

NRPSI Registrant renewal fee increase

As the new Executive Director of NRPSI, it is with regret that one of my first communications to you should be about the need for us to increase the registration renewal fee from 1 September 2019.

The decision the NRPSI Board has to make each year with regards to fee increases is a difficult one. We are acutely aware of the challenging economic conditions many public service interpreters face. The latest RPI reported in May 2019 stands at 3.4% and is forecast to grow over coming months given the uncertain political and economic environment.

However, the new fees will be pegged at a 2% increase. This increase has been kept as low as possible enabling us to ensure we continue to meet all our costs and obligations as the Regulator of the public service interpreting profession for the foreseeable future. These include actively lobbying government and public service organisations as well as language agencies to ensure that the quality of the services you provide as Registered Interpreters is recognised and that your expertise is fairly remunerated. Indeed, the issue of the fair remuneration of Registered Interpreters is now more important than ever if we are to ensure the survival of the public service interpreting profession and those using it are provided with the high-quality language support they require. While statutory regulation of the public service language profession remains our ultimate goal, a more immediate aim of ours is for public service organisations to make being registered a requirement to work with them. The good news is that we are already seeing some progress being made in this area as we work with the police on their new language services framework. You can read more about the work we are doing in this area in the [attached short FAQ document](#).

About the new fees

Both the First Language Application Fee and the annual Renewal Fee will increase by £4.50 to £232.00 (including VAT) less than the retail price index increase (RPI).

The one-off cost of registering an additional language will also increase less than the RPI to £81.00 (including VAT).

The new fee information is now available on the Fees Page of the NRPSI website. Details of the Renewal Fee, which is applicable regardless of whether you have a language registered at Full, Interim or Rare Language status, will be included in your next renewal notice.

Should you have any questions not covered in this communication, please contact us by emailing admin@nrpsi.org.uk and a member of our team will respond to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

Mike Orlov
Executive Director and Registrar
NRPSI
a not-for-profit organisation

What are the new registration fees and when will they be introduced?

Both the Application Fee and the Renewal Fee will increase by £4.50 to £232.00 (including VAT). The new fees will come into effect for renewals dated from September and new registrations from 1 September 2019.

What about other fees?

The one-off cost of registering an additional language becomes £81.00 from 1 September 2019. The reinstatement fee for those off the Register for more than three months becomes £79.00 (including VAT) from 1 September 2019.

Why have my fees increased?

We review the Registrant fees every year to ensure we are able to continue to meet all of our ongoing operational costs and fulfil our obligations as the Regulator of the public service interpreting profession for the foreseeable future. These include lobbying key stakeholders to improve their understanding of interpreting services and recognition for the vital role that Registered Interpreters play in our society. On average, NRPSI has kept the increase in registration fees below inflation since becoming an independent organisation in 2011. This year they have been increased less than the PRI reported in May.

Why should I renew my registration?

Being on the Register not only demonstrates your professionalism but also marks you out from those 'interpreters' who are not registered in the eyes of potential clients. This can only be a good thing when you consider the findings of the user survey that NRPSI carried out in November/December 2018. These showed that a total of 92% of users who responded to the survey were either very or quite satisfied with the standard of interpreting services provided by Registrants they had engaged, while only 44% were very or quite satisfied with the services of those interpreters they had used who were not registered.

Being registered provides you with a means to market your expertise to the more than 11,000 NRPSI website users who have signed up to search for interpreters using the online Register. Furthermore, it is notable that a number of public service organisations, such as the Metropolitan Police and the Law Society, have said they will only use Registered Interpreters.

Despite this, we at NRPSI recognise that this isn't enough. While we won't rest until we achieve statutory regulation of the public service language profession, our more immediate aim is for all public service organisations to make being a Registered Interpreter a requirement to work with them. The good news is that we are already seeing some progress being made in this area as we work with the police on their new language services framework that will be rolled out nationwide. For the latest information about our work with the police on their new framework, please refer to the Registrant newsletters in the [News Section](#) of the NRPSI website.

