

Use of in court interpreters by defence representatives

NICTS has two separate contracts for in-court interpreting. One for face to face interpreting services, that is with FLEX Language Services and one for sign language interpreting services that is with Action on Hearing Loss (AHL). The service providers have brought to our attention that defence representatives have been seeking judicial direction to use these interpreters for consultation and case discussion instead of organising and engaging an independent interpreter for their own purposes.

The contracts with both FLEX and AHL only provide for in-court interpreting organised and paid for by NICTS. Defence representatives are expected to access and fund their own interpreting for court hearings and are requested not to make application to the court for the use of the in-court interpreter. This issue has been brought to the attention of the judiciary. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service