



*Promoting Quality in British Sign Language*

*Institute of British Sign Language  
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## **Open letter for release on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

Dear friends and colleagues

It is with great sadness that we advise you that IBSL has surrendered its recognition as an awarding organisation (AO). The formalities of this are published on Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA Regulation's websites today.

This means that we will no longer be an AO as of Friday 3rd March. However, the regulators (Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA Regulation) have agreed - so that we can continue to support the completion of learners through their qualification - that we can continue marking and awarding certificates where they are due. For centres and learners, more detailed information is provided on the information sheet below on this.

We have been transparent that our financial position has been at the base of our difficulties. As Trustees, we have had to make some very hard decisions about our future and ability to continue. Our conclusion has been that IBSL is not financially viable, and we will be closing the organisation in the next couple of months.

We want to emphasise that there is no issue with the quality or validity of IBSL qualifications or assessments.

IBSL has been ground-breaking, as the only Deaf led AO. We are very proud of all the learners that have achieved our qualifications over the years. Those learners, who might now work as interpreters, or in some other capacity using their BSL skills and knowledge, or have been able to use BSL to communicate with friends, family and others are our legacy and our BSL champions.

We owe a great credit to the late Frances Elton, Tessa Padden, Alan Murray, Peter Jackson and the BDA for establishing IBSL. We also need to credit and say how proud we are of the Deaf community, our centres and EEs (External Examiners) for helping to create this legacy too.

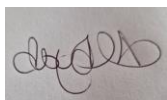
Our closure date is not yet confirmed, but we will provide an update on that in due course.

We do appreciate this has been and continues to be a worrying time for our centres and learners. Please do get in touch with Joselyn or Agnes and let us know if there is anything we can help with. The contact emails are below for easy reference.

We will update you again when we are able to confirm a closure date.

We thank you for your support and share our sadness in telling you of this news.

Yours faithfully,



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## **DETAILED INFORMATION FOR CENTRES AND LEARNERS**

### **Completing assessments, marking and awarding of certificates**

IBSL aim to continue to mark until 24<sup>th</sup> March, issuing final marks and certificates by 31<sup>st</sup> March. However, these dates could change to an earlier date, subject to IBSL's financial and legal position. As soon as we have any firm date on closure we will advise you of this.

We will be working to make sure that the assessment bookings and marking that we currently have are completed in good time and make sure that results and certificates are issued where they are due.

We will update you individually if we have any difficulty with fulfilling your requests for assessments, marking or related arrangements.

### **Booking of any new assessments**

Unless you have already notified us, by completing the 'update request' document provided to you in early in February, or we are not aware of any requirements from you, we are not able to take any further assessment bookings. Please get in touch if you were about to book an assessment.

We will, wherever possible try and make sure resits can take place.

### **Learners who are part way through or almost completed their qualifications**

For centres, where you have learners almost completed or part way through their qualifications, it is essential that you make plans to transfer your learners across to SEG or Signature equivalent qualifications. Please refer to the alternative qualifications list below.

Where there is no equivalent qualification, Signature have offered to provide a RPL (recognition of prior learning) process to help transfer learners across to the nearest equivalent qualification.

We will also be available to help support and advise you through this time, until the organisation closes.

### **Appeals on assessment decisions**

If, during this period of close down, you believe a learner has a case for an appeal please let us know as soon as possible. We would aim to accelerate the timescale within which an appeal decision would be made too.

### **Validity of qualifications and assessments**

Please be reassured that there is no issue with the quality or validity of IBSL qualifications or assessments.

## Alternative Qualifications offered by other Awarding Organisations

### Contact points:

Signature [www.signature.org.uk](http://www.signature.org.uk)

Phone: 0191 383 1155

Text: 07974 121594

Skills and Education Group (SEG) [www.skillsandeducationgroupawards.co.uk](http://www.skillsandeducationgroupawards.co.uk)

Phone: 0115 854 1620

Email: [customersupport@skillsedugroup.co.uk](mailto:customersupport@skillsedugroup.co.uk)

Qualification number	Title	Level	Other AOs
501/1418/9	Award in Deafblind Awareness	Level 1	None
501/1493/1	Award in Deaf Awareness	Level 1	Signature
501/1279/X	Award in British Sign Language Studies	Level 1	SEG Awards Signature
501/0707/0	Certificate in British Sign Language Studies	Level 2	SEG Awards Signature
601/2498/2	Award in Deafblind Communication	Level 2	None
501/1347/1	Certificate in British Sign Language Studies	Level 3	SEG Awards Signature
610/1216/6	Education & Training for Sign Language Teachers	Level 3	None
601/4909/7	Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement	Level 3	Offered by 43 AOs Find out <a href="#">here</a>
601/2497/0	Certificate in Deafblind Communication	Level 3	None
601/6580/7	Certificate in Education & Training for Sign Language Teachers	Level 4	None
600/3505/5	Certificate in British Sign Language Studies	Level 4	Signature
601/0419/3	Award in Bilingual Skills: British Sign Language/English	Level 4	None
601/7795/0	Diploma in British Sign Language Interpreting Studies	Level 6	Signature
601/0420/X	Certificate in British Sign Language Studies	Level 6	Signature
603/3923/8	Diploma in Sign Language Interpreting Studies	Level 6	None