What is more, to ensure a linked-up approach, we are tackling the issue of the decreasing rates of pay offered to qualified interpreters by language agencies directly by meeting with them about their current practices.

But the future of our work relies on committed professionals such as you who share our belief in the value of professional standards.

What do my fees pay for?

NRPSI's activities are entirely funded by Registrant fees. As a not-for-profit organisation, all income we receive is used to pay for our operational costs and ensure we can fulfil our obligations as the Regulator of the public service interpreting profession. As the Regulator, we continue to develop and maintain professional standards and champion the use of Registered Interpreters through our thought-leadership activities, by partnering with the public service organisations, interpreting and translation organisations and educational bodies, and by lobbying government. Added to which, we have embarked on a campaign to meet with language agencies to discuss their current practices and the fair remuneration of qualified interpreters. Committed to standards, we maintain the Code of Professional Conduct and act as an independent disciplinary

authority should a complaint about a Registered Interpreter arise. By doing so, we safeguard the profession, its professionals and the users of public service interpreters.

What is the value of being registered?

Registration is a badge of professionalism and indicates to those using the Register that you are an interpreter who complies with the Code of Professional Conduct, has an ethical approach to business and a commitment to the highest standards. Furthermore, NRPSI works on behalf of Registrants to demonstrate the critical importance of using only qualified and Registered Interpreters. We ensure that the standards we set are constantly reviewed and developed, and that the routes to becoming a Registered Interpreter through professional qualification and experience assessment are fit for purpose. We also endeavour to ensure that the professional standards we uphold are respected by, and relevant to, the users of the Register.

What new services will be introduced as a result of the increase in fees?

The fee increase will in the main help us to maintain and hone already improved existing services. These include managing disciplinary cases, the online Register and its search function and our communications (including our website). It will also allow us to ramp up our campaigning activities, particularly with regards to encouraging more public service organisations to make being a Registered Interpreter a requirement to work with them and language agencies to change their business practices and ensure qualified interpreters are fairly remunerated. Without efficient and effective communications, we are unable to fulfil our role as Regulator in championing best practice and the necessary use of Registered Interpreters. We are increasingly recognised as the Regulator of the public service interpreting profession and our counsel is more frequently sought and heard by policymakers. Our website user registration facility has attracted more than 11,000 website users to sign up to search the Register for qualified interpreters. This also gives us a direct line of communication with those using your services, enabling us to provide them with information about our activities.

How can I pay my fees?

There are a variety of payment methods:

The quickest and easiest way to pay is by credit/debit card, as you are no longer charged additional card processing fees. To pay by credit/debit card, simply log in to your account in the Interpreter's Room on the NRPSI website. NRPSI will automatically receive an email confirming receipt of your payment once it has been successfully processed by the banking system.

You can also make payment via an online bank transfer using the Faster Payments service. The Interpreter's Room contains all the details you need to use this service, including your registration number to use as a reference. However, please contact us if you require any assistance. Bank transfers are usually free if you are making a transfer from a personal account.

Another option is to pay by cheque. Cheques should be made payable to NRPSI Ltd. Please note that we will need to allow three weeks for the cheque to clear.

Can I claim tax relief?

Registrants who are employed and pay UK income tax may claim tax relief on their NRPSI registration fee. If you are operating as a sole trader, the subscriptions paid to NRPSI must be wholly and exclusively for the purposes of your trade. If you are employed, providing the subscription was paid wholly, exclusively and necessarily for the purposes of your employment, the deduction is still allowable. NRPSI currently doesn't appear on HM Revenue & Customs' (HMRC) published list of subscriptions, however, we have provided a letter via our website that can be supplied to HMRC in support of your deduction. If you experience difficulty in claiming for the NRPSI fee, please let us know so that we can take this up with HMRC. If you require a receipt showing the registration fee you have paid to support your claim, please email admin@nrpsi.org.uk.