

NRCPD

The National Registers of Communication Professionals
working with Deaf and Deafblind People

20 May 2013

Gill Croft
Chair
AVSTTR

Dear Gill

Many thanks for your letter and the patience you and your colleagues have shown while the issues you have raised have been discussed and debated. In response, I'll follow the format you set in your letter.

Fees

In January 2012 we set out a fees schedule that aimed to bring all Registered communication professionals up to the same fee level within three years, so we can meet our aspiration to put NRCPD in a financially sustainable position. We have reviewed that schedule and with the benefit of feedback you gave in your letter and at the Practitioners' Forum meeting. We have decided to reduce the increase in fees we had planned for Registered Speech-to-Text-Reporters in 2013-14 from £50 to £20 – the same increase being required of those at the top of the fees band. Our challenge is always to balance our need to provide the resources that enable us to carry out effectively our responsibilities to safeguard the well-being and interests of those who rely on the services communication professionals provide and deliver ever increasing value for the Registered professions with the impact on individual Registered professionals. Thank you for raising the issue with us so clearly.

Benefits of Registration

In autumn 2011 we conducted a public consultation on various aspects of Registration. Based on responses to that consultation we have applied the same registration requirements to each registered profession for more than a year now. The requirements for CPD, Professional Indemnity Insurance, and Criminal Record Disclosure are the same for each profession. NRCPD provides a framework in which the professionalism of the practitioners can be recognised. The professionals who register with us hold themselves voluntarily to independent scrutiny, so their clients can be assured of a professional

service and recourse if the service they receive fails to comply with national standards. All professions benefit from our agreement with the Ministry of Justice that only Registered communication professionals can work in court and tribunal settings. We are working hard to seek similar agreements with other public services, agencies, and government departments.

Structured and Unstructured CPD

The decision on which development activities to undertake is the professional's. We trust each individual to be clear on what their professional development needs are and make the right decisions about the development activity they undertake. We ask that each Registered professional keeps a file of evidence to support the record they create online, so we can audit the activity that is being undertaken.

There is on our website comprehensive information about the CPD requirements, including explanations of structured and unstructured activities. Structured activities are pre-arranged, usually organised by associations, employers, or training providers, and have a stated learning outcome. Unstructured CPD is any self-directed activity without a stated learning outcome that meets your professional development needs. Either can include any activities that are relevant to your field of professional practice.

We have asked that Registered professionals do not record as CPD activity they undertake as direct preparation for a paid assignment. If that request conflicts with accepted practice in your profession and you have a genuine case for including dictionary work as CPD, we are very willing to discuss the issue with you.

We say nowhere, nor would we say, that professionals "have to provide evidence of [their] CDP in the form of 300-word essays". The activity you undertake and the evidence you provide of it, as stated in all the information we publish, is entirely up to you. In response to one direct and specific query I have discussed the option of using a reflective log to extend a five-hour training course to meet the six-hour structured CPD requirement for 2013 renewals. It might be possible that the information you've received is a contortion of that discussion.

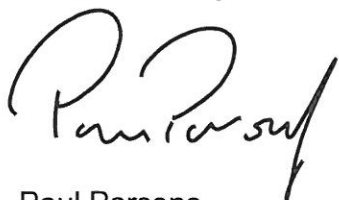
CPD Hours

The board decided on the number of hours CPD we would require and how to implement the requirement based on responses to our public consultation and other representations. Our proposals were based on UK conventions, rather than those of other countries, as our intention is to seek protections for your professional titles under UK law. The proposals were amended to take into account the views expressed during the consultation and in discussions with members of the practitioners' forum. The board decided to require the

same of each profession, so that consumers of services can be sure all the communication professionals they use are actively updating their knowledge and skills. In line with other similar bodies and our qualification requirements, the board decided to make no accommodation for part-time practitioners.

I hope that answers your questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Parsons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Parsons
Director