

# SITA

## Scottish Interpreters & Translators Association

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04 March 2011

Dear Mr Mather,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 22 December 2010. I very much appreciate your rapid and comprehensive response.

Unfortunately, I cannot altogether agree with the views you express, particularly those regarding my aforementioned concerns about the quality of those interpreters currently being used within the court services and their qualifications - or lack thereof.

You state that the contract is being formally monitored. However, it has come to my attention that the contracting agency is no longer requiring interpreters and/or the SCS to fill in monitoring forms as was previously the case. Neither is the interpreter now provided with a copy of the complaint prior to the case. It is difficult to see how this can possibly lead to an amelioration in service. It would be of interest to me to know why the monitoring process has been eliminated, and at whose behest.

Although you state that the number of qualified interpreters registered with the main contractor has increased, this does not necessarily correlate to an increase of qualified interpreters being used in court. The many qualified and experienced interpreters to whom I have spoken – both my own members and those interpreters outwith SITA – have all agreed that it is no longer financially viable to attend courts outside Edinburgh and Glasgow.

The fact that you have not provided me with statistics to back up your assertions may tend to suggest that these are not available; without them, it is impossible to state categorically, as you do, that there has been no deterioration in service. If, however, you do have the figures for the last year at your disposal, I would very much appreciate your sending them to me. Certainly, the data I have relating to the use of interpreters in court up to June 2010 does not seem to support your statements, and suggests that well under 30% of interpreters working in court possess a DPSI or its equivalent.