

National Police Language Services Update – December 2022

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Introduction

Welcome to the fifth update from the Police Dynamic Purchasing Solution (DPS) and the PAIT Scheme.

The DPS has been in operation for over two years now. Time flies!

Procurement

There are eight police regions now utilising the Dynamic Procurement Solution as I write:

- North West England (which includes North Wales)
- North East England
- Midlands,
- Thames Valley Police and Hampshire Police,
- South West England,
- Surrey & Sussex Police
- East of England Forces
- London (for Telephone Interpreting only)

The last region to join the DPS will be the Yorkshire & Humber Police Region. At that point, every police force in England and North Wales will be signed up to DPS contracts.

Every Police force in England and Wales is now signed up to the PAIT Scheme.

Map 'A' at the end of this newsletter provides details of the police regions.

Map 'B' shows which LSP currently holds the contract in each region.

Police Approved Interpreters and Translators

PAIT Go-Live

PAIT Translator went live on 3rd October. The full PAIT Specification Table is shown at the back of this newsletter.

PAIT List

The PAIT list is now populated with 2266 PAIT approved interpreters That is up from the 1820 individually named interpreters across England and Wales I reported on in the April newsletter. The list keeps increasing. Thank you to those of you supporting the PAIT Scheme

Below is more detail of what the list comprises.

All on the list will hold NPPV3 vetting (or will have submitted documentation to obtain it)

PAIT Classification	Percentage of the list
PAIT Full (Holding a 'Police Related' level 6 Qualification) <i>Police Related Qualification is defined as : Metropolitan Police Test, DPSI (Law Pathway), DPI, DCI (Court & Police pathway)</i>	69%
PAIT Legacy (Holding a non-Police Related level 6 Qualification but has considerable experience of undertaking police assignments)	15%
PAIT Temporary (Have had one assignment authorised by a Police Inspector and are working towards Full status)	7%
PAIT Rare (Cannot obtain a DPSI in their language but has considerable experience of undertaking police assignments)	5%
PAIT BSL	2%
PAIT Partial (will hold a Police Related Qualification and be working towards Full status)	2%

The percentage figures are remaining static as we add more interpreters to the list, which demonstrates that we have a broad range of interpreters across all the classifications, regions and languages. PAIT (T) numbers are starting to decrease, but please see the next item in relation to PAIT (T).

Continuation of PAIT (T) beyond 31st March 2023

The Police Approved Interpreter and Translator Scheme (PAIT) has been operating across England & Wales since being approved by National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) in October 2020. It has been adopted by every police force in England and Wales.

Originally, the Temporary PAIT classification was scheduled to expire on 31st March 2023. This has now been extended by the National Police Language Services (NPLS) Steering Group to make PAIT (T) a permanent part of the journey an interpreter might make from newly qualified, to full police interpreter.

There is a finite pool of interpreters available to qualify for PAIT Status and undertake police assignments. The police services across England & Wales are keen to ensure a clear career pathway exists for those interpreters wanting to work towards PAIT status. In order to retain a cohesive and comprehensible pathway for all, the PAIT Temporary classification will now remain beyond March 2023 as a stepping stone between Non-PAIT and Full, Legacy or Rare status.

The same rigorous checks and balances will be maintained by the NPLS to ensure there is never an over reliance on those interpreters who are not the highest experienced, but it recognises that everyone needs to learn, progress and gain experience in their chosen career.

At the moment, the National use of PAIT (T) interpreters sits at 4% across the country. This is an appropriate and acceptable figure, which is monitored on a monthly basis.

Approved Suppliers will monitor their temporary PAIT interpreters to ensure that progression is being made towards full status at a reasonable pace. The current financial crisis as well as the diminishing availability of examinations for some languages, may have an adverse effect on an individual's ability to progress to PAIT (F) or (L) status. Other factors such as lockdown and the pandemic will also be considered when deciding the speed of progress on an individual case by case basis.

