



KERRY DEAF RESOURCE CENTRE

KDRC provides services to deaf, deafened, hard of hearing & hearing customers on deaf and hard of hearing related issues. Appointments can be arranged via our Centre in Tralee.

Charity No: CHY20854

4 Gas Terrace
Tralee, Co. Kerry
Ireland
V92 Y409

08.07.19

SIGN LANGUAGE PLANS FOR CORK CITY COUNCIL MINUTES.



Irish Sign Language (ISL) users are watching with interest on a new possible development in Cork city which could open up access to city council meeting minutes.

Motions are to be brought before the council from Councillors Lorna Bogue (GP) and Tony Fitzgerald (FF) for approval on Monday night which, if passed, mean interpretations will be made publicly available following meetings.

In a separate motion, the councillors will ask for the council to provide ISL interpreters when accessing local authority services. If these motions pass, it may encourage other Councils or ISL users to try & secure similar access in their own counties. We would like to wish the Councillors all the best with their motions and we look forward to seeing the outcome of their debates.

HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT? THE IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE (ISL) ACT 2017.



Number 40 of 2017

Irish Sign Language Act 2017

ISL became recognised as an official language when the **Irish Sign Language Act** was signed by President Michael D Higgins into Law in December 2017.

Government Depts./ Public Bodies have 3 years since that date to start preparing to ensure they do **'all that is reasonable'** to ensure that interpretation into ISL is provided for a person who is competent in that language and cannot hear or understand English or Irish when seeking services provided by Dept./Body.

The challenge since then is to create awareness amongst Government Depts. & Public Bodies about the Act. Not all staff members even in senior positions are aware of the new Law. Therefore, significant amount of work still needs to be done to raise awareness before access is put into practice. If you are wondering who is considered to be a Government Dept./Public Body, have a look (from page 7 onwards) at https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/methods/governmentfinancesstatisticsannual/Registrar_of_Public_Sector_Bodies_in_Ireland_April_2019.pdf