



**Improving Police and Legal Interpreting**  
**Funded by the EU Commission**

# **Interview Formats & Interpreting Modes**

**Christine W. L. Wilson**  
**Languages & Intercultural Studies (LINCS)**  
**Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland**  
**Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### ***Directive 2010/64/EU***

- ***Article 1 (2)***
- ***Article 2 (1), (2), (3) and (6)***
- ***Article 3(7)***

...



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### **INTERPRETING MODES**

**Verbatim**

**Summary**

**Simultaneous**

**Consecutive**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

**VERBATIM**

**SUMMARY**





## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

**SIMULTANEOUS**

**with equipment**

**chuchotage**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

**CONSECUTIVE**

**with notes**

**short consecutive (no notes)**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

**RELAY INTERPRETING**

**REMOTE INTERPRETING**

**TRANSCRIPTION**

**SIGHT TRANSLATION**

**hands-on-signing.....**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### **Focus on police interviews**

- 1. Suspects**
- 2. Witnesses**
- 3. Victims**
  
- 4. Vulnerable people**





## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### **THE INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEW**

**Process ?**

**Paper trail?**

**Recording ?**

**interrogation** => **questioning/interviewing**

**AIM => complete, accurate, relevant + reliable  
information**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### **THE CONTEXT FOR INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING**

#### **Procedures & cautions**

#### **3 main stages:**

- no clear suspect**
- suspect, but insufficient evidence to charge**
- point at which suspect must be charged**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### INTERVIEWING MODELS

#### P.R.I.C.E. (Scotland)

**P**lanning & Preparation

**R**apport building

**I**nformation gathering

**C**onfirming clarifying & checking

**E**valuation



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### INTERVIEWING MODELS

#### 4 phases (e.g. Germany & France)

- **contact phase**
- **speak freely**
- **targeted questioning**
- **writing of report**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### **INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES**

#### **Conversation management**

**(interview agenda, police agenda, challenge)**

#### **Cognitive interviewing**



## Improving Police and Legal Interpreting

### **INTERVIEWING TECHNIQUES (police)**

#### **Listening & questioning skills**

**Eye contact**

**Body language**

**Open questions**

**Probing questions**

**Use of pauses & silences**

**Summarising**

**Memory jogs**

**Use of visual aids**

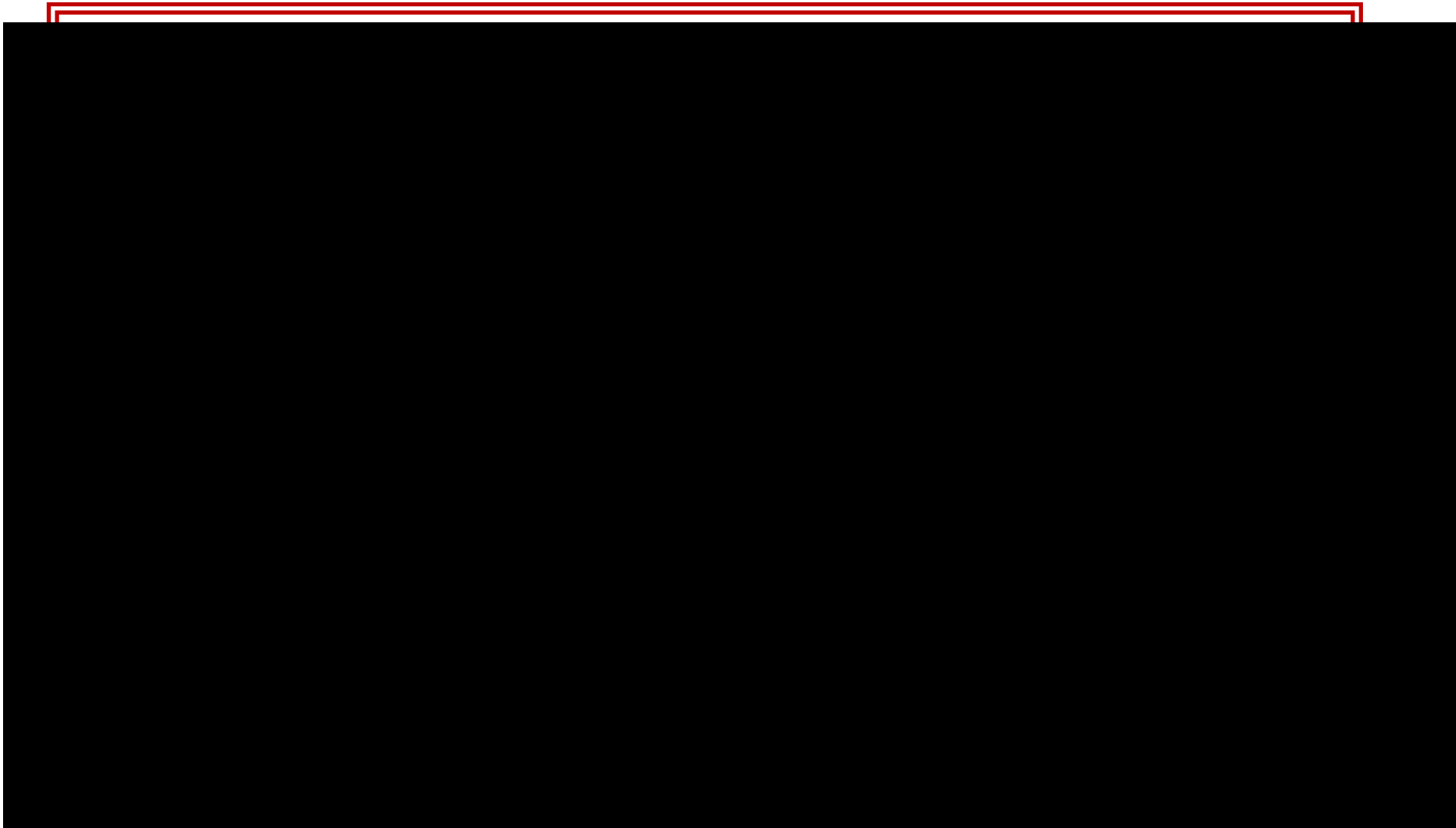
**Not interrupting**

**Echoing & mirroring**

**Not interrupting**

**Taking breaks ....**

ImPLI



ImPLI



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Interpreters should receive training to develop basic knowledge of investigative interviewing and questioning tactics.
- Police officers should receive training to raise awareness of interpreting and its challenges.
- All stakeholders (police, interpreters, trainers and researchers, etc.) should work together to develop jurisdiction-specific guidelines for working with/interviewing through interpreters.



ImPLI



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Police officers need to accept that interpreting will inevitably have an impact on an interview and, consequently, integrate considerations regarding interpreting into all stages of their interview plan. This should also inform their briefing of the interpreter.
- Facilitate access to authentic data to enable research into the impact of interpreting in the investigative interview.



**C.W.L.Wilson@hw.ac.uk**