



Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)

Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Friday, 9th September 2016

Time: The meeting commenced at 10 am

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present: A. Murray, Regional Officer of Unite (chairing the meeting); P. Wilson, ITI; S. Griffin-Mason, ITI; A. Naranjo, NUPIT; K. Slaney, SOMI; K. Moffitt, CIoL; A. Carlisle, CIoL; G. Buckingham, EULITA; A. Thompson, APCI; L. White, NRPSI; S. Bishop, NRPSI; E. Ford, NUPIT; M. Abbas, SOMI.

Apologies: A. Minhas, APCI; GW Parry, Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru; K. Newby, NUBSLI; D. Lawrence, NUBSLI.

The agenda was as follows:

Introductions

Approval of notes of previous meeting;

Review of current situation in the light of the new MoJ contract with TBW

What is next for PI4J

Introductions

The Committee was happy to welcome Sarah Griffin-Mason, for whose benefit the members identified themselves around the table.

Previous notes

The notes of the previous meeting were approved for posting.

Review of the current situation

The committee have had sight of a work agreement and rate card issued by TBW to its interpreters. It was noted that the T&C were very similar to those of Capita, and it was of concern that many of its clauses were much more favourable to TBW than to the interpreter, especially in the matter of penalties for interpreter non-attendance, and of cancellation for whatever reason. It was felt also that the clauses dealing with restrictions on trade could lead to difficulties for many interpreters.

It was decided that the committee would study the contract in detail and compile a list of questions relating to the employment and contractual implications of the contract, with a view to seeking advice from the Union's legal department.

With regard to PI4J's relations with the contract-holders, it was felt that now that contracts had been signed it was time to try to reopen communications with the various suppliers and arrange where possible to meet with them to voice our concerns and explain our points of view. To this end, letters have been drafted to bring PI4J and its aims to their notice and request possible times and venues for such meetings.

The Committee recognize the importance of keeping in contact with those police forces which have not yet signed up to any of the available contracts or framework agreements, and of making them aware of the advantages of not being tied into such contracts. Contact will be made with them at an early date.

What is next for PI4J

The Committee feel that since the new contract is now a reality, it is time to review its own plans and tailor its strategy to the current situation.

It was generally agreed that the focus should move from campaigning to lobbying, and it was strongly felt by most committee members that the three original aims of the campaign should be vigorously pursued. All were in agreement that there was still a need for an umbrella group which, although there might sometimes be mild discrepancies, would speak with one voice on all major questions affecting the interpreting profession.

Though the changing professional landscape means that PSIs may in future be moving between the different branches of public services more than in the past, it was agreed that PI4J should not try to broaden its remit but should continue to concentrate on matters affecting the justice sector.

At the end of discussions, some time was devoted to the drafting of letters. The date of the next meeting was set at Tuesday, 29th November and the time at 10 o'clock.

The meeting closed at 11.50 am.

Report by E. Ford (NUPIT)