

Public Health Wales

Re: British Sign Language (BSL) translation of 'About NHS Wales Screening - BSL 60 years', August 2021

Deaf Interpreter Network is a network of deaf interpreters and translators (<https://asli.org.uk/deaf-interpreters-network/>) and we aim to encourage good practice in sign language interpreting and translation done by deaf practitioners, and we want to and are encouraging more deaf practitioners to become qualified and registered by supporting and providing guidance.

We are concerned about the use of an unregistered translator for a clip produced by Public Health Wales: https://youtu.be/IA_21-oO5cE. The BSL used by the translator was incomprehensible and we understand that the person doing the translation was and is not registered with NRCPD (www.nrcpd.org.uk) which is disappointing especially as public funds were used to provide access to this information for deaf people. Registered practitioners have undergone the requisite training, obtained insurance cover, completed the required continuing professional development (CPD) hours and have had DBS background checks. It would seem that this commitment to quality and safety is not important to Public Health Wales and we would like to express our great disappointment.

We see that the video clip has now been taken down, but it is concerning that this happened in the first place and that there was no consideration for quality standards with regards to disseminating important public health information in BSL. We have BSL users within DIN who are based in Wales, and they would have only been too happy to provide guidance and advice on this particular project had we (DIN) been contacted prior to this.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Robert Adam
Chair, ASLI Deaf Interpreters Network