

NRPSI Ltd to launch new National Register of Public Service Translators

30 August 2018: NRPSI Ltd, the not-for-profit organisation that owns and manages the UK's National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI), is to launch a register of public service translators in 2019.

The move to introduce what will be known as the National Register of Public Service Translators (NRPST) comes following NRPSI Ltd's consultation about the need for a register of public service translators with a variety of stakeholders, including NRPSI Registrants with a translation qualification and the public services. This highlighted not only that the NRPSI Register of interpreters is being used to source translators, but also that there are currently no widely held standards or a code of practice underpinning the quality of public sector translation.

NRPSI Ltd Executive Director Stephen Bishop explains: "The National Register of Public Service Interpreters, which is run by NRPSI Ltd, neither accredits translation skills specifically nor upholds professional standards expressly relating to translation other than where translation skills are required as part of an interpreting assignment. Despite this fact, our research shows that the NRPSI Register is being used to find translators, indicating the desire of those seeking translators to work with registered language professionals. Furthermore, it is also evident from a separate NRPSI study of language service users that 25% of them have experienced poor professional conduct from translators in the last two years. These findings have led the NRPSI Ltd Board to conclude that there is a need for a register of public service translators that is equivalent to the NRPSI Register of interpreters. For without this, we cannot regulate for poor translation practice to protect the public services and public, or indeed the interpreting and translation professions."

NRPSI Ltd Chair Ted Sangster adds: "While there are obvious synergies between interpreting and translation, each discipline has its own unique skill set, qualifications and National Occupational Standards. By establishing a new register of public service translators, we are emphasising the professional requirements of another language skill, thereby underscoring the professional status of linguists. This is an opportunity for us to ensure government frameworks and the users of language services understand the differences between interpreting and translation, and to better safeguard the public and reputation of language professionals."

NRPSI Ltd plans to launch the new register of translators in 2019 and to run it along similar lines to the NRPSI Register of interpreters. It will be an open-access online register funded by registration fees. This well-recognised funding model for UK regulators ensures that NRPSI Ltd can remain independent and free from pressure groups. Those who wish to become a Registered Translator will need to meet the standards set by NRPST for professional practice and demonstrate their commitment to the highest professional standards. There will be requirements for qualifications, experience, continuing professional development (CPD), security vetting and entitlement to work. The register of public service translators will be separate from the NRPSI Register of interpreters. However, there will be links between the two registers to make it easy to identify those language professionals who have met all the relevant standards to be registered in both disciplines. The two registers will also be underpinned by the same Code of Conduct and disciplinary process for complaints.

Further information can be found online at: <http://www.nrpsi.org.uk/news-posts/New-National-Register-of-Public-Service-Translators-FAQs.html>

Registrations of interest in further information about the new register of translators are welcome to: info@nrpst.org.uk.

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Editor's notes:

About NRPSI Ltd

NRPSI Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation registered as a company limited by guarantee at Companies House (No. 7585982). We manage and own the UK's [National Register of Public Service Interpreters](#) (NRPSI) and are setting up an equivalent register of public service translators – i.e. the National Register of Public Service Translators (NRPST) – to run alongside this. We bring the same strong values of public interest and protection to the new register of public service translators, along with the expertise of running the well-regarded NRPSI Register.