

The Independent Registration Panel

IRP

for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

FACTSHEET

Following the IRP meeting on 17 April 2008

Contents	Page
1. Letter for organisations using unregistered interpreters	2
2. April 2008 Registration	2
3. Applications for 1 September 2008 Registration	3
4. Members of the IRP at 17 April 2008	4
5. Registration Consultation – The Future of Registration	4
6. Progress towards Registration for Deaf People	5
7. Good news for TIs/JTIs	5
8. Update on Online Registration	5
9. Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Scheme	6
10. July 2008 Meeting	6

1. Letter for organisations using unregistered interpreters

If you are a registered BSL/English interpreter, enclosed with this Factsheet is a letter including your name, registration number and registration category. Please feel free to photocopy the letter and send/give it to any organisation you know of who use unregistered interpreters to make them aware of why they should be using only registered interpreters.

This could be the part you play in ensuring that organisations using unregistered interpreters are constantly challenged.

2. April 2008 Registration

It is great to be able to let you know that as of 30 April 2008 there are 582 interpreters on the CACDP Register of BSL/English Interpreters (www.cacdp.org.uk):

	April 2008	January 2008
Members of the Register	= 395	389
Trainee Interpreters	= 74	55
Junior Trainee Interpreters	= 113	123
Total	= 582	567

Once again this is the highest number of interpreters on the Register. Thank you to everyone who met the deadline for registration and supplied all of the necessary evidence by the closing date.

Please remember that the badge holders supplied with the ID cards are only issued to new applicants. You therefore need to keep the holders you were sent previously to transfer your new ID card into. Would you also ensure that you check your registration envelope carefully as a number of people thought their ID card was not enclosed but on closer inspection (after telephoning the Registration Department!) have discovered it is in the bottom of the envelope. Unfortunately some people threw the envelope away before checking and so had to be sent hand-made cards on this occasion.

CRB Enhanced Disclosure and Professional Indemnity Insurance

There have been an increasing number of cases recently where CRB has become more than three years old **during** the registration year and has not been renewed before the renewal date for registration. CRB Enhanced Disclosure should be renewed **before** it becomes more than three years old. This is not only as it causes a lot of extra admin work to chase up interpreters who have out of date CRB certificates, but you are also breaching the conditions for the registration of interpreters which you sign up to in the Declaration Section of the registration application form. The same is true for Professional Indemnity Insurance. The form states the following:

"I accept that if my PII runs out during the registration year I will renew the policy to ensure I am covered for the full period of this registration. I will ensure that I am covered for **all** work I carry out as an interpreter."

and

"I accept that if my Criminal Records Bureau – Enhanced Disclosure becomes more than 3 years old during the registration year, I will have a further check carried out to meet the IRP's requirements."

It is a minority of interpreters who allow this to happen but enough time is spent on this to give it a mention here.

3. Applications for 1 September 2008 Registration

The deadline for applications and supporting evidence for September 2008 registration is:

31 July 2008

If you are awaiting results which will be verified by 1 September 2008, 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 2008.

Registration application packs can be found on the CACDP website: www.cacdp.org.uk in the Interpreters/LSPs section. Click on 'Become an LSP', then 'BSL/English Interpreters', 'Applying for registration/Application Pack'. Alternatively you can contact the Registration Manager (at the address on the front page of this factsheet) if you would like a pack posting to you.

If you know of someone who did not renew their registration in April 2008, and who would now like to do so, please inform them of the above date.

If you want to upgrade your registration to another category during the registration year 2008/2009, this can be done on the following registration dates:

- 1 September 2008 (closing date 31 July 2008).
- 1 January 2009 (closing date 31 October 2008).

You would need to complete a new registration application form with details of the new registration category and return by the deadline with supporting information, two photographs and payment (application fee of £30 and the appropriate registration upgrade fee as outlined below). Your application will be considered by the Ratification Committee and you will be informed of their decision by the registration date.

Registration fees for the remainder of 2008-09 are as follows:

	1 Sept 08 – 31 Mar 09	1 Jan 09 – 31 Mar 09
	£	£
MRSLI	80	40
TI	70	35
JTI	60	30
Upgrade TI to MRSLI	15	10
Upgrade JTI to TI	15	10
Upgrade JTI to MRSLI	25	15

An application fee of £30 is payable by those applying to enter a category of registration for the first time, including those applying to upgrade from one registration category to another.

