

NRPSI observes its Fifth Anniversary of Independence

1 April 2016: Today marks the fifth anniversary of The National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) becoming an independent organisation.

“This is an important milestone in NRPSI’s 22-year history and that of the interpreting profession”, says NRPSI Chair Ted Sangster. *“It is an occasion that should not pass without reflection on what led the organisation to independence and the significance of this for the public service interpreting profession.”*

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. 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 CloL) was selected to run the National Register at its outset. NRPSI then became independent from the CloL in April 2011 to fulfil its role as the independent voluntary regulator of the public service interpreting profession.

Ted Sangster continues, *“In the present contracting climate, 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. NRPSI must be effective in this, for it is the very standards we uphold that underpin public service interpreting as a profession, future-proofing registered interpreters’ standing as professionals.*

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 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.”

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Editors' Notes:

About The National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI)

The National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) is the UK's independent voluntary regulator of professional interpreters. Funded by Registrants' fees, it is a not-for-profit organisation. By maintaining interpreting standards, it safeguards the public. All NRPSI registered interpreters, there are currently 1,909 covering 101 languages, satisfy rigorous entry criteria in terms of qualifications and experience, and demonstrate their commitment to professional standards by signing NRPSI's Code of Professional Conduct. While NRPSI is a voluntary regulator, its powers allow it to discipline and, ultimately, exclude someone who breaks its Code of Conduct. In this way, it can ensure interpreters on the Register, which is publicly available and searchable online for free, are appropriately qualified, have the level of competence claimed and employ best practice. <http://www.nrpsi.org.uk/>