

Research Futures Series

The Future of British Sign Language in an Inclusive Scotland

Deaf people in Scotland form a social and linguistic minority group. As a community, they have been massively misunderstood for generations. This Futures Forum will explore visions of an inclusive Scotland in 2020 in relation to minority languages and, in particular, British Sign Language. This interactive 'café-style' event, presuming no knowledge of BSL, will also identify key levers of change and establish priorities to achieve progress. Learning from the discussion will be taken forward in a Forum briefing to all MSPs.

Areas to be addressed include:

- Why is change so very badly needed in Scotland on this issue?
- What doors could a British Sign Language Bill unlock?
- Which key lessons should be learned from users of Gaelic and from Scotland's other linguistic minorities?
- Why is now 'the moment we've been waiting for'?

Venue:	The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh
Date:	Monday 15 November 2010
Time:	5.30 – 7.30pm
Catering:	Tea, coffee and sandwiches will be provided (free of charge)
Support needs:	BSL Interpreters, induction loop and infrared systems will be available

Programme of the Day

5.30 – 5.40pm	Welcome and Introduction, Robert Rae, Director, Scotland's Futures Forum
5.40 – 6.10pm	Conversation café – seeded contributions <i>Why do we need change?</i> – BSL User and Community representative <i>Open minds, open hands: Scotland's BSL strategy</i> – Professor Graham H. Turner Director, Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland, Heriot-Watt University <i>The linguistic and cognitive benefits of bimodal bilingualism</i> – Professor Antonella Sorace, University of Edinburgh <i>Minority language rights and recognition</i> – Dr Bernadette O'Rourke, Edinburgh Beltane Fellow, Heriot-Watt University
6.10 – 7.20pm	Café roundtable discussions and Plenary feedback
7.20 – 7.30pm	The Way Forward, Edinburgh Beltane & Scotland's Futures Forum
7.30pm	CLOSE

Who should come?

Deaf and Hard of Hearing organisations and individuals, policy makers, civil servants, academics, public sector organisations and individuals with an interest and experience in this area.

As ever places are limited, so if you wish to attend please contact Donald Jarvie at Donald.Jarvie@scottish.parliament.uk
If you have any additional communication support needs, other than those covered above, to enable you to fully take part in this event please advise when booking.