



## **Professional Interpreters for Justice**

### **Report of the Steering Committee**

Date: Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Time: 12:00 pm to 1:15 pm

Venue: Unite House - Holborn - London

**Present at the meeting:** Andrew Murray, Regional Officer of Unite, presiding over the meeting; Amelia Naranjo, Secretary, NUPIT Branch; Eileen Ford, Chair, NUPIT Branch; Eulalia (Lalia) Pessoa-White, Director, NRPSI; Geoffrey Buckingham, Chairman, APCI; Irina Norton, APCI; Keith Moffitt, Chair, CioL Council; Klasiena Slaney, Director, SOMI UK; Paul Wilson, CEO, ITI.

**By telephone:** Tony Wilcox, WITS.

**Apologies:** Aqil Minhas, Treasurer, APCI.

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The agenda was as follows:

1. Approval of last PI4J report dated 22.10.13
2. MoJ Assessment Project
3. Survey Report
4. The Future

### **The Ministry of Justice *and its Assessment Project***

*Involvis had received a document in relation to the Assessment Project and although it should have been forwarded to SC members this had not been done. GB was asked to make good the omission. We do not know whether an assessor has been appointed but it is thought that the target set for it to have its report ready by the end of the year is going*

to be difficult for it to achieve especially since a new minister has taken over from Helen Grant.

## Survey Report

Further evidence has been collected for inclusion in the dossier of Capita failures. AM said that collecting evidence and bringing it to the notice of Government officials and committees was a useful activity but we needed to be clear about what we expected the recipients to do with the information provided and should let them know how we would like them to use it. They may refuse our request but the important thing is to ask and see how they respond.

There was a discussion about the letter from Margaret Hodge in which she said that she would provide us with an update if she proposed to take any further action. It was still not clear whether there would be a hearing or simply a call for written evidence. AM felt that the letter itself provided us with an 'entree' to go back to them and comment on the apparent lack of progress on the issue of quality.

AM suggested that we should be asking our members' opinions about the questions that we want to ask the government. He felt that there was a need to apply pressure, otherwise the government would delay as long as possible before dealing with it. He recommended that when the press release about the survey results was written, it should contain, not only the key points arising from the findings but also a suggestion as to what the survey indicates that the government should do. ***He hopes that all the representatives on the SC and not only those who were present at the meeting will answer the questions: "What do you think we should be doing with this? When we show them these results, what should we be asking the PAC, the NAO, the Select Committees and the Government to do?"*** Then we can address the question of whether we should be still trying to improve the current situation or should we be trying something different. This can be a part of the consultation about the survey. The draft survey report together with a draft Press Release is to be ready by Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December and be sent to members of the SC for them to have time to respond. Penny is going to ask us all what we want to ask the various committees to do with the information we are sending them.

It was pointed out that the Ministry continued to maintain that 'tweaking' the Framework Agreement was all that was needed and it was felt that it would not be easy to convince them that this was not the case.

## The Future

AM said that a more focused approach was needed and suggested that the next meeting should be in the form of a workshop, where we can sit down and evaluate how far we have come, review what we have been doing and decide what we should keep and what we should change. He hopes that in order to obtain a balanced view, all the member organizations will make an effort to attend and that they will attend in person, rather than on the telephone. As it will be a workshop, rather than a meeting, there will be no ordinary business and the present minutes will be approved at the first meeting in January.

Once Christmas is over, people will be turning their thoughts to the next General Election, which will be 18 months away. This will be a good time for engaging with politicians and trying to influence manifestos etc. Therefore the workshop will be a good chance to assess our own situation in readiness for that.

**Everyone is asked to think of what they would like to discuss at the workshop, in terms of what we have done, what are the options open to us and their implications for the different organizations, so that we can draw up a situation report in advance of the event, and have an idea of how the workshop will take shape.**

The meeting closed at approximately 1.15. The date and time of the workshop are Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30 until 5.30.

Report by Eileen Ford (NUPIT)