



Past, Current and Future Public Service Interpreting

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Public Service Interpreting

- Past: Where were we
- Present: Where are we
- Future: What about the future
 - Focus on Social Justice:



The History Bit...



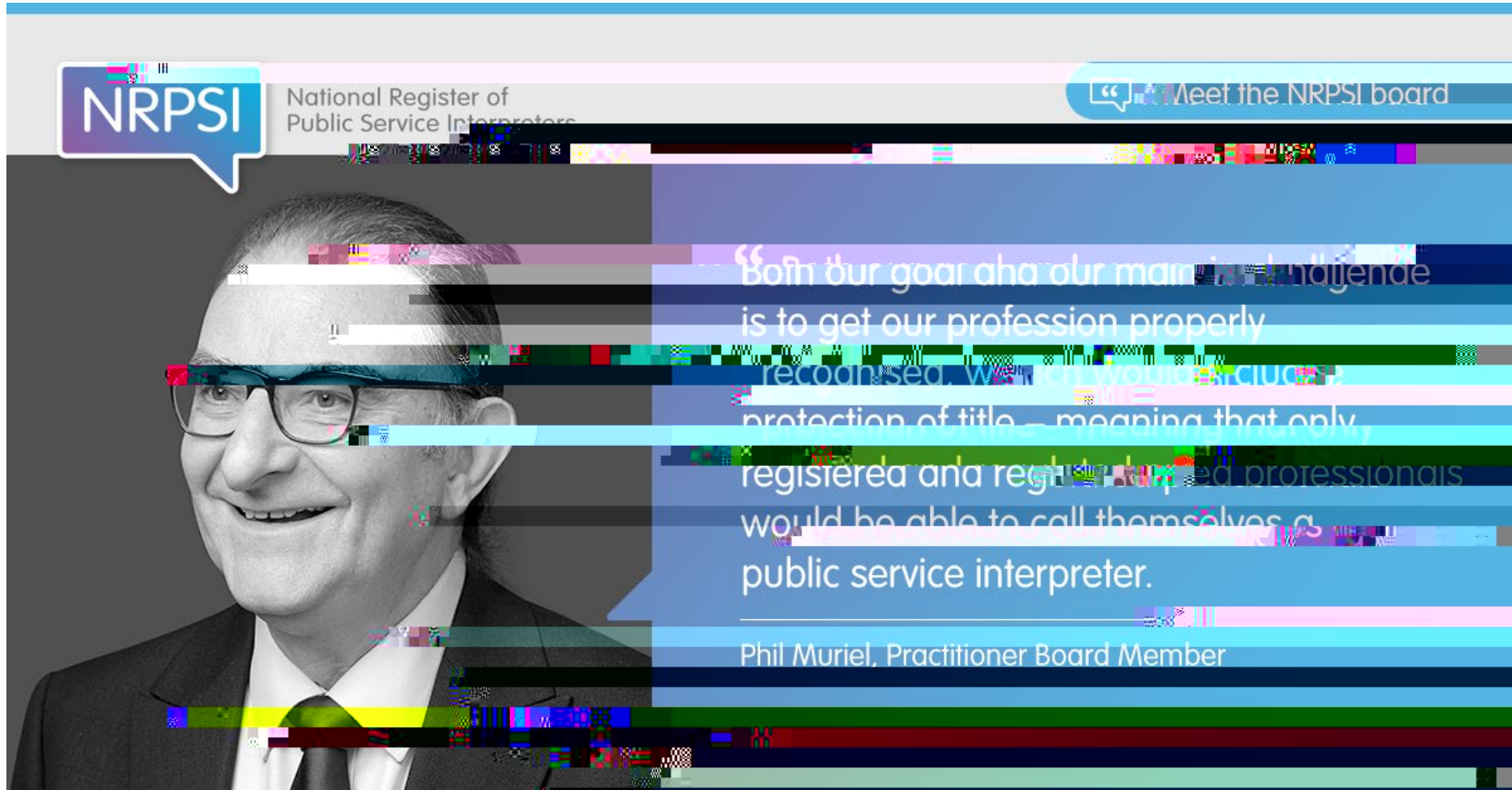
NRPSI Launch in 1994

The 1993 Runciman Royal Commission recommended the establishment of a register of public service interpreters so that only trained and qualified interpreters, governed by a Code of Professional Conduct, should be engaged by public sector organisations

In 1994 NRPSI was established by the then Institute of Linguists (now the CIOL). NRPSI became an independent body in 2011

The core activities of NRPSI remain as relevant now as when it was founded in 1994. Still voluntary, requiring the engagement of both interpreters themselves and the users of their services

The Future...



