



www.pi4j.org.uk
info@pi4j.org.uk

9th March 2022

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

Dear Lord Wolfson,

Further to your kind response of 17th February to our letter, as you suggested PI4J members were able to find out more about HMCTS' plans for the 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 at the External Stakeholders Forum on 22nd February.

Whilst there was much to commend in the plans set out, PI4J members remain of the view that if no consideration is given to the additional resources which will need to be allocated to make any serious-minded attempt at delivering to the spirit of the existing standards, then the review of standards and qualifications risks either:

- a) a sub-optimal outcome in terms of setting standards that are then not delivered against; or worse,
- b) watering down standards to fit with the resources currently available.

We note the review is due to be completed before the new contract in 2023, and we welcome this. However, the twin problems in terms of rates of pay and associated conditions which are too low to attract new interpreters and are causing qualified interpreters to drop out of the profession, these are happening now.

Can we urge you to consider this transparently in the 'policy' phase of the upcoming review. We stand ready as ever to give our full support to the review and would like to thank your officials for the work they have already done to progress it.

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)

www.pi4j.org.uk

info@pi4j.org.uk