



Northern Ireland

Courts and
Tribunals Service

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Interpreter and Translation Services Quarterly Bulletin

serving the community through the administration of justice

Document Details

Period: October – December 2011

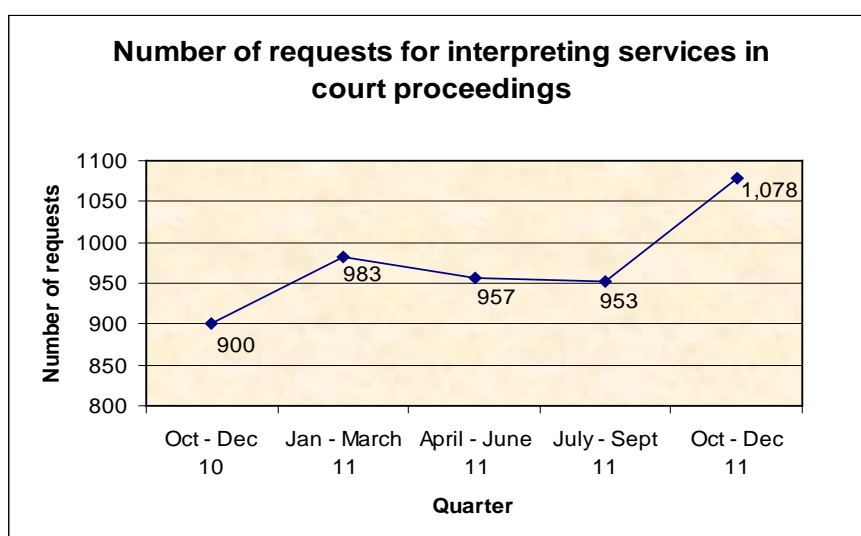
Introduction

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 October to December 2011.

Summary

During this period a total of **1,078** requests were received for interpreter services in court proceedings. The comparable figure for the same quarter in 2010 was 900, representing an increase of % (see **Figure 1** below). There was also a request for a sign language interpreter to attend a meeting between court staff and a potential juror with severe hearing difficulties.

Figure 1



3. During the period the following requests were received; 23 requests for sign language interpretation and 49 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	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – June 11	July – Sept 11	Oct – Dec 11
Criminal Proceedings					
High Court	27	37	32	32	28
Court of Appeal	0	0	6	0	0
Crown Court	115	109	100	64	137
Magistrates Court	633	676	638	748	769*
County Court	16	9	24	9	19
Civil Proceedings					
High Court	2	0	0	0	1**
County Court	7	3	4	1	2***
Magistrates Court	0	0	1	5	0
Extradition Proceedings	37	61	87	48	43

Family Proceedings					
Family Proceedings Court / Family Care Centre	61	78	61	39	70****
Coroners Proceedings					
Coroners Court	1	3	0	1	1
Tribunal Proceedings					
Tribunals	1	2	2	4	6
Enforcement of Judgments Office Proceedings					
EJO	0	1	2	2	2
Total	900	983	957	953	1,078

*This includes 4 requests for a sign language interpreter

**This includes 1 request for a sign language interpreter

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

****This includes 16 requests 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 **949** 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 **Table 2** below.

Table 2: Number of requests for interpreting services in criminal court proceedings

Oct - Dec 10	787
Jan - Mar 11	825
Apr – Jun 11	798
July – Sept 11	850
Oct – Dec 11	949

8. A breakdown of requests by court venue is illustrated in **Table 3** below. Further detail on the breakdown of requests by language type for each venue can be found at **Annex A**.

Table 3: Breakdown of requests by court venue

	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – Jun 11	July – Sept 11	Oct – Dec 11
Antrim	28	24	27	24	42
Armagh	67	53	55	70	86
Ballymena*	0	0	13	29	50
Banbridge**	0	0	0	0	0
Bangor	11	9	6	6	3
Coleraine	23	25	10	11	17
Craigavon	54	81	98	141	171
Downpatrick	22	20	21	20	22
Dungannon	145	137	156	151	152
Enniskillen	34	38	49	58	47
Laganside	197	200	159	172	138
Larne	1	0	2	0	2
Limavady	0	0	1	0	4
Lisburn	30	29	9	14	9
Londonderry	9	13	21	1	6
Magherafelt	24	16	4	1	5
Newry	77	71	74	55	98
Newtownards	9	7	10	21	21
Old Townhall	0	1	2	2	2
Omagh	22	41	26	22	35
RCJ	28	37	39	31	29
Strabane	9	23	16	21	10
Total	791	825	798	850	949

* 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 **Craigavon Courts**.

