

# The Independent Registration Panel

## IRP

for  
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

### FACTSHEET

Following the IRP meeting on 18 April 2007

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## 1. Report on the Registration Process April 2007

### Number of Registrations at April 2007

As of 1 May 2007, 466 interpreters have been entered on the CACDP Register of BSL/English Interpreters ([www.cacdp.org.uk](http://www.cacdp.org.uk)):

Members of the Register	=	320
Trainee Interpreters	=	58
Junior Trainee Interpreters	=	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>466</b>

We would like to thank everyone who met the deadline for registration and supplied all of the necessary evidence before the closing date.

You will have noticed that this year we issued badge holders with the ID badges to allow them to be worn, if required. These will only be issued to new applicants from now on so please keep the holders you were sent this year for future use.

## 2. Applications for 1 September 2007 Registration

For 1 September 2007 registration, please note that the deadline for applications and supporting evidence is:

**31 July 2007**

**If you are awaiting results which will be verified by 1 September 2007, please submit your application form by the deadline with all other supporting information. Your application will be ratified conditionally subject to receiving confirmation of results by 1 September 2007.**

New applicants should contact the IRP Administrator for an application form (at the address on the front page of this factsheet) as soon as possible.

If you wish to upgrade your registration to another category during the registration year 2007/2008, this can be done on the following registration dates:

- 1 September 2007 (closing date 31 July 2007).
- 1 January 2008 (closing date 31 October 2007).

Please complete a new registration application form with details of the new registration category and return with supporting information, two photographs and payment (including application fee of £30 and the appropriate registration upgrade fee). Your application will be considered by the Ratification Committee and you will be informed of their decision by the registration date.

### 3. Membership of the IRP at 18 April 2007

Agencies/Employers	Donna Rubin Vacancy
Deaf Consumers	Shirley Farthing (Vice-chair) Ilan Dwek
Interpreters (ASLI)	Trudy Field (Chair) Liz Mercer Chris Stone
Training Providers/Assessment Centres	Helen Fuller Frank Harrington
External Examiners/Verifiers	Roger Beeson Christine Foster
Non-voting – Co-opted CACDP	Philip Gerrard Cathy Barnes
Administrator – Angela Nunn Registrar – Christine Wagstaff	

There are still two vacancies for Deaf consumers on the panel and it was felt that if it is not possible to fill the vacancies with representatives of national organisations, it would be useful to have regional/local representation.

We need Deaf people to join the IRP who:

- regularly use BSL/English interpreters;
- talk to other people who use BSL/English interpreters;
- can ask other Deaf people what they think about things we discuss at the IRP meetings;
- are able to consult with regional or a city-wide group of Deaf people who use interpreters;
- can help us to continue to develop the registration system.

It is important that the representatives on the IRP do not just give their own opinion but that they bring the views of Deaf people from their area who use interpreters at work, hospital, doctors, training courses, etc.

If you know of anyone who is interested in joining the IRP in this capacity, please contact Angela Nunn ([angelan@cacdp.org.uk](mailto:angelan@cacdp.org.uk)) for more details.

### 4. Raising the Standards for JTIs

The IRP is committed to maintaining high standards of all registered interpreters, including Junior Trainee Interpreters. Concerns have been raised via members of the IRP about people registering as JTIs when they have just commenced a training course. The Registration Policy states that a JTI must be 'undergoing' a recognised interpreter training programme, a term which previously had never been precisely defined.

The IRP has now decided that anyone applying to register as a JTI should:

- have a basic understanding of the role of an interpreter;
- understand and act within the spirit of the IRP's Code of Ethics and the Guidelines for Professional Practice;
- understand and act within their limitations when deciding which assignments they are sufficiently experienced and competent to accept;
- have completed a minimum amount of simulated interpreter training.

The new registration entry point will only apply to **NEW APPLICANTS** with effect from April 2008. Details will appear in the next version of the Routes to Registration document.

We would be interested to know from readers of this Factsheet if they have any comments on the above or about standards in general. Please contact the IRP ([administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk](mailto:administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk)) with any comments.

## 5. CRB Enhanced Disclosure

All registered interpreters are required by the IRP to have a Criminal Records Bureau Enhanced Disclosure check every three years. It has come to the IRP's attention that not all of the relevant categories are being requested when asking for a new disclosure. These include the sections; 'Working with Children', 'Section 142 of the Education Act' and 'Working with Vulnerable Adults'.

It is therefore vital that when asking for a **new** CRB Enhanced Disclosure, any umbrella organisation or employer requests full disclosure for all categories.

## 6. Complaints and Appeals

As at April 2007, no official complaints have been received since the November 2006 meeting. The IRP has received a number of complaints against unregistered interpreters and all parties have been written to outlining the benefits of using registered interpreters.

The 2007-08 Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure, Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Practice are now available to potential complainants in BSL (DVD format).

## 7. Feasibility Study – Update

The IRP submitted a proposal to CACDP regarding the future independence of the register of BSL/English Interpreters (and possibly other Language Service Professionals). The CACDP board decided that although the long-term financial viability had not been totally proved, CACDP will work together with the IRP and other stakeholders involved in professional registration to determine a way forward that creates an entity that:

- establishes clear, open and viable governance that instils confidence amongst stakeholders in the integrity of the registration systems and policies;
- increases the number of registered interpreters whilst ensuring standards are maintained;
- brings together the range of registers under a single governing entity backed by appropriate separate professional and technical panels.

## **8. Potential Developments**

Following previous approaches to the IRP, a response was sent to ASLI's Deaf Interpreters Network (DIN) saying that the work roles and skills of 'Deaf Interpreters' needed to be identified to ensure that qualifications and registration requirements matched the roles of this group of professionals. The Chair of the IRP was invited to, and attended, the recent DIN workshop. DIN's work in clarifying the different roles that Deaf people are undertaking is welcomed.

The Chair of the IRP recently met with the Director of SASLI. The SASLI board deals with complaints against interpreters in Scotland. One problem that could arise is, if someone complains about a member of the board who is also an interpreter, the impartiality of the Complaints Committee could be questioned. The same could happen if a complaint was received against an interpreter who is a member of the IRP. SASLI suggested that we have a reciprocal agreement for complaints whereby IRP/SASLI board members be asked to deal with any complaints against registered interpreters who are also members of the SASLI Board/IRP. It was agreed this could benefit both organisations and should be investigated further.

## **9. Ratification Committee Decisions**

The BSL component of Durham University's Postgraduate Diploma in Interpreting with the Deaf Community has been benchmarked for registration purposes. The IRP will accept the pass mark of 60% in BSL in the Diploma as meeting the BSL requirement for registration as a Trainee Interpreter.

The Ratification Committee was disappointed to note that a small number of JTIs and TIs who have been registered in the same category for more than three years are not showing any real evidence of progressing to the next category. Letters have been sent to the people concerned. It was agreed that interpreters will not be de-registered if they have been in the same category for more than three years. This requirement was introduced in order to encourage trainee interpreters to progress to Membership of the Register (MRSLI) status without undue delay. Should the IRP decide to implement the 'three-year rule', a year's notice will be given of this.

For September 2007 and January 2008 registrations, the Ratification Committee confirmed that applicants must be undertaking one of the recognised courses by the relevant closing date to register as a JTI.

## **10. July 2007 Meeting**

The next IRP meeting will take place in July 2007. If you want to comment on any of the above issues or raise others, please contact your representative on the IRP or the IRP Registrar at the address on the front page of this factsheet.