

Interpreter and Translation Services

serving the community through the administration of justice

Quarterly Bulletin

Period: January – March 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 January to March 2011.

Summary

2. During this period a total of 983 requests were received for interpreter services in court proceedings. The comparable figure for the same quarter in 2010 was 827, representing an increase of 15.8% (see Figure 1 below).

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

Jan -Mar 10	827
Apr - Jun 10	939
Jul - Sept 10	859
Oct - Dec 10	900
Jan - Mar 11	983

3. During the period the following requests were received; 10 requests for sign language interpretation 51 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	Jan – Mar 10	Apr – Jun 10	July – Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11
Criminal Proceedings					
High Court	34	33	32	27	37
Crown Court	58	80	58	115	109*
Magistrates Court	691	741	708	633	676**
County Court	10	17	8	16	9
Civil Proceedings					
High Court	0	0	0	2	0
County Court	0	0	0	7	3
Extradition Proceedings	11	16	15	37	61
Family Proceedings					
Family Proceedings Court / Family Care Centre	22	50	38	61	78***
Coroners Proceedings					
Coroners Court	1	2	0	1	3
Tribunal Proceedings					
Tribunals	0	0	0	1	2
Enforcement of Judgements Office Proceedings					

EJO	0	0	0	0	1
Total	827	939	859	900	983

*4 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

**2 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

***4 of these requests were for sign language interpretation

Language Interpretation – Criminal Proceedings

- During this quarter, a total of **825** requests were received to arrange foreign language interpreter services for defendants in criminal proceedings.
- Business volumes for the previous 12 months are illustrated in **Figure 2** over.

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

Jan -Mar 10	789
Apr - Jun 10	865
Jul - Sept 10	802
Oct - Dec 10	787
Jan - Mar 11	825

- 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 10	Apr – Jun 10	July- Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11
Antrim	21	18	39	28	24
Armagh	40	82	71	67	53
Ballymena**	22	53	0	0	0
Banbridge*	0	0	0	0	0
Bangor	2	3	1	11	9
Coleraine	18	24	25	23	25
Craigavon	82	52	55	54	81
Downpatrick	16	26	16	22	20
Dungannon	163	137	145	145	137
Enniskillen	16	22	30	34	38
Laganside	92	122	189	197	200
Larne	1	0	1	1	0
Limavady	0	1	0	0	0
Lisburn	34	17	15	30	29
Londonderry	6	6	3	9	13
Magherafelt	16	15	13	24	16
Newry	153	158	109	77	71
Newtownards	38	40	17	9	7
Old Townhall	0	0	0	0	1
Omagh	35	54	35	22	41

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RCJ	34	32	34	28	37
Strabane	0	3	4	9	23
Total	789	865	802	791	825

* Banbridge Courthouse is currently closed

** Ballymena Courthouse is currently closed for refurbishment. It will reopen Monday 4 April 2011

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

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

	Jan – Mar 10	Apr – Jun 10	July – Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11
Albanian	0	0	0	0	3
Arabic*	1	2	4	6	6
Bengali	11	6	6	2	5
Bulgarian	2	10	10	22	8
Cantonese	3	6	5	7	7
Czech	8	13	7	7	1
Dutch	0	0	2	0	1
Estonian	0	0	1	1	0
French	4	2	0	1	7
Hindi	0	0	1	2	0
Hungarian	14	5	16	5	6
Italian	0	1	0	0	0
Kurdish	0	0	2	0	0
Latvian	38	32	24	47	69
Lithuanian	288	315	257	251	253
Malayalam	2	1	1	6	8
Mandarin	53	86	91	92	107
Nigerian	0	0	0	1	0
Polish	239	227	209	195	188
Portuguese	47	45	38	45	46
Punjabi	4	0	0	0	0
Romanian	1	37	62	16	38
Russian	27	20	22	20	16
Serbian	2	2	0	2	4
Slovakian	11	18	20	32	27
Somali	4	6	8	5	3
Spanish	1	2	0	2	0
Tetum	24	21	7	14	15
Thai	0	0	0	0	0
Turkish	1	0	0	2	2
Ukrainian	0	7	5	1	2
Urdu	4	1	4	3	1
Vietnamese	0	0	0	1	2

Yoruba**	0	0	0	1	0
Total	789	865	802	791	825

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 Latvian.**

Extradition proceedings

11. During the reporting period a total of **61** requests to arrange interpreter services in Extradition Proceedings were received. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **37**.

