Communication and Language Support for Deaf People Campaign

**What’s it all about?**

Our campaign for improved communication and language support aims to increase the quantity and quality communication support for deaf and hard of hearing people.

One of the key ways we aim to achieve this is by calling for a cross-government review of language and communication support available for deaf and hard of hearing people.

**What’s the problem?**

Deaf and hard of hearing people experience communication barriers everyday due to the limited availability and poor quality of communication and language support. This affects their everyday communication experiences when attempting to access essential services.

**What do we want?**

The campaign’s core mission is to increase the availability of standard communication and language support for deaf and hard of hearing people.

Our campaign aspires to achieve this in the following ways:

* Increase the number of deaf communication professionals, such as sign language interpreters, deafblind interpreters, lipspeakers and speech to text reporters.
* Improve communication infrastructure for deaf and hard of hearing people. This includes hearing loops, real time visual displays, textphones and VRS.
* Make sure that communication professionals for deaf and hard of hearing people are regulated and appropriately qualified.
* Ensure that public and private sector organisations are aware of the communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing people
* Help businesses and services providers to be more confident in communicating with deaf and hard of hearing people.
* Improve the access to communication and language support for deaf children and young people in education
* Increase availability of support to families who need to learn sign language to communicate with their child.

One aspect of our campaign involves supporting the issues behind Sir Malcolm Bruce’s Communication Support (Deafness) private members bill.

**What’s the Communication Support (Deafness) bill?**

The Communication Support (Deafness) bill is one of the ways our campaign intends to raise awareness of the need for improved communication and language support for deaf and hard of hearing people.

The bill’s purpose is to establish a body called the Council for Communication Support on Deafness to improve the provision of communication support for deaf and hard of hearing people. The council will have a wide ranging remit relating to communication support.

The main functions of the council are:

* 1. To measure the provision of communication support available for deaf and hard of hearing people.
	2. To research the possibility of adding to the Public Sector Equality Duty for deaf and hard of hearing people covering all bodies serving the public.
	3. To review the provision of communication and language support for deaf children and their families and make appropriate recommendations.
	4. To produce an Accessible Communications Action Plan with measurable outcomes and deadlines to set out how the Strategy will be implemented.
	5. To set up a British Sign Language Board to promote, coordinate and facilitate the use of British Sign Language.

**How can you get involved?**

You can support our campaign in a number of different ways such as:

* + Writing to the Minister for Disabled People expressing your support
	+ Tabling parliamentary questions
	+ Supporting Early Day Motions
	+ Supporting calls for a debate if the private members bill falls before a 2nd reading

Any support you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

**-Ends-**