

# **PUBLIC STATEMENT**

## **Immediate**

**Wednesday 9th November 2016**

### **A NEW ERA FOR BRITISH DEAF NEWS**

The way Deaf Community has chosen to communicate has changed beyond all recognition.

The widespread use of computers, mobile phones and tablets has led to a new way of communicating using apps and social media. The technology explosion has also changed the way everybody accesses information, not just Deaf people.

News is available for free and instantly across a lot of the internet and access to easy-to-use visual language video apps means that Deaf people can now express their views on things that affect them instantly in BSL. British Deaf News's (BDN) social media outlets have seen a huge rise in the numbers of people visiting and contributing to the BDN.

For these reasons, we believe that it is now time for us to embrace new technology and bring British Deaf News into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. So, the difficult decision has been made to cease publication of the printed edition of BDN (the December 2016 Issue will be the last). From now on BDN will only be available on the new website. This will allow us to be more up to date and relevant and to include more BSL in our news and features. We will continue to produce the usual wide range of articles for everyone to enjoy but in a new format.

We hope our readers will understand why we have had to do this and we look forward to welcoming everyone to our new BDN home, online.

The new BDN website will be launched in December 2016.

**ENDS**

#### **About the British Deaf Association**

The British Deaf Association (BDA), a registered charity in England, Wales and Scotland, was founded in 1890. BDA is the only Deaf-led organisation that represents the Deaf community. Its two main aims are the promotion of BSL and the right to bi-lingual education

**British Deaf Association**

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**The BDA stands for Deaf Equality, Access and Freedom of Choice**

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Company limited by guarantee number 2881497. Registered charity number 1031687 (England and Wales) and SC042409 (Scotland)

The BDA stands for Deaf Equality, Access and Freedom of Choice and its work is focused on Deaf people being independent and able to make informed decisions. Deaf people can do anything a hearing person can – they just use a different language to do it. The charity champions the rights of Deaf people to use their first language – British Sign Language, which is a language in its own right, separate and distinct from spoken English.

[www.bda.org.uk](http://www.bda.org.uk)

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<https://www.facebook.com/BritishDeafAssociation>

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