



Matrix report on quality under the Framework Agreement published

On 18 December 2014, the long-awaited 'Independent Review of Quality Arrangements under the MoJ Language Services Framework Agreement' report (commonly called 'the Matrix report'), was published by the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). This report was commissioned in response to the investigations conducted by the National Audit Office (NAO), the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the Justice Committee of the House of Commons (JC) – all of which made recommendations on quality standards regarding the Framework Agreement implemented by the MoJ on 30 January 2012. The Matrix report makes five recommendations, and also a 'Review Observation' (as regulation was outside the scope of the review) that NRPSI should be 'given a more vital role', which would 'send a positive signal that the MoJ holds the interpreting profession in high regard'. It should be noted from the 'Government Response' that the MoJ does not accept all of the recommendations. However, it does state that 'we are keen to engage with professional interpreter organisations and with NRPSI to see how we can use their expertise on the potential development of a regulatory framework' in response to the 'Review Observation'. NRPSI will produce a formal response to the report and will follow up with the MoJ on its promise of more engagement.



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Crown Commercial Service tender for language services update

The CCS has reported that the current 'Face-to-Face Interpreting Services Framework Agreement' (RM738) expired on 16 January 2015. The final draft of the specification for the new 'Language Services Framework Agreement' (RM1092) was issued by CCS in December. It is currently with government solicitors, who must review it before the procurement can be issued.

NRPSI news

NRPSI and Registrants in the media

There was a half-page news piece published about the NRPSI Annual Review 2013 in the November-December issue of ITI Bulletin. NRPSI Registrant Teresa Grau describes her life as an interpreter in the new PARN-authored column in the European edition of Newsweek. And a Registrant appeared in the Channel 4 programme '24 Hours in Police Custody' broadcast on 20 January 2015, which gave an insight into the work of Bedfordshire Police in dealing with human trafficking crimes.

Appointment of new Board member

Nick Whitaker FCA has been appointed a lay member of the NRPSI Board. Nick, who takes up his post on 1 February, is currently partner at BDO LLP. A Chartered Accountant with a background in corporate finance, he brings valuable experience of corporate governance in the not-for-profit sector to NRPSI. Further details of Nick's appointment will be available on the NRPSI site from early next week.



Registrant strategy survey

There has been a good initial response to the Registrant survey that was emailed to all those 'On Register' on 16 January. The NRPSI Board will review all responses received as part of the process of developing the next three-year strategy. The survey will be open until 11.45pm on 31 January, so if you have not taken part yet, please find the time to complete the survey.

NRPSI website users

At the end of December more than 1,000 organisations had registered to search the online Register, including 34 regional police forces, more than 100 HMCTS sites, 300 solicitor's offices and 270 agencies. There were 3,700 individuals from these organisations registered.

Changes to website Terms and Conditions

Further to the item in December's newsletter on how to add more information to your online record, and what information you can add, please note that we have updated the NRPSI website Terms and Conditions. A sentence has been added to clarify that NRPSI may remove content it considers inappropriate from the public record. If you have any concerns about what information you can add to your record, you can 'Contact NRPSI' via the 'Interpreter's Room'.

Annual Accounts

The latest NRPSI Annual Accounts have been submitted to Companies House and Registrants can access a copy via the 'Interpreter's Room' under 'Board of Directors meetings'. This year, for the first time, we are providing Registrants with an additional analysis of expenditure in the financial year, which has been produced by the company accountants.

Stephen Bishop, Executive Director, NRPSI.

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