



## **Paula BACKEN**

Paula has been working as an Intermediary with defendants, suspects and family respondents since 2011. She qualified as a Speech & Language Therapist in 1981 and has a Diploma in Anger Management consultancy.

She has experience in hundreds of cases in over 60 courts across England and Wales. She leads the Working with Defendants training for intermediaries, and have supervised many intermediaries over the years. She was a registered intermediary for witnesses 2014-2021, but has returned to focussing on HMCTS Appointed Intermediary work full-time.

She specialises in working with adults and teenagers with a range of communication needs: learning disabilities, autism, neurological conditions including dementia and mental health.

Since 2019, she has led an international project to inform countries in their first steps to set up an intermediary service. This gives her a wider perspective on the impact of disability on access to justice. She remains passionate to improve effective participation for all.

Paula is currently Chair of TIC and the contracts manager liaising with HMCTS.

If you would like to learn more about the work of intermediaries, Paula published a book - "They just don't get it" in 2017, available on Amazon. The proceeds go toward educating others in this field.