

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FAO: LOCAL REPORTERS

TUESDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2016

PARLIAMENTARIANS HIGHLIGHT SUPPORT FOR DEAF CONSTITUENTS IN ONLINE VIDEO

MP & MSP SHOWCASE SERVICES PROVIDED BY *contactSCOTLAND-BSL*



Above: Roger Mullin MP & David Torrance MSP practice their sign language skills in a new online video.

Roger Mullin MP & David Torrance MSP have teamed up to launch a new online video highlighting services from *contactScotland-BSL* to support British Sign Language (BSL) users.

The MP and MSP expressed a joint commitment to engage with their deaf and hard of hearing constituents within the local area, in an effort to reach out to this oft-neglected community.

BSL users can now contact the local MP and MSP through a Video Relay Service (VRS) provided by *contactScotland-BSL*, where a sign language translator can facilitate conversations directly. Any BSL user with an internet connection and a computer or tablet with web-cam will be able take advantage of this service.

The video released is completely silent, with all information expressed visually through a combination of BSL signing and written words.

Commenting, Roger Mullin MP said:

“According to the British Deaf Association, there are approximately 12,500 BSL users in Scotland, so it is of vital importance that as constituency representatives we are accessible and equipped to communicate effectively.

“This is a fantastic service which will hopefully be utilised by my deaf and hard of hearing constituents to contact me for assistance where required.”

David Torrance MSP stated: “It is important that deaf constituents feel that their local representatives are available and easy to communicate with. Being deaf should in no way be a hindrance to being properly represented within the Scottish and UK Parliaments.

“I welcome the services provided by contactScotland-BSL, and hope that this encourages more deaf BSL users to get in touch with their elected representatives.

He added: “All parliamentarians in every party should be mindful of ensuring that everyone who we represent receives the necessary support needed to be able to utilise us.”

The video was launched on Tuesday morning on social media, which the MP and MSP are keen to be shared online as widely as possible.

The pair filmed the video at the iconic Merchant’s House in Kirkcaldy last week.



ENDS

NOTES TO EDITOR:

For more information on services provided by contactScotland-BSL, please visit:

<http://contactscotland-bsl.org/>

The video has been launched on both Roger Mullin MP and David Torrance MSP’s Facebook pages, and can also be viewed on YouTube at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMFHGS6p_K4&feature=youtu.be

CONTACT DETAILS:

Gavin Hugh

Press & Casework Officer for David Torrance MSP

E-mail: Gavin.Hugh@parliament.scot

Phone: 01592 200349