

The Independent Registration Panel

IRP

for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

**Factsheet issued by the Independent Registration
Panel following its meeting on
8 November 2006**

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1. Registered Interpreters

Number of Registrations 2006 – 2007

The IRP are delighted to report that the number of applications for registration of interpreters is at the highest ever level. We are especially pleased with the record numbers of MRSLI which continues to build the credibility of the register especially to outside bodies. There has also been a significant increase in Junior Trainee Interpreters who are registering at the start of their careers. We would like to welcome all new interpreters.

The IRP's Ratification Committee approved 47 applications for registration and upgrading to a higher category of registration at the November meeting.

The number of registered interpreters (as of January 2007) will be:

Members of the Register	=	312
Trainee Interpreters	=	59
Junior Trainee Interpreters	=	101

Total number of registered interpreters	=	472
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2. Applications for 1 April 2007 Registration

The current registration year runs from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007. **All** registered interpreters are required to renew their registration from 1 April 2007 regardless of when they registered during 2006-07. A renewal pack will automatically be sent out to everyone currently registered at the beginning of January 2007 and the closing date to return the application form with supporting information will be 31 January 2007. New applicants should contact the IRP Administrator for an application form (at the address below) as soon as possible.

For 1 April 2007 registration, please note that the deadline for applications is:

31 January 2007

Please note to guarantee renewal of your registration from 1 April 2007, your completed form must be returned by Wednesday 31 January 2007.

If you are awaiting results which will be verified by the registration date, please submit your application form by the deadline with all other supporting information. Your application will be ratified conditional on receiving confirmation of results by 31 March 2007.

Qualifications that are no longer available will be removed from the application forms from April 2008. Anyone re-registering after a career break whose qualification does not appear on the form should contact the IRP Administrator.

CRB Enhanced Disclosure

Please remember that for registration purposes CRB Enhanced Disclosure **has to be less than three years old**. Many interpreters may have CRB Enhanced Disclosure which will expire during January to March 2007. If this is the case, please start the renewal process now and don't wait until next year as it may not be completed in time for April registration.

3. Feasibility Study

In August 2006, a paper was drafted outlining the IRP's proposals to CACDP regarding the future of the registration of BSL/English Interpreters and other Language Service Professionals based on the consultant's report. There was a general feeling that the consultant's report was lacking in detailed financial information, i.e. it did not show a breakdown of funding needed per year and how to take things forward on a year by year basis. The report was sent to CACDP for consideration, but because a detailed financial business case had not been submitted, the IRP was given an extension to February 2007 to put together more detailed costings. Three members of the IRP will meet to put figures together in January 2007.

4. Presentation from Paul Parsons

The IRP received a presentation from Paul Parsons of the Welsh Assembly. He is seconded to the Welsh Assembly government to monitor the BSL Interpreting Services Project. He gave an overview of the project and outlined the actions taken to address the shortage of interpreters in Wales. An apprentice scheme has been set up to fast track interpreters to MRSLI level. Paul also distributed a document entitled *Delivering in British Sign Language: Advice for Public Services (Consultation Document)* which is available from the Welsh Assembly Government. (It is available online at: http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/equality/equality_policy_and_consultation/BSLConsultation)

5. Membership of the IRP at 8 November 2006

Deaf Consumers	Shirley Farthing (Vice-chair) Ilan Dwek 2 vacant
Interpreters (ASLI)	Trudy Field (Chair) Liz Mercer Chris Stone
Training Providers/Assessment Centres	Judith Jackson Frank Harrington
External Examiners/Verifiers	Roger Beeson 1 vacant
Agencies/Employers	Marilyn Osborne Donna Rubin
Non-voting – Co-opted	Philip Gerrard 1 vacant
CACDP	Miranda Pickersgill
Administrator – Angela Nunn	
Registrar – Christine Wagstaff	

The Independent Registration Panel

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Email: administration@independentregistrationpanel.org.uk

Marilyn Osborne and Donna Rubin are the new agency representatives on the IRP, allowing for a formal communication structure between the Agencies Steering Group and agencies in general and the IRP.

There are still 2 vacancies for Deaf consumers on the panel and it was felt that if it is not possible to fill the vacancies with representative of national organisations, it would be useful to have regional/local representation.

6. New National Occupational Standards in Interpreting

The IRP has adopted the new National Occupational Standards in Interpreting (NOSI) (CILT 2006) as its standards replacing the Interpreter Registration Standards (IRS). Although the changes that CILT have made mean that the language units will no longer form part of the Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English), for registration purposes an externally verified BSL qualification is still required.

The new Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English) was accredited from 1 October 2006. Candidates can still register for the old interpreting NVQ until 28 February 2007, with the qualification running for another three years.

In order to register as an MRSLI by undertaking the new Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English) candidates will need to achieve the new Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English) and **either** the Level 4 NVQ in BSL **or** a BSL module from a university which has been mapped at this level for registration purposes.

To register as a Trainee Interpreter following the new NVQ route, candidates will need to be a registered candidate for all of the interpreting units of the Level 4 NVQ in Interpreting (BSL/English) and already have achieved **either** the Level 4 NVQ in BSL **or** a BSL module from a university which has been mapped at this level for registration purposes.

7. Complaints and Appeals

The IRP has received one official complaint about a registered interpreter which was not upheld. However, this complaint brought to light the importance of consumers and interpreters ensuring that any verbal arrangements to provide services are followed up by email, letter or form, confirming that both parties agree the fee and service to be provided.

The IRP is aware that it can be very stressful if an interpreter receives a complaint against them. In view of this, minor changes are proposed to the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure 2007-08 to shorten the length of time taken to conclude a complaint and to ensure that the procedure is clear to all parties involved in a complaint. A copy of the amended procedure will be sent out with the registration packs in January 2007.

The IRP has also received a letter for information purposes about a complaint against an unregistered interpreter. The IRP will, wherever possible, write to any unregistered interpreters and advise them of the benefits of registering with the IRP. The IRP will also write to organisations who do not use registered interpreters advising them of the benefits of using registered interpreters.

8. Ratification Committee Decisions

Further research is to be carried out by the IRP into the various categories requested when a CRB Enhanced Disclosure is obtained.

The Committee looked at the Annual Monitoring Returns from the Institutions that run the recognised Interpreter Training Programmes. Returns have to be submitted each year to ensure that the standards remain consistent with the year in which the programme was mapped. The Registrar contacts any establishment if significant changes are noted.

Sign Solutions have run a pilot Individual Interpreter Development Programme (IIDP) scheme which has been successful and other approved NVQ interpreting centres may now choose to also offer this facility. The IIDP is the means by which a person following the NVQ route can register as a JTI.

9. April 2007 Meeting

The next IRP meeting will take place in April 2007. If you want to comment on any of the information contained in this factsheet or you wish to raise any other points, please contact your representative on the IRP or the IRP Registrar at the address below.