

08 June 2015



Shailesh Vara MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister for the Courts and Legal Aid
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Dear Mr Vara

Language Services

I am writing to you regarding the Ministry of Justice's second generation contract for the supply of language services.

As you will know, the first generation contract stipulated that communication professionals working with deaf and deafblind people must be registered with NRCPD to work in courts, police and other justice settings.

That was in keeping with the national agreement on arrangements for the use of interpreters, translators and language service professionals in investigations and proceedings within the criminal justice system, as revised 2007 (attached).

My colleague, Dan Sumners, attended the pre-procurement market engagement event on 1 May and spoke to some of your officials. We have since asked them to confirm the agreement will continue and the requirement for NRCPD registration will be included in the second generation contract.

Your officials have said decisions are yet to be taken about the arrangement and all information is being considered. However, whatever decision is made we trust the requirement for NRCPD registration will be included and the agreement will be extended. As I am sure you appreciate, it is important if we are to protect the public and make sure the system is robust.

I would therefore appreciate confirmation from you that the agreement will continue and the requirement for NRCPD registration will be included in the second generation contract. If it would be useful to discuss this further in person, please do let me know when will be convenient for you.

Kind regards

Jim Edwards
Chief Executive