



Select Committee report criticises MoJ handling of court interpreters contract

In the Select Committee's report published on 6 February, The Chair of the Committee, Sir Alan Beith MP, called the MoJ's handling of the outsourcing of court interpreting services as "nothing short of shambolic". He continued, "In our view the evidence shows that Capita-ALS failed to deliver on many aspects of the Agreement and did not implement appropriate safeguards to ensure that the interpreters it provided were of a sufficient standard."

While the Select Committee found inefficiencies within the previous arrangements for the provision of interpreting services to the courts, it concluded that there were no fundamental problems with the quality of services properly sourced through arrangements underpinned by NRPSI under the terms set out by the National Agreement. The Committee also identified the most important priority for the MoJ and Capita-ALS as being to prove that the Framework Agreement is capable of delivering the number of qualified and competent interpreters required by the courts and other justice agencies.

[Read the full report.](#)

NRPSI's reaction

NRPSI welcomes the report and its emphasis on using qualified and competent interpreters to meet the requirements of the justice system. As the UK's independent voluntary regulator, NRPSI's stance has always been that whatever system is in place it must have at its forefront the provision of appropriately qualified interpreters and an effective mechanism for dealing with failures in the provision of a quality interpreting service. Critically, we have called for the functions of commercial agent and independent regulator, which includes maintenance of the register of qualified interpreters, to be kept separate and autonomous. This is vital if standards are to be maintained and healthy competition promoted.

Don't forget, if you have a contribution for the newsletter email admin@nrpsi.co.uk.

Ted Sangster, Chair of NRPSI

NRPSI news

It is with regret that we inform you that our Executive Director, Jessica Myint Thinn, is to leave us at the end of the month. Jessica, who leaves us to spend more time with her family, has successfully driven our transformation programme over the past year. Her achievements include helping to establish NRPSI as the UK's independent voluntary regulator and implementing our Strategic Plan by managing a branding exercise, launching a communications programme, developing a new website and database system as well as relocating our headquarters to Longcroft House. We are very sorry to lose her, but understand her decision and wish her all the best for the future.

While it is business as usual at NRPSI HQ, we are of course in the process of recruiting a new **Executive Director**. Applications for this post close this **Wednesday, 20 February**. Interviewing will then take place with the new appointment being announced in due course. [Find out more about this position](#)

Further to our earlier communication sent to all registrants, we are also currently recruiting for a **Non-executive Director**, who must be a registered interpreter. The deadline for applications for this post has been extended to **Wednesday, 20 February**. [Find out more about this position](#)

NRPSI in the news

Can the Ministry of Justice's new contract for interpreting in the courts and tribunals be salvaged? –

[NRPSI Chair Ted Sangster talks to *Legal Executive Magazine/CILEx Journal*](#)

The decision to outsource interpreting services to a single provider which is both commercial agent and regulator continues to present threats to the administration of justice – [NRPSI Executive Director Jessica Myint Thinn speaks to *Solicitors Journal*](#)

We believe that savings should not be made at the expense of the quality of interpretation services – [NRPSI Chair Ted Sangster tells *Police Magazine*](#)