10. A breakdown of the requests received this quarter by language type is illustrated in **Table 4** below.

Table 4: Breakdown of requests in criminal cases by language type

	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – Jun 11	July – Sept 11	Oct – Dec 11
Albanian	0	3	4	3	1
Arabic	6	6	13	5	8
Bengali	2	5	3	8	7
Bulgarian	22	8	4	5	8
Cantonese	7	7	22	11	4
Czech	7	1	1	6	9
Dutch	0	1	0	0	1
Estonian	1	0	0	0	0
Farsi	0	0	0	0	1
French	1	7	2	0	0
Hindi	2	0	0	1	0
Hungarian	5	6	4	12	6
Italian	0	0	0	0	0
Latvian	47	69	53	51	72
Lithuanian	251	253	260	264	309
Malayalam	6	8	8	7	2
Mandarin	92	107	65	74	72
Nigerian	0	0	0	0	2
Polish	195	188	184	195	212
Portuguese	45	46	53	48	64
Punjabi	0	0	0	0	1
Romanian	16	38	36	68	46
Russian	20	16	31	33	33
Serbian	2	4	0	0	0
Slovakian	32	27	28	24	23
Somali	5	3	0	0	1
Sorani Kurdish	0	0	3	1	0
Spanish	2	0	2	6	9
Sudanese	0	0	1	0	0
Tagalog	0	0	2	0	0
Tetum	14	15	10	10	15
Thai	0	0	0	0	3
Turkish	2	2	3	5	5
Ukrainian	1	2	4	0	0
Urdu	3	1	1	13	35
Vietnamese	1	2	1	0	0
Yoruba	2	0	0	0	0
Total	791	825	798	850	949

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

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 **23** requests were received to arrange a sign language interpreter. This includes a meeting between court service staff and a potential juror with severe hearing difficulties. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **10**.

15. A breakdown of requests by court tier is set out in **Table 5** below.

Table 5: Breakdown of requests for Sign Language Interpreters by court tier

	Oct – Dec 10	Jan – Mar 11	Apr – Jun 11	July – Sept 11	Oct – Dec 11
Crown Court	2	4	0	0	0
Magistrates Court	0	2	2	3	4
Family Proceedings	1	4	3	4	16
Civil Proceedings	4	0	3	1	1
High Court	4	0	0	0	1
Tribunals	0	0	0	1	0
Enforcement of Judgments Office	0	0	1	1	0
Total	11	10	9	10	22

Extradition proceedings

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

17. During the reporting period a total of **43** requests were received to arrange a foreign language interpreter in Extradition Proceedings. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **48**.

18. A breakdown of requests by language type is set out in **Table 6** over.

Table 6: Breakdown of requests by language type for extradition proceedings

Language	No. of requests
Arabic	1
Czechoslovakian	3
Lithuanian	8
Polish	29
Slovakian	1
Spanish	1
Total	43

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 was **1** request for foreign language interpreters to attend civil proceedings comparing this with **5** requests for the previous quarter.

Family Proceedings

23. There were **54** requests to arrange foreign language interpreter services in Family Proceedings. This compares to **35** for the previous quarter. Details of the languages and locations are contained in **Table 7** over.

Table 7: Breakdown of requests in Family Proceedings by court type / venue

Court Type	Location	No. of requests	Language
High Court – Family	RCJ	11	1 x Arabic, 6 x Latvian, 2 x Lithuanian, 2 x Portuguese
County Court – Family	Enniskillen	1	Lithuanian
County Court – Family	Omagh	3	1 x Lithuanian, 1 x Russian, 1 x Spanish
County Court – Family	Laganside	3	Polish
County Court – Family	Craigavon	2	Polish
County Court – Family	Dungannon	3	2 x Russian, 1 x Portuguese
Magistrates Court – Family	Omagh	3	1 x Lithuanian, 1 x Polish, 1 x Spanish
Magistrates Court – Family	Craigavon	8	5 x Lithuanian, 3 x Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Lisburn	7	5 x Lithuanian, 2 x Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Dungannon	1	Lithuanian
Magistrates Court – Family	Coleraine	2	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Londonderry	2	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Newtownards	5	3 x Polish, 2 x Russian
Magistrates Court – Family	Strabane	1	Polish
Magistrates Court – Family	Old Townhall	2	Slovakian

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 **1 Polish** request was made to arrange an interpreter to attend a Coroners' Court.

