



The Independent Registration Panel
IRP
for
British Sign Language/English Interpreters

**REGISTRATION UPDATE FROM THE INDEPENDENT
REGISTRATION PANEL AND THE ACE/DEAFBLIND
REGISTRATION PANEL**

DECEMBER 2007

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This update is distributed to:

- Registered BSL/English Interpreters, Deafblind Interpreters (Manual), Lipspeakers and Speech to Text Reporters;
- The Independent Registration Panel;
- The ACE/Deafblind Registration Panel.

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1. Numbers of registered BSL/English Interpreters and ACE/Deafblind Language Service Professionals (LSPs) as at 1 September 2007

The final numbers of registered BSL/English Interpreters at 1 September 2007 are as follows:

Category	September 2007
Member of the Register of BSL/English Interpreters	363
Trainee Interpreter (BSL/English)	58
Junior Trainee Interpreter (BSL/English)	110
Total	531

Once again it is great to be able to report that these are the highest numbers of registered BSL/English Interpreters ever.

Forms are currently being processed for January 2008 registration. Fifty-nine applications have been received from BSL/English Interpreters, some of which are upgrades between categories. The final numbers of registered BSL/English Interpreters for 2007-08 will therefore increase from those given above, with the total from all three categories expected to be around 560.

The final numbers of other registered Language Services Professionals (LSPs) at 1 September 2007 are as follows:

Category	September 2007
Member of the Register of Deafblind Interpreters (Manual)	26
Member of the Register of Speech to Text Reporters	25
Member of the Register of Level 3 Lipspeakers	39
Registered Level 2 Lipspeaker	14
Total	104

It is anticipated that these numbers will increase in 2008 with the uptake of the new Level 3 Certificates for LSPs.

2. Register of Notetakers

Great news for Notetakers! A Register of Notetakers will be in operation from 1 April 2008. This will give notetakers the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the highest professional standards and provide service users with a guarantee of using someone who has:

- relevant qualifications;
- achieved the required standard in notetaking in relation to their level of registration;
- Professional Indemnity Insurance (where appropriate);
- obtained CRB Enhanced Disclosure, which can be checked by anyone with a valid reason to do so (where appropriate);
- agreed to follow an Ethical Code and Code of Practice;
- agreed to abide by a Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure.

There will be one register, with two separate categories for electronic and manual notetakers. The eligibility criteria is outlined below:

Category of membership	Eligibility to join
Member of the Register of Level 3 Notetakers (Manual)	Level 3 Certificate for Language Service Professionals Working with Deaf and Deafblind People (Notetaking)
Member of the Register of Level 3 Notetakers (Electronic)	Level 3 Certificate for Language Service Professionals Working with Deaf and Deafblind People (Notetaking)

Category of membership	Eligibility to join/remain on the register
Registered Level 2 Notetaker (Manual)	<p>To join: Level 2 Certificate in Notetaking for Deaf People</p> <p>To remain: By April 2011, will need to have achieved Level 3 Certificate for Language Service Professionals Working with Deaf and Deafblind People (Notetaking)</p>
Registered Level 2 Notetaker (Electronic)	<p>To join: Level 2 Certificate in Electronic Notetaking for Deaf People</p> <p>To remain: By April 2011, will need to have achieved Level 3 Certificate for Language Service Professionals Working with Deaf and Deafblind People (Notetaking)</p>

If you are eligible to register as a Notetaker and would like a registration application pack, contact Angela Nunn (angelan@cacdp.org.uk) or at the address at the end of this update. If you know of any colleagues who are eligible to register please pass this information on to them also. Remember if you are already registered in another LSP category, you will be eligible to a 50% discount on the notetaker registration fee

3. Registration Renewal – April 2008

As you know the registration year currently runs from 1 April to 31 March each year and all registered Language Service Professionals (LSPs) and interpreters must renew their registration to take effect from 1 April each year. All LSPs who are currently registered will automatically be sent a renewal registration application pack at the beginning of January 2008 to allow them to renew. The pack will be sent to the address you have supplied previously. If you have moved, or are in the process of moving, please ensure that your new details are forwarded to Angela Nunn (angelan@cacdp.org.uk) as soon as possible to allow your renewal pack to be delivered to the correct address. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is **31 January 2008**.

