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Dr Mike Gulliver
c/o Centre for Deaf Studies
University of Bristol
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12th June 2012

Dear Ofsted,



I'm writing in response to



your 'BSL-based'



version of the



"Children's and young person's guide to the adoption support agencies consultation".¹



¹

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/consultations/a/Adoption%20support%20agencies%20consultation%20-%20British%20Sign%20Language.pdf>

Presenting

BSL

as



a series of cartoon



images is the equivalent



of doing this with



English



This is not even



English it's



a parody of



English... 'English-based', you might



say.



It insults your intelligence



and it turns spoken English



into an object



of ridicule



Your BSL-based 'guide'



Does the same.



BSL is a natural



language... not



a cartoon.



Next time, please consult



With the



Deaf

community



BEFORE

you



Act.



Thank you

Mike

P.S.

I am prepared to believe that your creation of the document concerned wasn't motivated by a desire to insult the Deaf community. Rather - that either in-house, or external advisors persuaded you that it would be an appropriate thing to do.

Could I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to consider this document as evidence that those 'experts' don't have the faintest idea what they are talking about - and invest some time in pursuing links with those who do?

Just as a note of clarification - I'm not Deaf myself and will not act as, in any way, representative of the Deaf community.

So, when (please...) you take action on this, although I'm more than happy for you to contact me, I will be referring you directly to members of the Deaf community.