



## **Professional Interpreters for Justice Report of the Steering Committee**

Date: Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

### **Present:**

Andrew Murray, Unite (chair); Amelia Naranjo, NUPIT; Eileen Ford, NUPIT; Alan Peacock, CioL; Paul Wilson, ITI; Lalia White, NRPSI; Penny Arbuthnot, Involvis; Klasiena Slaney, SOMI; Magdy Abbas, SOMI; A Minhas, APCI; Geoffrey Buckingham, APCI, Irina Norton, APCI.

**Telephone:** Tony Wilcox, WITS; Willie Makin, SPSI; Madeleine Lee, PIA. Telephone connexion not constant for whole of meeting.

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### **Agenda:**

Minutes of last meeting

MoJ workshop

Letter from M Hodge

Next steps

Publication of MoJ reports

Survey

### **The Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were approved with no changes, for publication on the website.

### **The workshop.**

It had been decided at the workshop that a short note would be agreed between P14J and BC about what was done at the workshop. This will be made available as soon as agreement has been reached as to its content.

A follow-up letter could be sent to the MoJ saying thank you for the workshop and we look forward to receiving more details and reiterating the points made to them originally.

### **The letter from M. Hodge - *Please see attachment***

Margaret Hodge, the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee had replied to the letter written to her in June and this had been circulated to the SC. It was felt to be a positive letter and the SC agreed it was encouraging to think that M.H. was still thinking about us and working for us. It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be in order and that in the letter we could mention some of the matters which have arisen since our first letter in June. PA agreed to draft the letter.

PA read out the list of issues the PAC is now investigating.

It was thought that the committee should return to the idea of making our own assessment of wasted costs, and could look again at the Involvis report, and re-use some of its contents.

It was remarked that court workers were only concerned with whether an interpreter turned up and not with what tier interpreter has been provided.

We have made it plain that the tiering system is not acceptable and that the lowest standard accepted should be that which is currently set for tier 1.

GB said that some people including himself had been annoyed at the recommendation by the National Audit Office that the FWA should be fully implemented but now he saw that wider implementation made it more obvious that it could not be made to work.

### **The Survey.**

A first draft of the survey was circulated to those working on it prior to the meeting and shown to the other SC members at the meeting. It was recognized that it is by no means complete as yet but it is hoped to be in its final form by the end of September, when it can be sent out to people on the National Register and others. PA said that about 200 Capita interpreters had responded to the previous survey. We need to find out what the wider interpreting community sees as the future of interpreting in the CJS. In order to get the survey out to interpreters by the end of September, the working party will

develop their ideas no later than the end of next week if possible. So the timescale will be draft by 20<sup>th</sup>, comments by 27<sup>th</sup>, issue on 30<sup>th</sup> September, and give people two weeks in which to return them. PA says compiling results is a lengthy business but she thinks she can have a presentation ready for the next meeting.

### **Information on MoJ meetings**

It was decided that the MoJ meetings could be recorded on the website as having taken place, in a form agreed between PI4J and the MoJ, but it would not be necessary for individual associations to circulate separate reports as they would not contain any information different from that posted on the web-page.

### **Next Steps**

AM suggested that the next meeting should take place after the survey results had been analysed. LW suggested that if an assessor was named before then, we could maybe meet earlier. It was thought that at the next meeting more time should be allocated to 'where to go from here'.

### **AOB**

KS drew attention to the Home Office Consultation regarding the draft version of PACE, which is being issued with a view to complying with the EU directive. She mentioned in particular that the National Agreement is being removed and the FWA is mentioned as an example of good practice. She hopes that we will all look at the document and that PI4J will issue a response and also publicize the consultation. GB suggested putting something on Twitter and KS wondered if someone could put it on Linguist Lounge. She believed the Met had responded already. GB suggested that KS work on this and LW thought that TW's advice would be invaluable and it was decided to ask him if he could help. KS mentioned that one of the achievements of the ongoing campaign is that so far many of the police forces and other organizations such as CPS have been made aware of the failings of the FWA and as a result have refrained from joining it. Therefore we must keep up the pressure.

### **Next meeting**

The date for the next meeting was set at 22<sup>nd</sup> October and the time, 2 pm.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)