

Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism  
Jim Mather MSP

T: 0845 774 1741  
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Ms Melanie Beaumont  
SITA  
4/1 St. Patrick Square  
Edinburgh  
EH8 9EZ

Your ref:  
Our ref: 2010/0028556

22nd December 2010

*Dear Ms. Beaumont,*

Thank you for your letter of 25 November 2010 which has been passed to me by the First Minister in which you raise a number of concerns regarding the collaborative Framework Arrangement used for the provision of Interpreting, Translation and Transcription Services.

The First Minister has previously responded to similar concerns raised by another President and Vice President of SITA in his letter dated 20 January 2010 and the points you raise in relation to travel time and expenses have been answered by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in his letter to SITA dated 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2010, therefore this response will concentrate on concerns not previously addressed.

I note your suggestion that this procurement was based on a purely cost cutting exercise and this was not the case. The procurement exercise focused on improving the quality of the interpreting service provided and reducing previous inefficiencies and duplication of effort. As such the evaluation criteria used for assessing bids attributed 70% of the total score to the Quality assessment and only 30% of the total evaluation score was attributed to the evaluation of Price.

You raise a number of concerns relating to quality and qualifications of interpreters. I can confirm that both contractors are required to provide Interpreters who possess the Diploma in Public Sector Interpreting (DPSI) (Scottish Legal Option) and/or recent experience of both consecutive and simultaneous interpreting in the court context. Interpreters must also hold a valid certificate from Disclosure Scotland.

The agreement requires the contractors to improve the quality of interpreting by providing continuous professional development for the interpreters working for them. There is also a requirement for the contractors to increase the number of interpreters with DPSI

Scottish Parliament, T4.07, Edinburgh EH99 1SP  
www.scotland.gov.uk

