

Interpreter and Translation Services

serving the community through the administration of justice

Quarterly Bulletin

Period:

April - June 2011

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 2011.

Summary

2. During this period a total of **957** requests were received for interpreter services in court proceedings. The comparable figure for the same quarter in 2010 was 939, representing an increase of 1.9% (see **Figure 1** below).

Figure 1 - Number of requests for interpreting services in court proceedings

Apr - Jun 10	939
Jul - Sept 10	859
Oct - Dec 10	900
Jan - Mar 11	983
Apr – June 11	957

3. During the period the following requests were received; 6 requests for sign language interpretation, 3 requests for a speech to text reporter and 37 requests for translation of documents.

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 10	July – Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – June 11
Criminal Proceedings					
High Court	33	32	27	37	32
Court of Appeal	0	0	0	0	6
Crown Court	80	58	115	109	100
Magistrates Court	741	708	633	676	638*
County Court	17	8	16	9	24
Civil Proceedings					
High Court	0	0	2	0	0
County Court	0	0	7	3	4**
Magistrates Court	0	0	0	0	1
Extradition Proceedings	16	15	37	61	87
Family Proceedings					
Family Proceedings Court / Family Care Centre	50	38	61	78	61***
Coroners Proceedings					
Coroners Court	2	0	1	3	0
Tribunal Proceedings					
Tribunals	0	0	1	2	2
Enforcement of Judgements Office					

Proceedings					
EJO	0	0	0	1	2****
Total	939	859	900	983	957

*This includes 2 requests for sign language interpreters

**This includes 3 requests for an STTR (speech to text reporter)

***This included 3 requests for sign language interpreters

****This includes 1 request for a sign language interpreter

Language Interpretation – Criminal Proceedings

4. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) are responsible for arranging an interpreter for the first court appearance at a criminal court. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service is responsible for arranging an interpreter at a second or subsequent hearing of a criminal case.

5. The costs of providing in court interpretation services for defendants at first appearances will be met by the PSNI. The costs of providing in court interpretation services for defendants at second and subsequent hearings will be met jointly by NICTS, PPS and DoJ.

6. During this quarter, a total of **798** requests were received to arrange foreign language interpreter services for defendants in criminal proceedings.

7. Business volumes for the previous 12 months are illustrated in **Figure 2** below.

Figure 2 - Number of requests for interpreting services in criminal court proceedings

Apr - Jun 10	865
Jul - Sept 10	802
Oct - Dec 10	787
Jan - Mar 11	825
Apr – Jun 11	798

8. 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 10	July- Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – Jun 11
Antrim	18	39	28	24	27
Armagh	82	71	67	53	55
Ballymena*	53	0	0	0	13
Banbridge**	0	0	0	0	0
Bangor	3	1	11	9	6
Coleraine	24	25	23	25	10
Craigavon	52	55	54	81	98

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Downpatrick	26	16	22	20	21
Dungannon	137	145	145	137	156
Enniskillen	22	30	34	38	49
Laganside	122	189	197	200	159
Larne	0	1	1	0	2
Limavady	1	0	0	0	1
Lisburn	17	15	30	29	9
Londonderry	6	3	9	13	21
Magherafelt	15	13	24	16	4
Newry	158	109	77	71	74
Newtownards	40	17	9	7	10
Old Townhall	0	0	0	1	2
Omagh	54	35	22	41	26
RCJ	32	34	28	37	39
Strabane	3	4	9	23	16
Total	865	802	791	825	798

* Ballymena Courthouse reopened Monday 4 April 2011 following refurbishment.

** Banbridge Courthouse is currently being used for public inquiries and court hearings for Banbridge are listed at Newry courthouse.

9. The highest number of requests for interpretation services in criminal proceedings was received from **Laganside Courts**.

