

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



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Dear Mr McArthur

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION: S5W-05834

USE OF INTERPRETERS

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQ indicated that it related to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) corporate body. I am now writing in response to the matters raised.

S5W-05834 asked:

how many interpreters the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service employed in each year since 2007-08, broken down by the language interpreted.

The SCTS does not directly employ interpreters. Instead, it is a partner to the Scottish Government's Framework Contract for Interpreting, Translation and Transcription Services. The SCTS requests the services of interpreters, when required, through this contract. The right to interpretation and translation for those who do not speak or understand the language of the proceedings is enshrined in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights to ensure the right to a fair trial.

The SCTS does not routinely collate statistics on the deployment of interpreters broken down by language interpreted. However, we are able to provide you with data from the current interpretation service providers on instances where an interpreter was arranged to be present for proceedings under the contract. Annexes A to C to this letter provide this information, with the figures broken down by language. This information is only available for the calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Please note that each figure represents an individual occasion on which an interpreter was required to attend court. A single court case requiring an interpreter to be present over several days will therefore feature more than once in the figures as will cases where the relevant hearing did not in fact proceed on that day.

I hope that this information is helpful. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service website.

Yours sincerely



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Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (framework contract)
Number of instances in which an interpreter was required to attend court in 2014
broken down by language

Ado	2	Latvian	267
Afrikaans	5	Lingala	28
Albanian	76	Lithuanian	806
Amharic	4	Malayalam	9
Arabic	194	Maltese	8
Armenian	2	Mandarin	281
Asante	1	Mirpuri	11
Azeri	1	Mongolian	1
Bajuni	5	Ndebele	1
Bengali	40	Nepalese	54
Bengali Sylheti	1	Norwegian	3
Berber	5	Pashto	5
Bulgarian	90	Polish	4807
Cantonese	62	Portuguese	114
Chichewa	4	Punjabi	278
Croatian	12	Pushto	26
Czech	110	Romanian	1125
Dari	9	Russian	623
Dutch	14	Serbian	1
Edo	1	Serbo-Croat	3
Estonian	7	Sinhalese	5
Farsi	131	Slovak	195
Finnish	1	Somali	37
French	110	Spanish	104
German	43	Swahili	11
Greek	20	Tagalog	10
Hebrew	1	Tamil	29
Hindi	30	Thai	15
Hungarian	112	Tigrinya	5
Igbo	5	Turkish	120
Indonesian	1	Twi	5
Italian	56	Urdu	364
Japanese	2	Uzbek	2
Kalanga	1	Vietnamese	42
Korean	9	Wolof	12
Kurdish	176	Yoruba	12
Kurdish Sorani	40	Grand Total	10802

The count by language may include more than one attendance in the same case e.g. where a case was heard over multiple days, or adjourned to another diet.

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (framework contract)
Number of instances in which an interpreter was required to attend court in 2015
broken down by language

Ado	2	Mandinka	1
Afrikaans	1	Mirpuri	4
Albanian	56	Nepalese	11
Amharic	8	Norwegian	1
Arabic	212	Oromo	3
Bengali	51	Pashto	5
Bengali Sylheti	2	Polish	5737
Bulgarian	123	Portuguese	135
Cantonese	78	Punjabi	315
Croatian	6	Pushto	36
Czech	88	Romanian	1461
Danish	2	Russian	594
Dari	5	Shona	4
Dutch	7	Sinhalese	9
Estonian	8	Slovak	261
Ewe	1	Somali	54
Farsi	106	Spanish	127
Filipino	3	Sudanese	3
French	87	Swahili	34
German	28	Swedish	1
Greek	17	Tagalog	9
Hindi	43	Tamil	28
Hungarian	108	Thai	19
Italian	82	Tigrinya	10
Japanese	2	Turkish	183
Kurdish	171	Ukrainian	3
Kurdish Sorani	34	Urdu	419
Latvian	291	Vietnamese	61
Lingala	13	Wolof	8
Lithuanian	674	Yoruba	3
Malayalam	22	Grand Total	12169
Mandarin	299		

The count by language may include more than one attendance in the same case e.g. where a case was heard over multiple days, or adjourned to another diet.

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (framework contract)
Number of instances in which an interpreter was required to attend court in 2016
broken down by language

Albanian	60	Lithuanian	655
Algerian	9	Malay	1
Amharic	24	Malayalam	10
Arabic	369	Mandarin	301
Bengali	59	Mandinka	1
Bengali Sylheti	1	Ndebele	1
Bosnian	4	Nepalese	13
Bulgarian	153	Oromo	3
Cantonese	98	Pashto	5
Croatian	4	Polish	5501
Czech	110	Portuguese	84
Danish	4	Punjabi	309
Dari	6	Pushto	21
Dari (Afghani)	1	Romanian	1529
Dutch	12	Russian	699
Edo	4	Shona	1
Estonian	5	Sinhalese	9
Ewe	7	Slovak	226
Farsi	135	Slovene	1
Filipino	8	Somali	43
French	157	Spanish	96
Georgian	1	Swahili	13
German	29	Swedish	4
Greek	7	Tagalog	3
Hindi	18	Tamil	24
Hungarian	119	Thai	23
Igbo	4	Tigrinya	6
Italian	89	Turkish	159
Japanese	10	Twi	1
Korean	7	Ukrainian	11
Kurdish	202	Urdu	395
Kurdish Kermanji	1	Vietnamese	81
Kurdish Sorani	41	Wolof	1
Latvian	248	Yoruba	6
Lingala	4	Grand Total	12246

The count by language may include more than one attendance in the same case e.g. where a case was heard over multiple days, or adjourned to another diet.