

Appendix 5 – Additional data and tables from the 2017 survey

This appendix contains more detailed breakdown and analysis of the data from the 2017 survey. Some of this data is summarised in charts in the main report.

Demographics

Table 7c: Gender identification qualified / trainee

| Do you identify as: | Qualified Interpreter | Trainee | Trainee Translator | Translator | Different register | Response Percent | Response Count |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Female | 255 | 23 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 84.08% | 280 |
| Male | 45 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 15.32% | 51 |
| Transgender | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.60% | 2 |
| Totals | 302 | 27 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 100% | 333 |

The gender of respondents is almost identical to the 2016 survey, with two respondents identifying as transgender.

Professional role/s

Respondents were asked first to indicate all of their relevant roles then to select their main role, and answer survey questions in relation to that role, unless the question gave the option otherwise (e.g. in the section related to deafblind interpreting).

Some respondents indicated more than one relevant professional role;

- One selected both TSLI and SLI, with SLI as their main role.
- One selected both SLT and SLI, with SLI as their main role.
- Two selected both TSLT and TSLI, with TSLI as their main role.
- Two selected ‘one of these roles, with a different register’ and SLI, with SLI as their main role.

These five responses are the difference between the 338 who chose all roles that apply, and 333 for main role.

The three people who chose ‘one of these roles, with a different register’ explained in the text box they were:

- *In the process of re-registering with NRCPD after a career break.*
- *[Registered with the] Institute of Translation and Interpreting¹.*

¹ We note that the Institute of Translators and Interpreters (ITI) describes itself as a membership not registration body.

- *Not yet registered as a Sign Language Translator.*

The two respondents who indicated that they were not currently working, but were either currently or had been registered or regulated to work in the UK as an interpreter from July 2016, answered an adapted selection of the overall survey questions.

Table 8: Comparing responses: list all your current registration or regulation, choose your main role?

| Questions: | Are you currently registered or regulated as a: (tick all that apply) | | Please choose your main role. Your answers for the rest of this survey should be about this role. | |
|--|---|---------|---|-------|
| | Count | Percent | Percent | Count |
| Sign Language Interpreter (NRCPD / RBSLI / SASLI / ITI) | 302 | 89% | 91% | 302 |
| Trainee Sign Language Interpreter (NRCPD / SASLI) | 24 | 7% | 8% | 27 |
| Interpreter with Deafblind People (NRCPD) / Deafblind Manual Interpreter (SASLI) | 3 | 1% | 0% | 0 |
| Sign Language Translator (NRCPD / RBSLI) | 4 | 1% | 1% | 3 |
| Trainee Sign Language Translator (NRCPD) | 2 | 1% | 0% | 0 |
| One of these roles, with a different Register (please explain) | 3 | 1% | 0% | 1 |
| | 338 | 100% | 100% | 333 |

In the 2015 survey 83.5% (398) were qualified interpreters, 12% (59) trainee interpreters, and 0.5% (1) a Sign Language Translator. The 2015 survey also had 4% (17) CSWs / signers, a category not available to respondents from the 2016 survey and after.

In the 2016 survey 86% (215) were qualified interpreters, 12% (29) trainee interpreters, and 1 a Sign Language Translator.

The main change of note is the reduction of the percentage of TSLI respondents, from 12% (2015 & 2016), to 8% 2017.

One person chose *one of these roles, with a different Register*, saying they registered with the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI)².

² We note that the Institute of Translators and Interpreters (ITI) describes itself as a membership not registration body.

Table 9: What qualification did you attain that enabled you to register?

| What qualification did you attain that enabled you to register (for what you selected as your main role)? | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options | Qualified Interpreter | SL Translator | One of these roles, with a different register. | Response Percent | Response Count |
| CACDP exam | 24 | 0 | 0 | 8% | 24 |
| University Degree | 34 | 0 | 0 | 11% | 34 |
| Postgraduate course | 138 | 0 | 0 | 45% | 138 |
| NVQ | 86 | 2 | 0 | 29% | 88 |
| Other (please explain) | 20 | 1 | 1 | 7% | 22 |
| Answered question | 302 | 3 | 1 | 100% | 306 |

The 20 'other' for Qualified Interpreters included options not included in the list, combinations, and/or additional qualifications.

- Three CACDP Interim Assessment Program;
- Three degree programs then NVQ;
- Three Certificates followed by live assessments, and one Certificate followed by Level 6 BSL, Special Interview with NRCPD.
- Two SASLI and one SASLI interpreting course at Heriot Watt University.
- One Scottish and one Advanced Diploma.
- One Diploma and NVQ.
- One CACDP, Heriot Watt and SASLI assessment.

Along with several where it wasn't completely clear what had enabled the respondent to register.

For the translator respondent who selected other, it was a Diploma.

The percentage of respondents who registered after the 'old' CACDP exam fell from 12% to 8%, and the number who qualified following a University Degree rose from 6% to 11%. Postgraduate and NVQ stayed roughly the same.