Reminder Regarding PAIT Registration

This is a repeat of the information provided to you in April. Unfortunately, I have seen disparaging social media posts from PAIT interpreters complaining that LSPs will not accept their NRPSI Registration number as proof of their hours or qualifications. This is what appeared in the April newsletter and I would like to emphasise it again this month.

You may be required to confirm your qualifications, experience and vetting with your LSP before they submit your details. Regardless of which membership organisation you may belong to, the LSP has an obligation under their contract with police to ensure all PAIT interpreters have had their details checked and verified.

I hope you will bear with the linguist recruitment department of your chosen supplier as they undertake the requirements of the DPS.

I am aware that the NRPSI have sent a few letters to LSPs confirming that they have checked the experience of the named interpreter. I would like to thank NRPSI for their assistance in this regard.

Compliance with GDPR/Data Protection

Another request copied from April as it is still relevant: Please ensure you update your registered LSPs with your current name and address. I am still seeing instances of interpreters having different addresses registered with different LSPs. I also see interpreters registered with one LSP with what I assume are maiden names and then married names with another LSP.

Please ensure all your data is recorded correctly so that no one falls foul of the GDPR regulations.

PAIT Specification Table

I have included the latest PAIT Specification table at the back of this newsletter. It shows all classifications of PAIT, including the Translation & Transcription categories which went live on 3rd October 2022

Social Media Posts

I have seen a few social media posts recently where individuals are complaining about various issues with their registered LSP.

Whilst I appreciate that you may be very angry about a matter, may I ask you please to try to resolve the matter directly with the LSP before taking to the stage. There are often good reasons why LSPs take certain action, by speaking with them you find the facts rather than posting speculation on social media. Also, if the LSP has made a mistake, it gives them the chance to apologise and put things right. We are all human and all make mistakes/miss emails on occasions or fail to look in the spam box often enough.

Thank you for considering this approach.

Publicising Your PAIT Number

I have also received a number of requests from interpreters asking to publish their PAIT registration number.

I am sorry, but the answer is always 'No'. The PAIT number is for Approved Suppliers and Police to use. It should not be added to email signatures or publicised in any way. There is always a security concern for any person providing services to police forces. Keeping this information out of the public domain is a way of mitigating any potential risk.

Finally:

It has been a long and difficult year for many of us. Covid, Cost of Living, War in Ukraine and maybe many other occurrences in our lives have all taken their toll on us.

Thank you to those interpreters and translators who continue to take police assignments and assist us in our investigations. We cannot do so without your help and we, the police, appreciate what you do on a daily basis for us.

If you are celebrating Christmas or other festive occasions, Ian and I wish you peace and comfort.

If you are working over the festive period, we wish you safe travel and good health.

