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7th February 2022

Lord Wolfson
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

Dear Lord Wolfson,

We are writing to welcome your recent statement in the House of Lords regarding the commissioning of a full independent review of the existing qualifications and standards, and the requirements for each type of assignment covered by the Ministry of Justice's (MoJ) language services contracts.

We welcome the focus of the review and look forward to receiving further information on how we can lend our support and contribute to this.

Specifically, we eagerly await confirmation of when the terms of reference will be published, who will chair the review, and whether evidence and views will be invited both in writing and in person.

In the meantime, may we take this opportunity to urge you to bring within the scope of the review if they are not already:

Further background on the current MoJ Register

In addition to the data we have from a number of answers to Parliamentary Questions about the numbers in each category of case complexity, it would also be helpful for the review to include the context of a snapshot of the current interpreter capacity on the MoJ Register, e.g., how many are considered competent to act in each case category; how many leave and join the Register each year.

Interpretation of the word 'standards'

Regarding the interpretation of the word 'standards' in the terms of reference, we trust this will encompass standards of professional conduct as well as the language qualifications and experience to be specified.

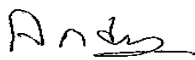
Independent regulation

We strongly believe that as well as reinforcing the importance of qualifications, experience and standards in this review, they will be better safeguarded and monitored through an independent regulator (as they are for the medical, legal, and teaching professions) rather than a contracted regulator as at present, where conflicts of interests may arise.

We note the review is due to be completed before the new contract in 2023, and we welcome this.

We stand ready to give our full support to the review.

Yours sincerely



Andy Murray

Unite the Union on behalf of Members of PI4J
See attached for list of signatories

PI4J: the partner organisations

Association of Police and Court Interpreters (APCI)

Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL)

Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru (CCC Cyf)

Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI)

National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI)

National Union of British Sign Language Interpreters, part of Unite (NUBSLI)

National Union of Professional Interpreters Translators, part of Unite (NUPIT)

Society of Official Metropolitan Interpreters UK Ltd (SOMI)

Observer:

The National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCPD)

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