

Frequently asked questions (FAQs) about NRPSI Ltd's plans to launch the National Register of Public Service Translators (NRPST)

Why is NRPSI Ltd launching a register of public service translators?

The UK's National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI), which is owned and managed 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 and consultation with a variety of stakeholders – including the 150 NRPSI Registrants with a translation qualification and the public services – shows that the NRPSI Register of interpreters is being used to source 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. While there are obvious synergies between interpreting and translation, they are distinctly different disciplines. Each has its own unique skill set, qualifications and National Occupational Standards. The NRPSI Ltd Board has therefore concluded that there is a need for a register of translators that is equivalent to the NRPSI Register of interpreters, similarly underpinned by agreed standards of practice and regulated by an independent body free from commercial and other pressures, in order to regulate the public service translation profession, meet the demand of the public services and protect the public. Consequently, NRPSI Ltd plans to launch a new register of public service translators in 2019 with the aim of maintaining and safeguarding the reputation of both public service interpreting and translation professions, educating their users and potential users about the differences between the disciplines, and cross-promoting the need for professionalism and the use of professionals in both fields.

What will the new register of public service translators be called?

The new register will be called the National Register of Public Service Translators (NRPST).

Is the new register of public service translators a separate legal entity?

No, it is part of NRPSI Ltd, which is a not-for-profit organisation registered as a company Limited by Guarantee at Companies House (No. 7585982). We manage and own the existing NRPSI Register of interpreters and are setting up the new register of public service translators 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 of interpreters.

What form will the new register of public service translators take? And what will its relationship be to the existing register of public service interpreters?

The new register of public service translators will be run along similar lines to the NRPSI Register of interpreters. It will be an open-access online register of accredited translators who have met the standards set by NRPST for professional practice and agreed to abide by the Code of Conduct. 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 are registered in both disciplines.

What will the registration criteria for the new register of public service translators involve?

We are currently working on the registration criteria for the new register of public service translators to ensure they are appropriate to the discipline of translation and meet the needs of the public services. For those familiar with the NRPSI Register of interpreters, the way the criteria will be structured will be familiar. There will be requirements for qualifications, experience, continuing professional development (CPD), security vetting and entitlement to work. We are engaging with the public services, language professionals, commercial agencies and educational establishments to determine the final criteria. These will be clearly detailed on the NRPST website when it is launched.

Will a different Code of Conduct underpin the new register of public service translators?

No. While NRPSI neither accredits translation skills specifically nor upholds professional standards expressly relating to translation, the Code of Conduct that underpins the NRPSI Register of interpreters does make provision for translation skills that may be needed for an interpreting assignment (e.g. assisting the police in producing statements), as required by the National Occupational Standards in Interpreting. Consequently, the same Code of Conduct can serve as the foundation for the register of public service translators as well. From here, we will continue to update the Code of Conduct as necessary to ensure it reflects developments not only in interpreting practice but translation practice as well. We will also make sure that it takes into account changes in the wider environment. We will follow the same disciplinary process for complaints against Registered Translators as we follow for

Registered Interpreters. And, in due course, we will recruit Registered Translators in addition to Registered Interpreters to sit on our disciplinary panels.

How will the new register of public service translators be funded and staffed?

The new register will be funded by the registration fees. This well-recognised funding model for UK regulators ensures that NRPSI Ltd can remain independent and free from pressure groups. As an independent entity, we can ensure that professional standards are central to everything we do. We will continue to use the experience and expertise of the staff, board and committee members of NRPSI Ltd.

Who is the new register of public service translators aimed at? What type of professional and user?

The new register is aimed at those with the appropriate level of translation expertise who wish to work in a public service setting and are committed to the highest professional standards. Users of the new register will encompass the justice system (including solicitors), local government, social services, the health care sector and any other part of the public sector that requires translation services.

When will the new register of public service translators be launched?

We are planning to launch the new register in mid-2019 and will keep those who have registered their interest in receiving further information about it informed as we approach the launch date. See the end of this document for how to sign up for further information. We will also update this FAQs document as we have more information to release.

What will it cost to become a registered public service translator?

As the registration process will be similar to that of the NRPSI Register of interpreters, we anticipate the registration fees for the new register of public service translators will be similar to those of the NRPSI Register of interpreters ([see the NRPSI registration fees online](#)). We plan to introduce a discount for those appropriately qualified professionals who register in both disciplines (see FAQ below on benefits to NRPSI Registrants). All fees will be published on the NRPST and NRPSI websites as appropriate.

