

<https://limpingchicken.com/2019/12/19/deaf-news-ofcom-launches-consultation-into-bsl-interpreted-999-calls/>

Dear sirs, I am writing in response to the above article. Unfortunately it is misleading propaganda that will in the long term prove harmful to deaf people.

The reason for this is that deaf people no longer use sign language as much as they need to. I would urge you to do your own research on this matter but the fact is that since the Warnock Report the education of Deaf children has changed completely. Most deaf people no longer sign because they have better alternatives in the way of better hearing, better speech and of course they are well able to read and write!

The representations of the Deaf charities that their members need a sign language emergency service are false. Fewer than 1% of deaf people are reliant on sign. The number of those people actually needing emergency services in BSL is far out of proportion to the cost of providing it.

The fact is, and I urge you to check this, the Deaf BSL charities are NOT representative of deaf people as a whole. If you check their membership numbers, the BSL-supporting charities have only a small number of members, nowhere near enough to be able to call themselves representative of deaf people at all. By far the majority of deaf people speak, read and to some extent hear, thanks to modern education and technology.

The truth of the matter is that these people are all professionals with a vested interest in promoting BSL because they earn money out of it. If you had an actual poll of Deaf people you would be lucky to see 10,000 votes.

I append a report done on behalf of the BSLBT into the potential numbers of the Deaf audience. I think you will be surprised at how few signing Deaf there really are. This makes the Deaf charities major purveyors of fake news and I would urge you to research this situation most carefully before spending large amounts of time and money on things that are not really needed.