



Professional Interpreters for Justice
Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Wednesday 26th September 2012
Time: 12:15 pm to 1:40 pm approximately
Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present at the meeting: Andrew Murray, Regional Officer of Unite (presiding); Amelia Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; Eileen Ford, Chair, NUPIT Branch; Geoffrey Buckingham, Chairman, APCI; Magdy Abbas, Director SOMI UK.

Via telephone link: Paul Wilson, CEO, ITI; Guillermo (Willie) Makin, Chairman, SPSI; Eulalia (Lalia) Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI; Madeleine Lee, Director, PIA.

Apologies: Keith Moffitt, Chair, CIoL Council (Observer).

The Agenda points decided upon were: the letter to Helen Grant; the Parliamentary event including the proposed briefing paper; the Justice Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee hearings.

Letter to Helen Grant

Some members of the committee felt that the suggested text was very well worded but contained too much detail. After some discussion it was decided, although not unanimously, that for the first approach, we should concentrate on persuading them to agree to a meeting. It was felt that some of the points if stated in advance could be used to pin us down and control the direction of the meeting so it would be better to reserve them for use at the discussion table. WM agreed to contact Aisleen Marley about re-drafting the letter, which would be circulated to all members of the committee when ready and sent in the name of PIJ with details of which organizations this included.

Parliamentary Event

AM and LW have to see BR from the Unite political dept. about meeting AS at the very beginning of the parliamentary session; LW's short file of examples of ALS failings is nearly ready to be handed over to him and AM and KM will be meeting to produce the briefing paper for which a draft formula was circulated to committee members for comment.

Everyone expressed satisfaction with the formula and the document will be finalized as soon as KM gets back from the party conference he is attending. The date of the event will be fixed on the basis of what is said at the meeting with AS. Parliament will be back by the third week in October so this leaves about a fortnight in which to get things circulated and approved.

Justice Select committee hearing on 23rd Oct

There was a brief discussion on the roles of people involved in the hearings. GB is the main point of contact but he has informed the clerk of the identities and contact details of other members of the committee who may be called as witnesses. There had been a lot of submissions and the witnesses would only be contacted after all of these had been studied and would probably be informed in advance of what questions they were likely to be asked.

There was a further brief discussion about what other material could be used, such as the ATC complaint and the Involvis survey whose findings had until now been kept 'under wraps' for procedural reasons but were very telling. A tremendous amount of work has been put into it by Involvis and now is the time to make use of it.

Public Accounts Committee

It was thought that although GB was the only one contacted, this was because he was expected to inform the Committee of who would make up his 'delegation'.

A.O.B.

The question of the boycott was discussed briefly and inconclusively. MA wanted a consensus on what we should be advocating to members but ML refused to discuss it.

A recent letter about disclosure of SG activities was discussed. It was observed that the writer seemed to be under a misapprehension as to the ITI's motives in making its own submission. The question of whether our submission to the NAO could be published on our websites was discussed and the suggestion was made that it could be made known to members on mailing lists but not on open websites. ML felt we should inform the NAO of the intention to publish. It was decided in view of the correspondent's comments that we should look into whether more should be published on the website than at present.

Tuesday, 16th October at 5.30 pm was proposed as the time of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 1:40 pm approximately.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)