

**Follow up Questions for Chris Philp**  
**The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department,**  
**following his answers to MPs questioning, dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Please send these questions to your MP if you are concerned about the quality of interpreters engaged by HMCTS and if you wish for greater transparency. As we know, transparency is the oxygen to aid us in protecting the public and ensuring those who are voiceless and cannot speak English have no hindrance in their dealings with the criminal justice system. Transparency will also help NRPSI advocate and lobby to drive up the quality and experience levels of public service interpreters engaged in HMCTS.

**FOLLOW-UP QUESTION 1**

You mentioned interpreters are required to complete a justice system specific training course before they are permitted to join the MoJ's interpreter register and that this is facilitated by the International School of Linguists. The questions below are to help explore the granular detail of this justice sector programme, which you state takes approximately 4 hours to complete. Could you please let me know:

- When the course was introduced
- Who wrote/authored this course
- Is it a TQUK endorsed course
- If not, which outside organisation, if any, has validated the course
- Is it the same course for those with a DCI or a DPSI Law level 6 regulated qualification as it is for those who have enrolled on a Level 1 Foundation Course or those with no PSI experience at all even if they hold a first language-degree
- If it is not the same for each level of qualifications, how does the course differ for those with such varied qualifications which are accepted by the MoJ list
- How many took the course in 2019
- How many took the course in 2020
- Is the course examined
- If so, how many failed in 2019 and in 2020
- If not, what form of assessment, if any, takes place
- Does ISL issue a certificate for those successfully completing the course

You indicate this justice-system-specific training course, which all interpreters on the MoJ register are required to complete, ensures professionalism when linked with the required qualifications accepted by the MoJ list. You will I am sure appreciate this is a key issue and the more light we can cast on this subject the more we can explore improvements in language service provision in HMCTS.

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTION 2**

I would also like to ask how many hours of experience is demanded as a minimum by the MoJ Register for those who are:

- Enrolled on a Level 1, two-to-four week, course
- Level 1 public service interpreting (PSI) qualified
- Level 2 PSI qualified
- Level 3 PSI qualified
- Level 4 PSI qualified
- Those without any form of public service qualification but have degree level qualifications in other disciplines such as philology and linguistics
- Level 6 PSI qualified

## **FOLLOW-UP QUESTION 3**

With reference to your comments regarding the 118 spot checks conducted since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 by The Language Shop, and the 59 who failed these spot checks; what level of qualification did these 59 individuals have which enabled them to be registered on the MoJ register in the first place prior to their spot check?

Thank you.

28<sup>th</sup> April 2021