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Mr McCullagh

c/o request-147957-0c38b3e0@whatdotheyknow.com

Our Reference: FOI 80582

4 February 2013

Dear Mr McCullagh,

Freedom of Information Request

Thank you for your e-mail of 30 January 2013, in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

“Please provide the following information for the period September 24th to September 29th 2012 inclusive:

- (1) The number of interpreter claim forms submitted to The Payments & Accounts Department, Lowestoft Magistrates' Court, Old Nelson St, Lowestoft [e.g 90 claims]**
- (2) The number of individual court hearings for which interpreters were provided in the answer to question (1). NB Many claim forms will relate to more than one hearing, all of which will be entered on the form. [e.g. 101 cases]**
- (3) The breakdown by language of the figures arrived at in the answer to questions (1) and (2). NB the language is always entered on the claim form [e.g. Tamil 4 claims; 5 hearings]**
- (4) The monetary value of (1) [e.g. £13,000]**
- (5) The breakdown by court name of the figures arrived at in answer to questions(1) and (3)**
- (6) The breakdown per language of monies spent on fees and expenses [e.g Dutch £200 fees, £100 expenses].**
- (7) The proportion of claims for which agencies were used to source the interpreter [e.g. agencies 4.5% of claims]**
- (8) The proportion of claims relating to cases cancelled in advance [e.g cancellations 0.3% of claims].**

Please note that I am aware that a common automated spreadsheet is used for all cases which should make statistic-gathering straightforward and speedy.”

Your request has been passed to me because I have responsibility for answering requests relating to the HMCTS Interpretation Project.

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Your request is being handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Under the Act, the department is required to provide you with a response within 20 working days. I will write to you in response to your request for information by 27 February 2013.

The Freedom of Information Act includes a number of exemptions to releasing information. Some of these are qualified exemptions which require us to consider whether it is in the public interest to disclose or withhold the information. In these circumstances we may need more time to consider your request, and if this is the case I will write to you by the date above to inform you of when you can expect to receive a response.

If you have any queries regarding this request please do not hesitate to contact me, quoting ref: FOI 80582 in all future correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Haig
Her Majesty's Courts & Tribunals Service

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