NRPSI National Register of Public Service Interpreters

Meet the NRPSI board

“Both our goal and our main objective is to get our profession properly recognised, which would include protection of title – meaning that only registered and regulated professionals would be able to call themselves a public service interpreter.”

Phil Muriel, Practitioner Board Member

Job or Profession...?



Serious professions need standards and some form of regulation

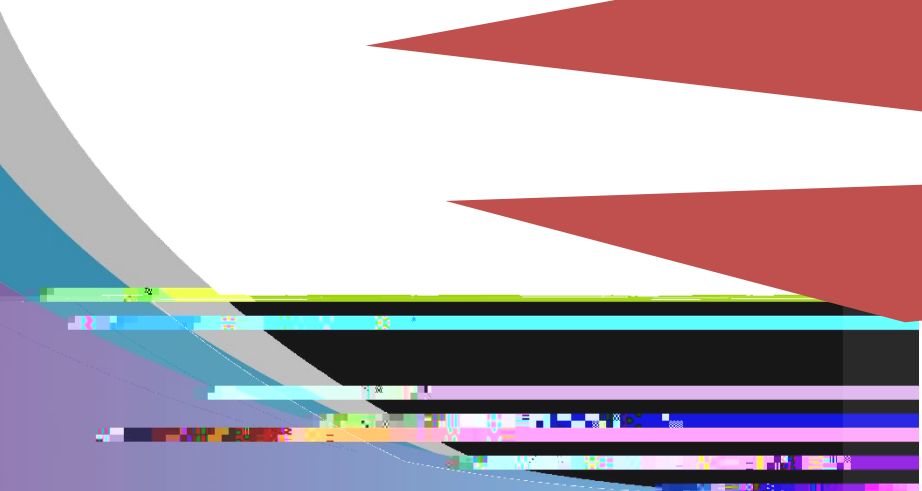
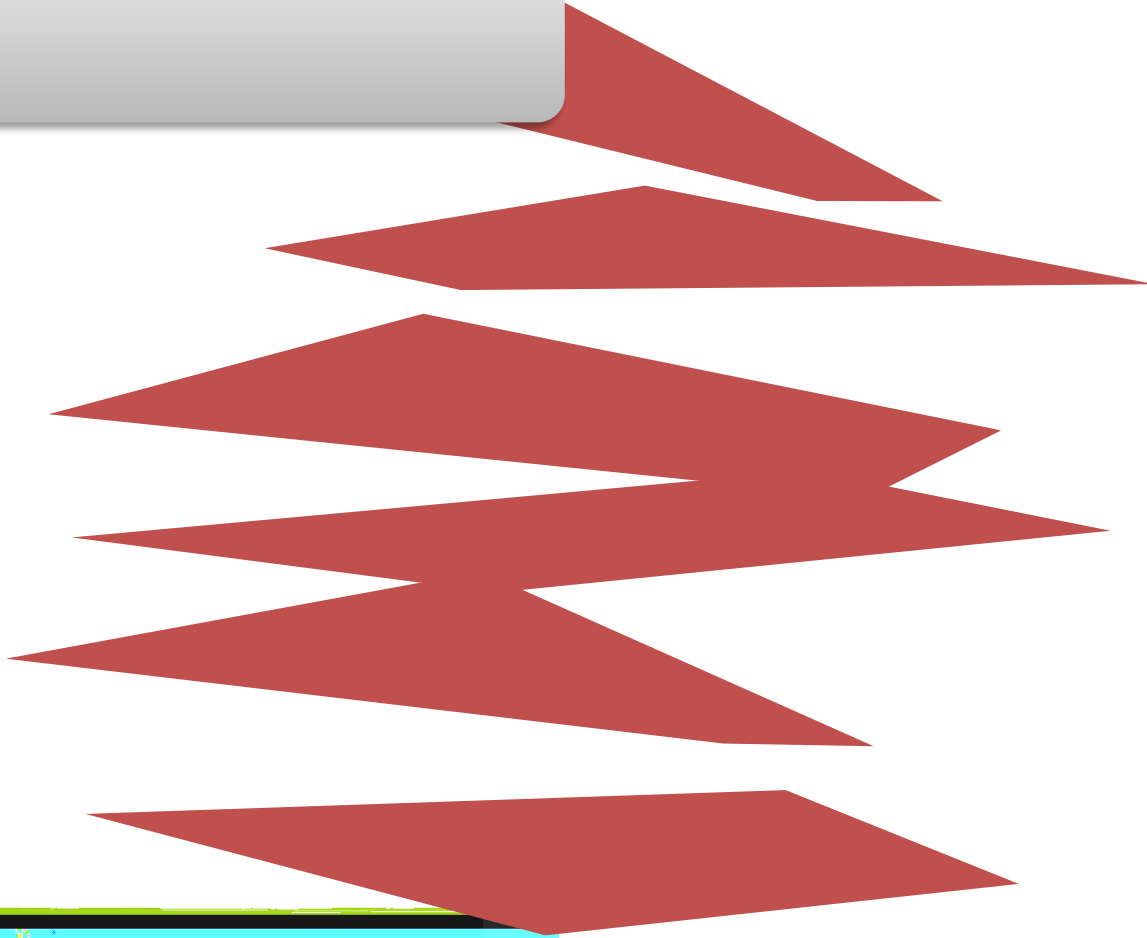
Three essential pillars in an effective regulatory structure protecting standards