Fees

The good news is that fees for 2008-09 will stay the same as for this year. The fees are outlined below:

	April	September	January
Registration Type	Registration fee (£)		
MRSLI	115	80	40
TI	100	70	35
JTI	80	60	30
Level 3 Lipspeaker	60	40	25
Level 2 Lipspeaker	40	30	20
STTR	60	40	25
LSP- Deafblind Manual	60	40	25
Level 3 Notetaker	60	40	25
Level 2 Notetaker	40	30	20
	Application fee (£)		
	30	30	30
	Advertising fee (£)		
	0	0	0

If you are renewing your registration in the same category you only need to pay the appropriate registration fee for that category. If you are registering in a new category you would need to pay an application fee and a registration fee. If you are registering in more than one LSP category you are entitled to a 50% discount on the lower registration fee for the second and subsequent categories. Payments can be by cheque made payable to CACDP or organisations can request to be invoiced.

CRB-Enhanced Disclosure Certificates

CRB-Enhanced Disclosure (CRB-ED) is a compulsory part of registration for BSL/English Interpreters and is strongly recommended for other types of LSPs. For registration purposes the enhanced disclosure needs to be less than three years old at the date of registration. **If your CRB-ED is going to be more than three years old on 1 April 2008 start the process for renewing it now.** Don't wait until a few days before the 3 year deadline. Checks can take up to 8 weeks so bear this in mind.

If your employer is sending a covering letter to state that you have a current CRB-ED please ensure that the issue date and disclosure number are included in the letter.

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) is a compulsory part of registration for BSL/English Interpreters and is strongly recommended for other types of LSPs. The registration panels will need to see evidence of an insurance policy which is in operation after 1 April 2008 to allow your registration to be completed. If your PII runs out in February or March please send in your completed registration application form and other supporting information with a note to this effect by the closing date of 31 January 2008. You will be given time to send a copy of your updated PII as soon as it is available but before 31 March 2008 if at all possible to allow your registration to be completed.

Photos

Please supply two passport sized (and quality) photographs for your updated ID card. We are hoping that in future years we will be able to use photos previously supplied but at the moment new ones are still required.

Evidence of qualifications

If you are renewing your registration in the same category and have previously sent in evidence of your qualifications to meet the eligibility criteria, it is not necessary to send another copy of your certificate with your registration application form.

General

Please ensure that you read and complete fully **all** parts of the application form which are relevant to you. This includes ticking all of the relevant boxes in the Declaration Section of the form and signing and dating this section.

All applications received will be acknowledged. Please be patient as towards the end of January/beginning of February there could be around 700 application forms to be processed and it may therefore take a week or so to receive an acknowledgement. The more telephone calls that are received to confirm whether a form has been received, the longer the acknowledgements will take. This is a particularly busy time in the registration department so please bear this in mind! If you take a bit of extra time in ensuring that you have completed the form correctly and enclosed all of the necessary supporting information including the correct amount for payment, the saner the Registration Manager will be!

Advertising in the Online Directory

If you wish to advertise your details **free of charge** in the Online Directory please ensure that you complete the Online Directory Entry Form fully. If you are currently advertising in the Online Directory, a copy of your details will be sent with your registration renewal application pack. Please indicate any changes which you wish to make on the Directory Entry Form **or** indicate that there are no changes. Return this with your completed registration application form and other supporting information. **If you do not return the Online Directory Entry Form, the advertising details held for you will be deleted as it will be assumed that you no longer wish to advertise.**

4. Update on the Registration Project

CACDP, together with the Independent Registration Panel and the ACE/Deafblind Registration Panel, has over recent years looked at different ways of improving the current registration process. Much useful ground has been covered during these discussions, and it has now been agreed that the time is right to move to a new approach: one that will be credible and sustainable as regards CACDP's role as the registration body, and acceptable to the Language Service Professionals as a whole for whom registration provides a recognition of standards and a gateway to employment, and provides confidence to consumers.

In order to progress this work, CACDP has retained TARO Consultancy to help develop a new approach to the registration of Language Service Professionals. CACDP and the consultants will be aided in their work by an Advisory Group comprising of the following:

- Trudy Field (Chair of Independent Registration Panel)
- Ross Trotter (Chair of ACE/Deafblind Registration Panel and on behalf of ACE/Deafblind professional associations)
- Christopher Stone (Chair of Association of Sign Language Interpreters).

The first meeting of the Advisory Group took place in mid-October.

TARO Consultancy has been contracted to:	By:
1. review the current registration process as operated by CACDP (including the roles of the IRP and the ACE/Deafblind Registration Panel);	Mid Oct 2007
2. discuss with a cross-section of stakeholders their views on the current registration position and ways in which might be developed to improve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consumer protection; • ownership by Language Service Professionals; • governance arrangements. 	End Nov 2007
3. consider whether there exists scope for better co-working with other registers/directories operated by other organisations working with Language Service Professionals;	Mid Dec 2007
4. benchmark the current registration process against other UK regulatory and professional models;	Mid Dec 2007
5. produce a consultation document for wide circulation setting out proposals for a future structure of registration;	Late Jan 2008
6. manage the process of consultation, collate responses and produce a final report with recommendations for CACDP consideration;	End March 2008
7. subsequently assist CACDP to implement recommendations with a full implementation date of January 2009.	April-Dec 2008

The advisory group will meet again in early January 2008 to discuss the emerging conclusions from stages 1 – 4, and again in late March 2008, to discuss the outcomes of the consultation. Further meetings of the Advisory Group may follow later in the year.

