

# The Independent Registration Panel

## IRP

for  
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

### FACTSHEET

Following the IRP meeting on 14 July 2008

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## 1. Record number of registered Interpreters!

There will be over **600** BSL/English interpreters registered from 1 September 2008. This is a record high and includes over **400** MRSLIs. The size of the Register increasing year by year adds credibility to the registration system. This is fantastic news – a big thank you goes out to all those of you who are continuing to register and support the system and to anyone who is registering for the first time.

## 2. Registration of Interpreters

### Update on Number of Registrations 2008 – 2009

The final number of interpreters registered from April 2008 is as follows:

Members of the Register (MRSLI)	=	395
Trainee Interpreters (TI)	=	74
Junior Trainee Interpreters (JTI)	=	114
Total	=	<b>584</b>

At its recent meeting, the Ratification Committee considered **70** applications for registration or upgrading between categories for 1 September 2008 registration. We are still awaiting documentary evidence from some applicants as this Factsheet goes to print.

## 3. Applications for 1 January 2009 Registration

The deadline for applications for 1 January 2009 registration is:

**31 October 2008**

The closing date for submitting supporting evidence is the same as for applications. Only applications (with supporting evidence) received by 31 October 2008 can be considered for January registration as the Ratification Committee meeting will take place at the beginning of November.

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 2009, 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 2009.**

For JTIs remember that to be eligible to apply to register in this category for January 2009, you must be undertaking a recognised Interpreter Training Programme (ITP) or following an Individual Interpreter Development Programme (IIDP) by the deadline (i.e. 31 October 2008) and as a minimum:

- i) have a basic understanding of the role of an interpreter;

- ii) understand and act within the spirit of the IRP's Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Practice;
- iii) understand and act within your limitations when deciding which assignment you are sufficiently experienced and competent to accept;
- iv) have completed sufficient amount of simulated interpreting activities to show that you are able to interpret in the assignments identified in iii) above.

## **4. Update on Future of Registration**

The Registration Advisory Group attended CACDP's recent Board meeting where the proposals that came out of "The Future of Registration" consultation and findings were discussed as follows:

- To achieve greater recognition of the place and value of registration.
- To have one body dealing with all aspects of registration.
- To remove the fee for access to the Directory, making information freely available to service users.
- To introduce Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as soon as is practicable, as a condition of continuing registration.
- To make registration more attractive to professionals.
- To work more closely with professional bodies.

Comments made in response to the consultation also illustrate the need to:

- Rationalise registration titles and make them more meaningful.
- Consider the option of 'protected title' status for interpreters and other LSPs.
- Review registration processes regularly.

IRP members fully supported the proposals for registration outlined above.

Further detailed plans/information will be circulated to registered interpreters, other LSPs and to all other stakeholders by CACDP in September.

## **5. Complaints**

A summary of complaints cases in which sanctions were imposed is shown in Appendix 1 for your information (ie the list does not include complaints that were not upheld).

We have recently received a number of concerns expressed by agencies about non-compliance with their terms and conditions. Interpreters should ensure that they read agencies' terms and conditions carefully before accepting any assignment with them or negotiate different agreed terms with the agencies, including how follow-on bookings will be handled.

## 6. CRB Enhanced Disclosure

REMINDER: 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.

When the new Independent Safeguarding Authority registration system comes into force in October 2009 it is hoped that it will be a more robust system.

## 7. Membership of the IRP at 14 July 2008

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

## 8. November 2008 Meeting

The next IRP meeting will take place in November 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.

## Appendix 1: Complaints cases in which sanctions were imposed from 2004

(Please read in conjunction with Code of Ethics/Guidelines for Professional Practice as sections of these documents are referred to here)

Complaint Number/Nature of Complaint	Decision of C&DC	Sanctions	Recommendations
Allegation that interpreter had knowingly taken work from a booking agency and had not behaved professionally during dealings with them.	Interpreter had breached 5.2 of the Guidelines for Professional Practice (GPP).	Record of formal warning kept on file for a maximum of two years.  <b>NB:</b> After the decision had been reached, the Committee was told that there was a recent complaint on file for the interpreter. Having two complaints upheld in a short period of time does permit the sanction of removal from the Register. The Committee, however, felt that to action this sanction would not be productive and preferred therefore to stress to the interpreter the severity of this complaint. The Committee therefore considered as appropriate the alternative maximum sanction of a formal written warning being kept on file for two years to run concurrently with the existing complaint.	Interpreter seek an experienced mentor and gain guidance on professional practice, record keeping and appropriate ways of conducting business.
Allegation that it took the interpreter 1 hour to go to the hospital when there were concerns over a man's welfare and a potential jeopardy to life. Unprofessional, aggressive and confrontational behaviour throughout the incident.	Interpreter had breached 1.5, 2.2, 6.2 and 6.3 of the GPP.	Due to the potentially serious consequences of the interpreter's behaviour, the findings should be placed on file for the maximum allowable period of 2 years for each breach of the Guidelines, these terms to run concurrently.	Interpreter obtain a mentor/supervisor eg ASLI mentor with legal experience to help develop understanding of the role of the interpreter in the legal domain and attend a training programme in police interpreting to update knowledge of police procedures.
Allegation that interpreter charged for additional sessions than agreed, breached confidentiality and misrepresented registration status.	Interpreter had breached either 2.5 or 2.6, and 4.1 and 6.4 of the GPP.	Findings to be kept on file for 12 months with the file notes running concurrently.	Interpreter obtain a mentor to help develop understanding of the role of interpreter and the dynamics of interactions in different circumstances.

<p>Allegation by one interpreter about their co-worker that interpreter's conduct during a Case Conference when not working as an interpreter undermined the co-worker's role as a BSL/English interpreter.</p>	<p>Interpreter had breached Section 1 of the GPP.</p>	<p>Findings to be placed on file for 3 months.</p>	<p>Interpreter reflect on the issues raised in the case and review how they relate to, and communicate with, other professionals.</p>
<p>Allegation of misrepresentation of status as JTI during an assignment in a prison interview. At the time of the assignment the interpreter was registered as a JTI. However, when the C&amp;DC considered the complaint the interpreter was not registered.</p>	<p>Interpreter had breached 2.1 and 6.4 of the GPP.</p>	<p>Should the interpreter be granted registered status the Committee's findings be placed on file for a period of six months from the date the interpreter is granted registration status.</p> <p><b>NB:</b> The findings were reduced to three months from the date of the findings letter due to a delay in the findings being communicated until the Crown Court case was concluded.</p>	<p>Interpreter undertake further training and obtain MRSLI status as soon as possible.</p>