



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

17 December 2012

Dear Ms Grant

Interpreting services across the Justice sector

Thank you for the positive meeting on 4th December and for inviting our proposals for a way forward.

During the meeting you said you would be receptive to our ideas for the establishment of working groups to address the recommendations of the NAO report. The Public Accounts Committee report (published on 14 December) and the Justice Select Committee report (still to be published) will also need to be taken into consideration.

You also asked us to consider who (or which organisation) might carry out the NAO recommendation for an independent evaluation of whether the new contract's quality standards are adequate (which we will write separately on), and also what the incentives might be which would attract professionally qualified members of the interpreter organisations back to work in courts.

Our proposals for the working groups are as follows:

1. **Quality.** This group would look into the wide ranging issues surrounding quality in the Framework Agreement and current contract.
2. **Delivery structure.** We maintain that the current structure is not up to the task of delivering justice and value for money. This group would focus on identifying the most effective structure for the future provision of interpreting services to courts and to the police service.

The question surrounding assessment of interpreters is in our opinion superfluous. Reversion to the National Agreement, with sourcing of interpreters from the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) would enable consistent quality standards and codes of conduct to be met.

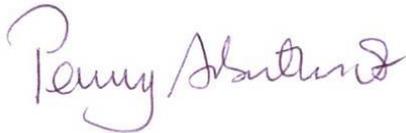
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We recommend that whilst the working groups carry out their projects (to an agreed timescale of no longer than six months) the Framework Agreement and associated contract are put aside and appropriate incentives offered to NRPSI registered interpreters to attract them back to court work, in the interests of justice.

We note that Sean Palmer has written separately to Keith Moffitt regarding a meeting and we will be responding separately to make those arrangements.

We look forward to hearing from you again soon.

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@uniteunion.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

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