

Language and Cultural Services for The Metropolitan Police Service

In London has changed vastly in the past 10-15 years.



The Language programme saw the implementation of the Interpreter Deployment Team which meant The Met Police finally had control over bookings to see their actual language demand and patterns emerging. This also helped from a quality perspective meaning we could ensure that only MPS and NRPSI interpreters were and are being booked and used. The Language Policy Team supports an Interpreter Deployment Team by verifying qualifications of all interpreters and making sure that our 400 self-employed interpreters (including 10 interpreters of British Sign Language) and 50 self-employed translators have continuous security clearance and maintain NRPSI membership. If there are any gaps in language provision that's when we turn to the team at NRPSI for assistance.



Language and Cultural Services have recently introduced Rebecca Wraight as their newly appointed Head of Department to join Deputy, Robin Ellingham and a team of 40 Police Staff.

The team all have a strong focus on evolving the world of languages, working amongst such a diverse city that sees over 270+ spoken to strongly continue to serve London's frontline policing.

Rebecca is currently concentrating on awareness/development content for frontline policing on improving efficiencies for their Interpreters and Officers. MPS interpreters have recently all been invited to share feedback on current ethics and process as well as our 32 Borough Commands in London.

Top 10 Languages 2013 to 2020



2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Romanian	Romanian	Romanian	Romanian	Romanian	Romanian	Romanian
Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish	Polish
Lithuanian	Arabic	Arabic	Spanish	Spanish	Arabic	Arabic
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Arabic	Arabic	Spanish	Spanish
Turkish	Turkish	Turkish	Turkish	Bengali	Turkish	Turkish
Arabic	Lithuanian	Bengali	Bengali	Italian	Bengali	Portuguese
Bengali	Bengali	Lithuanian	Portuguese	Portuguese	Bulgarian	Albanian
Portuguese	Urdu	Portuguese	Punjabi	Farsi / Dari	Portuguese	Bengali
Russian	Portuguese	Urdu	Indian	Turkish	Albanian	Bulgarian
Punjabi	Punjabi	Punjabi	Urdu	Bulgarian	Tamil	Punjabi
	Indian	Indian	Lithuanian			Indian

We have sourced a linguist from many corners of the earth!

What we want from Interpreters?



- It's a changing world, Interpreters need to look at their individual skills and adapt as we all have to, in order to keep up to date with change.
- You are self employed what makes you so good compared to other Interpreters that people/companies will offer you work?
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) - Language skills are no longer enough.
- Increased use of technology and data – Interpreters must be IT literate otherwise you will not receive assignments.
- Modern communications equipment, mobile smarter working. (Office in a bag?)
- Knowledgeable about the changes within Public Services - well read and informed.
- Are you available during key times of demand? Do you know when that is?

A day in the life of our Interpreter Deployment Team Operations:

Don't be daunted by the fact that we are the single point of contact for all of the Metropolitan Police Service's language and cultural needs as well as external parties such as the City of London Police and pretty much any force around the UK that may require our assistance.

Whether it's a call at 7am in the morning or at 7pm at night, there is never a dull moment!

Our role is integral to dynamic criminal investigations, we don't just triage requests, we ultimately keep the momentum going on investigations by fulfilling the demand whether it be an interpreter on site dealing with a murder enquiry, translating an urgent suicide note or despatching an interpreter to help talk someone down from a bridge at 2am in the morning. Each request is unique and each request is such a valuable and important contribution in working together for a safer London. Our team continues to advise Officers with their language and cultural expertise on how best to use our services, whether it be evidentially or not. We triage bookings for crime syndicates, to overseas bookings to complex and secret long running operations. In a nutshell, our officers complete the puzzle by finding the missing part and we ensure all clogs are running smoothly by fulfilling their demands at short notice.

How to Join our Met Language List

Language and Cultural Services (LCS) on behalf of the MPS are the only UK Force with an in-house deployment of language resources including recruiting interpreters/translators onto their official Met list to meet demand as and when required.

LCS monitor linguistic use throughout the MPS to ensure there are enough interpreters/translators for each language and will only recruit if necessary.

The recruitment process includes an application and after sifting through applications, individuals may be invited by the MPS for an interview.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

To become an MPS interpreter, you need to:

- *Have fluent written and verbal communication skills in English and your listed language(s)*
- *Candidates in spoken languages must obtain the Diploma in Police Interpreting (DPI) where available*
- *Have continuous registration with the National Register of Public Service Interpreters*
- *Provide competent IT Literacy*
- *Be willing to undergo vetting NPPV Level 3 (non-police personnel vetting) and Security Clearance (SC)*

We are currently looking for Kinyarwanda speakers, and whilst there is no recruitment for other languages at present that is under constant review due to the changing nature of policing such a cosmopolitan city as London.

As mentioned earlier, we will continue to work with NRPSI with any forthcoming advertisements.

Should you have any further questions, the team warmly invite any correspondence by emailing:

LCSLanguagePolicy@met.police.uk

To become an MPS translator, you need to:

- *Have fluent written and verbal communication skills in English and your listed language(s)*
- *Have proven higher level education qualifications in both working languages*
- *Have proven translation experience (preference will be given to applicants who can demonstrate experience in criminal law)*
- *Provide competent IT Literacy*
- *Be willing to undergo vetting NPPV Level 3 (non-police personnel vetting) and Security Clearance (SC)*

