



Chris Heaton-Harris
Member of Parliament for Daventry
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about making British Sign Language (BSL) an official language of the UK.

Deafness or being hard of hearing should not be a barrier to participating in society and I understand your desire to see BSL as an official language of the UK and I would be happy to discuss your concerns with my parliamentary colleagues.

It is clear to me that the Government and the public sector should lead by example in ensuring that important communication is accessible to all. That is why I am glad that public health information has been available in many alternative formats including BSL during the Covid-19 outbreak. Covid-19 press briefings with BSL have been available on the Downing Street social media channel and the BBC News channel has provided live BSL interpretation for the briefings.

BSL, more broadly, may also be offered in schools as part of the school curriculum. I understand that the Department for Education is working to develop draft content for a potential GCSE in BSL and that a consultation on the content is due to be published this year.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY