

NRPSI celebrates five years of independence

The National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) celebrated its fifth anniversary as an independent organisation in April. Ted Sangster, chairman, of the NRPSI, said: 'This is an important milestone in NRPSI's 22-year history and that of the interpreting profession. It is an occasion that should not pass without reflection on what led the organisation to independence and the significance of this for public service interpreting.'

Following a miscarriage of justice resulting from inaccurate court interpreting, the 1993 Runciman Royal Commission on Criminal Justice recommended that only qualified interpreters be used in court and that a national register of qualified interpreters be established. The NRPSI was founded in direct response to this recommendation in 1994 with initial financial support from the

Home Office and the Nuffield Foundation. The Institute of Linguists (now the CIOL) was selected to run the National Register at its outset. The NRPSI then became independent from the CIOL in April 2011.

Sangster continued: 'In the present contracting climate, the NRPSI could not effectively protect public service interpreting professional standards, regulate against any threat to these and maintain public confidence in them if it were not an independent entity. The NRPSI must be effective in this, for it is the very standards we uphold that underpin public service interpreting as a profession.'

'The NRPSI's long-term objective, as set out in its recently published and publicly available strategy, is to achieve statutory regulation and to make it a legal requirement that public service interpreters



The NRPSI has hosted many conferences and networking events for interpreters

become registered. Those interpreters who are registered are already ahead of the curve, leading the way by example, and are to be congratulated on their commitment to professional standards.'