



Lesley

LESLEY CRERAR

Lesley currently works as a registered sign language interpreter, also having a rich background in healthcare. She first learned sign language as part of her employment in order to understand one of her deaf patients and “one thing led to another” and she “ended up training to become an interpreter”. Lesley was brought up in Torry and is the proud owner of a Torry passport.



I was quite broad (as a Doric speaker) for a long time. And then, as a nurse, I became a clinical tutor. And I was teaching all sorts of people from all different walks of life. And I felt like I had to speak in a way that everyone would understand me. So I couldn't use proper Doric words because people wouldn't understand it. So I had to modify my speaking. But then I would go home and speak to my mum and go back into it.

Sometimes I can sign things a lot quicker than it's said, but sometimes I can't. It just depends on what the meaning is. Sometimes, nobody knows the meaning, especially like songs. Because songs are full of metaphors, and I like to do songs so that I'm fitting the music, so I can maybe sign the metaphor very quickly, but I want to make it longer so that I'm starting and finishing at the same time as the singer. So that takes a lot of preparation.



It (British Sign Language) evolves like English, like spoken language... things change with the way that things look and how things are said and there are new words.

When I'm doing (i.e. BSL interpreting) something that's in Doric or something with a very strong accent, I think the fundamental of the sign translation is actually the meaning. So the meaning is the same, whether it's in Doric or whether it's in French. You know, it doesn't matter. But the attitude that I do it with is what indicates the Doric. So it's a change in register for my body language. And that's how I show the Doric.



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