



**Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)**  
**Report of the Steering Committee**

Date: Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Time: 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

**Present at the meeting:** A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite, presiding over the meeting; A. Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; E. Ford, Chair, NUPIT Branch; K. Slaney, Director, Somi UK; M. Lee, Director, PIA; K. Moffitt, Chair, CIoL Council; P. Wilson, CEO, ITI; S. Bishop, Executive Director, NRPSI; L. Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI; G. Buckingham, Chairman, APCI; A. Minhas, Treasurer, APCI; Penny Arbuthnot, Involvis; J. Smith, Chair, NUBSLI (after 4.30)

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**Agenda:**

- 1) Report of last PI4J Meeting
- 2) PI4J – Way Forward
- 3) Matrix Report
- 4) CCS Framework Development
- 5) BSL Interpreters – Possible cooperation
- 6) AOB

**The meeting opened** at 3.30 pm.

## **Report of last meeting**

The report was approved with one amendment.

## **The way forward**

It was felt that thoughts of forming a federation should be put to one side at least for the time being and the Committee should revert to a more politically-oriented campaign during the run-up to the election, and develop a campaign plan for the coming six months. Some time was devoted to discussing what activities were most likely to be productive and who were the best people to contact. It was thought that contacting the PAC would be a useful move and also that we should persuade our members to contact their own MPs again and visit them in their surgeries, to try and build up a picture of the attitude of MPs in general to this particular issue. The information bulletin issued before the parliamentary debate could be used again for the purposes of putting new committee members and members of parliament in the picture.

## **The Matrix report**

Since the Matrix report is still not published and we have been unable to obtain any reliable information as to when it is likely to appear, there was little to be said on this topic, other than to speculate on possible reasons why it is taking so long to get the report ready for publication. It was generally agreed that despite the fact that we do not yet know the contents of the report, we do know that the situation under the present FWA is not satisfactory and there are other FWAs being developed so this is where we need to direct our attention.

Andy Slaughter has been in contact, requesting draft questions and members were asked to send their suggestions to GB to pass on to him. One obvious question seems to be why Matrix appears not to have submitted its report yet.

The thought occurred that some six to eight weeks before an election, ministers go into 'purdah', which some might use as an excuse for not entering into discussion on the subject.

## **The CCS framework development**

SB and GB had attended events relating to the CCS framework and AM had received a resume of the meetings and findings.

SB gave an account of how the tendering process has progressed so far, explaining the different lots and how interpreting services will be regionalized.

He felt that at the meetings he had attended, there was evident a certain determination to avoid the shortcomings of the MoJ's original FWA.

There is some lack of clarity about the start and end date of existing agreements and about where the MoJ stands in relation to the CCS tender. It is also difficult, while contents of the Matrix report are unknown, to guess what effect the Matrix findings will have on the tenders received by the CCS. Some thought that in this interim phase while the FWAs are being developed, it will be difficult to make progress.

All the committee agreed that PI4J needs to make approaches to the CCS to ensure greater involvement in the process, for which it is necessary to have a broader range of interpreters represented. It was recalled that meetings with interpreters were held before the previous framework agreement was set up. It was decided therefore that Involvis would draft a letter to the relevant official asking that PI4J be kept informed of future plans.

### **BSL interpreters - possible cooperation**

JS of the NUBSLI branch of Unite attended the meeting from 4.30 onwards. She explained different roles played by the numerous organizations involved in interpreting for the deaf.

It is greatly hoped that some cooperation will be possible between them and PI4J but it has not yet been decided whether NUBSLI would wish to be fully involved or only as observers; they have however expressed a willingness to help in any way they can.

There are a lot of parallels between the situations of both types of interpreters but also a lot of differences.

## **AOB**

There was a discussion on what questions could be suggested to A. Slaughter. Some suggestions concerned figures on savings, and whether the Ministry was considering alternative models.

It was suggested we think back to which politicians we had found 'friendly' earlier in the campaign, and establish which of them were still in office and who had replaced those that were not. AM said we needed a position paper with a set of demands, and that we should reflect on what has developed and what we want. ML suggested asking the MoJ and also the CCS how they can ensure they will not repeat the mistakes already made.

The website should feature a brief recap of what we have done and are now going to do. No decision was taken as to who should draft the feature or what should be included.

Actions to be taken:

1. Letter to Margaret Hodge and the PAC, JSC committees etc.
2. Questions for Andy Slaughter MP to put in the House.
3. Draft PI4J Manifesto which can be shared with all political parties, with set of principles, history of what's happened to date and what we as a profession want to see in the next parliament. This will be in the format of a 2 page A4 newsletter.
4. Find out who represents the Cabinet Office in parliament.
5. Write to Crown Commercial Services enquiring about their policy and process for consulting with the profession.
6. Liaison with MoJ.

The date of the next meeting was set at 9<sup>th</sup> October at 3 pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)