



HM Government



Disability Unit

# The BSL Advisory Board

## Who we are looking for



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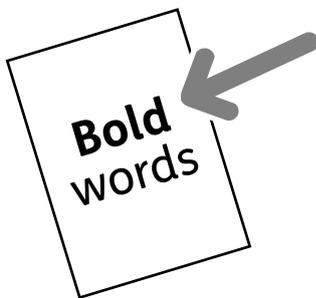
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In this Easy Read document, difficult words are in **bold**. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.



Some words are [blue and underlined](#). These are links which will go to another website which has more information.

# Introduction



In 2022, the government made a new law, called 'the British Sign Language (BSL) Act'.

This law says that:



- British Sign Language (BSL) is a language that people in the UK use.



- The government needs to make sure information it gives to the public is available in British Sign Language.



To help us follow the new law, we are making a new group of people who use British Sign Language called the BSL Advisory Board.



This information explains how to apply to join the BSL Advisory Board.

# The BSL Advisory Board

The BSL Advisory Board will:



- Help to support all of the parts of the government to follow the new law.



- Help make government services easier to use for Deaf BSL users.



- Talk to us about issues affecting BSL users, like getting **interpreters**.

**Interpreters** are hearing people who sign things that people say.



- Make sure the government listens to people who use BSL when deciding what to do.

# Who we are looking for



We are looking for people to join the BSL Advisory Board.

Some of the people we would like to join might:



- Use BSL as their first language, as a **Deaf** person.

**Deaf** people have been unable to hear all their lives and use sign language.



- Use BSL as their second language, as a parent of Deaf children or as a child of a Deaf adult.



- Have worked as an interpreter.



- Have worked for an organisation that supports people who use BSL.



- Have worked with **D/deaf** children and young people as a teacher using BSL.



**D/deaf** means the person is either **Deaf** with a capital d, or **deaf** with a small d. The two are different.



**Deaf** people have been unable to hear all their lives and use sign language.



**deaf** means someone who finds it hard to hear.



- Use **tactile or hands-on BSL** as a first language.

**Tactile or hands-on BSL** is a type of BSL used to talk to people who are D/deaf and blind. You can use it by touching and feeling parts of people's hands.

# If you would like to apply

If you would like to apply to be on the BSL Advisory Board, please get in touch with us by:



- Email:  
bslboard@cabinetoffice.gov.uk



- WhatsApp:  
07871 989325



- Sending us a message us on Glide:  
@BSLBoard



You need to apply by 5pm on Friday 2 September 2022.

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