

NUBSLI
Unite the Union
Unite House
128 Theobald's Road
Holborn
London
WC1X 8TN

19th September 2014

Dear Huw Vaughan Thomas

We are writing to request the following information please:

1) The Terms of Reference of the NRCPD board (November 2011) state that Signature will send a Letter of Authority to NRCPD each July. Could we see copies please of all letters of authority?

(http://www.nrcpd.org.uk/documents/governance/Terms_of_Reference.pdf)

2) One board member, who will be a member of the Signature Board of Trustees, will be appointed directly by Signature. Can we ask in what function Jim Edwards attends NRCPD board meetings when Craig Crowley MBE fulfils this role?

3a) When is the forecasted date for NRCPD to be completely financially independent from Signature and what is the forecast deficit for 2013/14? We note that in 2011/12 there was a stated deficit of £118k and in 2012/13 a deficit of £105k.

3b) In the 2012/13 annual report it states that:

'Included in the direct costs above is £13,000 for complaint hearing costs. Under SORP 2005 Signature are required to take the total costs for the direction and administration of the charity and allocate a proportion of these overheads to registration as one of the activities of the organisation. In accordance with the recommended practise and in agreement with the auditors this was done in 2012/13 at a rate of 17.4%. For 2013/14 NRCPD and Signature are exploring how best to demonstrate a more detailed attribution of costs.'

Please explain what actions Signature is taking to ensure the finances of NRCPD are more detailed and independent of Signature.

3c) Is there a strategy to work towards the independence of NRCPD from Signature and if so what is this? Please send us a strategy document if there is one.

4) Who is the current NRCPD registrar? If the post has yet to be filled when is it likely the new registrar will be in place and what are your interim measures?

5) We note that the structure of the board is changing to match other regulators. Will the NRCPD seek to ensure any practitioner members do not hold office in a professional membership organisation as NRPSI does?

6) When are the minutes of the 23rd July 2014 board meeting due to be published? We request that publication of the board minutes are not delayed until the next board meeting is due (in this case 3rd November 2014) but that they be published within a reasonable timescale after the board meeting e.g. one calendar month.

7) One function of the NRCPD as stated on the website is to, 'We campaign to promote the benefits of using only NRCPD Registered professionals in the public sector. We do this by lobbying public service providers and government departments, encouraging them to guarantee provision of NRCPD Registered communication professionals when deaf and deafblind people access their services.'

Given that there is a national framework agreement being discussed by the Crown Commercial Service due to roll out January 2015, what work has NRCPD done in ensuring that only registered professionals will be used? We understand that NRCPD were fundamental in ensuring that in 2011 NRCPD registered interpreters were standard in the HMCTS framework agreement. NRCPD have not been present at the stakeholder events although NRPSI have been. Can you explain what work is currently being done to ensure standards are maintained for the Deaf community and interpreters are able to work at sustainable rates.

Please publish this letter in the published information section of the NRCPD website. We would be grateful for a reply at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards



Jennifer Smith
Chair of NUBSLI, A Branch of Unite the Union

cc Jim Edwards, Signature
cc Dan Sumners, Signature