

Paul Parsons,
NRCPD,
Durham
1 March 2012

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 22 February. We will pass the information on to Heriot-Watt University students. The Head of the School of Management & Languages, Professor Gillian Hogg, has taken a close interest in these issues on behalf of Heriot-Watt's alumni, and I am copying this reply to Gill for information.

You state that NRCPD has "created a position where the conditions under which individuals have committed to or completed their training still apply to them", which is in effect giving students who are about to start a course 'grandfather rights' to register under previous standards when they graduate (in perhaps as much as five years time).

You are aware of the situation in Scotland, where a number of graduates of Heriot-Watt programmes find themselves unable to register with NRCPD having committed to a programme of training around the time of structural category changes introduced almost a decade ago by the organisation that NRCPD replaced. After the changes were applied, these individuals were considered to be in regulatory 'limbo', caught between categories and structures.

I wonder if 'grandfathering' accommodation might be applied retrospectively to them as you are casting it forward for current students. A retrospective application of the principle would present an opportunity to extend to these Heriot-Watt graduates an opportunity to participate actively in the regulated professional environment enjoyed by other professionals in Scotland and the rest of the UK. That would meet your stated desire to make sure Deaf people and other users of Sign Language Interpreters are not disadvantaged.

I would appreciate the opportunity for detailed discussions on this issue with you or other representatives of NRCPD at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Graham H. Turner

Cc Professor Gillian Hogg, Head of School of Management & Languages, Heriot-Watt University

Languages and Intercultural Studies

School of Management and Languages

Henry Prais Building Gait 12 Heriot-Watt University Edinburgh EH14 4AS United Kingdom
Telephone +44 (0)131 451 4201 Fax +44 (0)131 451 3079 www.sml.hw.ac.uk

Edinburgh Campus • Scottish Borders Campus • Orkney Campus • Dubai Campus

Heriot-Watt University is a Charity registered in Scotland, SC000278