The definition of an occupation focuses on regular activity performed to earn daily bread. Professionals clearly have to do this but there is much more to being a professional than earning money in a specific field of activity

A profession requires:

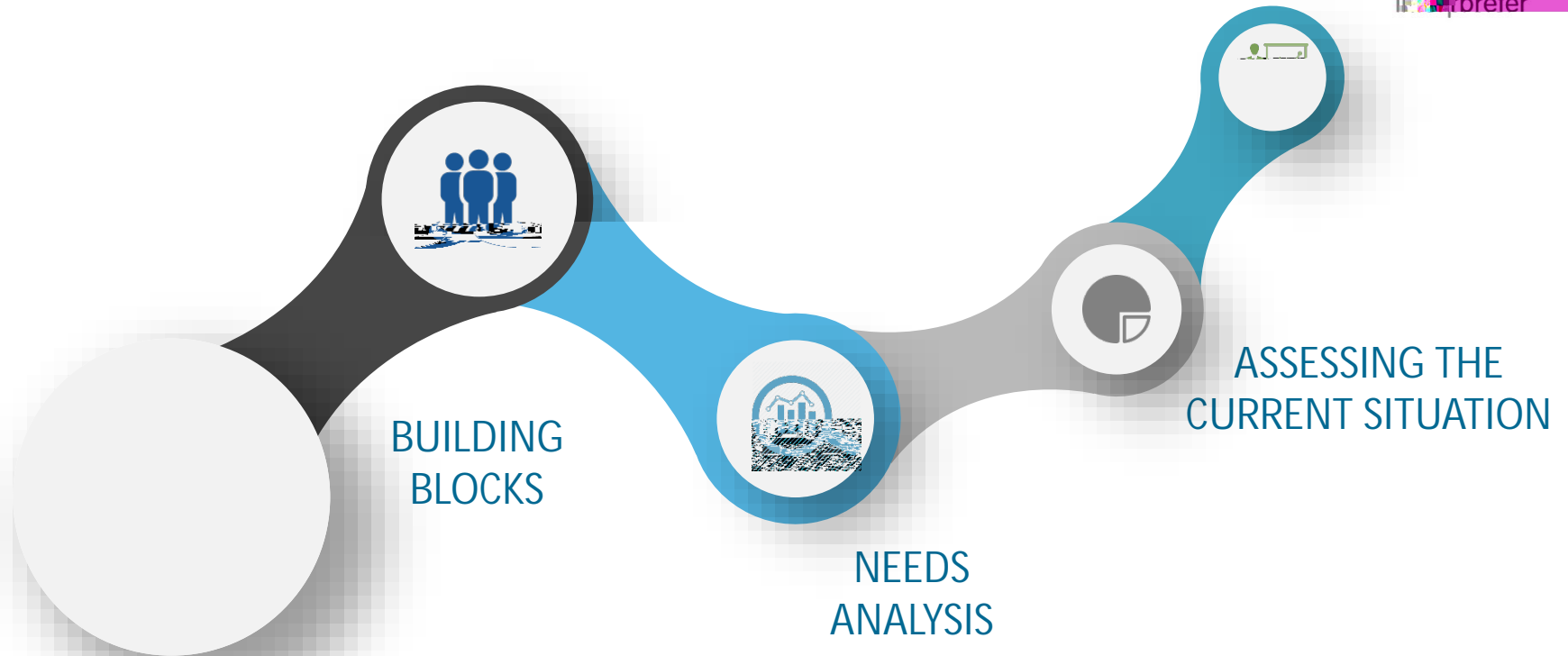
- A high degree of knowledge and expertise in a specific field
- Continuously expanding knowledge and expertise
- Recognition and trusted accreditation of professional practitioners' competencies