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
Bulgarian	1
Latvian	2
Lithuanian	8
Polish	44
Russian	1
Slovakian	4
Spanish	1

Civil Proceedings

13. During the reporting period there were 78 requests to arrange interpreter services in Family Proceedings. This compares to 61 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	Antrim	1	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Armagh	3	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Cleaver, fulton and Rankin 50, Bedford Street Belfast	1	Turkish
Magistrates Court – Family	Coleraine	5	Polish
Magistrates Court - Family	Craigavon	11	7 Polish, 4 Portuguese
Magistrates Court - Family	Dungannon	8	5 Lithuanian, 2 Russian, 1 Tetum

Magistrates Court - Family	Laganside	17	4 Cantonese, 4 Hungarian, 6 Polish, 3 Romanian
Magistrates Court - Family	Lisburn	5	1 Polish, 4 Lithuanian
Magistrates Court - Family	Londonderry	5	3 Polish, 2 Turkish
Magistrates Court - Family	Magherafelt	1	Russian
Magistrates Court - Family	Old Townhall	12	2 Iranian, 3 Lithuanian, 1 Portuguese, 2 Romanian, 1 Russian, 3 Urdu
Magistrates Court - Family	Omagh	3	2 Lithuanian, 1 Russian
High Court - Family	RCJ	6	4 Russian, 2 Fillipino

Coroners Court

15. During the reporting period **3** requests were made to arrange interpreting services in a Coroners' Court. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **1**.

Sign Language Interpreters / Palantypist Requests

16. 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 **11**.

17. 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 10	Apr – Jun 10	July – Sep 10	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11
Crown Court	0	0	0	2	4
Magistrates Court	4	6	3	0	2
Family Proceedings	6	7	0	1	4
Civil Proceedings	0	0	1	4	0
High Court	0	0	0	4	0
Total	10	13	4	11	10

Document Translation

18. During the quarter **51** requests were received for document translation. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **41**.

19. 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	31
Coroners	11
Policy and Legal	8
RCJ	1
Total	51

Table 9: Breakdown of document translations by language

Language	Number of Translations
English to French	2
English to German	2
English to Italian	1
English to Latvian	1
English To Lithuanian	3
English to Polish	25
English To Portuguese	6
English To Spanish	1
English To Turkish	3
German to English	3
Polish To English	2
Turkish to English	2
Total	51

Telephone Interpretation

20. A telephone Interpretation facility is available at Laganside, Dungannon, Newry and the RCJ. In the period January to March 2011, 2 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

21. 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.

22. The cost of providing interpreters at criminal hearings from January – March 2011 was £148,886.33. This compares to £98,222.26 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 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.

25. 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.

26. There was a cost of £141 incurred for interpreters in civil proceedings during this quarter.

27. The cost for interpreters engaged for family proceedings during this quarter was £11,322.74. The cost for the previous quarter was £5,502.70.

Coroners Courts

28. There was a cost of £358.40 associated with coroners' courts this quarter.

Extradition Proceedings

29. The total cost of interpreters engaged for extradition proceedings during this period was £5,514.11. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was £2,531.19

Sign Language Interpreters

30. There was a cost of £850 attributed to the booking of sign language interpreters attending criminal cases during this quarter.

31. The Cost for interpreters engaged to assist deaf or hearing impaired customers in civil and family proceedings was £896.25. Comparing this with the previous quarter the amount came to £1,386.

Document translation

32. The total costs incurred by NICTS for document translation this quarter amounted to £3,470.58. The figure for the previous quarter was £2,441.85.

Telephone Interpretation

33. The cost incurred for the use of the telephone interpretation facility during this period was £52.38. The figure for the previous quarter was £38.99.

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 January – March 2011

Jan - Mar 11																						
	Antrim	Armagh	Ballymena	Bangor	Coleraine	Craigavon	Downpatrick	Dungannon	Enniskillen	Laganside	Larne	Lima vady	Lisburn	Londonderry	Magherafelt	Newry	Newtownards	Old Townhall	Omagh	RCJ	Strabane	Total
Albanian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Arabic	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Bengali	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Bulgarian	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	8
Cantonese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Czech	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dutch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
French	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	7
Hungarian	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6
Latvian	0	3	0	3	0	3	9	17	1	10	0	0	7	0	4	9	0	0	0	3	0	69
Lithuanian	2	25	0	0	0	41	1	57	2	10	0	0	12	1	1	38	2	1	15	15	13	253
Malayalam	0	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Mandarin	3	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	1	75	0	0	0	1	1	14	1	0	0	4	0	107
Polish	12	11	0	3	22	17	2	21	6	52	0	0	8	8	4	6	0	0	12	3	1	188
Portuguese	0	4	0	0	0	14	0	21	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	46
Romanian	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	9	38
Russian	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	16
Serbian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Slovakian	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	27
Somali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

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Tetum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	15
Turkish	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
URDU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Urankian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vietnamese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Yoruba	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	24	53	0	9	25	81	20	137	21	200	0	0	29	13	16	71	7	1	41	37	23	825