



Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)

Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Tuesday, 14th June 2016

Time: The meeting commenced at 10.15 am

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present: A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite (chairing the meeting); L. White, NRPSI; K. Moffitt, CIoL; A. Carlisle, CIoL; G. Buckingham, EULITA; A. Thompson, APCI; A. Minhas, APCI; D. Lawrence, NUBSLI; A. Naranjo, NUPIT; E. Ford, NUPIT; K. Slaney, SOMI.

Apologies: GW Parry, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru; P. Wilson, ITI; S. Bishop, NRPSI.

The agenda was as follows:

The MoJ contract

Update from NUBSLI

Updating of website

Approval of previous meeting's notes.

The Ministry of Justice Contracts

The meeting opened with a discussion of the situation regarding the MoJ's contracts under the current outsourcing exercise. It was noted that although the successful bidders had notified interpreters of the award of the contract and information had gone out regarding the transfer of the MoJ interpreter database from Capita to

TheBigWord, there had been no official announcement from the Ministry of Justice. The committee decided therefore that before deciding what its next step should be, it might be wise to seek confirmation from the Ministry of Justice that the contract had indeed been awarded and ask when the official announcement would be made.

The committee felt that an approach could be made to TheBigWord suggesting a meeting. It was pointed out also that although a copy of PI4J's statement of aims had been sent to all agencies together with an introductory letter, TheBigWord had not been included in the mailing-list and it was therefore decided to attach the statement of aims to the proposed letter.

A large part of the meeting was devoted to the drafting of the letter so that it could be ready to send at the appropriate moment.

NUBSLI Update

The committee had seen the letter from NUBSLI to Clarion following the award to that company of the non-spoken interpreting lot. It was felt that NUBSLI had achieved a great deal in its communications with the service-providers. PI4 is supportive of NUBSLI's activities and feel that the language interpreters, even though their situation is not identical to that of non-spoken language interpreters, could learn from their example. In particular it was suggested that a table of recommended fees for spoken interpreting was something the committee could consider at a later meeting.

Updating the Website

It was pointed out that although the website had been updated, the old version was still accessible via google and other links. A further discussion with the IT department will be necessary to correct this.

Approval of previous meeting's notes

The notes were approved subject to the removal of the last paragraph which was an unintended duplication of the previous one.

There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 11.35 am.

A date for the next meeting was not set as the committee wishes to have the Ministry of Justice's reply before re-convening.

Report by E. Ford (NUPIT)