**Registered and Trainee Sign Language Interpreters**

87. Having the ability to use two languages does not mean someone can interpret. Interpreting is a skill that requires training and experience.

88. A Trainee Sign Language Interpreter (TSLI) is on the path to becoming an interpreter, a Communication Support Worker is not.

89. A TSLI is a Trainee Sign Language Interpreter.

* They intend to become a sign language interpreter.
* They have been assessed by a qualified assessor or verifier as meeting the National Occupational Standards for Trainee Interpreters:
  + Level 6 (equivalent to Bachelor's degree) ability in their first language (usually English).
  + Level 4 (equivalent to certificate of higher education) ability in their second language (usually BSL).
  + Sufficient interpreter training or experience to be aware of developing professional competence boundaries.
* They are either on an NRCPD approved course or are working to an approved development plan that will lead to registration with NRCPD.
* CSWs do not have training in interpreting

90. Sign language interpreters transfer meaning from one spoken or signed language into another signed or spoken language.

91. Customers requiring sign language interpretation will usually require a BSL/English interpreter. British Sign Language (BSL) is a language in its own right. It is not a signed form of English.

92. NRCPD Registered Sign Language Interpreters (RSLIs) have level 6 qualifications in both their second language, such as BSL, and interpreting.

93. An NRCPD regulated TSLI may be suitable for some assignments. You MUST check with the customer to make sure their needs can be met by a TSLI.

* TSLIs must not work in the criminal justice system or mental health settings.
* TSLIs should exercise caution when accepting work in a social care setting.
* The customer should ask the TSLI if NRCPD has placed further restrictions on the assignments they can take on.

94. If it is impossible to engage an RSLI or TSLI, you must make sure the interpreter holds

* the [qualification(s) required for NRCPD registration](http://www.nrcpd.org.uk/training);
* appropriate insurance; and
* an enhanced disclosure form.

**Communication support workers**

95. The term communication support worker (CSW) refers to people who use a variety of methods to help deaf and deaf/blind people access communication. CSWs are not interpreters.

96. CSWs are not interpreters, their role is to support claimants to access communication in English, using a wide range of techniques (e.g. notetaking/rewriting emails).

97. Most CSWs have some ability in BSL, up to level 3. However, this is not a requirement in order to receive AtW funding.

98. You should check with the claimant to make sure their individual needs can be met by a CSW.

**Deciding what support is required**

99. A sign language interpreter should be used in a situation which calls solely or mainly for interpretation.

100. Ask the customer if their needs require an RSLI, a TSLI or a CSW.

101. A sign language interpreter should be used for situations in which clear and accurate communication is essential, such as

* appraisals
* disciplinary meetings
* legal meetings, such as a tribunal or court hearing
* most training sessions, and
* conferences on an unknown or technical subject.

102. A CSW MAY be appropriate for

* team meetings
* basic training, and
* conferences on a known subject.