

In line with our commitment to keep you updated on issues relating to the National Register and interpreters we would like to inform you of a few relevant issues.

1. Metropolitan Police

The Metropolitan Police have asked us to remind interpreters that the cut off date for any unpaid claims relating to work completed prior to **1st April 2011** will be **31st October 2011** (they will not be able to authorise payment for claims submitted after this date) and Interpreters are asked to contact ICT via e-mail with details of any claim at lcsclaimsquery@met.pnn.police.uk. They will need to send a copy of the claim form and confirm they have checked their bank accounts that payment has not been made. The Met are unable to authorise claims where no receipts are attached and travel time is based on AA /TFL data.

2. Offices

A number of interpreters have raised the issue of NRPSI moving out of our current offices at Saxon House which are owned by the Chartered Institute of Linguists. As was reported at our last board meeting (the minutes of which are available on our web site) our Executive Manager, Siân Pritchard reported that she had visited numerous potential new offices but that most were more expensive than our current offices. Siân asked the Board to consider whether moving offices should be a priority at the moment or whether we should concentrate on improving the website.

It was agreed that whilst it would be preferable to move, at the present time the priority should be improving the web site. We will look again at moving next year. As interpreters will be aware these are straightened economic times and we need to decide on the best use of our limited resources for the benefit of our interpreters, it was felt that moving offices would be an unnecessary expense at this time.

It is important however to make it clear that since 1st April this year the NRPSI is a completely independent organisation and has no allegiance to, or other than normal business links to any other organisation including the CloL. Thus you may notice that over the next month or so that we will have changed the address of our Companies House registration away from Saxon House to the offices of our accountants.

3. Improvements to the Web site.

We are currently investigating many ways to improve our website and better position it for the benefit of our interpreters and for the public services that use it. We are currently making amendments to ensure that interpreters details are updated quickly and that interpreters can make certain amendments to their listing themselves.

We are also looking to move away from cheque payments and to make it easier for interpreters to make online payments.

We have also received a number of suggestions from interpreters and public services which are being considered by the board. We welcome any suggestions and constructive criticism as this will help us to improve our service.

4. Our role as a Regulator

This means that we are responsible for ensuring that standards are maintained within the profession. Consequently we are making improvements to our Disciplinary and Complaints procedures and placing a high priority on keeping up to date in dealing with complaints that are received.

One of the reasons the public services continue to use the Register (as they have told us in recent meetings) is the knowledge that all interpreters on the register have agreed to abide by a Code of Professional conduct and can be held accountable if they break this code. It is our intention to start to publish details on our web site about Disciplinary cases to emphasise this role – depersonalised but in sufficient detail to give an understanding of the issues involved and how they have been dealt with.

5. Lobbying

As a regulator we cannot become directly involved in campaigns on behalf of our registrants. We understand that this may disappoint some interpreters who would look to us to actively lobby on a number of issues and/or formally join with others in so doing.

However there exist a number of membership organisations and trade unions who interpreters may wish to join and who are actively campaigning on behalf of interpreters