

## OFCOM REVIEW OF SIGNING ARRANGEMENTS

**NAME:** Matthew Bray

**ORGANISATION:** Teaching Assistant at Oak Lodge School for the Deaf

- **Question 1:**

***Do you agree that it would be appropriate to increase the minimum contributions to alternative signing arrangements to bring them back to the 2007 level in real terms, and to make annual adjustments for inflation thereafter? If not, why not?***

1. Yes, I agree that these increases should happen immediately.
2. There are not many children's programmes and I think this is because the number of new programmes has gone down over the years due to these increases not having taken place.
3. I wonder whether £20,000 is the right figure to start with as this sounds very low for a 30-minute programme. I would suggest that Ofcom should also look again at this figure.

- **QUESTION 2:**

***Do you agree that it would not be appropriate to base adjustments to the minimum level of contributions to alternative arrangements on comparisons with the costs of existing sign-presented programmes, or with general TV production costs? If not, why not?***

1. I don't work in media but I imagine that producing sign-presented programmes is a lot higher than that for programmes with invision interpreters.

- **QUESTION 3:**

***Do you agree that it would be appropriate to make annual adjustments to the minimum contributions in line with the Consumer Price Index, and to make consequential change to the Guidance, as set out in Annex 4? If not, why not?***

1. Yes.

- **QUESTION 4:**

***Do you consider that minimum signing requirements for relevant channels should remain fixed at 30 minutes a month or should they rise progressively over a ten year period to 75 minutes a month? If the latter, do you agree that consequential changes should be made to the Code, as set out in Annex 4? Please explain the reasons for your preference.***

1. Yes, having only one new programme a month (=30 minutes) is not ideal for Deaf people especially when there are lots of themes and topics to cover as well as the wide range of audience (i.e. young children, teenagers, young adults, families and elderly).
2. 75 minutes a month would be great but I think a new programme a week would be much better. I therefore suggest 120-150 minutes a month (30 minutes per week).

- **QUESTION 5:**

***Do you consider that transitional arrangements set out in Figure 4 would be appropriate if relevant channels are made subject to rising obligations? If so, do you agree that consequential changes should be made to the Code, as set out in Annex 4?***

1. I show lots of BSL programmes such as *Secret Lab*, *History of Deaf Education*, *Let's Go Wild* etc. to Deaf pupils at the school I work at, and they all love them! This shows how important

these programmes are and we desperately need more educational programmes in BSL. So the increases need to take place ASAP.

- **QUESTION 6:**

***Do you consider that minimum contributions by relevant channels to alternative arrangements should remain fixed at £20,000 a year (adjusted for inflation) or should rise progressively over a ten-year period to £50,000 a year (also adjusted for inflation)? Please explain reasons for your preference.***

1. A ten-year period sounds a long time to me, so it will be ideal to either shorten the transitional period or increase the minimum contributions significantly.
2. There are many topics in the National Curriculum to cover for Deaf pupils in BSL, so the teachers for the Deaf are desperate to have more BSL programmes for the Deaf pupils since TV programmes are the best way to explain complex topics in BSL.