Step
1





Towards the Future



Standards: what hasn't changed



Lord Bellamy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice

...the right to translation and interpretation services is a right at common law and integral to the right of a fair trial

...enshrined in Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which deals with the police station, and Article 6, which deals with the fair trial point

...neither of those are affected by the present retained EU law Bill so the substance of the domestic provisions will continue

2nd March 2023

Where Are We Today...

- NHS
- Ministry of Justice
- Home Office
- Police
 - NCA
 - PAIT
 - London Met
- Frameworks
 - ESPO
 - CCS

In need of a trusted public service interpreter?

- ✓ I am proud to be a Registered Public Service Interpreter.
- ✓ I am a certified professional public service interpreter.
- ✓ My qualifications and security vetting have been independently verified.
- ✓ I have signed up to the NPSI Code of Practice and am committed to my accreditation.

Check my credentials.

Find me listed on the free to access online National Register of



Limited Regulation; nascent, budding profession



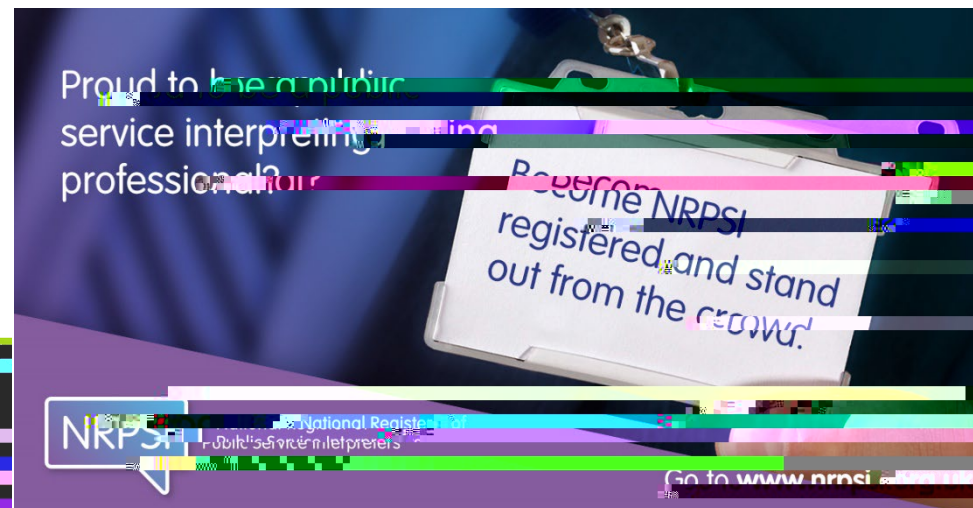
No Regulation; Occupation

Frameworks



How many are there and how do they differ?

- CCS
- ESPO
- Range of sector specific frameworks...



MOJ...

Reaffirming the importance of professional practitioners in



MOJ...

