

August 2025

Template letter to download (or copy/paste) and send to the [Chair of the House of Lords Public Services Select Committee](#) that conducted the inquiry into court interpreting and translation services

You can download and use the template letter/email on the next page to lend your support to NRPSI's call for the Committee:

"To explicitly recognise NRPSI as the register of public service interpreters for the justice system."

Contact details for the Chair of the Committee can be found by visiting:

<https://members.parliament.uk/member/305/contact>

Please feel free to amend and personalise the letter. You may wish to add some relevant personal experiences.

We would also be delighted to hear about any response you receive to your letter. If you are happy to share this, please email a copy to mike@nrpsi.org.uk.

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[Postcode]
[Email address]

[Date]

The Rt Hon Baroness Morris of Yardley
Chair, House of Lords Public Services Committee
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

Email: morrise@parliament.uk

Dear Lady Morris,

Re: Registration of support for NRPSI to be recognised as the register of interpreters for the justice system ahead of the 9 September House of Lords' debate

As a Registrant of the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI), I thank you and the Committee for your '*Lost in translation? Interpreting services in the courts*' report of 24 March 2025 and its thoughtful recommendations to improve standards and consistency in court interpreting and translation services. I welcome the Committee's recognition of the vital role that high-quality interpreting plays in ensuring fairness and equality before the law.

I also wish to register my full support for NRPSI's position, as set out in its letters to the Committee dated 26 March and 1 July 2025, ahead of the House of Lords' debate on 9 September 2025. In particular, I support NRPSI's:

- assertion that lasting improvements to court language services will only be achieved if interpreter pay and conditions are addressed through constructive engagement with the profession and its representative bodies
- call for the Committee to explicitly recognise NRPSI as the register of public service interpreters for the justice system.

I welcome the Ministry of Justice's move towards higher professional standards, especially the introduction from October 2026 of a default Level 6 qualification and 200 hours' experience for court interpreters. These reforms are in closer alignment with NRPSI's long-established standards. However, without addressing remuneration, terms and conditions, and professional recognition (including protection of title), they risk failure.

Only about half of the MoJ's listed interpreters currently hold a Level 6 qualification. Many skilled colleagues have left the profession because they cannot earn a sustainable living, while low pay and poor contractual terms have led to widespread refusal to work for contracted agencies. Unless the MoJ engages formally with NRPSI and other professional bodies, the shortage of qualified interpreters will persist.

NRPSI already has almost 1,700 Level-6 qualified interpreters, most with at least 400 hours' experience. The call for its recognition as the register of public service interpreters for the justice system has strong cross-sector support, as reflected in the letter from Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J) to the Committee on 29 April 2025. Formal recognition would safeguard quality, maintain consistent professional standards, and strengthen the justice system's ability to secure the skilled interpreters it needs.

I also wish to underline my own professional commitment to NRPSI's robust standards. I choose to be registered with and regulated by NRPSI – the UK's only independent register and regulator of public service interpreters – which verifies my qualifications, experience, adherence to its Code of Professional Conduct and commitment to ongoing professional development. Independent regulation protects court users, upholds professional integrity, and ensures accountability to the public and my peers.

I urge the Committee to explicitly recognise NRPSI in this role and to continue pressing the MoJ to deliver a court interpreting system that is fit for purpose, sustainable, and fair to the public as well as the professionals who serve it.

Thank you for your continued commitment to this vital issue.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Registration Number]

References and further information for ease of access

- **PSC report: 'Lost in translation? Interpreting services in the courts' (24 March 2025)**
<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8493/interpreting-and-translation-services-in-the-courts/publications/>
 - **NRPSI's letter to the PSC (26 March 2025) and Professional Interpreters for Justice's (PI4J) letter to the PSC (28 April 2025) about the report: Collated by NRPSI**
<https://www.nrpsi.org.uk/news-posts/Click-here-to-read-the-letters-sent-to-the-House-of-Lords-Public-Services-Committee-Inquiry-from-NRPSI-and-from-PI4J.html>
 - **MoJ's response to the PSC report (27 May 2025)**
<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/48172/documents/252233/default/>
 - **NRPSI's letter to the Minister for Courts and Legal Services about the MoJ's response to the PSC report (23 June 2025)**
<https://www.nrpsi.org.uk/news-posts/NRPSI-letter-to-Sarah-Sackman-KC-MP-Minister-for-Courts-and-Legal-Services-at-the-Ministry-of-Justice-click-here-to-see-more.html>
 - **NRPSI to the PSC (1 July 2025)**
<https://www.nrpsi.org.uk/news-posts/Sustainable-progress-is-only-possible-if-the-MoJ-is-prepared-to-address-interpreter-pay-and-conditions-through-formal-and-constructive-dialogue-with-the-profession-and-key-stakeholders-click-here-to-read-more.html>
 - **About NRPSI** – the independent regulator and national register of public service interpreters:
<https://www.nrpsi.org.uk>
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