

## 210521 HMCTS answers questions on language services provision

Further questions from Apsana Begum, MP, regarding language services provision in the Ministry of Justice were asked on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Questions tabled on 12 May 2021

These were answered on 21 May 2021 by Chris Philp, who is the Conservative MP. He currently holds the Government post of Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Home Office).

The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) is committed to ensuring the justice system is supported by a suite of high- quality language service contracts, that meet the needs of all those who require interpreters.

The MOJ does not directly employ interpreters. The MOJ commissions the services of suitably qualified interpreters through its contracted service providers, thebigword and Clarion Interpreting.

All interpreters regardless of qualifications are required to complete an induction programme. This is not an accredited piece of learning. It was created by the MOJ and The International School of Linguists (ISL) and is hosted by ISL for thebigword to meet the requirements of the MOJ.

The hours of experience required varies according to the complexity and type of language. This information is set out and can be found in the contract via the following link

[https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/975cb99e-fec6-430f-8f31-fd532a907137?p=@=UFQxbIRRP0=NjJNT08\(opens in a new tab\)](https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/Notice/975cb99e-fec6-430f-8f31-fd532a907137?p=@=UFQxbIRRP0=NjJNT08(opens in a new tab))

A table showing the hours of experience required by qualification can be found below:

Qualifications	Experience required	Complexity level
Enrolled on a Level 1, two-to-four week, course	100 hours of Interpretation Services in the relevant language	Standard
Level 1 public service interpreting (PSI) qualified	No minimum hours required	Standard
Level 2 PSI qualified	No minimum hours required	Standard
Level 3 PSI qualified	No minimum hours required	Standard
Level 4 PSI qualified	No minimum hours required	Standard
Those without any form of public service qualification but have degree level qualifications in other disciplines such as philology and linguistics	100 hours of Interpretation Services in the relevant language	Complex
Level 6 PSI qualified	No minimum hours required	Complex / Complex Written (DPSI Health & Lov Govt although Level 6, are only authorised for Complex; DPSI Law, DPI (Diploma in Police

Interpreting) & DCI (Diploma in Community  
Interpreting ISL) are Complex Written)

Of the 59 language professionals who failed spot checks, three of the language professionals had two checks for different languages, so we have provided 62 results. Below is a table which breaks down the level of qualification the language professionals had to enable them to appear on the register prior to the spot checks.

Qualification Level	Number of language professionals
Level 3	2
Level 6	39
Level 7	5
Basic interpreting, rare language or Partial qualification	16