



**Professional Interpreters for Justice**  
**Report of the Steering Committee**

Date: Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
Time: 2.00 pm  
Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

**Present at the meeting:** Andrew Murray, Regional Officer of Unite, presiding over the meetings; Eileen Ford, Chair of NUPIT Branch; Eulalia (Lalia) Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI; Keith Moffitt, Chair, CIO L Council; Magdy Abbas, Director SOMI UK.

**Via telephone link:** Guillermo (Willie) Makin, Chairman, SPSI; Kasia Beresford ITI; Tony Wilcox, WITS.

**Apologies:** Amelia Naranjo, Secretary of NUPIT Branch; Aqil Minhas, Treasurer, APCI; Madeleine Lee, Director, PIA; John Podvoiskis, Director, PIA; Wilson, CEO, ITI.

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The meeting commenced at 2 pm.

The agenda was as follows:

Approval of report from last meeting;  
Involvis's Action list;  
KB's meeting with her MP;  
Analysis of statistics;  
AOB.

### **Approval of report:**

The report from the last meeting was approved with one amendment. It will now be passed to Unite IT department for inclusion on the website. All recent reports have now been passed to the IT department.

### **Involvis's action list:**

An e-mail had been sent to some members updating them on the actions Involvis had been asked to undertake at the last meeting.

Since not everyone had received the update, GM went through it an item at a time.

There were five items on the list, the first being a letter to be sent to a contact [*Robert Buckland*] who it was thought would be helpful in obtaining a debate. This letter has already been sent.

A letter was to be sent to Margaret Hodge (PAC) and a similar one to members of the Justice Select Committee. These have not yet been sent because Involvis is awaiting the final result of the analysis of figures currently being worked upon by Kasia Beresford. It is felt that it will be useful to make Margaret Hodge aware of how the MoJ is wriggling out of things and that the SC are putting on pressure to obtain a debate in Parliament.

A letter was also to be sent to the Back Bench Business Committee.

Penny Arbuthnot is at present away on holiday. Matters are being dealt with by her assistant Aisleen Marley who will begin work on the above items next Monday.

When Involvis has written the letters, they will be circulated to the SC for comment before being sent.

GM undertook to ensure that the e-mail containing the information resumed by him at the meeting was circulated to all committee members immediately after the meeting.

As well as the letters, Involvis had been asked to draw up a press release, based on the results of Kasia Beresford's analysis of the figures. This would be for later publication and would be done as soon as the full analysis became available.

### **Meeting with John Leech**

Kasia Beresford reported that she had been to see her MP John Leech last week to see whether he had made any progress towards obtaining a debate in Parliament.

At the time, John Leech had not had a response to his enquiry on the subject but after the meeting he had received an acknowledgement from the Justice Select Committee saying that the Ministry had been given an extension to the deadline for replying to the Justice Committee report, after which the Justice Committee would consider whether to ask for a debate. Kasia had brought J. Leech up to date on the situation, including the fact that the APCI's conference had taken place; she provided him with a copy of the Involvis survey and made sure he was aware that there has been no change in the interpreters' attitude to the situation. She also asked him whether a question could be asked in Parliament about the Ministry's reluctance to make known exactly what the requirements are for police and court interpreting.

After describing her meeting with John Leech, Kasia explained how the figures she had been studying showed that the FWA was still not giving the results the MoJ had hoped to obtain from it.

It was decided that the next SC meeting would take the form of a teleconference, at which the SC's response to the response expected from the Ministry of Justice would be discussed.

## **AOB**

The question of other agencies was discussed. Some agencies, notably TBW, seem to be cornering parts of the Public Service market. Their terms and conditions are poor even by Capita's standards and they use the same type of unqualified interpreters as Capita does.

It was decided to invite two interpreters who have knowledge of this to attend the next meeting after the teleconference.

The common e-mail address was discussed again but no decision was taken. It will be discussed at a later date.

The date for the teleconference is 30<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm and the next meeting proper is on 6<sup>th</sup> June.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)