



Visual Language Professionals Ltd

Membership And Compulsory Regulation Policy **Registered / Regulated Communication and Language Professionals Only**

1. Definitions

- 'VLP' – Visual Language Professionals Ltd.
- 'NRCPD' – National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People.
- 'RBSLI' – Regulatory Body for Sign Language Interpreters.
- 'SASLI' – Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters.
- 'DBS' – Disclosure and Barring Service.
- 'CPD' – Continuing Professional Development.
- 'Registered / Regulated Communication and Language Professionals' – Sign Language Interpreters, Trainee Sign Language Interpreters, Lipspeakers (L3), DeafBlind Interpreters (L3), Deaf Interpreters (NVQ6), and BSL Translators (NVQ 6)

2. Background

In January 2017, VLP conducted the Big Survey to give members the opportunity to have their say on a range of issues. The results were issued in March 2017 and 82% of respondents answered 'yes' to the following question:

"Would you like to see VLP membership criteria amended to state that all members must be regulated by an appropriate body; the term 'regulation' includes the current registers (NRCPD/RBSLI/ITI) available to communication professionals and also any employer regulation by way of code of conduct, confidentiality and complaints procedure, for example for those professionals in full-time employment."

3. Scope, Implementation And Review

- 3.1. This policy is created for use by VLP only and should be used to inform procedure and decision-making.
- 3.2. VLP will insist on compulsory regulation from 01 April 2018.
- 3.3. This policy will be assigned a date and version number, which will be displayed in the document footer and updated each time the policy is revised or updated.
 - 3.3.1. All updates and revisions shall be drafted by the Chair and presented to the Management Committee for approval.
- 3.4. This policy will be scheduled for review every two years but is subject to changes approved by the Management Committee at any time.

4. Compulsory Regulation

- 4.1. VLP has used the results of the Big Survey to inform policy concerning membership and have agreed that eligibility for membership will be assessed based on a Communication and Language Professional's registration / regulation.
- 4.2. The categories of VLP membership are detailed in Appendix A.
- 4.3. Registered / Regulated Communication and Language Professionals must meet the criteria for their chosen regulatory body, this usually includes;
 - Holding a Standard DBS Certificate that was issued within the last three years.
 - Declaring that they will adhere to an agreed Code of Conduct.
 - Undertaking a minimum number of hours of CPD to satisfy the requirements of their regulator (not applicable to Trainee Communication and Language Professionals).
 - Being subject to a complaints procedure.
 - Having Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII).
- 4.4. VLP is satisfied that Communication and Language Professionals who are registered / regulated with one or more of the following regulatory bodies are eligible for membership.
 - NRCPD
 - RBSLI
 - SASLI
- 4.5. Communication and Language Professionals applying for VLP membership will be required to be registered with their chosen regulator on the date of application and enter their unique regulator membership number on their membership information page. This information will be verified during the membership year, which runs from 01 April to 31 March.
 - VLP expects members to renew their membership with their chosen regulator on, or before, expiration.
 - If a VLP member decides not to renew their regulator membership, their VLP membership will be terminated and they will cease to be eligible for any of the benefits associated with being a member of VLP. No refunds of membership fees will be issued.
- 4.6. VLP recognises that there may be Communication and Language Professionals who are effectively regulated by an organisation other than those mentioned in Section 4.4 and these applications will be assessed under the Special Consideration criteria, detailed in Section 5, by the Management Committee before they are approved for membership.

5. Special Consideration.

- 5.1. Where a Communication and Language Professional believes that they are effectively regulated by an organisation other than those mentioned in Section 4.3, they are invited to apply for membership by emailing membership@vlp.org.uk.
- 5.2. VLP does not regulate Communication and Language Professionals but will require further information to assess and approve membership on the grounds of Special Consideration.

- 5.3. VLP will require the following information;
- The name of the organisation that the Communication and Language Professional claims is regulating them.
- 5.4. To satisfy the requirements of Special Consideration, the Communication and Language Professional must demonstrate that the organisation they are claiming is regulating them;
- Requires a Standard DBS Certificate that was issued within the last three years.
 - Has a written Code of Conduct. Where the written Code of Conduct does not cover confidentiality, a separate policy covering this must be in place.
 - Requires that they undertake a minimum number of hours of CPD each year (not applicable to Trainee Communication and Language Professionals).
 - Has a written complaints procedure.

Appendix A

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Visual Language Professionals Ltd (VLP) has three categories of membership:

1. **Full Membership** - Registered/Regulated Qualified Communication and Language Professionals as defined by the Visual Language Professionals Membership & Compulsory Regulation Policy.
2. **Student Membership** - Registered/Regulated Trainee Communication and Language Professionals as defined by the Visual Language Professionals Membership & Compulsory Regulation Policy. Student members
 - a. are not eligible to vote.
 - b. cannot book tickets or places at the main VLP conference for Full Members or on VLP training courses until six weeks after they have been released to Full Members.
3. **Non-Practicing Membership** - Members of Visual Language Professionals who have retired or are taking time out from their profession and were members of Visual Language Professionals at the point of retirement or taking time out. Non-Practicing Members
 - a. are not eligible to vote.
 - b. cannot book tickets or places at the main conference for Full Members or on VLP training courses until six weeks after they have been released to Full Members.
 - c. are not eligible to apply for insurance introduced by VLP.

