



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

Date: Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
Time: 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

**Present at the meeting:** A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite (presiding); E. Ford, Chair of NUPIT Branch; M Lee, PIA Director; L.Orsini, Director SPSI; J. Podvoiskis, PIA Director; L. Pessoa-White, Director NRPSI; K. Slaney, Director SOMI; Magdy Abbas, Director SOMI; K. Moffitt, Chair CIoL (Observer).

**Participating by telephone link:** A. Marley, Involvis; P. Wilson, CEO ITI; T. Wilcox, WITS.

**Apologies:** G. Buckingham, Director APCI; W. Makin, Director SPSI; T. Sangster, Chair NRPSI; A. Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; A. Hartova, Committee Member, SITA; M. Beaumont ,Committee Member, SITA.

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**It was agreed that the agenda for the meeting should be as follows:**

Report of previous meeting;  
Parliamentary Event;  
NAO investigation.

**The report of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

The report was accepted with one amendment.

There was a short discussion about how the proceedings of the Steering Committee (SC) were made known to the individual societies' members.

A standard procedure was decided upon whereby a draft report would be circulated to the SC members who would then propose amendments. A second draft incorporating the amendments would then be produced and circulated for approval by all members of the SC, where after two clear days would be allowed for afterthoughts before the report was made more generally available.

The Committee may at times consider it prudent to delay mention of any intended action which it is felt could be adversely affected by premature disclosure.

The suggestion was made that the reports could be posted on the *Professional Interpreters for Justice* website and that the NRPSI could make the reports available to all its registrants or direct them to a link where they could be viewed.

ML indicated that the fact that ALS had not responded to a query about their complaints procedure was reported to the Justice Committee by PIA.

**The Parliamentary event** is taking shape now. Andy Slaughter has been contacted and a meeting arranged between him and Andy Murray of Unite and Lalia White, who is one of A. Slaughter's constituents. Ben Richards is supplying him with information and has been asked to do a briefing paper which will be agreed by the SC before the final version is sent out.

Because of the Parliamentary Recess, the main event will have to wait until the autumn but it may be possible to have the 'targeted' event before recess begins.

**A meeting between NAO officials and M. Lee** is due to take place on Monday. The investigation has not yet been mentioned on the NAO website and according to information received, the Law Gazette was informed on the day of asking that they had not yet made any formal announcement.

A large part of today's meeting was spent verifying details in the statement prepared by Madeleine Lee, and examining possible additions. Involvis, the consultancy agency used by APCI and SPSI, sent a substantial amount of documentation by e-mail on the morning of the present meeting and part of this was used as a basis for discussion. It was agreed that over the weekend, people would look at their own records and see whether there was anything else that could be added. All present agreed, nevertheless, that the document in its then state was already an impressive achievement. Besides this document, M. Lee will be presenting a memory stick containing material collected by PIA relating to ALS failures and all the documentation supplied by Involvis.

The Committee discussed the terminology used in connection with qualifications and vetting and concluded that it needs to be looked into and both the MoJ and ALS need to be pinned down on what they mean by words such as 'vetting' which is used with different meanings in different parts of the FWA documents and other related sources, and 'assessment' which has been described in contradictory terms by various parties concerned.

It was suggested that the CioL's perception of the MoJ's findings would carry some weight as they have a different perspective from the interpreter organizations. For this reason, it was thought, the CioL ought to make a submission of its own to the National Audit Office.

There being no further agenda matters, the date of the next meeting was set as July 3<sup>rd</sup> and the meeting closed at 4 pm.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)