

Interpreter and Translation Services

serving the community through the administration of justice

Quarterly Bulletin

Period:

April – June 2010

Interpreter and Translation Services Quarterly Bulletin

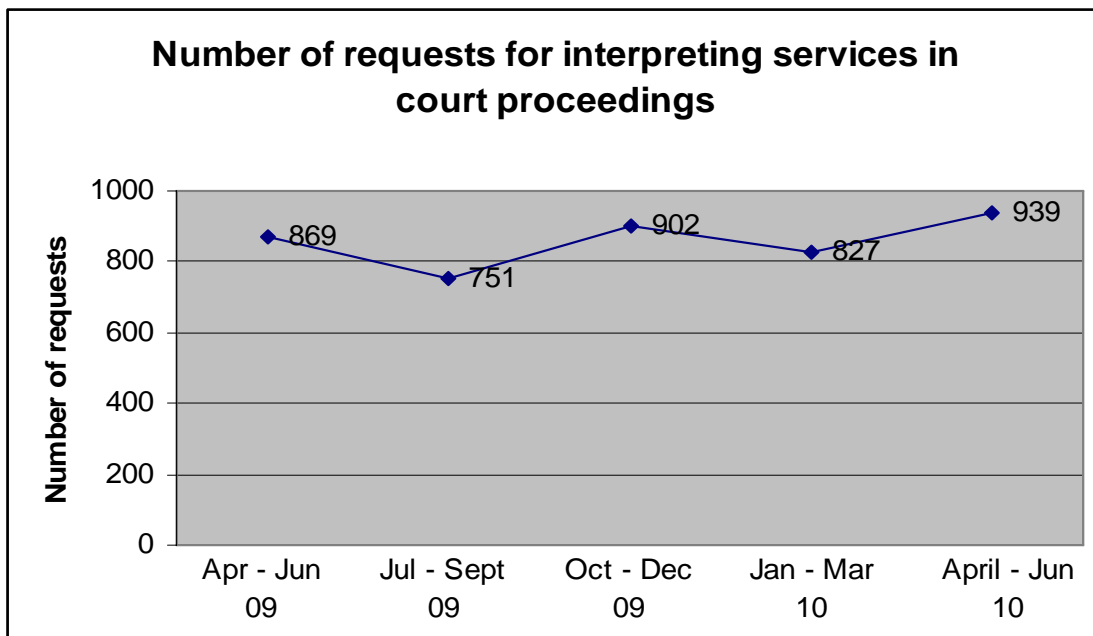
Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of business volumes and costs associated with the provision of language interpretation (both foreign language and sign language) and translation services during April to June 2010.

Summary

2. During this period a total of 939 requests were received for interpreter services in court proceedings. The comparable figure for the same quarter in 2009 was 869 representing an increase of 7.5% [see Figure 1 below].

Figure 1



3. During the period the following requests were received;
 - 13** requests for sign language interpretation
 - 24** requests for translation of documents

4. A breakdown of requests by court type and tier is illustrated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Breakdown of requests by Court Tier / Type

Court Tier	Apr – Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct -Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10	Apr – Jun 10
Criminal Proceedings					
High Court	37	35	38	34	33
Crown Court	115	61	93	58	80
Magistrates Court	695	628	721	691	741*
County Court	0	6	23	10	17
Civil Proceedings					
High Court	0	0	0	0	0
County Court	0	0	0	0	0
Extradition Proceedings	14	12	7	11	16
Family Proceedings					
Family Proceedings Court / Family Care Centre	5	7	19	22	50**
Coroners Proceedings					
Coroners Court	2	2	1	1	2
Tribunals					
Tribunals	1	0	0	0	0
Total	869	751	902	827	939

