

Be ISL Friendly Online



Irish Sign Language is the native language of Deaf people.

Deaf people are a linguistic and cultural minority group with their own native language, Irish Sign Language (ISL). ISL is the third language of Ireland. Deaf people also have their own culture, history, knowledge, and traditions.

The Irish Sign Language Act 2017 recognises:

- ISL is the native language of the Deaf community
- The right of Deaf people to use ISL
- A public body shall do all that is reasonable to ensure that interpretation into ISL is provided



Public services should provide ISL videos online



Public service bodies should translate important written content into ISL to be more accessible to the Deaf community. This means providing videos of a professional ISL interpreter using Irish sign language to translate your content.

These videos should be translated by a person who is Deaf. You should post these videos on your website and, if applicable, on your social media channels.

Translate the most important information first

Make sure your organisation's key public service information is translated

Translate your website's home page

The information in your 'About Us' page on your website is a good place to start. You can see how the Citizens Information Board does this on their home page.

Translate key announcements into ISL on your social media

Translate any new or important changes to services on your social media. You can see how the Citizens Information Board makes announcements on their Twitter feed.



How to organise translation into ISL

Decide what content you want translated.

Contact a sign language interpreting agency for a quote to book a Deaf sign language interpreter. Suggest to the agency that you would prefer to book a Deaf interpreter.

Check that the interpreter is registered on the

Register of Irish Sign Language Interpreters (RISLI).

Public bodies should book sign language interpreters who are registered.

Discuss with the interpreter what you need. Give them details of:

·The written content you want to translate in English

·Background

·Video style

·Layout

When the video has been made, review it and make sure the film quality is good. Always make sure the ISL video has subtitles and a voiceover.

Why use an interpreter who is Deaf?

Deaf interpreters are professionals whose first and preferred language is ISL, therefore they are best placed to interpret from written languages, like English, or other signed languages into their native language. Read more about the role of Deaf interpreters.



How do I book a Deaf interpreter?

Many agencies provide Deaf Interpreters, including the Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS) which is funded by CIB. A full list of service providers can be found on the Register of Irish Sign Language Interpreters website.

Please click here for the **ISL version** of this document.

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