



Helen Grant MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

2 October 2012

Dear Ms Grant

Interpreting services across the Justice sector

We write to make a collective representation on behalf of interpreters' representative bodies to see if we can agree to meet with the Ministry of Justice and discuss a way forward for the provision of language services to the Criminal Justice System. Together we represent over 2,200 public service interpreters catering for 101 languages.

As you will be aware, on 10 September, the National Audit Office published a report containing its findings in relation to interpretation and language services. As a result of the "shocking failings" uncovered by this report, the Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP, Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, has called a public hearing which will take place on 15 October 2012. Prior to this, Lord McNally stated (9 July) that the estimated savings of £12 million in the contract's first year, already revised down from the original estimate of £18 million, 'will probably not be achieved'.

We would therefore like our discussion to look into how real savings and improved efficiency can be achieved whilst upholding high standards of Justice.

We look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Penny Aburund".

On behalf of the Steering Committee of Professional Interpreters for Justice:

Association of Police and Court Interpreters (APCI) – chairman@apciinterpreters.org.uk

Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) – chiefexec@iti.org.uk

National Register of Public Service Interpreters Ltd (NRPSI) - chairman@nrpsi.org.uk

National Union of Professional Interpreters and Translators, part of Unite the Union (NUPIT) - nupit@unitetheunion.org

Professional Interpreters Alliance (PIA) – info@profintal.org.uk

Scottish Interpreters and Translation Association (SITA) - messageSITA@gmail.com

Society of Official Metropolitan Interpreters UK Ltd (SOMI) – board@somiukltd.com

Society for Public Service Interpreting (SPSI) – chairman@spsi.org.uk

Wales Interpreter and Translation Service (WITS) - wits@gwent.pnn.police.uk

The Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) is a participant in the steering committee as an observer.

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cc Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Chris Grayling MP