Dear *(MP Name)*

**British Sign Language Bill – 2nd Reading – 28th January 2022**

On behalf of a local Sign Language Community, we are writing to thank you for your positive response to the British Deaf Association’s Sign Language Week 2021 during which they launched ‘BSL Act Now!’ Campaign.  See link: <https://bda.org.uk/BSLActNow>.

Special thanks to 88% of 650 MPs – yes, 572 of you - for responding to your local Deaf constituents, to 59% of you for expressing your support for a BSL Act and, in particular, to the 54 MPs who met with their Deaf constituents to learn, first-hand, of the challenges faced by BSL users in accessing support and services. MPs from all the main political parties have shown interest in supporting Rosie Cooper’s Private Member’s Bill.

**A couple of dates for your diary! Rosie Cooper’s Private Member’s BSL Bill will be presented for its 2nd reading on Friday 28th January 2022 at the House of Commons.**

Ahead of the debate, Rosie and the **BSL Bill Deaf Organisations Group will be hosting a short 2-hour drop-in information session for MPs. This will be in Room O, PCH, on 19th January 2pm – 4pm.** Rosie will be sending out invitations with more details this month so I hope you got her invitation.

**Please show your support for your local Deaf constituents and Community groups by attending and voting for the BSL Bill**.

Over the past several weeks, you may have watched our very own Rose Ayling-Ellis display her awesome dancing talents with dance partner Giovanni Pernice on ‘Strictly Come Dancing’. They won, really awesome and amazing, don’t you agree? She proudly used sign language and relaying positive messages about being Deaf in front of millions of viewers. Rose has raised so much awareness about sign language and how important it is that it is used and accepted in wider society.  As she said, “It’s society that makes it hard for Deaf people.”

**Make 2022 a special year for the UK’s Deaf Community.  Let’s see British Sign Language become an official language in the UK, voted for and passed by our legislature.** After 132 years of the BDA campaigning for official recognition of British Sign Language, and 19 years since the Government agreed that BSL is a language in its own right, now is the time, with your support, to give BSL legal status.

We wish you a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,

*Your name*

*Your home address*

*Your home postcode*

Copy to: BSLActNow@bda.org.uk