



Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)

Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Monday, 16th January 2017

Time: The meeting commenced at 10 am

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present at the meeting: A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite (chairing the meeting); A. Thompson, APCI; K. Slaney, SOMI; L. White, NRPSI; Karen Stokes, CioL; Karen Newby, NUBSLI; A. Naranjo, NUPIT.

On the telephone: E. Ford, NUPIT

Apologies: G. Buckingham, EULITA, G. Parry, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru; P. Wilson, ITI.

Agenda

1. Notes of previous meeting
2. NUPIT Survey
3. PI4J submission to Parliamentary Committee re ALS in 2012
4. Responses to Police forces
5. AOB

The meeting opened at 10 am.

Notes of previous meeting

Report of previous meeting was approved.

NUPIT survey

On behalf of several organisations, Unite volunteered to look into *thebigword* contract and it was done through NUPIT Branch. The initial view about this contract was that it was a commercial arrangement between interpreters and *thebigword*.

However, as a result of the two legal cases, such as the Uber's drivers case at the Employment Tribunal (ET) the judgment acknowledges that these drivers are workers rather than self-employed. Nevertheless, this case or other similar cannot be generalized because this decision has no legal force. However, if the employer, in this case Uber, decides to appeal the ET's original decision, and if the ET appeal court upholds the original judgment, then it would have legal force and a wider impact.

The result of NUPIT survey, which received over 160 responses have been analyzed and the result will be announced at a later date.

PI4J submission to Parliamentary Committee re ALS in 2012

In 2012 PI4J made a submission to the Parliamentary Committee informing them that the MoJ contract was not working. A number of versions were made and one of them appeared on Unite website. After four years Unite has received a complaint, which was forwarded to PI4J. Members of the Steering Committee will decide about the appropriate response.

Emails to Police forces

Emails were sent to ALL Police Constabularies and Police and Crime Commissioners, as well as to all head of procurement departments we had access to.

PI4J's submissions refer to the current wave of outsourcing of police interpreting services. Recently a number of Police Forces have joined in new collaborative arrangements and are in the process of reviewing and finalizing their procurement of translation and interpreting services, through a system of competitive tendering where the lowest bidder wins.

Emails were also sent to the MoJ, The Language Shop and *thebigword*, requesting meetings.

Representatives for those meetings were chosen, according to their request to do so: *NRPSI, APCI, CloL and SOMI*.

AOB

There was a brief discussion about an equal sharing of tasks regarding PI4J correspondence amongst its members.

The next meeting of PI4J Steering Committee would be on Thursday, 2nd March at 2.00 pm.

Report by AN, NUPIT