



**Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)**  
**Report of the Steering Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

**Present at the meeting:** A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite, presiding over the meeting; A. Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; E. Ford, Chair, NUPIT Branch; A. Thompson, Chairman, APCI; I. Norton, APCI; A. Minhas, APCI; S. Bishop, Executive Director, NRPSI; L. Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI.

**Via telephone link:** P. Arbuthnot, Genesis; P. Wilson, CEO, ITI; J. Smith, Chair, NUBSLI.

**Apologies:** A. Carlisle, CioL; K. Slaney, Director, SOMI; G. Buckingham, Eulita.

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**Agenda:**

Report of December meeting

CCS framework

NUBSLI meeting with DWP

Matrix report

Manifesto

AOB

**Report of December 2014 meeting:** The report was approved for posting on the website.

**CCS framework:** The Steering Committee's observations on the draft FWA document had been forwarded to the CCS in December. The reply was received by Genesis in the form of extracts from the e-mail with CCS's responses embedded in the text in blue.

The general feeling of the committee was that CCS's responses were unhelpful and non-committal and indeed in some places self-contradictory.

It was felt that the requirement for interpreters to provide three years' employment history, given the nature of the job and the fact that most PSIs are self-employed, would create problems.

The committee is also concerned that the CCS's proposals for testing interpreters and for provision of CPD are not sufficiently defined and could furthermore prove impracticable.

It seems that although the CCS at first appeared communicative and cooperative, they are in fact not willing to listen to recommendations or take on board constructive suggestions even in such matters as correcting factual errors in their documents.

In CCS replies, there are indications that they are prepared to allow unqualified, unregistered people work under the FWA. It was decided to ask whether this was the case and if so, who would regulate the unregistered linguists.

There seems also to be a lack of any provision for independent audit and regulation of the providers.

**NUBSLI meeting with DWP:** AM had accompanied NUBSLI committee members to a meeting in relation to the provision of interpreters under the Access to Work scheme. It was felt that the outcome of the meeting would be of interest to the SC as an indication of public bodies' attitude to the FWA.

AM had outlined the shortcomings of the MoJ FWA and exhorted the DWP not to make the same mistakes but he had a feeling that they were not prepared to listen to advice. AM felt that what he had heard at the meeting showed that the sign-language interpreters had a lot in common with the foreign language interpreters in this respect.

**The Matrix report:** The MoJ decided not to implement many of the recommendations of the Matrix report. The SC decided that a letter would be sent to the Select Committee by the end of the month, originally requesting the report.

It seems that the MoJ blames Capita for what went wrong, Capita shrugs off the blame and does nothing to put things right. This reminded AT of the situation with the railways, where no-one will accept responsibility for the failures of the system.

**The Manifesto:** It was decided that a manifesto should be drafted.

The manifesto will be aimed at MPs of all the main political parties; it will be approximately two pages in length and will contain the following key points:

- The use of private service providers;
- The need for regulation, auditing and qualifications;
- The need for statutory protection of title.

**AOB** The date for the next meeting was discussed and set at Friday, February the 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.

The meeting dispersed at 3.40pm.

Report by NUPIT