You may by now have been contacted in the first phase of consultations which is covering a cross-section of stakeholders. The wider consultation will be taking place in early 2008.

5. Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)

A new system of vetting and barring will come into force in 2008 undertaken by the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA). This scheme will check the status of individuals and bar them from working or volunteering with vulnerable groups where appropriate. The Independent Safeguarding Authority will also ensure that individuals' records are continuously checked and their status changed when relevant information comes to light.

Additional information on how this will affect LSPs will be provided in future updates. If you would like to know more you could look at the following website: www.joinisa.co.uk which gives further background information.

The Home Office is running a series of information sessions for interested parties who wish to know more.

(see link at <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/events/?asset=Event&id=71282>).

6. Staffing changes at CACDP

The staffing that CACDP provides for registration, and in particular to support the work, of the IRP, has recently changed. The new on-line application process, which will hopefully come into operation in 2008, will reduce the amount of administration that staff have to deal with manually and therefore will reduce the number of staff hours required for registration. It was therefore decided that the post of IRP Registrar was no longer needed and the post was made redundant. Christine Wagstaff left CACDP at the beginning of October. CACDP and the IRP are grateful to Christine for the valuable work she did as Registrar, and wish her well in the future.

Angela Nunn will now deal with all registration matters. Would you please therefore address any matters relating to registration to Angela in the future.

7. Points raised at November 2007 IRP meeting (not covered elsewhere)

Both Registration Panels held meetings in November 2007. There was nothing further to report from the ACE/Deafblind Registration Panel meeting that was not already covered in this update. The following points were discussed at the IRP meeting which are not mentioned elsewhere.

JTI Entry point for new applicants

In the past someone could be eligible to register as a JTI as soon as they had started a recognised course meaning they may have done little or no interpreter training. It has therefore been agreed that the following four points become the minimum requirements for new registrations as JTI. The requirements will be added to the form training providers will have to complete to allow students to register as a JTI:

- 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 their limitations when deciding which assignment they are sufficiently experienced and competent to accept;
- iv) have completed sufficient amount of simulated interpreting activities to show that they are able to interpret in the assignments identified in iii) above.

Complaints and Appeals

The Complaints and Disciplinary Committee has dealt with three complaints this year all of which were upheld. All of the recent complaints had been in connection with business practices or role and boundaries of an interpreter.

New Developments

A meeting will be held in CACDP's Durham office in mid-December to discuss the issue of roles undertaken by people currently referred to as "Deaf interpreters" and to propose a way forward towards appropriate qualifications and registration.

Other matters raised

At the IRP meeting, representatives of the stakeholder groups raised several issues which had been brought to their attention.

Concern was expressed that although the Level 3 Certificate in BSL has been accepted for registration purposes, some tutors worried that the type of vocabulary used was

mainly in social context and whether the assessment and verification processes are as rigorous as for the NVQ as people could use the qualification to then go on to interpreter training. A summary of the relevant specification, which shows the themes covered by this qualification (Society, Health, Education and The Workplace) can be found on the CACDP website: <http://www.cacdp.org.uk/learners/Choose-a-Qualification/bsl3.pdf>

One representative of Deaf consumers asked for guidelines to be drafted to clarify the role of interpreters at breaks and lunchtimes. It may be that recommended terms and conditions on the ASLI website will be of help to people. ASLI already have an information leaflet outlining this. This is linked with what should be contained in the content of a contract between the two parties. It was noted that a contract may not be shown to the Deaf person so they may not be aware of the contents. One of the ASLI representatives will check for further information that may help Deaf consumers.

One interpreter had asked whether it would be possible to pay for registration in instalments. This is not currently a payment option and it is not planned for the immediate future.

In answer to a query from an interpreter about the dates for registration, it was clarified that the current situation is that interpreters can register in April, September and January. It is hoped that when the new online registration system comes into operation (possibly in 2008) that rolling registration will also be available allowing registration to occur monthly.

The next IRP meeting will take place in April 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 at the end of this update.

If you have any specific information which you feel would be useful to LSPs or interpreters, or you would like to see an article on a particular subject, let Angela know (angelan@cacdp.org.uk) and it may be included in the next edition! Please pass a copy of the update on to any colleagues you feel may find it useful and let us know if you think others should receive a copy.

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