10. 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 10	July – Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – Jun 11
Albanian	0	0	0	3	4
Arabic*	2	4	6	6	13
Bengali	6	6	2	5	3
Bulgarian	10	10	22	8	4
Cantonese	6	5	7	7	22
Czech	13	7	7	1	1
Dutch	0	2	0	1	0
Estonian	0	1	1	0	0
Farsi	0	0	0	0	0
French	2	0	1	7	2
Hindi	0	1	2	0	0
Hungarian	5	16	5	6	4
Italian	1	0	0	0	0
Latvian	32	24	47	69	53
Lithuanian	315	257	251	253	260
Malayalam	1	1	6	8	8
Mandarin	86	91	92	107	65
Polish	227	209	195	188	184
Portuguese	45	38	45	46	53

Romanian	37	62	16	38	36
Russian	20	22	20	16	31
Serbian	2	0	2	4	0
Slovakian	18	20	32	27	28
Somali	6	8	5	3	0
Sorani Kurdish	0	2	0	0	3
Spanish	2	0	2	0	2
Sudanese	0	0	0	0	1
Tagalog	0	0	0	0	2
Tetum	21	7	14	15	10
Turkish	0	0	2	2	3
Ukrainian	7	5	1	2	4
Urdu	1	4	3	1	1
Vietnamese	0	0	1	2	1
Yoruba	0	0	2	0	0
Total	865	802	791	825	798

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

Sign Language Interpreters / STTR Requests

12. If a deaf or hearing impaired defendant involved in criminal proceedings requires the assistance of a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter, Irish Sign Language (ISL) or other Language Service Professional (LSP), the arrangements for provision of the service will be met by NICTS and payment of the service will be met jointly by NICTS, PPS and DoJ.

13. NICTS will arrange and pay for interpreters in all civil, family, coroners, tribunal hearings and Enforcement of Judgment interviews/hearings for deaf and hearing impaired persons to ensure the fullest compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

14. During the reporting period a total of **6** requests were received to arrange an interpreter for deaf or hearing impaired customers attending court. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **10**. There were an additional **3** requests received this quarter to arrange a speech to text reporter to attend court.

15. A breakdown of requests by court tier is set out in **Table 7** over.

Table 7: Breakdown of requests for Sign Language Interpreters / Speech to Text Reporters by court tier

	Apr – Jun 10	July – Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – Jun 11
Crown Court	0	0	2	4	0
Magistrates Court	6	3	0	2	2
Family Proceedings	7	0	1	4	3
Civil Proceedings	0	1	4	0	3
High Court	0	0	4	0	0
Enforcement of Judgements Office					1
Total	13	4	11	10	9

Extradition proceedings

16. NICTS arranges and pays for interpreters to attend extradition proceedings.

17. During the reporting period a total of **87** requests to arrange interpreter services in Extradition Proceedings were received. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **61**.

18. 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
Bulgarian	3
Czechoslovakian	1
Lithuanian	6
Latvian	3
Polish	68
Slovakian	2
Spanish	4

Civil and Family Proceedings

19. 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 human rights legislation to provide an interpreter and meet the costs.

20. 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.

21. 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.

Civil Proceedings

22. During the reporting period there were **2** requests for interpreters to attend civil proceedings.

Family Proceedings

23. There were **58** requests to arrange interpreter services in Family Proceedings. This compares to **78** 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
High Court - Family	RCJ	2	Cantonese, Lithuanian
County Court – Family	Craigavon	3	Polish
County Court – Family	Laganside	4	Polish
Magistrates Court -Family	Omagh	1	Russian
Magistrates Court - Family	Newtownards	3	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Laganside	10	1 x Romanian, 1 x Hungarian, 8 x Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Lisburn	6	Lithuanian
Magistrates Court – Family	Londonderry	1	Lithuanian
Magistrates Court - Family	Old Townhall	4	3 x Polish, 1 Urdu
Magistrates Court – Family	Armagh	2	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Ballymena	1	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Coleraine	1	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Craigavon	10	3 x Polish, 5 x Lithuanian, 2 x Portuguese
Magistrates Court – Family	Dungannon	7	2 x Portuguese, 4 x Lithuanian, 1 x Spanish
Magistrates Court – Family	Enniskillen	3	Polish

Coroners Court

24. NICTS will arrange and pay for an interpreter in Coroners' courts whenever directed by the Coroner. This would happen in circumstances where a witness or an interested party at an inquest is unable to understand English sufficiently to give testimony.

25. During the reporting period no requests were made to arrange interpreting services in a Coroners' Court. There were 3 requests made for interpreters to attend a Coroners' Court during the previous quarter.

Tribunals

26. NICTS will arrange an interpreter for language translation at an appeal hearing when directed by the Judge / Adjudicator / legal chairman. This would happen in circumstances where the appellant or witness has difficulty understanding proceedings in English.

