



Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J)

Report of the Steering Committee

Date: Monday, September 4th 2017

Time: The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

Present: A. Murray [presiding], G. Wyn Parry [Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru], Paul Wilson [ITI], S. Bishop [NRPSI], L. White [NRPSI], K. Stokes [CIoL], A. Thompson [APCI], I. Norton [APCI], A. Naranjo [NUPIT], E. Ford [NUPIT].

Apologies: K.P. Slaney [SOMI].

The meeting opened at 2.00 pm at Unite House in Holborn.

Agenda:

Notes of meeting on May 24th

Recommended Rates for Police interpreters

Yorkshire Post - Response from *thebigword*

IR35 - Unite advice to interpreters

AOB.

Notes of 24th May's meeting

The notes were passed subject to incorporating one amendment.

Recommended Rates for Police Interpreters

The table of suggested rates for work done in Police stations had been circulated to the Steering Committee members following the previous meeting when the topic had been discussed. The committee felt that the table was satisfactory as it stood

and required very little amendment. To avoid the appearance of a cartel it was decided to change the term 'recommendation' to 'guidelines'. Without seeking to impose the rates on anyone it is helpful to all concerned if guidelines are published.

The SC felt that NUBSLI's successful negotiations with Language Line were encouraging and were an example to follow in many respects.

Yorkshire Post - response from thebigword

thebigword has responded to the SC's comments to the Yorkshire Post. It was felt that the response masked the real issues, failing as it did to give correct figures for interpreting alone or to distinguish between qualified interpreters and others, or indeed between interpreters and 'linguists' of other types, but reading between the lines it seems that very little has changed since thebigword took over the contract. Some time was devoted to deciding what further comment PI4J should make. A draft version will be circulated to the SC after the meeting so that members will have chance suggest any last-minute amendments before sending it to the Yorkshire Post.

IR35 - Unite's advice to interpreters

The new IR35 regulations are causing problems for many interpreters. WITS have sought specialist advice which has not yet been received. Unite has produced a briefing for interpreters, which was circulated at the meeting. It contains useful advice and definitions. Unite is also assisting members by sending out pre-legal action letters and contacting solicitors. The regulations are not really aimed at people like interpreters and Unite is raising the question of applicability with individual employers and have written to the chief financial secretary Mel Stride pointing out the problems the situation is causing for interpreters.

It was suggested that interpreter associations should advise their members to use the HMRC on-line tool to see if they are designated as self-employed.

AOB

There was a brief discussion on the merits of boycotting as a means to achieving one's ends.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.30 pm. The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 28th November at 2pm.

Report by E. Ford, NUPIT.