

NRPSI Survey for the House of Lords Inquiry into Interpreting and Translation Services in the Courts

Summary

1. Following written submissions delivered by 30th September 2024 and the oral evidence session dated 6th November 2024, NRPSI was asked to conduct a survey of current Registrants and Lapsed Registrants to explore:
 - Current earnings of active Registrants
 - For lapsed Registrants, what level of pay could/would bring them back to Court Interpreting
2. Survey design was completed by 22nd November 2024 and mailed from 26th November onwards to both mailing lists.
3. Please note all recipients of the survey are or were Registrants on the National Register, therefore holders of level 6 public service interpreting vocational qualifications or fulfilled the requirements of the Rare Language status on the National Register; see http://www.nrpsi.org.uk/downloads/Qualifications_and_Experience_Criteria_for_Entry.pdf
4. As discussed, NRPSI is not in a position to survey those on the register managed by thebigword for the Ministry of Justice where, according to thebigword oral evidence, 50% of those on the register do not hold a Level 6 public service interpreting vocational qualification.
5. Response rate:

	Surveys Mailed	Surveys Arrived	Surveys Completed	Response Rate
Registrants	1,663	1,627	565	34.7%
Lapsed	690	584	104	17.8%
TOTAL	2,353	2,211	669	30.3%

6. Of the 104 respondents from the Lapsed mailing, 56 said they were 'Lapsed', whereas 48 said they were 'Other'. Over half of these 'Other' said they are in process for reinstatement with the National Register (see <https://www.nrpsi.org.uk/for-interpreters/returning-to-the-register.html>), many have since retired and some stated they had moved on to other work.

Highlights

7. 94% of all respondents have worked as a public service interpreter in the last 12 months
8. Of these, 57% work mainly for the Ministry of Justice

Of those who have mainly worked for the MoJ over the last 12 months:

9. Two thirds (67%) are booked via thebigword and a fifth (21%) are booked 'off contract', direct by the MoJ
10. Nearly a third (33%) spent 400+ hours interpreting for the MoJ in the last year
11. Almost 88% said they earned £30 or less on average per hour interpreting for the MoJ in the last year
12. Nearly half (47%) stated they had earned less than £10,000 gross in the tax year ending March 2024 working as a public service interpreter for the MoJ
13. Almost 5% stated they earned £30,000 or more

Those who are not currently working as a public service interpreter, or who are working as a public service interpreter but are not currently working for the MoJ (or the MoJ isn't their main client), were asked to rank in order of priority what the MoJ would need to do for them to work for it or to work more for it.

14. The top two priorities for these groups were 'payment rates that are equal to your professional qualifications and experience' and 'bringing language services back under the management and control of the MoJ' (see Questions 10 and 13)
15. Of those interpreters who are not currently working as public service interpreters, almost two thirds (66%) stated an hourly rate of £40.00 or more would bring them back to court interpreting.
16. More than half (56%) of those who are working as a public service interpreter but are not currently working for the MoJ (or the MoJ isn't their main client) said an hourly rate of £40.00 or more would attract them to work for the MoJ (or to work more for it)
17. Answers to questions 15 and 16 exhibit a high level of interest and involvement in the work of this Inquiry

ENDS
3RD December 2024