



# KERRY DEAF RESOURCE CENTRE

*KDRC provides services to Deaf and hard of hearing people at county level and contributes to national issues of equality, access and rights.*

Charity No: **CHY20854**

4 Gas Terrace  
Tralee  
Co. Kerry

**10.10.16**

## THANK YOU TO THE RING OF KERRY CHARITY CYCLE



We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle for providing a grant of €2,000 to our service. The cheque was presented a Gala Banquet on Friday night in the Gleneagle Hotel.

The grant will go towards the purchase of staff computers. These will also enhance our VIS-Video Interpreting/Information Service.

## IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE (ISL) BILL- DEBATE BY SENATE



As you may know, the Recognition of ISL Bill will be debated in the Seanad on the 19th of October 2016.

The Irish Deaf Society (IDS) are concerned that the Government do not plan to support this Bill.

The IDS are calling on the Deaf & hearing community to contact their Senators, TDs and County Councillors to inform them of your views on the ISL Bill and urge them to support the Bill.

The IDS believe every means of communication is important ranging from meeting them in person to sending messages through social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

The IDS has sent us a draft letter & the email addresses of all the members of the Seanad and their respective Twitter details. Contact us if you would like a copy.

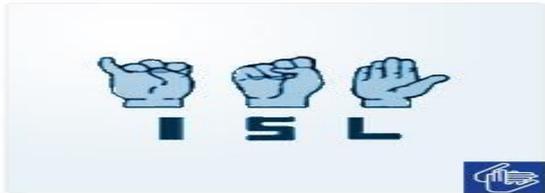


**Irish Deaf Society**

## IF IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE DOES GET RECOGNISED, THIS WILL ENSURE:

- \* **More legal rights for ISL users**
- \* **Better access to public services through ISL**
- \* **Better education for Deaf children**
- \* **Better third level education and training for Deaf adults**
- \* **Better interpreting quality and monitoring**

## 10 MAIN REASONS – WHY ISL MUST BE RECOGNISED AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE



Here are 10 reasons why the IDS believe Irish Sign Language (ISL) should be recognised as an official language in Ireland.

- \*There are 5,000 Deaf people using ISL on a daily basis and an additional 35,000 hearing people.
- \*For these regular ISL users, it is an innate and integral part of their personality.
- \*ISL is the only natural and fully accessible language for deaf children. It does NOT hinder any ability to learn how to speak and listen.
- \*There is no national register of ISL interpreters and ISL teachers and furthermore there are no accreditation or monitoring systems.
- \*ISL has been in use for centuries despite repressive attempts to destroy the language.
- \*Service providers such as Government bodies are not legally obliged to respect Irish Sign Language – they will translate information into English and Irish but rarely into ISL. Though, their respective websites have other language translations (Chinese, Polish, Romanian for example).
- \*The motion calling on the government to recognise ISL has been passed by more than 40 local authorities.
- \*There is no automatic right for Deaf people to have an ISL interpreter in the justice system (excluding criminal court proceedings).
- \*No Deaf child can fully learn ISL, as not all teachers are fluent or even qualified in ISL.
- \*There is no access for Deaf people to emergency or helpline services in ISL

## IMPORTANT SURVEY FOR DEAF COMMUNITY- ALL QUESTIONS IN SIGN LANGUAGE



The Citizens Information Board (CIB) are carrying out a study to see if there are ways to improve access to public and social services and related information for members of the Deaf Community.

Consultants Tom Martin & Associates (TMA) would strongly urge you to respond to this very important survey to ensure that your voice is heard to improve your access to public and social services.

To fill in the survey, go to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CitizensInformationBoard-DeafcommunitySurvey>