Table 10: Comparing 2015, 2016 and 2017 % responses by region

The 2015 survey used the following categories: London, Central & East Anglia, West & East Midlands & Wales, North East & North West, South East, Scotland & Northern Ireland, South West. Data has been compared where possible.

| Which region do you live in (for 50% or more of your time)? | Responses from a region as % of overall responses (RSI & TSLI together) | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------------------|
| | 2017 survey | 2016 survey | 2015 survey |
| Answer Options | | | |
| East | 6.36% | 6.00% | 7% |
| East Midlands | 5.45% | 10.80% | See below |
| London | 18.18% | 21.60% | 20% |
| North East | 0.40% | 0.40% | 22% |
| North West | 7.60% | 7.60% | |
| Northern Ireland | 0.80% | 0.80% | 4% |
| Scotland | 4.80% | 4.80% | |
| South East | 18.40% | 18.40% | 18% |
| South West | 10.40% | 10.40% | 10% |
| Wales | 2.80% | 2.80% | 19% incl. East Midlands |
| West Midlands | 6.40% | 6.40% | |
| Yorkshire And The Humber | 11.20% | 11.20% | See above |
| Outside of the UK | 0.00% | 0.00% | N/A |
| Totals | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Working patterns

Table 11: What is your normal pattern of interpreting work?

As the full data from this table is now in the main report, this chart is not needed.

Table 12: Intention to change hours interpreting and years post registration

Feedback to the previous report was that this table was not helpful in understanding the data. As we haven't been able to improve on this, and the data is reported in various ways in the main report, the chart has been omitted.

Table 13: Percent income from non-interpreting work

As the full data from this table is now in the main report, other than trainee data which isn't useful in this format given the low numbers, this chart is not needed.

Table 14: Snapshot of the profession – number of responses from qualified interpreters

| Qualified Interpreters: Below are 3 statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1-7 scale below please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each statement. | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Strongly agree (7) | Agree (6) | Slightly agree (5) | Neither agree nor disagree (4) | Slightly disagree (3) | Disagree (2) | Strongly disagree (1) | Weighted Average | Response Count |
| I would recommend to someone starting a career as an interpreter. | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 82 | 73 | 36 | 42 | 26 | 12 | 4.61 | 296 |
| My area / region is a good place to work as an interpreter. | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | 127 | 57 | 15 | 26 | 21 | 4 | 5.28 | 301 |
| I am satisfied with my life as a professional interpreter. | | | | | | | | |
| 61 | 119 | 59 | 15 | 25 | 18 | 4 | 5.35 | 301 |

Table 15: Snapshot of the profession – number of responses from trainee interpreters

| Trainee Interpreters: Below are 3 statements that you may agree or disagree with. Using the 1-7 scale below please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each statement. | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Strongly agree (7) | Agree (6) | Slightly agree (5) | Neither agree nor disagree (4) | Slightly disagree (3) | Disagree (2) | Strongly disagree (1) | Weighted Average | Response Count |
| I would recommend to someone starting a career as an interpreter. | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 5.07 | 27 |
| My area / region is a good place to work as an interpreter. | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4.89 | 27 |
| I am satisfied with my life as a professional interpreter. | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 9 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 5.33 | 27 |

The weighted average is calculated as follows: ((number of responses x 'strongly agree' weighting) + (number of responses x 'agree' weighting) + (repeated for each of the columns)) / number of responses))

The majority of the 76 respondents (74 qualified, 2 trainees) who were considering reducing their hours and/or stopping had taken action in order to achieve this (see tables below). Those who hadn't yet taken action used the open text 'other' text box to indicate that they were still 'contemplating' what they would do. The steps taken are given in the tables below. Respondents could select all that applied.

Table 16: Steps taken to reduce your hours as an interpreter

| In order to reduce your hours as an interpreter, what steps have you taken? (Select all that apply). | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Retrained or studied for alternative work. | 23.7% | 18 |
| Reduced work hours, without replacing with other income. | 21% | 16 |
| Looked for alternative work (paid or voluntary). | 19.7% | 15 |
| Other (please explain) | 19.7% | 15 |
| Study, not directly linked to getting alternative work. | 7.9% | 6 |
| Maternity (from other) ³ | 7.9% | 6 |
| Applied for alternative work (paid or voluntary). | 3.9% | 3 |
| Increase my existing self-employed work (from other) ⁴ | 3.9% | 3 |
| Number answered question | | 76 |

Table 17: Steps taken to stop working as an interpreter

As only two respondents completed this part of the survey, and their data is reported on in the main report, this table is not needed.

³ New row added, as significant number of respondents said this in 'other'.

