

NRCPD response to a survey of sign language interpreters

Below is the text of an email circulated to the [E-Newsli discussion list](#) for sign language interpreters. It is followed by an NRCPD response.

From: BSL/English Interpreting. [<mailto:E-NEWSLI@JISCMail.AC.UK>] **On Behalf Of** Byron Campbell
Sent: 23 March 2014 17:00
To: E-NEWSLI@JISCMail.AC.UK
Subject: Results of survey re NRCPD and a new Register

Here are the key responses to the brief Survey Monkey that was sent out last month. This information will also be sent to the ASLI forum.

There were a total of 208 responses in the allotted time (about four weeks). Responses to the key questions were:

- Are you happy with the current register (NRCPD) and the way it is being run?
 - 94% NO, 6% YES (195/13)
- Do you think NRCPD will make changes to address problems with the current system?
 - 82% No, 18% YES (166/36)
- Do you think a new Register should be established?
 - 60% YES, 40% NO (109/71)

The key areas of dissatisfaction were (in order of response):

- non-representation of the profession;
- cost (value for money);
- lack of meaningful consultation; nd
- accountability.

In terms of comments from respondents, most were in favour of trying to work with NRCPD and try to make changes to the current system. The higher percentage of people saying a new register should be established was IF changes could not be made to the current system/register.

There were a lot of comments saying that having two registers would be confusing, unproductive and unwanted.

Byron Campbell RSLI, FASLI, VLP

NRCPD response

NRCPD is grateful for this information. All feedback about the register is useful, particularly as we seek to strengthen registration and move towards statutory regulation.

The issues raised by the responses to the survey are ones we recognise and have begun to address. For example, we have changed the composition of the NRCPD board to include three representatives of the profession.

We will be consulting in greater depth over the next few months. Information will also be made available on [the strengthening registration web pages](#).

Regarding representation, NRCPD regulates communication professionals who work with deaf and deafblind people. Its role is to safeguard the wellbeing and interests of people who rely on those professionals. In contrast, ASLI and VLP exist to represent the interests of communication professionals, including to NRCPD.

NRCPD thinks it is important that communication professionals have a chance to comment on the development of the register. That is why we have changed the composition of the Board and are consulting with the profession as one of our key stakeholders.

With respect to cost, NRCPD charges £205 a year to register a sign language interpreter or translator. The fee for all other communication professionals is lower than that. NRCPD feels this is a reasonable cost to ensure the register is administered well.

The fee also stands up well in comparison with fees charged by other regulators:

- General Chiropractic Council £800 (statutory)
- General Medical Council £390 (statutory)
- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons £299 (statutory)
- National Register of Public Service Interpreters £198 (voluntary) (2200 registrants)
- British Association for Counselling & Psychotherapy around £160 (accredited voluntary)
- Nursing & Midwifery Council £100 (statutory) (700,000 registrants)
- Health & Care Professions Council £76 (statutory) (308,000 registrants)

As you can see, the HCPC and NMC fees are much lower. One of the main reasons is the large number of people on those registers. That is due to the fact members of those professions must register. NRCPD believes its fees would be lower if it became a statutory regulator for just that reason.

If anyone would like to discuss these issues with us in greater detail it would be appreciated. In particular, we would be interested to hear from those who feel NRCPD is not accountable so we can better understand their concerns.

Please feel free to email enquiries@nrcpd.org.uk, call 0191 383 1155 or text 07974 121594.