

GMB Interpreters and Translators Branch Meeting on 4th of December



To assist the drafting of the report of the GMB Union Interpreters and Translators Branch, “Found In Interpreting” in October 2025 the Ministry of Justice provided full range of statistical data. That helped establish a connection between the issues with the court interpreting service execution and its administration by the courts and provider on one hand and the overall surge in the backlog of court cases. The reported connection was established despite the fact both sets of issues were so far always being segregated in the ministerial data updates and by all institutions. Other types of flaws and misuse were also pointed , all of them contributing to the stalling service in that crucial social segment, the court system. The report also offers different solutions to core problems. It was finalised in the Autumn of 2025 .

By that point in time the pay and other working conditions for the linguists reached and the very bottom. With many leaving the profession altogether. Currently the fixing of the issues within the top tier of interpreting services has become a question of saving the whole field. The immediate aim is to minimise losses, while working at

long-term solutions. If that is still possible it would take nothing less than the combined efforts of all involved in the service.

The branch began a large campaign. First announced a group legal claim against Thebigword for unpaid work fees. Then followed with sending the report and engaging externally. For the 2026 annual national GMB congress a delegation is to be sent and three motions are being prepared, so the whole union can uphold them before the government. They are to be presented and confirmed at a forthcoming branch members' meeting on 4th of December 2025 from 2.30pm at London Hainault GMB office, which will be also taking place remotely. There will be a presentation by GMB in regards defence to members against repercussions at work after being proactive. On the spot GMB badges and other materials would be given to members. Such will also be sent out to GMB offices in different cities for picking up. Further info is being announced on the union branch [Facebook page](#) and in the WhatsApp community. The meeting will be accessible only to members.

The three motions are connected and follow the natural order from the report. Focusing on at least three sets of core issues and propose respective solutions:

1. Unified register at the Ministry of Justice that includes all legal interpreters who do work in court - hired by all possible agencies or directly by courts. It's to include the required linguists' qualifications or tiers for job complexity level as well as the required security clearances.

2. Protected title of "legal interpreter" or titles of "court interpreter" and "police interpreter" to be introduced in the list of professions accredited by the government. Along with relevant independent regulators that are to be given more detailed information in regards to fulfilment, performance and complaints as part of overseeing the service.

3. A new pay guidance to be issued by the Ministry of Justice that is universal and mandatory for all providers of linguistic services in court, at least in the part of a minimum travel time pay component.

Contact email; Victor.Harri@gmbactivist.org.uk