Ian Fraser MCIPS
Head of Procurement and Support Services
Leicestershire Police

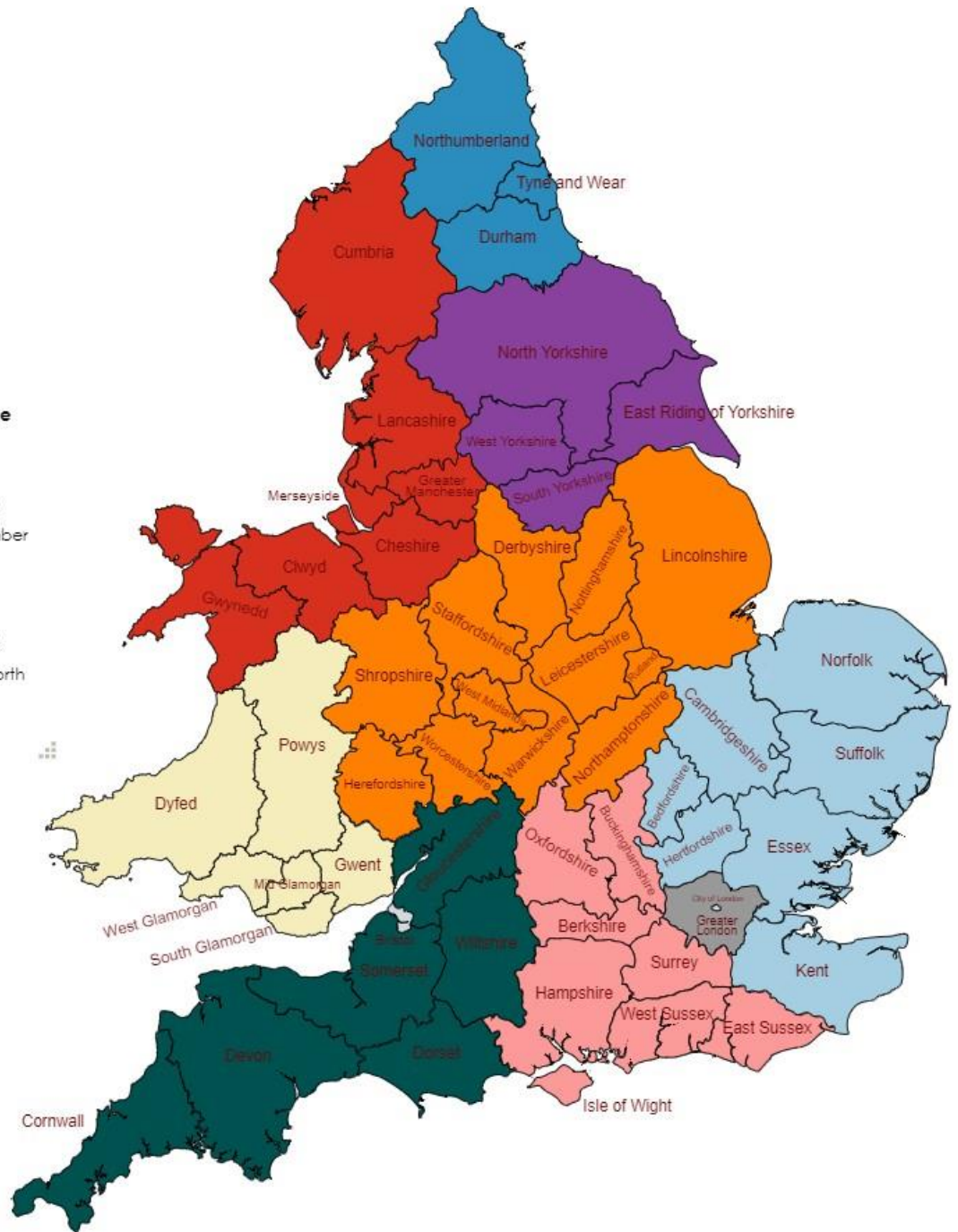
Mark Lewis
National Police Contract Manager for Language Services
Leicestershire Police

