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The Northern Ireland Court Service

Interpreter and Translation Services Quarterly Bulletin

January – March 2010



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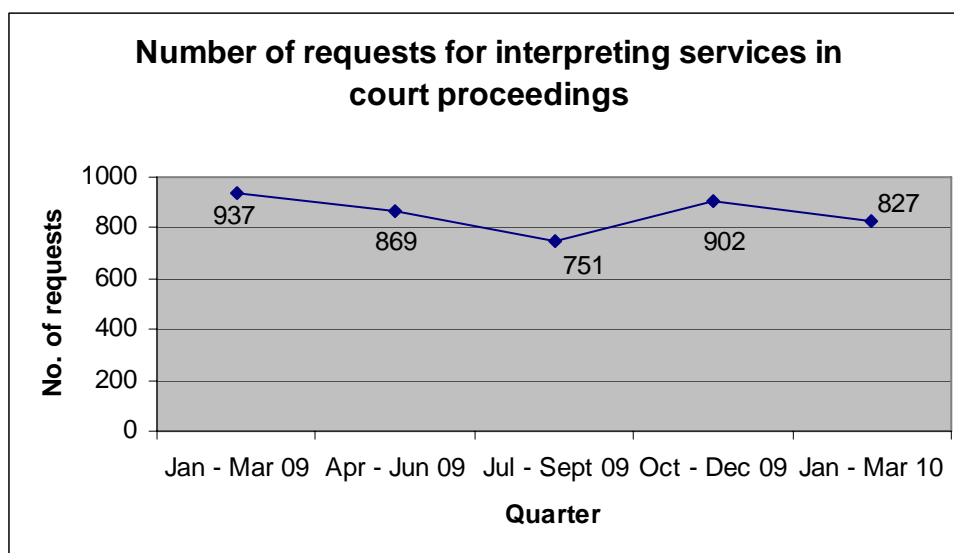
Introduction

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 January to March 2010.

Summary

2. During this period a total of **827** requests were received for interpreter services in court proceedings. The comparable figure for the same quarter in 2009 was **937** representing a decrease of 11.7% [see **Figure 1** below].

Figure 1



3. During the period the following requests were also received;
 - 10** requests for sign language interpretation
 - 34** 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	Jan – Mar 09	Apr – Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct - Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10
Criminal Proceedings					
High Court	32	37	35	38	34
Crown Court	109	115	61	93	58
Magistrates Court	782	695	628	721	691*
County Court			6	23	10
Civil Proceedings					
High Court	1	0	0	0	0
County Court	0	0	0	0	0
Extradition Proceedings	11	14	12	7	11
Family Proceedings					
Family Proceedings Court / Family Care Centre	0	5	7	19	22**
Coroners Proceedings					
Coroners Court	2	2	2	1	1
Tribunals					
Tribunals	0	1	0	0	0
Total	937	869	751	902	827

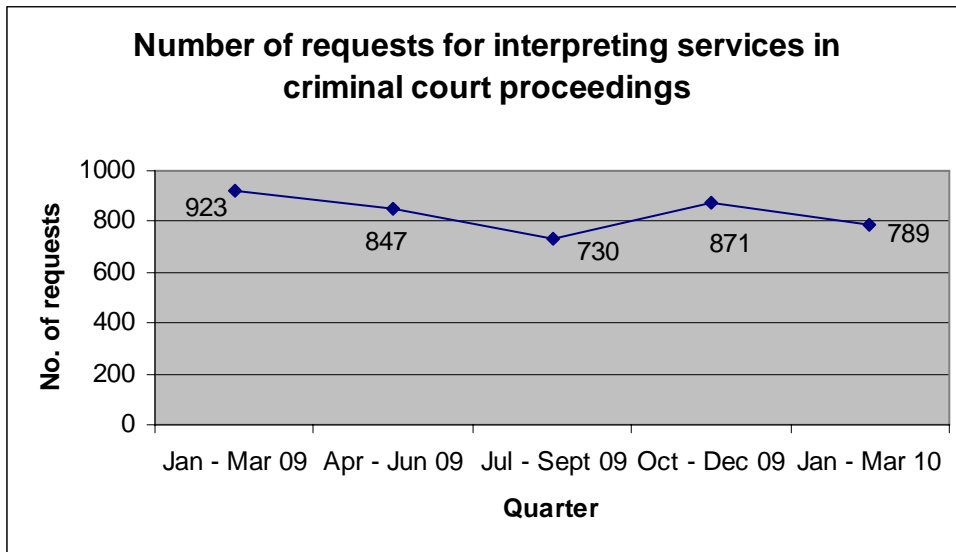
*4 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

**6 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

Language Interpretation – Criminal Proceedings

5. During this quarter, a total of **789** 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					
	Jan – Mar 09	Apr - Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct – Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10
Antrim	99	65	13	35	21
Armagh	73	72	45	56	40
Ballymena	24	19	36	44	22
Banbridge ¹	0	0	0	0	0
Bangor	2	6	9	9	2
Coleraine	32	9	20	17	18
Craigavon	40	48	50	59	82
Downpatrick	13	24	7	22	16
Dungannon	180	162	188	200	163
Enniskillen	13	21	18	25	16
Laganside	193	178	105	93	92
Larne	4	0	0	2	1
Limavady	4	3	1	0	0
Lisburn	26	17	39	29	34
Londonderry	27	20	27	19	6
Magherafelt	18	19	1	16	16
Newry	81	96	87	139	153
Newtownards	27	18	23	43	38
Omagh	45	32	18	22	35
RCJ	16	37	35	38	34
Strabane	6	1	8	3	0
Total	923	847	730	871	789

8. The highest number of requests for interpretation services in criminal proceedings was received from **Dungannon Court Office**.