Reaffirming t



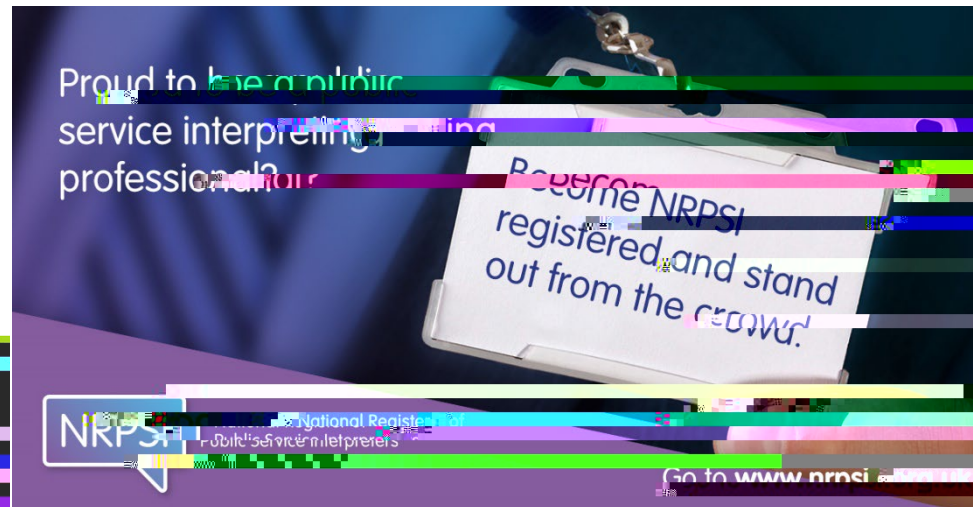
MOJ...



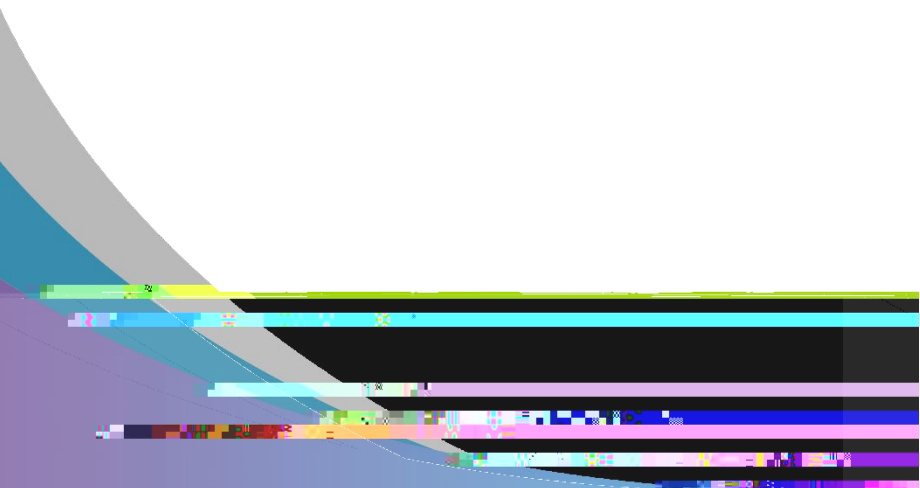
Reaffirming the importance of professional practitioners in spoken language public sector language services

- Baroness Coussins November 2021 in the House of Lords
- MOJ commitment to an independent review February 2022
- Release of the draft proposal for a new framework; February 2023...
- Comment back following PI4J consultations
- Published for review in May 2023

.....much to be appreciated....and much to still be done...



MOJ...



