

The Independent Registration Panel

IRP

for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

Factsheet issued by the Independent Registration Panel following its meeting on 9 July 2005

Contents	Page
1. Registration of Interpreters as of July 2005	2
2. Applications for 1 January 2006 Registration	2
3. Membership of the Independent Registration Panel, July 2005	3
4. Decisions from Panel Meetings	3
5. Registration Maintenance	3
6. The Reference Group of Training and Assessment Providers	3
7. Complaints	4
8. Promotion of Registration	4
9. Report on the Progression of Junior Trainee Interpreters and Trainee Interpreters	4
10. Issues Raised by Representatives	4
11. SASLI	4
12. RNID Free CRB Enhanced Disclosure Checks for Freelance LSPs	5
13. Items for Discussion at the November Meeting of the Panel	5
14. Tributes	5

1. Registration of Interpreters as of July 2005

Number of Registrations 2005 - 2006

The number of registered interpreters (as of July 2005) is:

Members of the Register (MRSLI)	=	214
Trainee Interpreters (TIs)	=	40
Junior Trainee Interpreters (JTIs)	=	67

Total number of registered interpreters	=	321
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The Ratification Committee will meet on 11 August 2005 to consider applications for registration from 1 September 2005. The committee will consider approximately 60 applications at this meeting which are not included in the above figure.

The application forms for April 2006 registration (closing date for which is 31 January 2006) will be printed in October 2005. The Panel would welcome any comments or suggestions from interpreters on how the application form can be improved. Please send any comments or suggestions to the IRP's Administrator by email: administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk or to the address below.

2. Applications for 1 January 2006 Registration

Please note that the deadline for applications for 1 January 2006 registration is:

31 October 2005

The closing date for submitting supporting evidence is the same as for applications. Only applications (with supporting evidence) received by 31 October 2005 can be considered for the January registration.

Please ensure that:

- you have Professional Indemnity Insurance in place when you submit your application;
- you allow sufficient time to obtain CRB Enhanced Disclosure.

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

3. Membership of the Independent Registration Panel, July 2005

Agencies/Employers (2)	Gloria Ogborn/Martin Colville (temporary)
Deaf Consumers/Tutors (4)	Shirley Farthing (Vice-chair)
Interpreters (3)	Liz Mercer
	Trudy Field (Chair)
	Christopher Stone
Training Providers/Assessment Centres (2)	Sue Spencer/Frank Harrington
External Examiners/Verifiers (2)	Lynne Cull/Roger Beeson
Non-voting – Co-opted (2)	Philip Gerrard
CACDP (1)	Miranda Pickersgill

(Administrator - Angela Nunn, Registrar - Christine Wagstaff)

Steps are being taken to fill the vacant positions, especially those created when the BDA decided not to continue to represent Deaf users of BSL/English interpreters on the IRP.

4. Decisions from Panel Meetings

Where any decisions are made which affect interpreters, the Panel tries to give them one year's notice period before the decision is implemented. The IRP Factsheet is published 3 times a year to publicise any decisions and is circulated to all registered interpreters and to IRP members to circulate to their reference group members for information.

5. Registration Maintenance

A questionnaire was sent out to all registered interpreters with the April 2005 Factsheet seeking views on registration maintenance. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those people who responded. The IRP received a total of 63 responses. Enclosed with this factsheet is the statistical summary of responses that will be discussed at the next IRP meeting. There were also many further helpful comments included within the questionnaire.

6. The Reference Group of Training and Assessment Providers

The Reference Group of Training and Assessment Providers met in June 2005 and continued its discussions on the following issues to advise the IRP on implementing the remaining parts of the Registration Policy.

- Core knowledge required for TI status.
- English standards.
- The quantity and quality of practical experience required for TI status.

The group will meet again in September and report to the November meeting of the IRP.

7. Complaints

At the present time the IRP is not dealing with any complaints.

8. Promotion of Registration

Trudy Field (Chair of IRP) has been involved in promoting the work of the IRP. She has visited groups of interpreting students/candidates at Sign Solutions (2 groups), Bristol University 2nd and 3rd years, and UCLAN Post Graduate Diploma final year students.

9. Report on the Progression of Junior Trainee Interpreters and Trainee Interpreters

The form RTI-05 was completed by TIs applying for registration in the registration year 2005-2006, if they had been registered for 3 years in the same category. This form provided information on how they are seeking to progress to MRSLI status. Only 6 TIs had been registered for 3 years and all of them demonstrated that they were progressing (such as currently undertaking the Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting). Similarly, 13 JTIs completed the RJTI-05 form and again all demonstrated that they were seeking to progress to the next level (most sourcing or undertaking the Level 4 NVQ in BSL or undertaking the Postgraduate Diploma in BSL/English Interpreting).

10. Issues Raised by Representatives

The issue of high fees being charged by some interpreters and agencies was highlighted. It was concluded that it is very difficult for fees to be regulated and market forces make it impossible for costs to be controlled, although there are certain things the purchasers can do, such as ensuring they have checked the fees and expenses to be charged before they make a booking. There is some information on the CACDP website about the use and booking of interpreters and ASLI are about to publish a leaflet on this subject.

Further suggestions have been made by interpreters about:

- the badges issued to registered interpreters;
- representation on the IRP.

We are grateful for these contributions and the suggestions are under consideration.

11. SASLI

Trudy Field (Chair of IRP) and Miranda Pickersgill (Chief Executive, CACDP) met representatives of SASLI to discuss the relationship between the SASLI Register and the CACDP Register administered by the IRP. The hope is to achieve mutual recognition of qualifications between the 2 registration bodies leading to the IRP registering interpreters trained/assessed in Scotland and SASLI recognising interpreting qualifications from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Independent Registration Panel

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Email: administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk

12. RNID Free CRB Enhanced Disclosure Checks for Freelance LSPs

In recognition of the RNID's commitment to quality and security in the provision of LSPs for deaf/hard of hearing users, it will be offering free Enhanced CRB checks for freelance LSPs during 2005-06. For BSL/English interpreters the offer will be conditional on registration with CACDP by the IRP. The RNID is planning to deliver this initiative in partnership with the respective LSP professional associations. The offer is open until March 2006.

For further information, please contact Louise Murphy on 0207 296 8272.

13. Items for Discussion at the November Meeting of the Panel

If you wish to comment on the above items or raise any other matters, please contact one of your IRP representatives. Issues presently on the draft agenda for the November meeting are:

- assessments within different systems (i.e. NVQ candidates who already have BSL skills assessed within a Higher Education programme and also people on a Higher Education programme who have NVQ units in BSL);
- registration maintenance: the implications of the results of the questionnaire.

14. Tributes

Tributes were paid to Mary Brennan and Jock Young who had recently died.