sign Language as an official language, however, it has not yet been granted legal status; and calls on the Government to bring forward legislation giving legal status to British Sign Language.*

We already know that your Party made an election manifesto pledge to support a BSL Act, so this is to request that you sign the Motion to demonstrate to the Government - and Parliament - the need for a legal status of BSL thus showing this Bill has cross-party support, similar to what happened in the Scottish Parliament when their Bill was unanimously voted in without opposition, and also in the Senedd, recently which voted for a BSL Bill motion unanimously without opposition.  It has been successful in Scotland and Wales and there are moves to proceed with similar provision in Northern Ireland.  I would love to see the UK Parliament follow these good examples.

**I shall be grateful for your confirmation that you support, and have signed, the above Early Day Motion.**

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Name