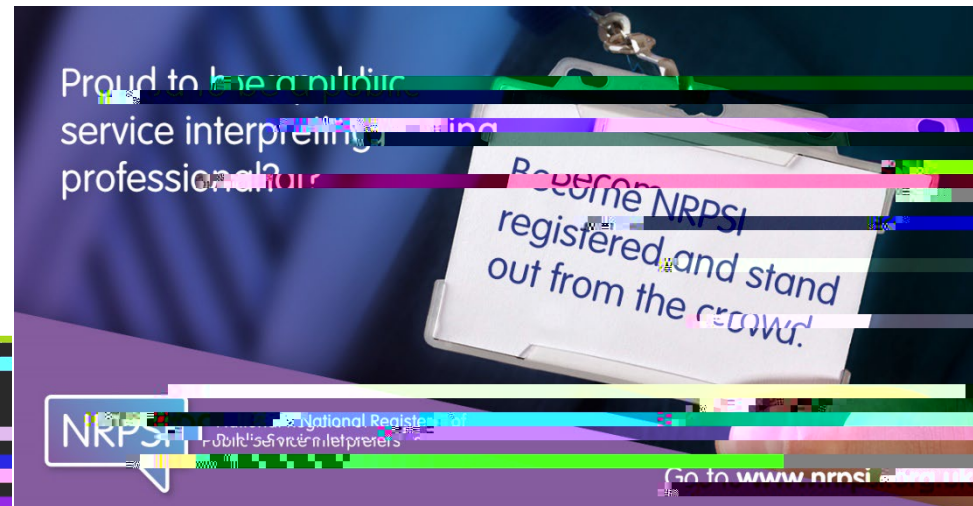
MOJ...



The proposed new framework is expected come in to operation in October 2025

Until then, amongst others, the following qualifications, often without experience, are being accepted by the MoJ:

- Language Related Degree (foreign language)
- Language Related Diploma (foreign language)
- BA in Modern Languages
- BA in Translation
- Degree in Linguistics
- Degree in Philology



DPS and PAIT...



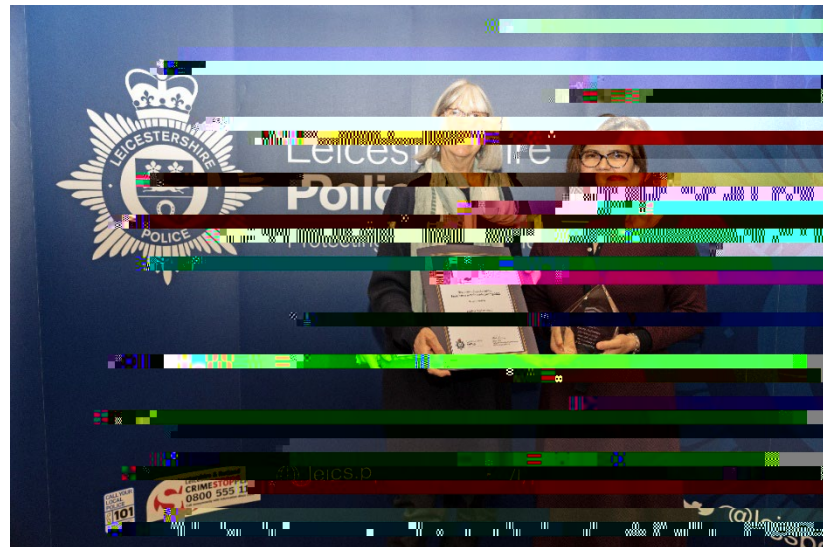
National Police Interpreter Awards 28th



DPS and PAIT...

National Police Interpreter Awards 28th April 2023

The awards ceremony, dedicated to professionalism and interpreters who were nominated by police forces and agencies



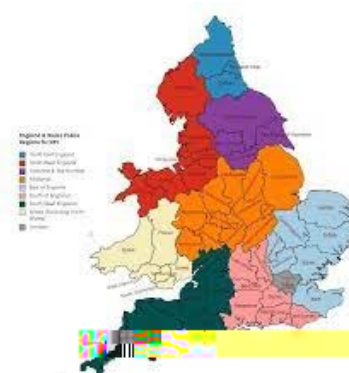
DPS and PAIT...