* 6 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

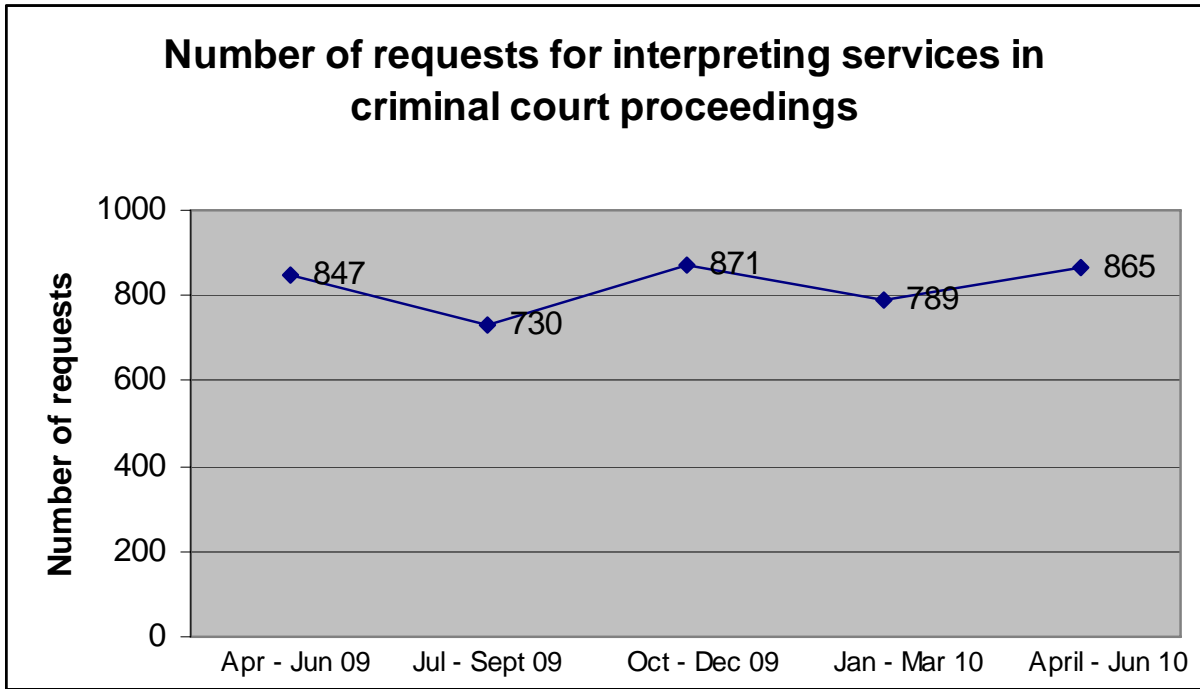
** 7 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

Language Interpretation – Criminal Proceedings

5. During this quarter, a total of **865** requests were received to arrange foreign language interpreter services for defendants in criminal proceedings.

6. Business volumes for the previous 12 months are illustrated in **Figure 2** over.

Figure 2



7. A breakdown of requests by court venue is illustrated in **Table 2** below. Further detail on the breakdown of requests by language type for each venue can be found at **Annex A**.

Table 2: Breakdown of requests by court venue

	Apr - Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct – Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10	Apr – Jun 10
Antrim	65	13	35	21	18
Armagh	72	45	56	40	82
Ballymena	19	36	44	22	53
Banbridge*	0	0	0	0	0
Bangor	6	9	9	2	3
Coleraine	9	20	17	18	24
Craigavon	48	50	59	82	52
Downpatrick	24	7	22	16	26
Dungannon	162	188	200	163	137
Enniskillen	21	18	25	16	22
Laganside	178	105	93	92	122
Larne	0	0	2	1	0
Limavady	3	1	0	0	1
Lisburn	17	39	29	34	17
Londonderry	20	27	19	6	6
Magherafelt	19	1	16	16	15
Newry	96	87	139	153	158
Newtownards	18	23	43	38	40
Omagh	32	18	22	35	54
RCJ	37	35	38	34	32
Strabane	1	8	3	0	3
Total	847	730	871	789	865

* Banbridge courthouse is currently closed

8. The highest number of requests for interpretation services in criminal proceedings was received from **Newry Court Office**.
9. A breakdown of the requests received this quarter by language type is illustrated in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: breakdown of requests in criminal cases by language type

