

Polish and Urdu top list for NRPSI registration

The most popular languages registered with the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) are now Polish and Urdu, according to the data in its most recent annual review. In total, 103 languages are registered, and 15 per cent of the 1,807 registrants offer more than one. Almost two-thirds of registrants are women (65 per cent), and the largest age band is between 45 and 54.

NRPSI has also renewed its calls on the UK government and public services to use only registered interpreters (who are required to give evidence of at least one valid security clearance), to protect standards and public safety.

‘Safeguarding issues have dominated public, political and media discourse in recent times, bringing to the fore the need for those professions and professionals working closely with the public services and vulnerable members of the public to be regulated,’ says NRPSI executive director Stephen Bishop. ‘The existence of NRPSI as the regulator of public service interpreting, and the commitment to professional standards of the 1,807 NRPSI registered interpreters mean that the public service interpreting profession is one step ahead in meeting this need. But the profession can only continue to service this requirement

with government’s and the public services’ support for its registered professionals. Government and the public services can provide this support by ensuring that they only use NRPSI registered interpreters.’

The NRPSI annual review, which contains a breakdown of the register’s members and their languages, is available at www.nrpsi.org.uk/AnnualReview2017. This document also contains key information on professional standards as well as information about complaints brought against registrants, the nature of these complaints and NRPSI’s performance in dealing with them.