

NATIONAL REGISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE INTERPRETERS

NRPSI Ltd
Saxon House
48 Southwark St
London SE1 1UN

Tel: 0207 403 166

19th December 2011

Mr Martin Jones by email
Ministry of Justice

Dear Mr Jones,

The registration of interpreters with ALS

We are aware that a large number of interpreters registered with the NRPSI have signed a declaration stating that they have refused to register and work with ALS.

Whilst we have not been involved in either initiating or supporting the process that led to this declaration we are very concerned about both the reasons for so many interpreters having signed it and also the potential effect that this may have on the efficient working of public service interpreting in the justice sector – and indeed elsewhere.

We understand and share the very real concern that the remuneration available under the new Framework Contract as applied by ALS is so dramatically lower than that which has been paid to date that many interpreters will be unable to earn sufficient to enable them to continue their professional activities.

As the National Register we also have other concerns, particularly about the way in which the quality of public service interpreting will be maintained in the justice sector under these new arrangements. There will be obvious pressures on this if so many qualified and quality vetted interpreters refuse to make their services available.

We expressed these concerns and others to your colleagues at our meeting on 29th November, and indicated then our willingness to work with the MoJ in the best interests of public service interpreting.

Therefore whilst welcoming a response to our concerns on this refusal of many of our registrants to work under the new arrangements as currently applied, we would

also welcome the opportunity to work with you to improve the present difficult, indeed unsustainable situation in the best interests of effective justice provision and of sustainable and professional interpreting delivery.

We are happy to meet with you or your team to identify ways in which this can be achieved, and in so doing I would stress that we act as an independent regulator focused on maintaining standards and supporting a sustainable register, not as a membership or representative body – although we do keep in touch with such bodies.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Sangster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning of the word "Ted".

TED SANGSTER
Chairman

cc. SOMI, APCI, ITI, SPSI, NUPIT, CIOL, PIA.