

From: admin@nrpsi.org.uk
To: stephen@nrpsi.org.uk
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Thank you for signing up to this Newsletter and the NRPSI website. This enables you to access the NRPSI Register of accredited interpreters (along with over 1,900 organisations working in and for the public services). When contacting interpreters from our website, please mention that you obtained their details from the National Register.

National Occupational Standards for Interpreting

Occupational standards are the raw material on which apprenticeships and educational programmes are built. Designed by employers, they comprise a set of competence statements that describe what the fully competent worker should know and be able to do. This provides a UK-wide benchmark that allows nations, institutions and employers to develop apprenticeships, curricula, training programmes and assessment.

The National Occupational Standards (NOS) for interpreting are the standards that NRPSI uses to assess whether new qualifications meet its criteria for entry onto the Register. The NOS for interpreting were last substantially reviewed in 2006, so NRPSI has joined with four sign-language interpreting organisations to engage Instructus, which manages the standards, to instigate a review to ensure the standards are still relevant to current practice.

Agreement was reached on the overall approach at the first meeting of the Steering and Working Groups in September and Instructus are now asking for feedback from all interested parties. We encourage you to read the proposals for changes to the standards in full and then provide feedback by visiting the link:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/87iZ7E>

The deadline for completing the survey is Monday 19 December.

Instructus are still looking for spoken-language interpreting organisations in Northern Ireland to join the Working Group reviewing the standards, so if you are interested please email feedback@nrpsi.org.uk.

Working with interpreters: engaging interpreters for the correct language

Interpreters need to be qualified in the language they are being asked to work in – even if the languages appear to be similar. For example there can be confusion between the following languages: Russian and Ukrainian, and again between Czech and Slovak languages. However each of these languages is distinct and has its own interpreting qualification.

To see whether a language is available on the National Register you just need to click on the 'Choose a language' drop-down menu on the 'Find an interpreter' search box that appears on every page of the NRPSI website. The languages registered will vary from time to time, but currently there are 104 different languages on the National Register.

Please do not ask an interpreter to work in a language for which they are not

registered as if they complied this would be breaking their Professional Code of Conduct.

Ministry of Justice (MoJ) Language Services contract

The second generation contracts for language services issued by the Ministry of Justice commenced on 31 October 2016. At this stage it is too early to assess whether the new structure the MoJ has put in place will result in an increase in the standard of service received by the public.

Note that if you are engaging spoken-language interpreters under this contract, NRPSI recommends that you specify the 'Complex Written' category. However, you should be aware that, due to the way the MoJ have constructed the standards the contractors have to comply with, even interpreters who meet the MoJ's standards for the 'Complex Written' category may not have been tested on their translation skills. The only way to ensure the interpreter you use meets the standards required of working with the public services is always to specify that they are registered with NRPSI.

DBS Update Service

More of our Registrants are subscribing to the DBS Update Service, which means that they can give their permission to clients to carry out an instant check for changes against their last DBS Certificate. NRPSI is now recording on their public record when Registrants have informed us that they have subscribed to the Update Service and have produced a [specific set of FAQs](#) on the subject. We would like to hear from clients on how useful you have found the DBS Update Service in implementing your organisation's security clearance policy – please email feedback@nrpsi.org.uk.

Remember to follow the NRPSI [Company page on LinkedIn](#) for the latest developments in professional interpreting and at NRPSI.

With kind regards,

Stephen Bishop
Executive Director

National Register of Public Service Interpreters
www.nrpsi.org.uk
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