

BSL Democracy

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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Democracy within BSL Act



British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015

2015 asp 11

Explanatory Notes have been produced to assist in the
understanding of this Act and are available separately

£6.00



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National Plan consultation

- In preparing a National Plan the Scottish Ministers are—
 - (a) to have regard to the most recently published report under section 4,
 - (b) to publish, and consult on, a draft of the plan, and
 - (c) to take into account any representations received by them by virtue of such consultation.
- The persons consulted under subsection (9)(b) are to be those who, the Scottish Ministers consider, are likely to be directly affected by the National Plan or otherwise to have an interest in that plan and in particular are to include—
 - (a) persons who use British Sign Language, and
 - (b) persons who represent users of British Sign Language.



Authority Plan consultation

- A listed authority, in preparing an Authority Plan—
 - (a) is to try to achieve consistency between that plan and the most recently published National Plan, and
- In preparing an Authority Plan a listed authority is—
 - (a) to publish, and consult on, a draft of the plan, and
 - (b) to take into account any representations received by it by virtue of such consultation.
- The persons consulted under subsection (5)(a) are to be those who, the authority considers, are likely to be directly affected by the Authority Plan or otherwise to have an interest in that plan and in particular are to include—
 - (a) persons who use British Sign Language, and
 - (b) persons who represent users of British Sign Language.

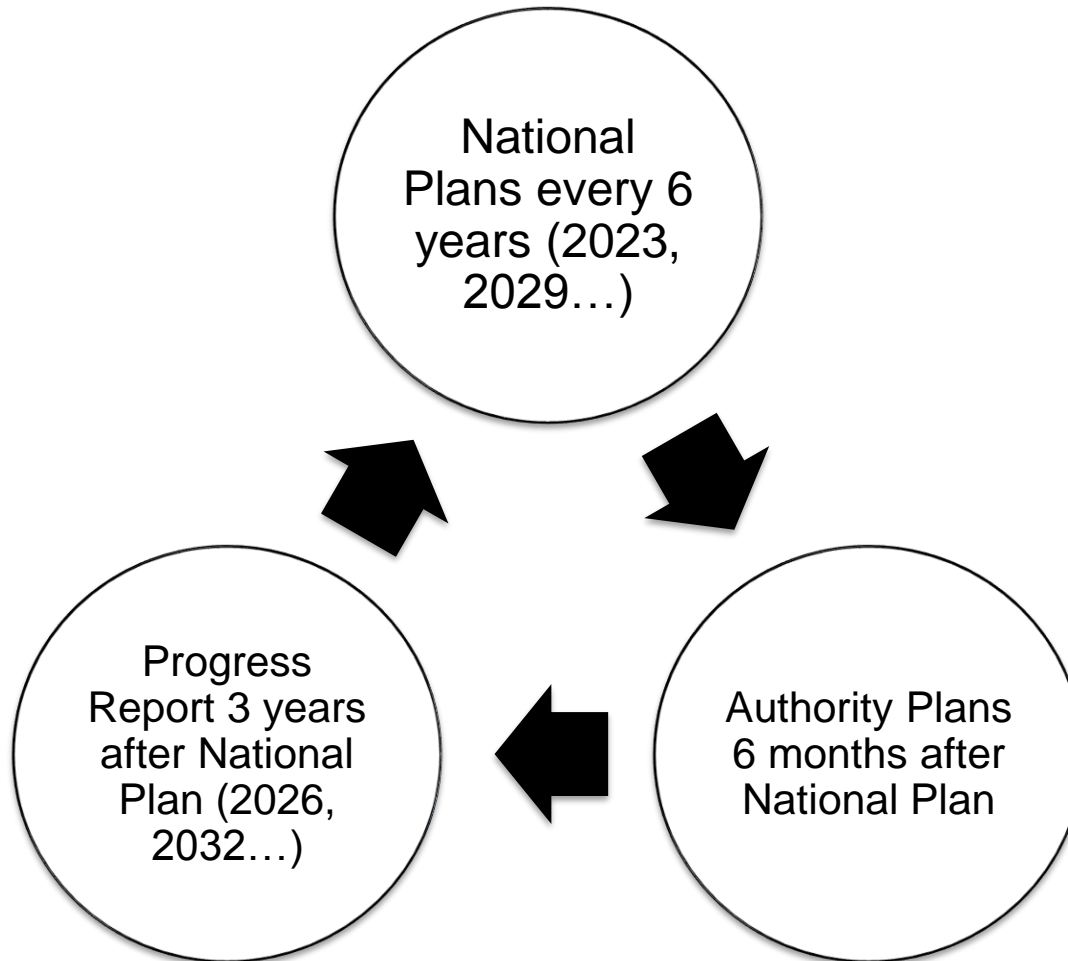


Main provisions of the Act

- The Scottish Ministers are to prepare, lay before the Scottish Parliament and publish progress reports in relation to British Sign Language in accordance with this section.
- A report under this section is—
 - (a) to set out the Scottish Ministers’ views as to progress made in relation to the promotion, and facilitation of promotion...
 - (b) to set out the Scottish Ministers’ views as to progress made by relevant public authorities, generally, in relation to the promotion, and facilitation of promotion, of the use and understanding of British Sign Language within their areas of responsibility.



Planning cycle



Representation

- What does this mean?
- What is being represented?
- Who represents who?
- Why is the issue important?
- How does representation happen?
- When is this necessary?



BSL National Plan 2017-2023



Long-term ambition for democracy

- BSL users will be fully involved in democratic and public life in Scotland, as active and informed citizens, as voters, as elected politicians and as board members of our public bodies.



What would SG welcome?

- Ideas on mechanisms & approaches to support creation of, and consultation on, BSL Plans, both national and local
- Increased citizenship and empowerment
- Participation in democratic processes

