

FOI302 Response

Request

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding the following:

1. The spending per financial year on translation services (written) and interpreting services (oral) for your organisation over each of the following 5 financial years: 2015/2016, 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, as well as the languages involved. Please do not include data regarding the spending on services for the deaf and blind (such as sign language interpreting or Braille).

2. The total budget for your organisation for each of the 5 financial years the information above is provided on, for all expenses not just for translation and interpreting services, i.e. to include all expenses such as salaries, utilities, equipment, consumables etc., with only the total figure given, no breakdown necessary. For example, I assume the total budget would be a few dozen or hundred million pounds per financial year. This is so that I can calculate the translation and interpreting spending as a percentage of the organisation's total budget (which I suspect would be around or under 0.1%). The data will be compiled, analysed and published on <https://inboxtranslation.com>

The above data and subsequent analysis will be part of my research and published on the above website. This means it would be available for free to anyone, so not used commercially. Can you please confirm this is OK from a copyright point of view?

I would appreciate it if you could fill in and return the attached Excel document with the information requested (only the first tab, named Data). The second tab, named Example, is just an example of what I am looking for in terms of the information provided.

Response

Background information:

The Trust is currently using Word 360 Interpreting and Translation service to fulfil all Trust wide interpreting and translation requests, such as face to face, telephone, and video interpreting.

Please note that for the speciality Deaf Service, the Trust is currently using B.I.D British Sign Language Interpreting service to fulfil all interpreting and translation requests within this service area.

The Trust is unable to complete the attached spreadsheet, this is because we do not capture the information in the level of detail requested.

Obtaining the spend for translation and interpretation services broken down by oral and written as well as type of languages which translation services were acquired for, will require exhaustive and manual measures that exceeds the appropriate threshold of carrying out this task.

The Trust therefore rely on the exemption Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to refuse this part of your request.

However, the Trust can provide an overall spend on translation and interpreting services for each of the stated financial year (starting 1st April and ending 31st March), please see table below.

Financial Year	Spend
2019-2020	£583,305.79
2018-2019	£536,945.90
2017-2018	£438,652.23
2016-2017	£386,103.66
2015-2016	£499,014

In regard to the total budget for expenses please refer to the Trust's Annual Reports & Accounts on the following Link:<https://www.bsmhft.nhs.uk/about-us/trust-documents/annual-report/>.

Please note that the requested data is under the Financial Performance section of the Annual Reports & Accounts.