

JOINT LETTER FROM:

Association of Police and Court Interpreters (APCI)

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National Register of Public Service Interpreters Ltd

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**National Union of Professional Interpreters and Translators, part of Unite the Union (NUPIT)
– branch of Unite the Union**

PO Box 65110 – London SW1P 9PS

Professional Interpreters Alliance (PIA)

English House, 197 Coltman Street, Kingston upon Hull, HU3 2SQ

Society of Official Metropolitan Interpreters UK Ltd

SOMI UK Ltd, Suite 36, 88-90 Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8PN

Society for Public Service Interpreting (SPSI)

Wellington House East Road Cambridge CB1 1BH

Crispin Blunt MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of

State for Justice

Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London SW1H 9AJ

12th July 2012

Dear Mr Blunt

Interpreting services across the Justice sector

We write to make a collective representation from our professional interpreter bodies to see if we can agree to meet and discuss a way forward. Together we represent over 2,350 public service interpreters and cater for 101 languages.

In recent weeks we have been approached individually by Mr Gavin Wheeldon, chief executive of the contractor to the Framework Agreement, Applied Language Solutions, inviting us to join a representative panel, which each of us declined to do. Given the recent departure of Mr Wheeldon and several other senior executives from ALS, we feel vindicated in this respect.

The performance targets set in the Framework Agreement are not being met and Lord McNally has said this week (9 July) that the estimated savings of £12 million in the contract's first year (which are already revised down from the original estimate of £18 million) will 'probably not be achieved.'

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We would like our discussion to look into how real savings and improved efficiency can be achieved whilst upholding high standards of justice. For example the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Welsh Constabulary (The Wales Interpretation and Translation Service (WITS)) have made 40% year on year cost savings, not to mention the Metropolitan Police model where substantial savings have been achieved by reorganising the service delivery in-house

We look forward to hearing from you and in the meantime we enclose for your information a report recently provided to the National Audit Office.

Yours sincerely,



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Vice President of the European Commission, Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Mme Viviane Reding