**PRESS RELEASE -** for immediate distribution

**Government interpreting recruitment drive targets London’s Thai community**

The Language Shop is offering the Thai community an exceptional opportunity to train for prestigious, flexible and interesting work. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) needs Thai and English speakers in London as part of a drive to improve language provision in the UK justice system. Current numbers of Thai/English interpreters do not meet the local demand.

To increase these numbers, The Language Shop, quality assurance providers for the MoJ, is offering new recruits priority access to its recently launched Trainee Scheme. The scheme offers discounted rates to a range of professional, accredited interpreting qualifications with prestigious institutions, The International School of Linguists and the Chartered Institute of Linguists Educational Trust.

The first round of applications for places on the scheme is now open. Places are limited, so applicants are encouraged to get in touch with The Language Shop as soon as possible.

The scheme provides trainees with all the advice and support they need while studying, from experts in the field. Most qualifications offer the choice of classroom-based or remote learning. The length of time needed to qualify will vary according to the course option chosen.

Once qualified, trainees will have the chance to register with thebigword language agency as a freelance linguist, to work on MoJ contracts. After completing 100 hours of work, they will have the opportunity to be assessed for more complex and better paid work.

Linguists are self-employed, making the work ideal for those with other commitments, such as young families.

The work is extremely varied, interesting and challenging; one day a linguist could be in court, the next at a police interview, the next at someone’s probation meeting. Each situation is unique – it could never be described as boring work!

Linguists are also hugely important to the administration of justice and to the wellbeing of their communities. Without linguists’ vital work, many could not have their voices heard by the authorities, when they need it most.

Applicants can get in touch with The Language Shop by telephone on 020 3373 4000, email with subject heading TRAINEE SCHEME at moj.languageshop@newham.gov.uk or by using the contact form on our website at <https://moj.languageshop.org/contact>

NOTES FOR EDITORS

* The Language Shop is part of the London Borough of Newham. We have been delivering translation and interpreting services for over 30 years and are the largest such public sector owned service in the country.
* To find out more about The Language Shop’s business, please visit [www.languageshop.org](http://www.languageshop.org)
* For more information on our quality assurance work for the MoJ, please visit <https://moj.languageshop.org>
* To learn more about thebigword’s work for the MoJ, please visit <http://www.thebigword.com/moj/>