December 2022

Map 'A' Police Regions

England & Wales Police Regions for DPS

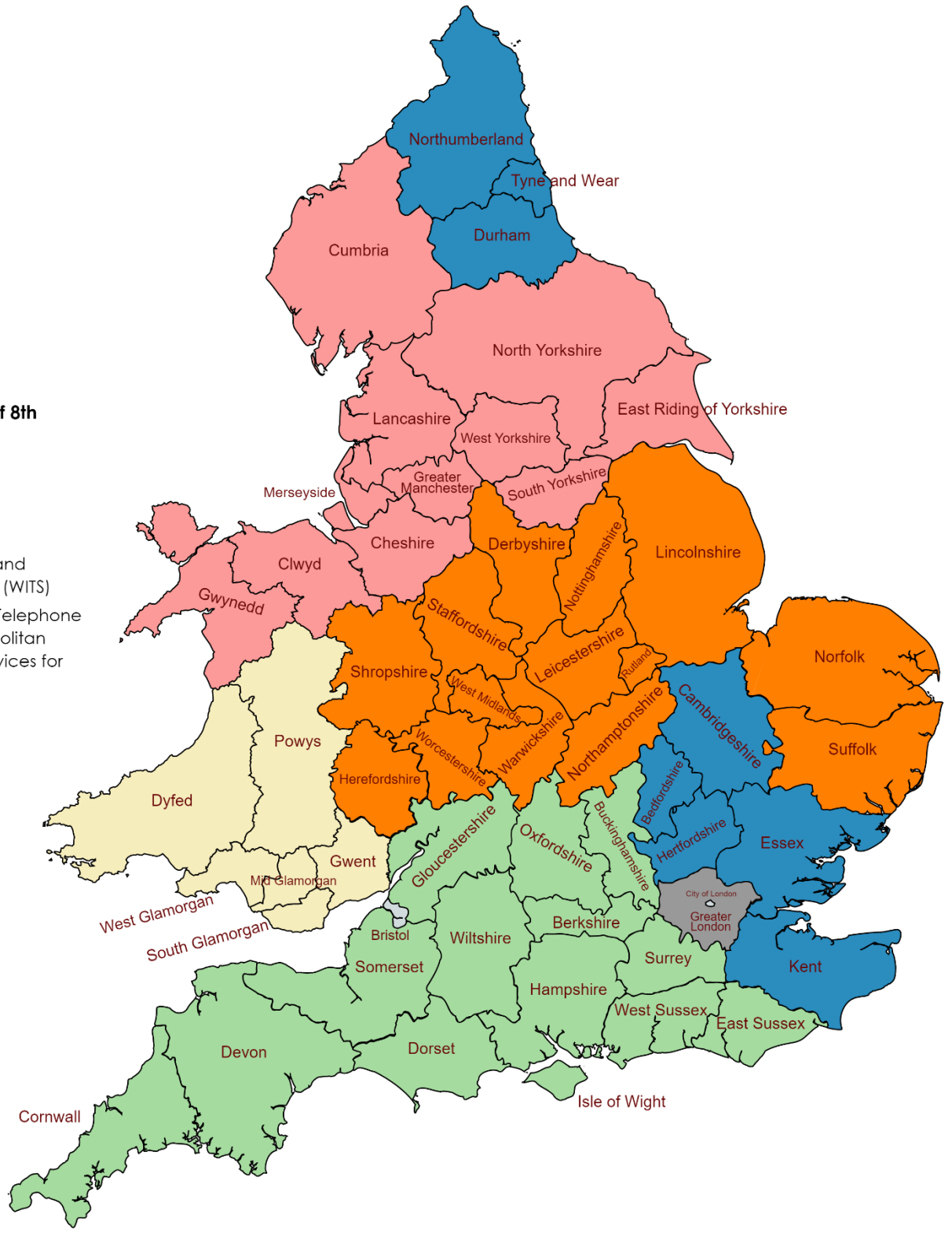
- North East England
- North West England
- Yorkshire & the Humber
- Midlands
- East of England
- South of England
- South West England
- Wales (Excluding North Wales)
- London



Map 'B' Service Providers

Service Providers as of 8th December 2022

- thebigword
- Cintra
- Capita
- Welsh Interpreting and Translation Services (WITS)
- Language Line for Telephone Interpreting Metropolitan Police In-House Services for F2F & Trans
- D A Languages



PAIT Spec Table

Police Approved Interpreters & Translators (PAIT) Classifications for Spoken Language and British Sign Language (BSL) Face to Face Interpreters

The PAIT classifications for Face to Face Spoken Language Interpreting came into effect on 1st April 2021.

The table below, sets out the qualifications, experience and vetting required to be classified within the PAIT Scheme.

PAIT Levels and Requirements

Spoken and Non-Spoken Interpreting

PAIT Full Status (F)

NPPV Level 3 Vetted or has submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit

NPPV2 Acceptable until renewal, then must be NPPV3

Police related qualification (one or more of)

- DPSI Law Full
- Diploma in Community Interpreting Police and Court Pathway
- DPI
- Met Police Test

400 hours Public Service Interpreting experience

PAIT Legacy Status (L)

NPPV Level 3 Vetted or has submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit

NPPV2 Acceptable until renewal, then must be NPPV3

Level 6 non-Police related language qualification

400 hours Public Service Interpreting experience including

- 50 in a Police setting
- or 40 hours including significant investigative interpreting (victim / witness statements or interviews under caution with detained persons)

