



Deffo!
57a Neath Road,
Hafod
Swansea
Wales
SA1 2HW

The voice for Youth Deaf youth in Wales

William Powell AM
Chair – Petitions Committee

1st December 2015

Dear Mr Powell

Deffo! Petition – Access to BSL for All

Thank you for sharing the response from Huw Lewis concerning the Professor Donaldson Independent Review. We are pleased to hear that the process has been taken forward from the consultation with the stake holders and a decision made. We are very disappointed that our request to be involved in some discussion with the Donaldson report was not received by his officials, however it was also a suggestion made by the petitions committee, and it was for us important to us to be included in the consultation at the time where we feel that Deaf young people's and parents views were not represented in the consultation.

Much of the discussion has taken place with Hum Lewis through your committee; it is evidence that there is a lack of communication channels for stake holders and families of Deaf children to raise their concerns directly with the minister. The lengthy responses which we are sure are part of the process, we would like to suggest a meeting with Huw to consider the issues involved around Education /sign language and Deaf children so that we can move forward to a better understanding together. With such positive outcomes happening in Britain at the moment, the passing of the BSL bill in Scotland, and the recent announcement of the legislative framework for BSL & ISL by Caral Ni Chuilin (MLA), we feel Wales should also be taking a positive stance on these issues and education and sign language access being vital for all Deaf children in Wales.

If the minister would agree to meet, we would like to involve two key organisations we work with to present the evidence for Huw to hear and consider possible actions we could work on to improve the experiences of Deaf Children and families in Wales. There is also some research we would like to share and stories from the parents therefore we would be delighted if Huw to agree in meeting with our representatives and leaders from Deffo! to share our views.

Yours sincerely

Cathie Robins Talbot
Deffo! Principal Petitioner