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 **6** requests (Turkish, Arabic, Polish, Portuguese) for interpreters to attend a hearing for a CICAP (Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel) tribunal during this quarter.

Enforcement of Judgments 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 was **1** Polish and **1** Lithuanian request for an interpreter to attend a hearing/interview on behalf of the EJO 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 **49** requests were received for document translation. The comparable figure for the previous quarter was **53**.

33. 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
Judicial Services Group	22
Business Development Group	14
Coroners	10
Policy and Legal	3
Total	49

Table 9: Breakdown of document translations by language

Language	Number of Translations
Arabic	2
Hungarian	5
Somali	2
Traditional Chinese	2
Simplified Chinese	2
Lithuanian	3
Polish	19
Portuguese	2
Slovak	2
Czech	1
Dutch	1
Finnish	1
Latvian	2
Romanian	1

Russian	2
Italian	1
Spanish	1
Total	49

Telephone Interpretation

34. All courthouses now have access to a telephone interpretation facility provided by thebigword. This service was also extended to the Coroners Office, all Tribunal venues and the Enforcement of Judgments Office.

35. In the period October to December 2011, 2 Portuguese calls were made in Dungannon and 1 Albanian call in Old Townhall.

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 October to December 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 bulletins produced before April 2011 costs were presented as invoices processed within the quarter therefore no direct comparison between previous quarters prior to April 2011 can be made.

	April – June 11	July - Sept 11	Oct – Dec 11
Criminal Proceedings	£123,367.79	£131,765.35	£142,182.85
Civil Proceedings	£8,641.04	£246.10*	£1376.81
Family Proceedings	£8,034.55	£4,486.57	£10,867.81
Coroners Courts	Nil	£173.84	£540.00
Extradition Proceedings	£5,459.16	£3,450.20	£2,474.00
Sign Language Interpreters:			
Criminal Cases	£518.00	£499.50	£819.00
Civil / Family Proceedings	£2,431.50	£1,252.90	£175.00
Enforcement of Judgements Office	£175.00	£306.00	£287.96
Tribunal Proceedings	£138.74	£568.00	£305.32
Document Translation	£1,745.26	£2,603.64	£2407.97
Telephone	£11.06	£48.98	£157.33

NORTHERN IRELAND COURTS AND TRIBUNALS SERVICE

Interpretation			
Total	£150,522.10	£144,908.88	£161,594.05

* On investigation it appears that an amount of £240 was accrued in June incorrectly as this invoice had actually been posted onto the system in May. Therefore last quarter's interpreters' figures were over stated by £240. This has led to the negative figure in this quarter's civil proceedings as this is correcting the overstatement in the previous quarter

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 Oct - Dec 2011

	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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Arabic	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Bengali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
Bulgarian	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Cantonese	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Czech	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Dutch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Farsi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
French	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hindi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungarian	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Italian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Korean	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Latvian	0	23	0	1	3	12	11	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	2	0	1	0	0	0	72
Lithuanian	6	34	5	0	3	92	2	66	21	10	0	0	1	2	0	38	10	0	11	8	0	0	309
Malayalam	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Mandarin	5	2	2	1	6	5	2	0	0	26	1	0	3	0	0	15	3	0	0	7	0	0	72
Nigerian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Polish	13	14	34	0	7	22	1	29	14	42	0	0	4	2	5	9	0	0	12	4	0	0	212
Portuguese	7	1	0	0	0	16	1	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	0	0	64
Punjabi	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Roma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Romanian	1	1	4	0	2	12	0	2	2	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	1	9	0	46
Russian	0	2	1	0	0	5	0	5	5	13	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	33
Serbian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Slovakian	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	8	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	23
Somali	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sorani Kurdish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spanish	0	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Sudanese	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tagalog	0	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	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	15
Thai	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Turkish	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Ukranian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urdu	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	20	4	0	0	1	0	35
Vietnamese	0	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	0
Total	42	86	50	3	17	171	22	152	47	138	2	4	9	6	5	98	21	2	35	29	10	949

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