

I provide here a brief summary of some of the areas of activity being undertaken by our Executive Manager and her team and also the board.

We end 2011 with some positive news, we currently have 2,387 registered interpreters on the register in 101 languages this compares positively with 2,180 registered interpreters on 01 April 2011 in 99 languages.

Our website (www.nrpsi.co.uk) continues to carry information that we feel is of interest and relevant and recent postings include the minutes of our last board meeting in November and one of the outcomes of that meeting - the publication of our revised Disciplinary Procedures and our Code of Conduct.

You will also see that we are now carrying summary details of the DC Hearings and their outcomes as we believe that it is important to demonstrate that this very important aspect of the way in which we maintain and manage the register is working effectively and there are some lessons to be learned both for interpreters and those who engage interpreters' services from such hearings and decisions.

Our board has set the maintenance of the required quality standards as an absolute priority and this commitment has been very positively received both by organisations such as the Metropolitan Police and other Police Authorities, the Ministry of Justice, other organisations employing our registrants and many registrants themselves. We are now up to date on all complaints having cleared the backlog since we came into being in April this year and intend to remain so.

Whilst our registrants work across many parts of the public sector, those who work in the justice sector will be aware of and concerned by the changes being brought about by the Ministry of Justice through the Framework Agreement and their engagement of ALS to operate it.

You will be aware from previous communications of the ways in which NRPSI has been seeking to clarify the implications for both the register itself and all those registered on it. A recent meeting with the Ministry of Justice confirmed that they see no changes taking place on implementing these changes in full, and indeed they told us that they will be rolled out completely between now and January.

A copy of the notes of that meeting has been put up on our website.

We are also aware however that a large number of our registrants have signed to state that they will not be registering or working with ALS at all. We understand the reasons for this and the very real concerns that have been caused. We also have concern for the maintenance of effective, quality driven public service interpreting that is in our view very much under threat at present.

Therefore given that the MoJ indicated to us that they are willing to keep in touch with NRPSI we have written to them expressing concerns about these issues and offered to work with the MoJ to help resolve the obvious problems in the best interests of public service interpreting.

A copy of this letter has also been placed on our website.

On more positive fronts Sian Pritchard our Executive Manager has undertaken a programme of making presentations to students to outline to them the role and purpose of the NRPSI and assist them in their career decisions. We have also undertaken a marketing campaign through advertising in relevant publications used by solicitors and others in the public sector.

A number of changes have also been made on our website, many at the request of registrants and users to facilitate both our registrants in more fully outlining relevant information about themselves (should they wish) and to enable users of the website access the information they are looking for about interpreters quicker and easier to access.

Enquiries of the website continues to grow demonstrating the value of an open access site. Further improvements will be made early next year including the ability for registrants to enter and edit information about themselves that they wish to have displayed, and also to accept and process card

and other electronic means of payment. This will be followed by a complete revamp of the website (in its presentation and appearance rather than its functionality) once our strategic framework has been determined.

This relates to the fact that the board is currently undertaking a detailed review of our strategic aims and ambitions and will be putting this in the form of a detailed strategic plan early in the New Year which will define the path we are seeking to take and carve out for ourselves over the next few years. We will share the outcome of this with all our registrants and stakeholders.

We will continue to keep you informed of any responses and further developments, but these are unlikely to emerge until the New Year. In this context please note that the NRPSI office will be closed from 14.00 on the 23rd December and will re-open at 09.00 on the 03rd January.

All that remains is for us to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.