PAIT BSL Status (B)

NPPV Level 3 Vetted or has submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit

Holds Level 6 or equivalent interpreting qualification

Registered with NRCPD

400 hours Public Service Interpreting experience including

- 50 in a Police setting

PAIT Partial Status (P)

NPPV Level 3 Vetted or has submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit

Police related qualification (see list above)

100 - 399 hours Public Service Interpreting experience including 30 in a Police setting

PAIT Rare (R)

NPPV Level 3 Vetted or has submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit

Interpreter is able to demonstrate ability to communicate in the relevant language

(Confirmed by the LSP)

English Proficiency Test Passed or English is Native Language

100 hours Public Service Interpreting experience including 30 in a Police setting

PAIT Temporary (T) Status

Inspectors Authority has been approved for at least one police assignment

NPPV Level 3 Vetted or has submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit

No qualification held

100 hours Public Service Interpreting experience including 30 in a Police setting

Non-PAIT – Requires Inspectors Approval to Assign for Every Job

One or more of the following criteria mean that the interpreter does not fit into any of the above classifications

- Doesn't hold NPPV3 Vetting and hasn't submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit
- Lower or no qualification of relevance held
- Limited experience of interpreting in the public/police sector

Translation & Transcription

PAIT Translator (TL)

- Translator must hold NPPV3 level vetting or has submitted documentation applying for NPPV3 Vetting to recognised vetting authority (Confirmed by the Vetting Sponsor). NPPV2 is accepted if already acquired until renewal, when NPPV3 must be obtained.
- Translator's target language must be their primary language
- Translator must have obtained a degree or equivalent in source or target language
- Translator must have one (1) years' experience as a professional translator **or**
- Translator must have translated a minimum of 100,000 words

Definition of Primary Language:

- Where primary is the language they work in most; E.g. Native Polish, but has lived in the UK for a long time and the majority of the work completed is Polish to English

PAIT Transcriber (TS)

- Transcriber must hold NPPV3 level vetting, or has submitted documentation applying for NPPV3 Vetting to recognised vetting authority (Confirmed by the Vetting Sponsor). NPPV2 is accepted if already acquired until renewal, when NPPV3 must be obtained.
- Transcriber's target language must be their primary language
- Transcriber must have obtained a degree or equivalent in source or target language
- Transcriber must have one (1) years' experience as a professional linguist

Definition of Primary Language:

- Where primary is the language they work in most; E.g. Native Polish, but has lived in the UK for a long time and the majority of the work completed is Polish to English

English to English Transcription:

- English must be their Native Language
- Transcriber must have one (1) years' professional experience

PAIT Translator Rare (TLR)

Definition of Rare Language: where a DipTrans is not available in that language

- Translator must hold NPPV3 level vetting, or has submitted documentation applying for NPPV3 Vetting to recognised vetting authority (Confirmed by the Vetting Sponsor). NPPV2 is accepted if already acquired until renewal, when NPPV3 must be obtained.
- Translator's target language must be their primary language
- Translator must have one (1) years' experience as a professional translator or
- Translator must have translated a minimum of 100,000 words

PAIT Transcriber Rare (TSR)

Definition of Rare Language: where a qualification is not available in that language.

- Transcriber must hold NPPV3 level vetting, or has submitted documentation applying for NPPV3 Vetting to recognised vetting authority (Confirmed by the Vetting Sponsor). NPPV2 is accepted if already acquired until renewal, when NPPV3 must be obtained.
- Transcriber's target language must be their primary language
- Transcriber must have one (1) years' experience as a professional linguist

Non-PAIT – Requires Inspectors Approval to Assign for Every Job

One or more of the following criteria mean that the Translator/Transcriber does not fit into any of the above classifications

- Doesn't hold NPPV3 Vetting and hasn't submitted the documentation to a recognised Vetting Unit
- Lower or no qualification of relevance held and not covered by 'Rare' classification
- Limited experience of Translating/Transcribing in the public/police sector