

---

# **NEW Island Communities Impact Assessments**

---

## **Template form**

May 2022



## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### Shetland's BSL Plan 2024-2030

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS	Responses
<p>Please provide a brief description or summary of the policy, strategy or service under review for the purposes of this assessment.</p>	<p>This is Shetland's DRAFT British Sign Language (BSL) Plan 2024-2030. It is the second Plan and is required by the BSL (Scotland) Act 2015. It is a joint Draft Plan by Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland.</p>
STEP 1 - Develop a clear understanding of your objectives	Responses
<p>What are the objectives of the policy, strategy or service?</p>	<p>The BSL Plan sets out draft actions Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland will take over the period 2024-2030. The purpose of this Plan is to set out how the organisations will promote and support British Sign Language.</p>
<p>Do you need to consult?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>How are islands identified for the purpose of the policy, strategy or service?</p>	<p>Islands are those which are populated, but, not connected to the Shetland mainland</p>
<p>What are the intended impacts/outcomes and how do these potentially differ in the islands?</p>	<p>Shetland Islands Council and NHS Shetland's vision is that Shetland is a place that BSL signers can thrive and reach their full potential.</p>
<p>Is the policy, strategy or service new?</p>	<p>This is a new Draft Plan, there was a previous Plan from 2017-2023.</p>
STEP 2 - Gather your data and identify your stakeholders	Responses
<p>What data is available about the current situation in the islands?</p>	<p>There is very little data on BSL in Shetland in general, let alone at an island level.</p> <p>The 2011 census stated that there were 62 BSL users in Shetland. NRS Scotland will publish the latest results from Scotland's Census 2022 from Spring 2024 onwards. Anecdotally, there now appears to be much fewer</p>

## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### Shetland's BSL Plan 2024-2030

	<p>BSL users in Shetland, more likely to be fewer than 10. Research by NHS Shetland and Shetland Community Connections also found that there was a level of uncertainty in health centres whether there were BSL users registered. It is therefore difficult to know how many BSL users there are in Shetland, and even more difficult to know whether there are BSL users in the islands.</p> <p>Data for the plan is taken from research from NHS Shetland and Shetland Community Connections, as well as focus groups and interviews undertaken by Partnership Officers. BSL users have been involved. Key challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-A lack of BSL awareness and knowledge across services and the wider community</li><li>-Communication issues</li><li>-Fewer social, cultural and job opportunities for BSL users</li><li>-Unreliable internet can be difficult when relying on Video Relay Service (VRS)</li><li>-There are resources which can help with translation, but, not everybody knows about them</li><li>-Lack of data and knowledge about BSL users.</li></ul> <p>These are challenges which appear to affect Shetland in general and are not island specific. There could be BSL users on mainland Shetland and islands, but, we do not have this information.</p>
--	--

## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### Shetland's BSL Plan 2024-2030

Do you need to consult?	No
How does any existing data differ between islands?	<p>This is unknown. The data gathered on issues faced by BSL users and opportunities, looked at two pieces of research – Show Me That You Think of Me and NHS Shetland and Shetland Community Connections' research into access to Primary Care for BSL users, as well as the aforementioned focus groups.</p> <p>Data gathered was all local, however, there was no distinction made between mainland Shetland and islands.</p>
Are there any existing design features or mitigations in place?	It is likely that education and health services would be aware if there were BSL users on the islands. There are also community workers who have good relationships with island communities, as well as a Locality Plan for the Islands with Small Populations where there are opportunities to raise any issues regularly.
<b>STEP 3 - Consultation</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Who do you need to consult with?	BSL users, Council and NHS service teams, third sector organisations
How will you carry out your consultation and in what timescales?	<p>Focus groups, interviews, conversations between November 2023 and January 2024 to inform the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Consultation on the draft plan will take place between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 7<sup>th</sup> March.</p>
What questions will you ask when considering how to address island realities?	<p>Initial research included asking:            "What challenges do BSL users face?            Are there any opportunities?            What should our top priorities be?"</p> <p>Consultation questions include asking for views on the Plan, whether anything is missing, if it makes sense</p>

## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### Shetland's BSL Plan 2024-2030

	and whether people answering are BSL users.
What information has already been gathered through consultations and what concerns have been raised previously by island communities?	Issues raised through the Islands with Small Populations Locality Plan include communications between agencies and islands, speed at which services respond to issues and involvement in redesigning services.
Is your consultation robust and meaningful and sufficient to comply with the Section 7 duty?	Yes
STEP 4 - Assessment	Responses
Does your assessment identify any unique impacts on island communities?	No
Does your assessment identify any potential barriers or wider impacts?	No
How will you address these?	N/A
<p><b>You must now determine whether in your opinion your policy, strategy or service is likely to have an effect on an island community, which is significantly different from its effect on other communities (including other island communities).</b></p> <p>If your answer is <b>NO</b> to the above question, a full ICIA will NOT be required and <b><u>you can proceed to Step SIX.</u></b></p> <p>If the answer is <b>YES</b>, an ICIA must be prepared and <b><u>you should proceed to Step FIVE.</u></b></p> <p>To form your opinion, the following questions should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the evidence show different circumstances or different expectations or needs, or different experiences or outcomes (such as different levels of satisfaction, or different rates of participation)?</li> <li>• Are these different effects likely?</li> <li>• Are these effects significantly different?</li> <li>• Could the effect amount to a disadvantage for an island community compared to the mainland or between island groups?</li> </ul>	
STEP 5 – Preparing your ICIA	Responses
In Step Five, you should describe the likely significantly different effect of the policy, strategy or service:	
Assess the extent to which you consider that the policy, strategy or service can be	

## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### Shetland's BSL Plan 2024-2030

developed or delivered in such a manner as to improve or mitigate, for island communities, the outcomes resulting from it.	
Consider alternative delivery mechanisms and whether further consultation is required.	
Describe how these alternative delivery mechanisms will improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
Identify resources required to improve or mitigate outcomes for island communities.	
<b>STEP 6 - Making adjustments to your work</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Should delivery mechanisms/mitigations vary in different communities?	
Do you need to consult with island communities in respect of mechanisms or mitigations?	
Have island circumstances been factored into the evaluation process?	
Have any island-specific indicators/targets been identified that require monitoring?	
How will outcomes be measured on the islands?	
How has the policy, strategy or service affected island communities?	
How will lessons learned in this ICIA inform future policy making and service delivery?	
<b>STEP 7 - Publishing your ICIA</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Have you presented your ICIA in an Easy Read format?	No
Does it need to be presented in Gaelic or any other language?	British Sign Language (BSL) on request
Where will you publish your ICIA and will relevant stakeholders be able to easily access it?	<a href="#">SIC Website</a>
Who will sign-off your final ICIA and why?	The Executive Manager for Community Planning and Development

ICIA completed by:	Leanne Gear
Position:	Partnership Officer

## Island Communities Impact Assessment

### *Shetland's BSL Plan 2024-2030*

Signature:	Leanne Gear
Date complete:	19/02/23

ICIA approved by:	Vaila Simpson
Position:	Executive Manager, Community Development
Signature:	V Simpson
Date approved:	11/03/2024