4. Members of the IRP at 17 April 2008

Agencies/Employers	Donna Rubin
Deaf Consumers	Vacancy Shirley Farthing (Vice-chair) Ilan Dwek
Interpreters (ASLI)	Lesley Kiddell-Spencer (BDA) Trudy Field (Chair) Christopher Stone Ann McAllister
Training Providers/Assessment Centres	Frank Harrington/ Helen Fuller
External Examiners/Verifiers	Roger Beeson/ Rosie Addis
Non-voting – Co-opted CACDP	Philip Gerrard Cathy Barnes
Registration Manager – Angela Nunn	

5. Registration Consultation – The Future of Registration

As you are probably now aware, consultants have been reviewing the registration process over the past few months. An Advisory Group comprising of the Chair of the IRP, Chair of ASLI and Chair of the ACE/Deafblind Registration Panel was established to ensure that developments are communicated to stakeholders and to support the consultants in their work.

The consultants have now compiled their report and presented the findings to CACDP's Board of Trustees at its recent meeting to which the 3 members of the Advisory Group were invited to attend. The general view included the following recommendations:

- The registration process for all LSPs should be at arms length from CACDP's awarding body function.
- There should be mutual support between the registration arm of CACDP and professional associations.
- The Directory should be free to access.
- There is a need to lobby in partnership to statutory organisations and others for the sole use of registered interpreters.

The longer term aim is to have compulsory CPD, to petition for legal protection of LSP titles and to build capacity for the training of those working as interpreters who are as yet unable to register.

6. Progress towards Registration for Deaf People

Meetings were held in December 2007 and April 2008 to look at the roles Deaf people are currently undertaking in the interpreting field and other professions and to propose ways forward towards the development of appropriate qualifications and registration categories.

The following 3 types of roles were identified:

- Two-way interpreting ie interpreter working from sign language other than BSL eg ISL or ASL. The IRP's remit at the present time is BSL/English. This could be adapted to include ISL/BSL or ASL/BSL.
- One-way translation/interpreting scrolling/Static English Text to BSL ie Deaf people working from written form of English eg from autocue (interpreting or pre-prepared for translating) where source language is scrolling text.
- BSL to Modified/Moderated BSL ie Deaf people working as language modifiers. This would include from BSL into another variation of BSL for Deaf people with visual impairment or people who have atypical language use or health problems or Deaf people who are non-fluent users of BSL.

Work is continuing in all three areas and we will keep you informed of progress as it is made.

7. Good news for TIs/JTIs

The Association of Sign Language Interpreters (ASLI) has opened up its Associate Membership category to include "any individual who is currently registered with the IRP as a TI or JTI". Further information can be found on the ASLI website www.asli.org.uk in the membership section. The ASLI office will work with the Registration Manager to ensure the necessary evidence required is shared, particularly for people who are in the process of registering.

8. Update on Online Registration

It is hoped that in the coming months some interpreters and other LSPs will be able to pilot the renewal of their registration online.

We hope that a "rolling" registration system will be up and running by the beginning of next year. Registration would then be valid for a period of one year from the date on which a completed application was approved for registration. This would mean a much more flexible registration system which would no longer have only three registration dates during the year.

New interpreters would be able to register as soon as they meet the eligibility criteria, have all of the supporting information required, and their application has been approved.

Further updates will be sent to you as and when the system is developed.

9. Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) Scheme

Changes to checks for those working with vulnerable adults and children will start from October 2009. The ISA scheme will mean a single vetting authority maintains a constantly updated list of people who are not allowed to work with vulnerable adults and children. All existing barring lists will be incorporated. It is likely that this scheme will replace the need for a CRB disclosure as a requirement of registration, although some organisations employing interpreters may also ask to see a CRB Enhanced Disclosure before using them.

The following is for information purposes only at this stage.

The cost to join the scheme will be a one-off fee of £64. This consists of a fee of £36 for a CRB Enhanced Disclosure check and an ISA registration fee of £28. The applicant will then appear on the ISA Register if they are deemed to be suitable to work with vulnerable adults and children. NB no further CRB Enhanced Disclosure check or further investigation will take place about an individual on the ISA Register unless new information is brought to the ISA's attention such as new convictions or referrals from employers. It will still be an employer's decision whether they employ someone who is ISA registered. Some crimes may not lead to someone being barred but would appear on a CRB Enhanced Disclosure check so some organisations may require CRB Enhanced Disclosure checks to be carried out.

Once ISA registered you would be given a unique reference number. It would then be the employer's responsibility (or perhaps even the IRP) to check you are ISA registered. This can only be done with your consent, ie you would have to give your unique reference number plus possibly date of birth and full name to the employer who will then go on to the ISA website and request to check if you are registered.

Further information can be found on the ISA website: www.isa.gov.org

10. July 2008 Meeting

The next IRP meeting will take place in July 2008. If you want to comment on any of the above issues or raise others, please contact your representative on the IRP or the Registration Manager at the address on the front page of this factsheet.