

**Registered Intermediaries (NI) -**

**Communication Specialists to Assist Vulnerable Victims,**

**Witnesses, Suspects and Defendants Give Evidence**

The Department of Justice welcomes applications from suitably qualified and skilled communications experts to be registered under the statutory Registered Intermediary Scheme.

The Department of Justice manages the statutory Registered Intermediary Scheme which launched initially in May 2013. As a result of increasing demand for the service the Department has decided to launch a recruitment campaign for more Registered Intermediaries (RIs) in order to build resilience and ensure that there are sufficient RIs for DOJ to meet its statutory responsibilities in respect of the scheme and to respond to requests for RI support in other non-criminal cases (for example in relation to civil justice cases or public inquiries) where that is considered appropriate.

Registered Intermediaries can come from a wide background ofprofessional occupations, including speech and language therapy, behavioural therapy, clinical and forensic psychology, educational psychology, social work and the mental health professions, and will bring the skills and experience gained in these roles to their work as intermediaries. At least 12 months’ professional experience and membership of a relevant professional body are required. This is a challenging role, working closely with vulnerable persons, sometimes in emotionally stressful and high-profile cases. Candidates must, therefore, have excellent interpersonal skills and a high level of emotional resilience.

 The existing statutory RI Scheme operates in Youth, Magistrates and Crown Courts sittings across Northern Ireland and the requirement to deliver the service is set out in statute in Articles 17, 21BA and 21BB of the Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1999. The Scheme provides specialist assistanceto people with significant communication difficulties, this is to ensure that vulnerable victims and witnesses get access to justice and that vulnerable defendants have a fair trial by ensuring that they can understand questions put to them and can communicate their answers effectively during the police investigation and at trial. On occasion the department may ask Registered Intermediaries to assist with other types of investigations too, for example providing support to witnesses to public inquiries. Persons who may need the assistance of a Registered Intermediary include young children, and individuals with a learning or physical disability, social communication difficulty, mental health issue or neurological or progressive disorder.

Registered Intermediaries will work on a self-employed basis. In return, the Department of Justice offers competitive remuneration rates and a unique opportunityto make a real difference to the effectiveness and fairness of our criminal justice system. Successful candidates will undergo training which will provide them with the necessary knowledge of the criminal justice system and the skills to meet the required standards for the role.

Given the need for flexibility, this role may be unsuitable for those in full-time employment. Applicants must be a position to accept at least two new cases per month, if requested. The role may particularly suit applicants who are employed on a part-time or reduced hours basis, are self-employed, or are retired or partially retired.

In order to continue to provide an effective service, applications are particularly welcome from males, who are currently under-represented.

Completed applications must be received by **4pm on 17 December 2021**. Please also note the dates for interviews and training, which are not flexible.

Further information and an application form are available from:

**Website**: [www.justice-ni.gov.uk/ri](https://www.justice-ni.gov.uk/ri) **Email**: DOJ.intermediaries@justice-ni.gov.uk