9. A breakdown of the requests received this quarter by language type is illustrated in **Table 3** below.

¹ Banbridge court office is currently not open to the public

Table 3: breakdown of requests in criminal cases by language type					
	Jan - Mar 09	Apr - Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct – Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10
Albanian	0	2	3	1	0
Arabic ²	15	10	7	5	1
Bahandi	2	0	0	0	0
Bengali	3	1	0	1	11
Bulgarian	5	2	1	4	2
Cantonese	20	16	4	11	3
Czech	8	6	7	7	8
Dutch	1	0	0	0	0
Farsi	0	0	0	0	0
French	1	5	9	4	4
Hindi	2	1	0	0	0
Hungarian	5	9	7	7	14
Italian	0	4	6	0	0
Kurdish	0	0	0	0	0
Latvian	22	28	21	28	38
Lithuanian	146	189	246	338	288
Malayalam	0	0	0	0	2
Mandarin	300	168	77	88	53
North Korean	2	2	0	0	0
Philipino	0	0	0	0	0
Polish	207	249	212	219	239
Portuguese	58	30	36	44	47
Punjabi	0	0	0	0	4
Romanian	21	19	30	21	1
Russian	56	63	42	52	27
Serbian	4	0	0	0	2
Slovakian	24	24	11	25	11
Somali	0	6	2	0	4
Sorani Kurdish	6	0	0	0	0
Spanish	6	1	0	1	1
Sudanese	0	1	0	0	0
Tetum	8	8	5	12	24
Thai	0	0	0	1	0
Turkish	1	1	0	1	1
Urdu	0	2	3	0	4
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0
Yoruba ³	0	0	1	1	0
Total	923	847	730	871	789

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

² Includes figures for North African Arabic and Egyptian Arabic

³ A language spoken in Nigeria

Extradition proceedings

11. During the reporting period a total of **11** requests to arrange interpreter services in Extradition Proceedings were received. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **7**.
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
Polish	8
Spanish	1
Lithuanian	1
Russian	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 **16** requests to arrange interpreter services in Family Proceedings. This compares to **11** 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	Craigavon	3	Portuguese (3)
Magistrates Court – Family	Dungannon	3	Latvian (1) Russian (1) Lithuanian (1)
Magistrates Court – Family	Omagh	6	Polish (1) Latvian (2) Lithuanian (3)
Magistrates Court – Family	Old Townhall	3	Turkish (1) Polish (2)
Magistrates Court – Family	Enniskillen	1	Lithuanian

Coroners Court

15. During the reporting period **1** request was made to arrange interpreting services in a Coroners' Court. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was also **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
Dungannon	Malayalam	1

Sign Language Interpreters / Palantypist Requests

17. During the reporting period a total of **10** requests were received to arrange an interpreter for deaf or hearing impaired customers attending court. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was also **12**.
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 tier					
	Jan – Mar 09	Apr - Jun 09	Jul – Sep 09	Oct – Dec 09	Jan – Mar 10
Crown Court	2	0	0	0	0
Magistrates Court	6	2	5	4	4
Family Proceedings	0	0	0	8	6
Civil Proceedings	2	2	6	0	0
High Court	0	0	1	0	0
Total	10	4	12	12	10

Document Translation

19. During the quarter **34** requests were received for document translation. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **51**. Six requests were for translations of documents into multiple languages, and the total number of translations by language was **56**.

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 <i>location</i>	
Location	Number of Requests
Policy and Legislation	1
Coroners Service	12
Business Development Group	14
High Court Criminal & Civil Office	1
Customer Services Group	2
Communications Group	4
Total	34

Table 9: Breakdown of document translations by <i>language</i>	
Language	Number of Translations
Polish	25
Portuguese	4
Latvian	1
German	1
Lithuanian	7
Spanish	1
Cantonese	3
Russian	5
Czech	2
Belarusian	1
Hungarian	1
Mandarin	5
Total	56

Telephone Interpretation

21. A telephone Interpretation facility is available at Laganside, Dungannon, Newry and the RCJ. In the period, **1** call was made from the RCJ line. The call was in Czechoslovakian.

Costs⁴

Criminal Proceedings

22. The NI Court 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 January to March 2010 was **£121,477.32**. This compares to **£103,688.96** which was the amount for the previous quarter.

Civil and Family Proceedings

23. 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.

24. The Northern Ireland Court 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.

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

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

⁴ For the purposes of this report, costs are calculated on the basis of payments made in the period, rather than requests received.

27. The cost for interpreters engaged for family proceedings during this quarter was **£1,909.40**. The cost for the previous quarter was **£1,201.32**.

Coroners Courts

28. The cost for interpreters engaged for coroners' cases during this quarter was **£183.22**.

Extradition Proceedings

29. The total cost of interpreters engaged for extradition proceedings during this period was **£1,276.01**. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **£1,428.66**.

Sign Language Interpreters

30. The cost of sign language interpreters attending criminal cases during this quarter was **£2,086**.
31. The cost of interpreters engaged to assist deaf or hearing impaired customers in civil and family proceedings was **£2,012**. Comparing this with the previous quarter the amount came to **£3,101** while there was no cost attributed to criminal sign language cases.

Document translation

32. The total costs incurred by Court Service for document translation this quarter amounted to **£1,970.52**. The figure for the previous quarter was **£5,184.17**.

Telephone Interpretation

33. The cost incurred for the use of the telephone interpretation facility during this period was **£46.41**. The figure for the previous quarter was **£31.68**.

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Romanian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11	0	2	0	0	27
Serbian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Slovakian	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	11
Somali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Sorani Kurdih	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sudanese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tetum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Thai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
URDU	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yoruba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	21	40	22	2	18	81	16	163	16	91	1	0	33	6	16	152	38	34	34	0	789