

DPSI Review Second meeting – 3rd December 2007

Notes

Various specific issues were raised in connection with the current examination which are being investigated. These included:

- Clarification of policy on language forms re technical terms.
- 2007 Law Task 1B Alt A paper: it was confirmed that all candidates taking this paper had been moderated, due to the difficulty of the text, and in future role plays would be tested beforehand and the English scrutineer would look at the complexity of these sections carefully.
- The DPSI has now been unitised. This might help Centres, as Centres could report unit pass rates, rather than overall pass rates.
- As an awarding body, the IoLET does not produce course materials, but does support Centres with examination preparation. Support material includes a Handbook for DPSI Trainers (new edition now available), DVDs, Frequently Asked Questions (on the web)

The participants then commented on the changes suggested at the first Review Meeting namely:

- to make the mark scheme more transparent
- move the whispered section to the end of the role play/separate the 2 sections completely
- an ethics paper
- a court practice module

The proposal for an ethics paper had been taken to the Quality Assurance Panel who had advised IoLET that rather than introduce these papers as add-on modules, the IoLET should offer them as CPD courses for candidates who have already passed the DPSI. It might be possible to have an ethics paper as an add-on for candidates who already had the DPSI – perhaps as an obligatory option. A multiple choice paper had already been explored and this was not a feasible option. If an ethics paper were compulsory, cost would have to be considered. It might be possible to make it compulsory as course content for Centres; only external candidates not following a course would have to go to a seminar before the examination. Confirmation of attendance would need to be provided.

It was suggested that the Review should look at interpreting practice in other countries e.g. via Critical Link. NB The next Critical Link Conference

would be in Birmingham in 2010. One practice used in other countries was to make potential interpreting candidates take some kind of written test before they were allowed to go through to an oral examination. This might also have a positive effect on Centres' pass rates.