

3 July 2024

## **British Sign Language (BSL), Sign Supported English (SSE) and Deaf Blind Interpreters**

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

**1) BSL/SSE**

- a) How many requests have been made to the Trust for BSL/SSE to English interpreters?**
- b) How many of these requests were confirmed/fulfilled?**
- c) How many were fulfilled by staff and how many by agency staff?**
- d) What were the main reasons for an interpreter being unavailable to attend any unfulfilled requests?**

**2) Deaf Blind**

- a) How many requests have been made to the Trust for deaf blind interpreters?**
- b) How many of these requests were confirmed/fulfilled?**
- c) How many were fulfilled by staff and how many by agency staff?**
- d) What were the main reasons for an interpreter being unavailable to attend any unfulfilled requests?**

**3) Does the Trust employ any BSL/SSE/deaf blind interpreters within the Trust, on a full time staff basis?**

**4) Does the Trust have a contract with a video relay service?**

**Please provide a breakdown of the above for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and Jan - May 2024.**

The current provider of sign language and Deaf Blind interpreting is Sign Language Interactions.

The Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) (formerly known as the Health and Social Care Board) manage the contract with Sign Language Interactions.

Prior to 2022, the provider was RNID (Royal National Institute for Deaf People) and SPPG managed this contract.

SPPG cover the cost of sign language and Deaf Blind interpreting across the region.

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Please direct any queries regarding BSL/SSE and deaf blind interpreting to SPPG. SPPG have their own dedicated FOI teams who will be able to assist you with your request, they can be contacted at [FOI@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@health-ni.gov.uk).