

240802: Written answers from Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, the Ministry of Justice, to questions received from Baroness Coussins

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, the Ministry of Justice, has provided the following answer to your written parliamentary question (HL217):

Question:

To ask His Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Wolfson of Tredegar on 12 January 2022 (HL Deb cols 1151–2), when the Ministry of Justice's independent review of the qualifications and experience required of spoken word interpreters in HM Courts and Tribunal Service will be completed, and when it will be published. (HL217)

Tabled on: 22 July 2024

Answer:

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede:

We have been considering the findings of the independent review to help inform the development of new tender specifications. This is a complex process and covers a wide range of agencies within the Ministry of Justice. We will, of course, publish the outcome of the review once the tendering process is complete.

Date and time of answer: 31 Jul 2024 at 16:51.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, the Ministry of Justice, has provided the following answer to your written parliamentary question (HL123):

Question:

To ask His Majesty's Government when the invitation to tender for the next contract to provide spoken word translation and interpreting services for HM Courts and Tribunals Service will be issued. (HL123)

Tabled on: 18 July 2024

Answer:

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede:

The Ministry of Justice's invitation to tender for the new spoken word services contract is expected to be published in the autumn, subject to completion of approvals processes.

Date and time of answer: 29 Jul 2024 at 12:24.

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, the Ministry of Justice, has provided the following answer to your written parliamentary question (HL124):

Question:

To ask His Majesty's Government whether the public consultation on the proposed amendments to the Victims' Code under the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024 has been launched; and if not, when this will happen. (HL124)

Tabled on: 18 July 2024

Answer:

Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede:

A public consultation on a new Victims' Code has not been launched. We will be carefully considering the implementation of measures under the Victims and Prisoners Act, including the measure to publicly consult on and issue a new Victims' Code.

Date and time of answer: 29 Jul 2024 at 11:51.

From these answers, NRPSI has the following questions:

- A decision to outsource again seems to have been made, without stakeholder or public consultation; why has there not been a consultation on such a key issue?
- It seems a tendering process has begun without stakeholder consultation but specifications have not yet been developed; there seems to be time for stakeholder consultation – when can we address these issues of insourcing versus outsourcing and a review of the current delivery by the contract holders?
- The independent Review has completed in 2023; why can we not see it now?
- Why do stakeholders have to wait to see the review only after an agency / or agencies have been appointed?

Do you have any further thoughts which could be included in the next proposed pro forma letter for your MPs?

ENDS