



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

16.12.19

HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY TO THE IRISH SIGN LANGUAGE ACT 2017.



Number 40 of 2017

Irish Sign Language Act 2017

We would like to wish **The Irish Sign Language Act**, a very happy 2nd birthday. The Act was signed into law in December 2017. This was a historical moment for everyone who supported the legal recognition of this rich & beautiful language which has been in existence in Ireland for countless decades.

The Act finally recognised Irish Sign Language (ISL) as the 3rd official language of the State (Ireland). It also provided legal rights to ISL users when accessing Government Departments & Public Bodies. The national campaign was spearheaded by our

friends & colleagues in the Irish Deaf Society (IDS) and received support across Ireland and indeed internationally.

While many things have improved since the Act was passed, more work needs to be done to put the Act into practice in everyday life. In the Act, it states that **“this Act shall come into operation on such day or days not later than 3 years after the passing of this Act”**. Therefore, the next year is going to be another critical year of ensuring ISL users rights are met under this important piece of legislation.

In addition, the Act states that **“The Minister shall, not later than 3 years after the date on which this Act is enacted and every 5 years thereafter require a report to be prepared on the operation of this Act”**.

It is vitally important that the work with Government Departments & Public Bodies continues and any issues or barriers are reported & recorded in the Minister’s report.

WISHING YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.



As our service will close at **1pm on Friday, the 20th of December**, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas. We would like to thank everyone for their support in 2019. We look forward to working with you all again when we re-open again at **10am on Monday, the 6th of January**. On behalf of us all here, have a lovely Christmas & best wishes for the New Year.