



Independent Quality Assessment Update

Representatives from Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J), including the NRPSI Executive Director, held a meeting on 18 February with consultants from Matrix, the company engaged by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to carry out the Independent Quality Assessment. PI4J briefed the consultants on the National Agreement, the background to and introduction of the Framework Agreement (FWA), and the problems that have ensued since Capita TI was awarded the court interpreting contract. PI4J subsequently provided Matrix with copies of related surveys, dossiers detailing the failings of the current system, and documents comparing the standards before and after the FWA was introduced. Matrix is meeting other interpreter organisations, and plans to complete its report by the end of March.



Scottish flag by Cayetano; Queen Anne's Gate by Andrew Dunn [CC-BY-2.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

LIT Search Project

The EU funded LIT Search project will commence with an exploratory conference involving all the consortium members and associated partners at KU Leuven in Antwerp on 6 and 7 May 2014. The conference will set out detailed plans and schedules for the project, which is expected to last between eighteen months and two years. See the [June 2013 newsletter](#) for background information.

NRPSI news

Meeting with interpreters, agencies and government in Scotland

NRPSI Chair Ted Sangster and Executive Director Stephen Bishop recently spent three days in Scotland to understand the particular issues facing interpreters in the country. They held separate meetings with groups of interpreters, with the language agencies that had recently won the tender for the provision of interpreting services in Scotland, and with the procurement office in Edinburgh. They also spent an afternoon at Heriot-Watt University where they met with staff and gave presentations to language students about NRPSI.



Launch of new NRPSI website and database

We're delighted to announce the launch of our new website and database. Please see [February's newsletter](#) for a recap of the new features. We will be asking for your feedback once you have had time to explore the new site. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please email admin@nrpsi.org.uk.

Rare languages consultation

I would like to thank Registrants who responded to our request for feedback on the rare language category of registration (visit NRPSI website for category definition). We specifically asked for your thoughts on whether NRPSI should be able to offer a wider range of languages, how it might encourage registrations of rare languages and how standards should be maintained where no recognised qualifications in a rare language are available. Your comments are invaluable and will help to inform our thinking. We are liaising with the Institute of Linguists Educational Trust (IoLET) and with educational establishments to increase the availability of language examinations, and we are now asking Registrants with the rare language status to provide evidence of contacting an examining body to check availability of a suitable qualification each time they renew their registration.

Change in NRPSI policy on reporting complaints

Following guidance from members of both the Professional Conduct and Disciplinary Committees, the NRPSI Board decided at its 25 February 2014 meeting to change the policy on reporting the outcome of complaints. This step has been taken to increase the transparency of the disciplinary process, and to enhance public confidence in the system and calibre of interpreting professionals on the Register. From 1 July 2014, the final outcomes of all cases heard by the Professional Conduct and Disciplinary Committees will be reported on the NRPSI website. In addition, the names, registration number and town of residence of those Registrants who are suspended or expelled on/after 1 July 2014 will be made public for the period that the sanction is in force.

NRPSI in the media

NRPSI Chair Ted Sangster spoke with David Prever of BBC Three Counties Radio at 6am on 22 March about the ban on the use of interpreters for driving tests that will be introduced on 7 April 2014, while Executive Director Stephen Bishop responded to a [letter in the Law Society Gazette](#) regarding the current failing court interpreting system.

I hope you find this issue an informative and enjoyable read. If you have a suggestion for inclusion in the newsletter email admin@nrpsi.org.uk. Also, don't forget to follow the NRPSI [LinkedIn Company Page](#), where we publicise the latest developments at NRPSI.

Stephen Bishop
Executive Director, NRPSI