	Apr - Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct – Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10	Apr – Jun 10
Albanian	2	3	1	0	0
Arabic*	10	7	5	1	2
Bahandi	0	0	0	0	0
Bengali	1	0	1	11	6
Bulgarian	2	1	4	2	10
Cantonese	16	4	11	3	6
Czech	6	7	7	8	13
Dutch	0	0	0	0	0
Farsi	0	0	0	0	0
French	5	9	4	4	2
Hindi	1	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	9	7	7	14	5
Italian	4	6	0	0	1
Kurdish	0	0	0	0	0
Latvian	28	21	28	38	32
Lithuanian	189	246	338	288	315
Malayalam	0	0	0	2	1
Mandarin	168	77	88	53	86
North Korean	2	0	0	0	0
Pilipino	0	0	0	0	0
Polish	249	212	219	239	227
Portuguese	30	36	44	47	45
Punjabi	0	0	0	4	0
Romanian	19	30	21	1	37
Russian	63	42	52	27	20
Serbian	0	0	0	2	2
Slovakian	24	11	25	11	18
Somali	6	2	0	4	6
Sorani Kurdish	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	1	0	1	1	2
Sudanese	1	0	0	0	0
Tetum	8	5	12	24	21
Thai	0	0	1	0	0
Turkish	1	0	1	1	0
Ukrainian	0	0	0	0	7
Urdu	2	3	0	4	1
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0
Yoruba**	0	1	1	0	0

Total	847	730	871	789	865
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* Includes figures for North Africa Arabic and Egyptian Arabic

** A language spoken in Nigeria

10. The top 4 languages requested during this quarter were Lithuanian, Polish, Mandarin and Portuguese.

Extradition proceedings

11. During the reporting period a total of 16 requests to arrange interpreter services in Extradition Proceedings were received. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was 11.

12. A breakdown of requests by language type is set out in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Breakdown of requests by language type for extradition proceedings

Language	No. of requests
Latvian	2
Lithuanian	4
Polish	8
Russian	1
Spanish	1

Civil Proceedings

13. There were no requests for foreign language interpreters in civil hearings in this period.

Family Proceedings

14. During the reporting period there were **43** requests to arrange interpreter services in Family Proceedings. This compares to **16** for the previous quarter. Details of the languages and locations are contained in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Breakdown of requests in Family Proceedings by court type / venue

Court Type	Location	No. of requests	Language
Magistrates Court - Family	Ballymena	1	Polish
Magistrates Court - Family	Bangor	2	Estonian Ukrainian
Magistrates Court - Family	Coleraine	1	Polish
Magistrates Court - Family	Craigavon	5	3 x Portuguese 2 x Polish
Magistrates Court - Family	Dungannon	10	6 x Lithuanian 1 x Latvian 3 x Russian
Magistrates Court - Family	Laganside	5	Polish
Magistrates Court - Family	Londonderry	1	Latvian
Magistrates Court - Family	Old Townhall	8	2 x Farsi 3 x Polish 1 x Portuguese 2 x Slovakian
Magistrates Court - Family	Omagh	7	1 x Latvian 4 x Polish 2 x Russian
Magistrates Court - Family	RCJ	1	Latvian
Magistrates Court - Family	Magherafelt	1	Polish
Magistrates Court - Family	Belfast – Solicitor’s Office	1	Polish

Coroners Court

15. During the reporting period 2 requests were made to arrange interpreting services in a Coroners’ Court. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was 1.

16. A breakdown of requests by location and language type is set out in **Table 6** below.

Table 6: Breakdown of requests for coroners courts by location and language type

Location	Language	No. of requests
Armagh	Polish	1
Old Townhall	Polish	1

Sign Language Interpreters / Palantypist Requests

17. During the reporting period a total of **13** requests were received to arrange an interpreter for deaf or hearing impaired customers attending court. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **10**.

18. A breakdown of requests by court tier is set out in **Table 7** below.

Table 7: Breakdown of requests for Sign Language Interpreters / Palantypist by court tie

	Apr - Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct – Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10	Apr – Jun 10
Crown Court	0	0	0	0	0
Magistrates Court	2	5	4	4	6
Family Proceedings	0	0	8	6	7
Civil Proceedings	2	6	0	0	0
High Court	0	1	0	0	0
Total	4	12	12	10	13

Document Translation

19. During the quarter **24** requests were received for document translation. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **34**.

20. A breakdown of requests by location and language type is illustrated in **Tables 8** and **9** below.

Table 8: Breakdown of requests for document translation by location

Location	Number of Requests
Business Development Group	9
Communications Group	1
Coroners	10
Laganside	1
Policy and Legal	2
RCJ	1
Total	24

Table 9: Breakdown of document translations by language

Language	Number of Translations
Braille	1
Latvian	2
Polish	14
Portuguese	2
Swedish	1
Lithuanian	3
Spanish	1
Total	24

Telephone Interpretation

21. A telephone Interpretation facility is available at Laganside, Dungannon, Newry and the RCJ. In the period April June 2010, 5 calls were made.

