

BUSINESS PAPERS

Part 1- Section E

WRITTEN STATEMENTS OF OPINION TABLED ON

14 September 1999

R Signifies the Member has declared an interest

OPIN-1999-0023 British Sign Language (BSL)

09 Jul 1999 Raised by

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

Peter Black- South Wales West

Michael German OBE - South Wales East

8 Subscribers:

Brian Gibbons FRCGP - Aberavon

Christine Humphreys - North Wales

Karen Sinclair - Clwyd South

Pauline Jarman - South Wales Central

Kirsty Williams - Brecon and Radnorshire

Jocelyn Davies - South Wales East

Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

Richard Edwards - Preseli Pembrokeshire

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.

OPIN-1999-0030 Arts Council for Wales - Drama Strategy

Raised on 22 Jul 1999 by Jenny Randerson - Cardiff Central

3 Subscribers:

Mick Bates - Montgomeryshire

Michael German OBE - South Wales East

Peter Black - South Wales West

This Assembly believes that the Arts Council for Wales should defer its decision on its proposed Drama Strategy until after the Assembly has completed its own review of the Arts. We believe that if the Arts Council for Wales proceeds with its new strategy at this stage, it could run counter to the Assembly's priorities.

OPIN-1999-0032 Remploy

Raised on 14 Sep 1999 by

Rhodri Glyn Thomas - Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Janet Davies - South West Wales

Dr Dai Lloyd - South Wales West

No Subscribers

We condemn the way in which Remploy have proposed the plan to restructure the company without consultation with the Unions and without consideration of the special needs of its workforce.