

# BUSINESS PAPERS

## Part 1- Section E

### WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF OPINION TABLED ON

**19 July 1999**

R Signifies the Member has declared an interest.

#### **OPIN-1999-0023 British Sign Language (BSL)**

Raised by on 09 Jul 1999 by  
Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire  
Peter Black - South Wales West  
Michael German OBE- South Wales East

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Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central  
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*The Assembly notes 4,000 people attended the British Sign Language (BSL) march in London on 27 June. Despite European legislation passed 10 years ago, the Government has not recognised BSL users as a linguistic minority although 62,000 people in the UK use BSL as their first language.*

*The Assembly hopes that BSL receives official recognition, as this will give deaf people equal access to information, health care and employment opportunities in their preferred language. It will entitle Deaf children to the quality of education that hearing children enjoy and allow them to develop their own language skills during their formative years.*