

CHANGES TO THE ORGANISATION OF NRPSI

Q & A

Q. Why is the NRPSI changing?

A. A key recommendation of the independent NRPSI Review carried out in 2009 was that the NRPSI be reconstituted as an independent professional regulator. 'Independent' in this sense means independent of undue influence from users of interpreters, from the profession itself or from any external body. 'Independent' also means that the new NRPSI will not be owned by the Institute of Linguists, as NRPSI Ltd is at present. The new NRPSI will regulate the Public Service Interpreting profession in the interests of the public.

Q. What is the new NRPSI?

A. The new NRPSI is the organisation that will take over from the existing NRPSI Ltd on 1st April 2011. Its purpose will be to regulate the public service interpreting profession in the public interest. It will not be a statutory body (since public service translation and interpreting does not have protection of title), but it is designed to operate in the same way as other professional regulators. In short, it will be a full non-statutory regulator.

In some ways, it will resemble the existing NRPSI. However, there will be some important differences in the way NRPSI operates and the way information is accessed by the public.

Q. How will the new NRPSI be different?

A. The main difference is that the Register will be publicly accessible online, so that it will be possible for any member of the public to see who is, or is not, a qualified, registered Public Service Interpreter. At the same time, subscriber licences to public services and their intermediaries will end.

Q. Why is the name of the organisation not changing?

A. The new company will retain the name in order to preserve the identity of the National Register and ensure continuity.

Q. What will happen to registrants on the existing NRPSI ?

A. It is intended that the registration of all interpreters on the existing NRPSI register will be transferred to the new NRPSI register. All current NRPSI registrants will be asked directly for their consent to the transfer of their data. Without this consent, however, the transfer cannot take place. In that case, that registrant's name will not appear on the new

NRPSI register. Please note that if you change your mind at any time in the future and decide that you do not want to be on the register, you can ask for your data to be removed.

You are asked to complete and return the Consent Form circulated at the same time as these Q & A no later than Monday 21 March 2011.

Q. How will the change to the new NRPSI affect the amount of work I might get?

A. It is not possible to guarantee future developments, but the change should not negatively affect the amount of work you will get; in fact, it is hoped that the work you are offered will increase. The new NRPSI will maintain and publish a register of all qualified, registered interpreters, like the existing NRPSI. However, the new register will be an open-access list. Anyone will be able to consult the list free of charge. This way everyone will be able to see if someone is a fully qualified, registered interpreter or not. This is the primary function of the new NRPSI register: the fact that you are a professional, registered public service interpreter will be available for everyone and anyone to see.

Q. What information will be shown on the online Register?

A. The standard information shown for each registrant will be as follows: name, NRPSI registration number, the languages you work with, security clearance(s) and the first half of your postcode, showing the area of the United Kingdom where you live. (Exceptionally, registrants may require that no postcode details appear on the website against their name.)

In addition, you will be able to include one piece of contact information: either a web link to a professional membership body where full contact details can be accessed, a personal phone number or a personal e-mail address. Only one piece of information will be possible, and you do not have to include any contact information if you prefer not to.

Please note that the inclusion of contact information is entirely optional.

Q. How will prospective clients contact me?

A. A public service, or someone acting for a public service, who needs to hire an interpreter for a job will be able to see the contact details that you choose to include on the online register. They will be able to contact you direct if you choose to have a phone number or e-mail address shown on the online register, or through your professional membership body if that is your preference. You may, if you wish, choose to have no contact information displayed online.

Where a link to a professional membership body is provided, this will take an enquirer to a location where relevant details are held. This may be another list (e.g. held by the ITI, the CIOL, APCI or other organisations). Or it may be may be the new "Institute of Public

Service Interpreters” (IPSI) list, if you choose to become a member of IPSI (see below). This will be at the discretion of each individual registrant.

All registrants are urged to consider joining either the new Institute of Public Service Interpreters or another of the professional membership bodies for linguists in order to be able to benefit fully from the full range of membership services they can offer.

Q. Do I have to register with the Regulator?

A. You are not obliged by UK Law to be registered on the NRPSI to practise in the UK as an interpreter in the public services. However, public service clients of interpreters have indicated their desire to see a central professional register of qualified interpreters, and their intention to use registered interpreters. It is hoped that the new arrangements will make it easier, more economical and more attractive to all potential users of Public Service Interpreters to use only registered interpreters.

Q. How much will it cost to be registered on the new NRPSI register?

A. The registration fees will be set by the Board of the new NRPSI, but it is estimated that the annual fee will be in the region of £200 (with no additional fee for more than one language). The increase over current fee levels that this represents will cover the cost of discontinuing the subscriber licence fees, which at present provide a significant amount of income for the existing NRPSI.

Q. How will the new NRPSI be managed?

A. The new NRPSI will be an independent company, run by a Board of Directors. In line with current thinking on the composition of Professional Regulators, this Board will consist of both Lay and Practitioner members. There will be seven Board members. Four will be lay members, selected by competitive interview on the basis of their suitability for the role. Three will be practitioner members, selected by competitive interview from a pool of candidates elected by the registrants. The Chair of the Board will be a lay person. Period of tenure will be three years (renewable with an absolute maximum of nine years).

Q. What is the Institute of Public Service Interpreters (IPSI)?

A. The IPSI is a new membership organisation specifically for Public Service Interpreters that is expected to be established at the same time as the new NRPSI. The organisation will seek primarily to promote and represent the interests of Public Service Interpreters. One of its primary objectives will be to provide a database of contact details for Registered Interpreters. A practitioner who chooses to become a member of IPSI will be able to have a link from the new NRPSI register to their contact details on the IPSI membership register. Alternatively, registrants may have a link to the membership register of another professional membership organisation.

Q. Do I have to join IPSI if I am registered on the new NRPSI register?

A. You are not obliged to join the IPSI any more than you are obliged to join other membership organisations. However, you will not be able to benefit from the services of the IPSI if you choose not to become a member.

Q. How will IPSI be managed?

A. IPSI will be an independent membership organisation for Public Service Interpreters. In common with other professional membership bodies, the Board of Directors of IPSI will be elected from among the membership of IPSI. Information about IPSI, its governance, aims and objectives will be published as soon as it is available.

Q. How do I join IPSI?

A. Registrants on the existing NRPSI register will be asked in the consent letter referred to above if, in addition to the transfer of their data to the new NRPSI they wish their contact details to be passed to IPSI, so they can be contacted about membership of the new organisation.

Q. How much will it cost to be a member of IPSI?

A. The membership subscription and other details concerning the organisation and structure of IPSI will be announced separately.