Costs *

* For the purpose of this report, costs are calculated on the basis of payments made in the period rather than requests received.

Criminal Proceedings

22. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service [NICTS] is responsible for arranging the attendance of an interpreter to support defendants who require the assistance of a language interpreter at a second or subsequent hearing of a criminal case.

23. The cost of providing interpreters at criminal hearings from April to June 2010 was **£166,764.04**. This compares to **£121,477.32** which was the amount for the previous quarter.

Civil and Family Proceedings

24. Generally, when an action is privately funded, it is a matter for the party requiring the services of an interpreter to make the arrangements and meet the costs. However, where the action is in respect of civil committal proceedings, NICTS has a legal obligation under the human rights legislation to provide an interpreter and meet the costs.

25. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service will arrange language interpreters for civil and family hearings in the following circumstances:

Domestic violence, family cases involving children and cases proceeding under the Forced Marriage Act.

26. Because of the sensitivity of these types of proceedings, the NICTS will arrange and pay for an interpreter if required. This is irrespective of whether solicitors are involved or public funding is available.

27. There was no cost incurred for interpreters in civil proceedings during this quarter.

28. The cost for interpreters engaged for family proceedings during this quarter was **£5,705.61**. The cost for the previous quarter was **£1,909.40**

Coroners Courts

29. The cost for interpreters engaged for coroners' cases during this quarter was **£1,130.44**.

Extradition Proceedings

30. The total cost of interpreters engaged for extradition proceedings during this period was **£2,456.96**. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **£1,276.01**

Sign Language Interpreters

31. The cost of sign language interpreters attending criminal cases during this quarter was **£819.00**

32. The cost of interpreters engaged to assist deaf or hearing impaired customers in civil and family proceedings was **£1,895**. Comparing this with the previous quarter the amount came to **£2,012** while there was no cost attributed to criminal sign language cases.

Document translation

33. The total costs incurred by NICTS for document translation this quarter amounted to **£772.70**. The figure for the previous quarter was **£1,970.52**

Telephone Interpretation

34. The cost incurred for the use of the telephone interpretation facility during this period was **£138.84**. The figure for the previous quarter was **£46.41**.

If you have any comments or queries regarding the content of this report, please contact;

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Annex A Criminal Interpreting Requests by language and location April – June 2010

	Antrim	Armagh	Ballymena	Bangor	Coleraine	Craigavon	Downpatrick	Dungannon	Enniskillen	Laganside	Larne	Limavady	Lisburn	Londonderry	Magherafelt	Newry	Newtownards	Omagh	RCJ	Strabane	Total	
Albanian																						0
Arabic									2													2
Bahandi																						0
Bengali									1						5							6
Bulgarian		3												1			1	2	3			10
Cantonese				1			2										2		1			6
Czech			4					1		2						6						13
Dutch																						0
Farsi																						0
French										2												2
Hindi																						0
Hungarian		2							1							2						5
Italian						1																0
Kurdish																						0
Latvian		4					3	3	2	1				3	1	8	5	3				32
Lithuanian	6	33	1		6	18	3	67	11	14			3		8	85	19	33	9			316
Malayalam																	1					1
Mandarin	1		5		1		9			40			2			16	9	2	1			86
North Korean																						0
Philipino																						0

NORTHERN IRELAND COURTS AND TRIBUNALS SERVICE

Polish	10	17	36	2	15	14	5	17	8	43		1	11	2	5	27	1	5	6	2	227
Portuguese	1		4			16		17					1			1		1	4		45
Punjabi																					0
Romanian		21	2				1	1		2							2	2	6		37
Russian		2				3		10						1	3			1			20
Serbian										2											2
Slovakian			1				2	4		6					1			4			18
Somali										5									1		6
Sorani Kurdi																					0
Spanish										2											2
Sudanese																					0
Tetum								18										3			21
Thai																					0
Turkish																					0
Ukrainian															5				1		7
URDU					2																1
Vietnamese																					0
Yoruba																					0
Total	18	82	53	3	24	52	26	137	22	122	0	1	17	6	15	158	40	54	32	3	865