The Dynamic Purchasing System:

Contracting areas and the issues on NRPSI's list for the PAIT scheme:

- Halt the discrimination against the regulator of spoken language interpreting when compared to how the police recognise British sign language regulators
- Recognition by PAIT and the agencies of NRPSI's work at registration and renewal and PCC/DC
- Agencies and PAIT would then not have to run their own quals checks or disciplinary processes
- Currently difficult for Registrants to complain about agencies' activities
- Getting on to PAIT via one agency and being on PAIT across all agencies; for instance, clarity on whether someone on TBW's PAIT list can also then be on CINTRA's list
- Rate, terms and conditions need to be addressed; consistency across the UK
- Need for badging and QR codes on badges to ensure transparency and further checks on identity
- Transparent professional conduct and disciplinary processes and protocols; make use of the 'gold standard'
- NPPV3 should be mandatory, not just enrolling on to NPPV3



Police Regions

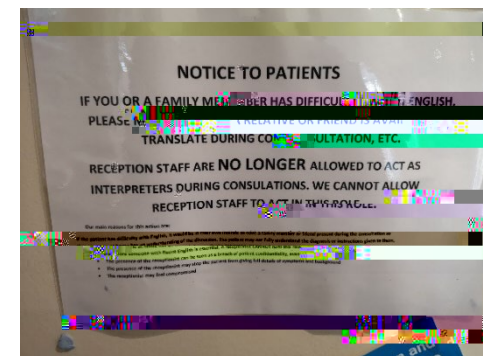
- North East England
- North West England
- Yorkshire and the Humber
 - Midlands
- East of England
- South of England
- South West England
 - Wales
 - London

NHS Frameworks



NHS Frameworks – how do they differ...

- North of England Commercial Procurement Collaborative (NOE CPC)
- Shared Business Service framework SBS/21/NL/ZWV/10127
- Black Country PFT-ORG-POL-01
- NHS Interpretation and Translation Services Framework
- Primary Care Guidance Framework
-the 'Wild West'...4 hours training....



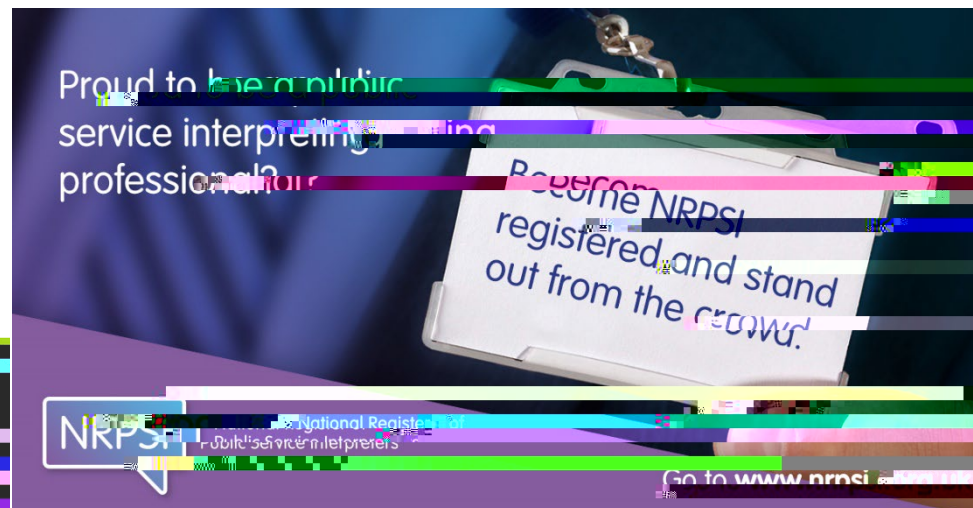


The Future...



There is a continuing and increasing need for standards and professionalism in public sector spoken language services

Ensuring effective regulation of those acting as interpreters and translators in potentially life-changing interactions with the public services has never been more important



The Future...