27. Where the NICTS has administrative responsibility for a Tribunal the costs of providing an interpreter will be met by the NICTS in the first instance, however the NICTS will bill back to the sponsoring department to recoup the costs.

28. There were **2** requests for a Portuguese interpreter to attend a hearing for a CICAP (Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel) tribunal during this quarter.

Enforcement of Judgements Office

29. NICTS will arrange and pay for an interpreter for language translation at Enforcement of Judgment interviews/hearing when directed by the Chief Enforcement Officer or the Master.

30. There were **2** requests for an interpreter to attend a hearing/interview on behalf of the EJO (1 Polish interpreter and 1 sign language interpreter) during this reporting period.

Document Translation

31. The NICTS also provides a translation service for documents placed before the court that are in a foreign language for example in child abduction cases or extradition proceedings. The NICTS meets the costs of all requests that are made for the translation of court documents.

32. During the quarter **37** requests were received for document translation. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **51**.

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

Table 8: Breakdown of requests for document translation by location

Location	Number of Requests
Business Development Group	27
Coroners	6
Policy and Legal	1
RCJ	3
Total	37

Table 9: Breakdown of document translations by language

Language	Number of Translations
Russian	1
German	3
Croatian	1
Lithuanian	2
Polish	20
Portuguese	1
Spanish	2
Turkish	1
Slovakian	5
Hungarian	1
Total	37

Telephone Interpretation

34. A telephone interpretation facility is available at Laganside, Dungannon, Newry and the RCJ.

35. In the period April to June 2011, 1 call was made in Lithuanian in Dungannon Courthouse. This compares with 3 calls made the previous quarter; 2 in Portuguese and 1 in Slovakian – all 3 calls were made in Dungannon.

Estimated Costs*

* For the purpose of this report and going forward, costs are presented on an accruals basis and reflect the costs for the period April – June inclusive.

Costs are therefore reflected when they are incurred and not when the requests for interpreting services are received or the invoices processed. This means that contained within the costs for any quarter will be a portion which is an estimated figure in respect of those services provided but where an invoice has not yet been received and processed.

In previous bulletins costs were presented as invoices processed within the quarter therefore no direct comparison between previous quarters with this current quarter should be made.

	Apr – Jun 11
Criminal Proceedings	£123,367.79
Civil Proceedings	£8,641.04
Family Proceedings	£8,034.55
Coroners Courts	Nil
Extradition Proceedings	£5,459.16
Sign Language Interpreters	
Criminal Cases	£518.00
Civil / Family Proceedings	£2,431.50
Enforcement of Judgements Office	£175.00
Tribunal Proceedings	£138.74
Document Translation	£1,745.26
Telephone Interpretation	£11.06
Total	£150,522.10

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

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Annex A Criminal Language Interpreting Requests by language and location April - June 2011

Jan - Mar 11																						
	Antrim	Armagh	Ballymena	Bangor	Coleraine	Craigavon	Downpatrick	Dungannon	Enniskillen	Laganside	Larne	Limavady	Lisburn	Londonderry	Magherafelt	Newry	Newtownards	Old Townhall	Omagh	RCJ	Strabane	Total
Albanian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Arabic	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Bengali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bulgarian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Cantonese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	22
Czech	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
French	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Hindi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
Latvian	0	7	0	1	0	10	3	9	13	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	1	3	0	53
Lithuanian	6	28	0	2	0	50	6	63	13	17	0	0	1	2	0	41	1	0	5	18	2	260
Malayalam	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8
Mandarin	8	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	5	0	65
Polish	6	9	8	1	5	11	2	22	12	51	0	1	5	10	2	15	1	0	9	7	6	184
Portuguese	0	3	0	0	0	19	0	25	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	53
Romanian	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	12	1	2	0	1	8	36
Russian	2	0	0	0	0	5	2	12	0	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	31
Serbian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slovakian	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	14	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	28
Sorani Kurdish	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Spanish	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Sudanese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tagalog	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Tetum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	10
Turkish	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Ukrainian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4

NORTHERN IRELAND COURTS AND TRIBUNALS SERVICE

Urdu	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yoruba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	55	13	6	10	98	21	156	49	159	2	1	9	21	4	74	10	2	26	39	16	798