



Professional Interpreters for Justice
Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Wednesday, 7th November 2012
Time: 3:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present at the meeting: Andrew Murray, Regional Officer of Unite; Amelia Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; Eileen Ford, Chair, NUPIT Branch; Keith Moffitt, Chair, CioL Council (Observer); Guillermo (Willie) Makin, Chairman, SPSI; Eulalia (Lalia) Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI; Klasiena Slaney, Director SOMI UK.

Via telephone link: Madeleine Lee, Director, PIA; Tony Wilcox, WITS; Paul Wilson, CEO, ITI; Magdy Abbas, Director SOMI UK; Penny Arbuthnot, Involvis; Alena Linhartova, Secretary, SITA.

Apologies: Geoffrey Buckingham, Chairman, APCI; Alan Thompson, Secretary, APCI; Aqil Minhas, Treasurer, APCI; John Podvoiskis, Director, PIA; Melanie Beaumont, President, SITA.

The meeting opened at three 3:00 pm and the agenda was as follows:

- Approval of report dated 16.10.2012
- Situation in Scotland
- Invitation to non-interpreters to attend meetings

- Meeting with Helen Grant
- EULITAS involvement
- Capita/ALS's claim
- NRPSI role

Approval of report dated 16.10.2012

The draft report of the previous meeting was discussed some typographical errors were pointed out for correction, after which it was approved.

A small amount of time was devoted to making sure that addresses for communications

in connection with the campaign were correctly recorded.

Situation in Scotland

It was suggested that the justice committee should be made aware of the situation in Scotland, since it had been repeatedly stated that the Scottish model was highly successful, which was very far from the truth. A. Linhartova agreed to arrange for a letter to be sent before the following Friday and offers of help were made by members of the committee.

Invitation to non-interpreters to attend meetings

The suggestion was made that invitations to attend meetings should only be extended after consultation with other members of the committee. A number of members agreed but the short discussion that took place was inconclusive.

Meeting with Helen Grant

The meeting with the Minister was discussed and it was agreed by all that the aims as stated in the briefing document produced by KM and AM aptly summed up what we were hoping to achieve and could serve as a basis for what PIJ's representatives would say at the meeting, although it would need to be added to in the light of certain things which had been said at the JSC and PAC hearings. The fact that Helen Grant is determined to maintain her position that the new system is now working satisfactorily means that we have to consider our approach quite carefully and tactics for the meeting were suggested by AM in the light of the Union's experience of dealing with members of government.

It was decided that one representative from each organisation would attend the meeting with HG but with a smaller number of nominated spokespersons, to be decided after the 07/11 meeting.

Some thought was given to the fact that the meeting with HG is scheduled for late November alters the situation as regards the parliament event, since nobody knows what the outcome of this meeting will be. The reports of the two committees will not be published, in all probability, before the new year but it had been hoped to stage the event before the Christmas recess. The briefing paper may have to be reviewed in the light of what happens at the meeting with HG.

EULITAS involvement

The wisdom of EULITA becoming involved was discussed. Some believed it would raise hackles in certain quarters.

Capita/ALS's claim

Capita/ALS's claim that they had been unable to foresee the likely requirements in terms of languages and interpreter numbers was considered to be specious. It was apparent that they had not attempted to use data from the National Register.

NRPSI's role

The NRPSI's role could, it was felt, be strengthened and affirmed and used as a bargaining tool. It had to be borne in mind that the cumbersome booking process needed to be addressed. This was not the fault of the NRPSI but of the way courts were

organised and structured.

The meeting ended at approximately 4.45 pm. The date of the next meeting was set for Tuesday, 11th December at 3.00 pm.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)