



Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)

Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Thursday, 4th February 2016

Time: The meeting opened at 2:00 pm to just after 3:00 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present in person: A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite (chairing the meeting); A. Naranjo, NUPIT; E. Ford, NUPIT; K. Slaney, SOMI; S. Bishop, NRPSI; L. White, NRPSI; D. Lawrence, NUBSLI; A. Thompson, APCI.

On the telephone: P. Wilson, ITI; K. Moffitt, CIoL.

Apologies: A. Minhas, APCI; GW Parry, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru; G. Buckingham, EULITA.

The agenda was as follows:

Reports on previous two meetings;

List of agencies update;

Update on MoJ tender and NUBSLI's activities

AOB

The meeting opened at 2 pm. The committee was happy to welcome the new NUBSLI representative Debbie Lawrence.

Reports on previous two meetings

The reports were approved for posting on the website.

List of agencies update

The list of agencies discussed at the previous meeting had not yet been finalized. As NUBSLI has a recently-compiled list of its own, of agencies offering BSL services, it was suggested that the two lists could be combined before being used to send out the statement of objectives with its covering letter as discussed at the same meeting.

With regard to the statement of objectives, it was felt that the earlier it was sent out the more effective it would be so the following Monday was set as the date for sending it and after a brief discussion the covering letter, a draft of which had been circulated to committee members by e-mail in advance of the meeting, was approved with certain amendments. This early issue did not leave time for members to send in any additions to the list, but it would be possible to send the document at a later date to any agent not included in the first mailing.

Update on MoJ Tender and NUBSLI's activities

In collaboration with a company called Interserve, NRPSI had passed the first phase of the tendering process and had been short-listed for the bid phase. Their formal bid had to be submitted by February 18th and contracts would probably be signed in June. Given the need for confidentiality, NRPSI could not give any detailed information, but as some companies had already been contacting interpreters asking for their 'support', the committee was able to speculate as to who the other bidders might be.

NUBSLI were at the moment having dealings with the DWP and were hoping that the Market Review deadline would be extended to give them time for full consultation with their members. They had a further meeting scheduled for the following Monday, after which more information might possibly be available.

AOB

A BBC radio interviewer had contacted Unite and the CioL for information on the dispute over the Home Office's pay structure for interpreters, and had already had a brief talk with APCI on the subject. It was felt she might be interested in our Statement of Objectives and a copy would be forwarded to her in due course.

The suggestion was made that PI4J could contact David Lammy who has been asked to look into the treatment of people from ethnic minorities in the English and Welsh courts. We could provide him with a copy of the Statement of Objectives with an appropriately adjusted covering letter.

NUPIT was making a case study to determine how far interpreters could be affected by the European Court of Justice's ruling on travel time.

A list of actions to be taken was drawn up for circulation to all SC members.

There being no further matters for discussion, the meeting closed just after 3 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 13th April at 10 am.

Report by E. Ford (NUPIT)