⁴ In 2016 survey labeled as "Developing other self-employed work (from other)"

Table 18: Main and second reasons⁵ for reducing or stopping working as an interpreter⁶.

| (If you are considering and/or planning to reduce your hours or stop work as an interpreter) this is because (select top 5 that apply) | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Answer Options | Weighted (1st choice + 50% 2nd choice) | Main reason (response count) | 2nd reason (response count) |
| I want to do something else (diversifying). | 30 | 27 | 6 |
| Agencies where I work pay too little and/or have unacceptable T&Cs, so I don't take work from them. | 21.5 | 12 | 19 |
| The future of the BSL interpreting profession feels uncertain. | 13.5 | 6 | 15 |
| I am retiring (or am reducing hours towards retirement) | 12.5 | 9 | 7 |
| I have or will have caring responsibilities. | 12 | 10 | 4 |
| Other (complete box below). | 12 | 11 | 2 |
| I am not able to earn enough from interpreting. | 11.5 | 7 | 9 |
| I don't feel respected / valued as a professional. | 9 | 7 | 4 |
| I do not have enough work. | 8.5 | 7 | 3 |
| I am pregnant. | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| The profession lacks a supportive working community. | 3.5 | 1 | 5 |
| I have had / have a work related injury / disability (e.g. ULD, RSI, etc.) | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| I am / have been ill. | 2.5 | 1 | 3 |
| Concerns about regulation and/or registration. | 1.5 | 1 | 1 |
| Number answered question | | 105 | |

Table 19: Increased or reduced hours interpreting

As the full data from this table is now in the main report, this chart is not needed.

⁵ The question asked for the top 5 reasons. However, the inclusion of all 5 choices rather than the first and second choices made marginal difference to the ranking, but made the data harder to read.
⁶ In the 2016 survey this table showed: *Main and second reasons for intending to reduce or stop working as an interpreter*. See Appendix 6 for discussion of what was changed and why.

Table 20: Reasons interpreters reduced interpreting⁷

| Why have you reduced the hours you spend interpreting (since July 2016)? (Please select all that apply). | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Problems with agencies. | 30% | 22 |
| Difficulties finding work that pays enough. | 29% | 21 |
| Difficulties finding or unable to find enough work. | 27% | 20 |
| Other (please explain) | 23% | 17 |
| Caring responsibilities. | 18% | 13 |
| Study / research. | 18% | 3 |
| Difficulties with AtW bookings. | 16% | 12 |
| Just wanted to do other work, more variety. | 16% | 12 |
| Difficulties finding appropriate work. | 15% | 11 |
| I am retiring (or reducing hours towards retirement) | 12% | 9 |
| Ill health. | 5% | 7 |
| I have / have had a work related injury / disability (e.g. ULD, RSI, etc.) | 4% | 3 |
| Voluntary work (e.g. with NUBSLI, ASLI, VLP, or general voluntary work). | 4% | 3 |
| Pregnancy / adoption. | 3% | 2 |
| Number answered question | | 74 |

⁷ This was incorrectly labelled in the 2016 report as: *Reasons interpreters increased or reduced interpreting*

Table 21: Reasons interpreters have difficulty finding freelance interpreting / translation work

| If you have difficulty finding freelance interpreting / translation work, why do you think that is? Please select up to 5 reasons in order of impact on your work. | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Answer Options | Weighted (1st choice + 50% 2nd choice) | Main reason (response count) | 2nd reason (response count) |
| Agencies will not pay sustainable rates, so I cannot accept this work. | 51 | 45 | 12 |
| My area has more interpreters (qualified and trainees) than are needed for the work available. | 45.5 | 39 | 13 |
| Regular clients' Access to Work has been reduced, and so I can no longer afford to take the work. | 21 | 14.5 | 13 |
| In my area agencies are using staff interpreters to cover the work. | 20.5 | 16.5 | 8 |
| The agencies terms & conditions are not appropriate, so I cannot accept the work. | 25.5 | 24.5 | 2 |
| Interpreters / CSWs in my area are accepting work at too low a rate. | 19.5 | 17 | 5 |
| In my area there is less interpreting work available than there used to be. | 24 | 13 | 22 |
| In my area many service providers will not or do not book interpreters. | 23 | 15 | 16 |
| In my area interpreting is mostly being done by CSWs/signers. | 3.5 | 2 | 3 |
| In my area interpreting is mostly being done by trainee interpreters. | 23 | 9.5 | 27 |
| Other (complete box below). | 22.5 | 16.5 | 22.5 |
| Total answered question | | 143 | 143 |

ATW

Table 22: Reasons interpreters reduced or stopped Access to Work interpreting

| Why have you reduced or stopped work with Access to Work clients? (Select all that apply) | | |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Because their AtW funding was reduced, and so what they could pay for interpreting was below your minimum rate. | 62% | 52 |
| Other (please explain) | 36% | 30 |
| Because of delays in payments from AtW. | 35% | 29 |
| Because their AtW funding wouldn't pay for travel costs. | 33% | 28 |
| Because AtW have said they will no longer pay for a second interpreter where needed, and so you are doing more work on your own, when two interpreters are needed. | 30% | 25 |
| Because of the cap to ATW awards | 25% | 21 |
| Because of concerns about potential problems with AtW (i.e. nothing had gone wrong, but you have changed your work to reduce potential risk). | 21% | 18 |
| Because they no longer had AtW funding. | 17% | 14 |
| Number answered question | | 84 |