

Appendix 7 – How we did this; additional information on the survey methodology and data analysis

The survey was open to individuals who since January 2015 had been or still were registered or regulated to work in the UK as a Sign Language Interpreter, Interpreter with Deafblind People, and/or a Sign Language Translator in the UK. This could be with NRCPD, RBSLI, SASLI, or other. In order to better define the population being surveyed, and the impact of changes on them, it was decided to restrict the survey to these groups¹

Whilst the themes and some of the questions are the same in the 2015 and 2016 surveys, there are many more questions in the 2016 survey, and some questions have been amended, e.g. for clarity.

Questions and skip logic structure were tested and piloted, with changes made following feedback.

In order to reduce the risk of response bias questions asked were neutral. E.g. 'Are you considering increasing or reducing the hours you work, or stopping work as an interpreter?' Skip logic then meant respondents saw only the relevant follow up questions. In order to address potential negative bias / problem focus, there were also questions asking for good practice examples.

In order to increase clarity about interpreters' intentions or actions with respect to the amount of interpreting work they do, stages of the Transtheoretical (Stages of Change) Model were used to structure survey questions. For example, asking whether people are contemplating or preparing to make a change, are making a change, have made and/or are maintaining a change.

The previous market conditions survey was live December 2014. In order to identify new changes, this survey asks about changes made from January 2015 to date.

Where data from the 2015 and 2016 surveys are compared, for comparability the 2015 survey percentages have been recalculated according to criteria used in this survey, excluding those who identified only as CSWs and signers, and calculating percentages of those who meet the criteria (e.g. have said they are leaving the profession) rather than all those who answered the question (e.g. selecting N/A). Where this has been done, it is identified in footnotes.

When presenting data, if a 'make one choice' question, the 'response count' is the same as the number of respondents who answered the questions. Where a 'select all that apply' question, the 'response count' is the number of

respondents who chose that option, and 'number answered question' is the number of respondents who answered the question.

Interpreters were asked whether or not their open ended (text) responses could be quoted, in full or part, in public documents resulting from this survey. Quotes are from those who consented.

The questions can be found in full in Appendix 2. This lists the questions, how the questions are grouped, whether they were compulsory or optional, whether they are open or closed questions, and in the notes column indicates which respondents saw the question, as skip logic was used.

Where respondents selected 'other' options, but then gave an explanation that meant they clearly could have answered 'yes' or 'no' (often when they wanted to explain a nuance in their response), their responses have often been included in the 'yes' or 'no' response as appropriate.

The survey also included questions relevant to the DWP market review, which aren't relevant to this report.

2017 survey:

One issue, that will be addressed in the 2017 survey, is overlap between two groups of questions asking:

- whether interpreters intended to change the hours they work as interpreters, what action they had taken to achieve this, and why they had decided to do this, and:
- whether interpreters have already increased or decreased the hours they work as interpreters, what action they had taken to achieve this, and why they had decided to do this, and:
- whether interpreters have changed the hours they work in relation to AtW and PIP.