As an existing NRPSI Registrant, how will I benefit from the introduction of the new register of public service translators?

By establishing a register of translators, we are emphasising the unique professional requirements of another language skill, thereby underscoring the professional status of linguists. We are also making it clear that, while there are obvious synergies between them, interpreting and translation are distinctly different disciplines and professions. Each has its own unique skill set, qualifications and National Occupational Standards.

Implementing the new register of translators is an opportunity for us to further protect the language professions and their registered professionals, not to mention the public, from poor linguistic practice. It is a way to ensure government frameworks and the users of language services understand and consider the differences between interpreting and translation. It also provides us with a further means of raising the profile of language professionals and the services they offer among those in government and the public services.

As stated above, the existing NRPSI Register of interpreters is already being used to source translators by those seeking to engage the services of registered language professionals. The establishment of a register of public service translators offers the opportunity not only to properly meet the needs of these employers and promote the value of using registered translators, but also the means to cross-promote both Registers.

Furthermore, the introduction of a specific register of translators means that NRPSI Registrants with a translation qualification will for the first time have the opportunity to register their translation skills and have these recognised. For those NRPSI Registrants who are appropriately qualified, we plan to provide a financial incentive to encourage NRPST registration in the first year that the new register is launched.

As a translator who works for the public services or wishes to do so, how will I benefit from becoming a registered public service translator?

By becoming a registered public service translator you have the opportunity to have your specific professional credentials assessed by the independent regulator of your profession. You will demonstrate to clients and prospects your commitment to the highest professional standards, and that you fulfil the criteria of registration in terms of qualifications, experience and security clearance set by your profession's independent regulatory body. As stated elsewhere in this FAQs document, we know that the public services are seeking to engage

the services of registered language professionals for translation assignments. Becoming a Registered Translator is a way to set yourself apart in the minds of your professional peers and employers from those translators who are unregistered.

As a Registered Translator, you will benefit from a listing in the NRPST Register, which prospective clients can use to source translators. You will have access to your listing, essentially your own webpage, which you can use to market your expertise to potential clients. Furthermore, you will be entitled to use the letters 'RPST' (Registered Public Service Translator) after your name.

By registering, you also have the opportunity to be part of a well-established and highly regarded regulatory organisation that exists to safeguard the quality of both the interpreting and translation professions and promote their value to the users of language services.

What if I'm already registered with NRPSI, do I need to register with NRPST as well?

If you are a Registered Interpreter, possess translation expertise and meet the requirements of the new register of public service translators, you will have the option of becoming a Registered Translator as well. We will be designing our fee structure to encourage this, however, becoming registered in either or both disciplines currently remains optional. All fees will be published on the NRPST and NRPSI websites as appropriate.

Doesn't the NRPSI Register already accredit my translation skills?

Translation skills that might be necessary for an interpreting assignment (referred to as 'Immediate translations' in the National Occupational Standards for Interpreting), e.g. assisting the police in producing statements, are a required part of those qualifications that meet the NRPSI registration criteria. However, NRPSI neither accredits translation skills specifically nor upholds professional standards expressly relating to translation. While there are obvious synergies between interpreting and translation, they are distinctly different disciplines. Each has its own unique skill set, qualifications and National Occupational Standards. For this reason, we have identified a need for a separate register of public service translators.

As an existing user of the NRPSI Register of interpreters, how will I benefit from the introduction of the new register of public service translators?

As a language service user, you are most likely responsible for engaging both interpreters and translators. With the new NRPST, you will benefit from working with translators who adhere to the same high standards of professional practice you have come to expect from NRPSI Registered Interpreters. The new register of public service translators will be open access and easy to use, just like the NRPSI Register of interpreters. There will also be a free independent complaints service, for those occasions where it is alleged that a NRPST Registrant has not adhered to the Code of Conduct.

Can I register my interest in receiving more information about the new register of public service translators (NRPST)?

If you are a translation professional and interested in learning more about the new register of public service translators' registration requirements, or a user of translation services and would like to be kept informed about the launch of the new register, please email us with your name and area of interest: info@nrpst.org.uk. We will then contact you with further information at the appropriate time. We will also be publishing updates to these FAQs here on the NRPSI website from time to time.

Version 1, 30 August 2018