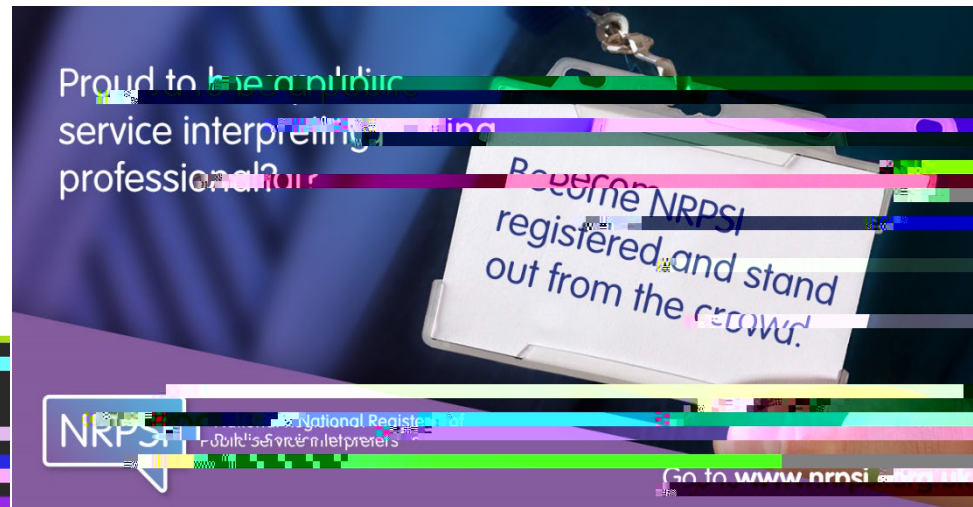
“... a non-negotiable bottom line must be that only specialist qualified and experienced professionals be engaged...”

Baroness Coussins

“...that is why the National Register is so important...”

Bishop of Leeds

As reported in Hansard on 31 January 2024



The Future...



So...Self-regulation will continue, accountable to the *profession*, operating and promulgating standards which have been designed to ensure quality practices, and to accredit those fit to practise

The extent to which the state has an interest in regulation of professional PSIs, and how these practitioners are regulated, depends on *political necessity*...and the *levels of risk* which need to be addressed by government

The Future...



NRPSI's Goals

- Secure protection of title for public service language professionals
- Lobby for statutory regulation for public service language professionals
- Lobby to obtain appropriate remuneration, terms and conditions, commensurate with the qualifications and experience of registered, regulated practitioners
- Establish NRPST and grow NRPSI
- Build on our regular conversations with Registrants
- Increase effectively our use of media platforms
- Become active across all areas of public service interpreting and translating, matching levels of attainment to the complexity of work
- Continue effective dialogue with public sector organisations
- Develop dialogue with executive and legislative functions across the UK


A profession has a *governing body* when the



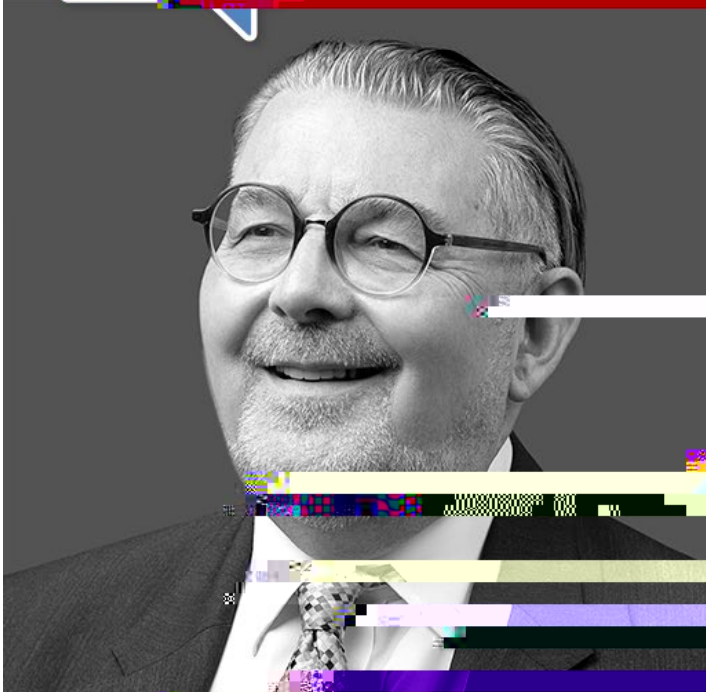
Inexorable Inevitability...



Journey to the Future



National Register of
Public Service Interpreters



“ I want NRPSI and our Registrants to be recognised and accepted as the definitive mark of quality in public service interpreting.”

Alan Kershaw, Chair

Contacts and Links

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NRPSI Code of Professional Conduct:

<http://www.nrpsi.org.uk/for-clients-of-interpreters/code-of->





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