



Professional Interpreters for Justice

Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Tuesday, 11th December 2012

Time: 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present at the meeting: Andrew Murray, Regional Officer of Unite, presiding over the meeting; Amelia Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; Eileen Ford, Chair, NUPIT Branch; Eulalia (Lalia) Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI; Klasiena Slaney, Director SOMI UK; Magdy Abbas, Director SOMI UK; Geoffrey Buckingham, Chairman, APCI.

Via telephone link: Madeleine Lee, Director, PIA; J. Podvoiskis, John Podvoiskis, Director, PIA; Guillermo (Willie) Makin, Chairman, SPSI; Tony Wilcox, WITS; Paul Wilson, CEO, ITI; Penny Arbuthnot, Involvis.

Apologies: Keith Moffitt, Chair, CioL Council (Observer); Alena Linhartova, Secretary, SITA; Aqil Minhas, Treasurer, APCI.

The meeting started at 3 pm. The agenda was as follows:

- The Press Release
- Preparatory work for correspondence with the Minister
- E-mail address and point of contact
- Call-centre proposal

Press release

Involvis's draft of a press release following the meeting with Helen Grant last week contained three options for the last paragraph. It was considered by all but two of those present that the third option was most suitable and it was therefore agreed to have it

included in the final version. It transpired that the report had already been sent to one publication in order to catch their deadline.

Preparatory work for correspondence

Much time was devoted to evaluation of different possibilities for following-up the meeting with the minister.

The fact that the Minister wanted to hear proposals within 14 days although by that time we would not yet have received the reports of the Justice Select Committee and PAC hearings meant that any recommendations would have to be made subject to anything arising from these reports.

E-mail address and point of contact

It was stressed that future action on behalf of the group must not be taken without first seeking the views of everyone in the group. Discussions must take place at a meeting before any decision is taken.

A way of communicating to all members simultaneously so that decisions can be made and opinions exchanged more speedily is therefore needed. The means of setting up a 'universal' e-mail address was discussed and will be implemented in the near future.

Call-centre proposal

It was agreed that the call-centre proposal was important and should be looked at in detail, and that this could be done at the next meeting of the Steering Group.

The date proposed for the next meeting was 9th January 2013.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)