

The Independent Registration Panel

IRP

for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

Factsheet issued by the Independent Registration Panel following its meeting on 5 April 2006

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1. Report on the Registration Process April 2006

Number of Registrations 2006 - 2007

As of 26 April 2006, 382 interpreters have been entered on the CACDP Register of BSL/English Interpreters (www.cacdp.org.uk):

Members of the Register	=	275
Trainee Interpreters	=	46
Junior Trainee Interpreters	=	61

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

Report from the Ratification Committee

The following points were noted during the registration process:

- Evidence of Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) **Enhanced Disclosure** must be less than three years old for registration purposes. If evidence is provided other than the CRB Enhanced Disclosure Certificate, then this must state the date of when the disclosure was carried out. Interpreters are responsible for ensuring that their **Professional Indemnity Insurance** covers them for all assignments they undertake and that it is valid for the full registration period.
- Interpreters' name, registration status and the fact that they have Professional Indemnity Insurance and a CRB Enhanced Disclosure available all appear on the open register.
- The **Declaration** section on application forms was not always completed, resulting in a lot of time and effort being spent chasing up the missing information. It would be helpful if applicants took the time to tick all of the declaration boxes. Interpreters cannot be registered until this section is complete.
- Please note the **application fee** of £25 is only needed once for each category of registration. If you are renewing your application in the same category you do **not** pay an application fee a second time until you are upgrading to a new category.
- Some concerns were expressed about the IRP's **Data Protection statement** on the application form. The full statement can be found on the IRP pages of the CACDP website: (www.cacdp.org.uk under the heading "LSP Registration/The IRP/IRP Data Protection Statement"). Information received from BSL/English Interpreters is not passed on to anyone. As part of the registration package all registered BSL/English Interpreters will be sent the Registration and Qualifications Newsletter, and the IRP Factsheet, and from time to time other relevant mailouts.
- The same is the case for the Directory Entry Form, which has CACDP's general Data Protection statement on it. This can be found on the CACDP website www.cacdp.org.uk under the heading "Information/Policies/Data Protection Statement". Information received from BSL/English Interpreters is not made available to any one other than people who subscribe to the Online Directory who will obviously have access to the details the interpreter has asked to be included in their advertising entry.
- Changes to contact details: Please remember to send details of any changes to registration or advertising details as soon as they occur. These should be sent to Angela Nunn (angelan@cacdp.org.uk) who, wherever possible, will update the Online Directory overnight.

The Independent Registration Panel

The Registration Department, c/o CACDP, Durham University Science Park, Block 4
Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3UZ

Telephone: 0191 383 1155 (voice) or 0191 383 7915 (textphone)

Email: administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk

2. Applications for 1 September 2006 Registration

For 1 September 2006 registration, please note that the deadline for applications and supporting evidence is:

31 JULY 2006

If you are awaiting results which will be verified by 1 September 2006, 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 2006.

New applicants should contact the IRP Administrator for an application form (at the address below) as soon as possible.

If you wish to upgrade your registration to another category during the registration year 2006/2007, this can be done on the following registration dates:

- 1 September 2006 (closing date 31 July 2006).
- 1 January 2007 (closing date 31 October 2006).

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 £25 and the appropriate registration upgrade fee). Your application would be considered by the Ratification Committee and you will be informed of their decision by the registration date.

3. Membership of the IRP as at 1 April 2006

Agencies/Employers	Gloria Ogborn Martin Colville
Deaf Consumers	Shirley Farthing (Vice-chair) Ilan Dwek
Interpreters (ASLI)	Trudy Field (Chair) Liz Mercer Chris Stone
Training Providers/Assessment Centres	Sue Spencer Frank Harrington
External Examiners/Verifiers	Roger Beeson
Non-voting – Co-opted CACDP	Philip Gerrard Miranda Pickersgill
Administrator - Angela Nunn	
Registrar - Christine Wagstaff	

The terms of office of three members of the IRP came to an end in April: Martin Colville, Gloria Ogborn and Sue Spencer. The IRP wishes to thank these members for their time and support. We hope to include details of the new members in the summer factsheet.

It was agreed unanimously that Trudy Field will continue as Chair for the 2006/2007 year.

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4. IRP Feasibility Group

Following the report in the November 2005 Factsheet, the IRP has decided to appoint an external consultant to help with investigating the feasibility of the register becoming financially independent.

The suggested timetable is as follows:

April:	A specification is to be prepared for the consultant.
May:	Consultant to be appointed and to start preparing the business plan.
June:	Consultant completes business plan.
July:	Consultant's report to be considered at the July IRP Meeting.
September:	Business case to be presented to CACDP Board.

5. Declaration of Interest for IRP Members

All IRP Members have now completed a Declaration Form. The details can be found on the IRP pages of www.cacdp.org.uk. Follow the link: LSP Registration/The IRP. Please also see the attached appendix.

6. CRB Enhanced Disclosure

For registration purposes the IRP require interpreters to hold a CRB Enhanced Disclosure certificate which is less than three years old. Please remember that the IRP does not check the details on the CRB form. The only details that are kept are the issue date and the disclosure number. It is up to the person booking an interpreter to ask to see the certificate if they feel this is appropriate and to make a decision on any information disclosed. Interpreters need to be prepared to show a copy of their CRB Enhanced Disclosure Certificate at any time.

7. Budget

At the beginning of 2005, it was hoped that there would be some grant income obtained from the Home Office, but unfortunately this funding was not achieved. CACDP continues to fund the shortfall in the cost of the administration of the register and the IRP.

8. Complaints

The IRP has received one official complaint against a registered interpreter. The Nominated Persons concluded that, based on the evidence submitted to them, there was no case to answer.

The IRP also received six complaints against unregistered interpreters. Where details were given, the interpreters were sent letters advising them of the benefits of registering. Letters were also sent to the people/organisations who booked the interpreters recommending the use of registered interpreters. One benefit of using registered interpreters is that a complaint could be investigated if they were unhappy with an interpreter's conduct, etc.

9. Discussion Items from April 2006 IRP Meeting

In response to an appeal against a decision made during the February 2006 Ratification Committee Meeting, the IRP discussed how such appeals should be dealt with. The IRP decided that any appeal would only be considered by members of the IRP who were not on the original Ratification Committee. An appeal against a decision of the Ratification Committee can only be made on the basis that the Ratification Committee had not followed the correct procedure or made an error.

We would especially welcome comments from you on the following issues that have been raised at recent IRP meetings:

- A set of guidance notes should be produced to help guide complainants and interpreters through the complaints process.
- The Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Practice should be made available in BSL.
- Investigate the possibility of higher quality badges using digital photographs.
- Investigate whether interpreters would use cards containing IRP contact details, to proactively demonstrate their commitment to quality by offering clients the details for making a complaint.
- Consider what, if any, support can be offered to Deaf people who feel the charges of some interpreters and agencies are unreasonable.
- Consider whether interpreters should fill in a "Declaration of Interest" form (similar to the one IRP members have completed) and investigate the logistics of having this information included in the Online Directory or open register.

10. July 2006 Meeting

The next IRP meeting will take place in July 2006. 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 below.