

By email: XXXXXXXXXX

Our Ref: P0008193

3 November 2011

Dear XXXXXXXX,

FOI Request: F0008193 – Welsh Language Translations

Thank you for your information request of 6 October 2011. You requested the following information:

“How much did your organisation spend in its most recent accounting year for which figures are available on:

- a) translating written material between English and Welsh*
- b) providing spoken translation facilities between English and Welsh at meetings and other events.*

Has your organisation ever carried out an assessment of the extent to which clients/ members of the public use the Welsh version of written material you produce and/or benefit from spoken translation facilities? If so, I would be very grateful if you could provide me with a copy of any relevant documents.”

Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to confirm that the Department has now completed its search for the information and the majority of this is available as below.

In accordance with the Welsh Language Act 1993 you will find the Department's Welsh Language Scheme on the website and those of the agencies where they are different from the central department (www.dft.gov.uk). The following information has been prepared from a range of sources across the Department and our Executive Agencies. The level of detail readily accessible varies depending on the scale of translations work and the attributes captured within local business records.

In answer to questions (a) and (b), the table below provides the identifiable cost of Welsh translations for the central department and its seven executive agencies for activity taking place during the last financial year, 2010/11. Where possible, in-house resource is used and the Welsh Assembly provides translation services at no cost in relation to THINK! road safety campaign materials.

| Organisation | Written material expenditure | Spoken translation expenditure |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Department for Transport | £703 | nil |
| DSA | £695 - see below (i) | |
| DVLA | See below (ii) | See below (ii) |
| GCDA | nil | nil |
| HA | nil | nil |
| MCA | £1,238.10 | £8,151.31 |
| VCA | nil | nil |
| VOSA | £1,006.21 | nil |

We have estimated that the cost of complying with your request in relation to DSA and DVLA data would exceed £600. Section 12 of the Act (the full text of which is attached) does not oblige the Department to comply with requests that exceed this limit, and we are therefore refusing your request in part.

- (i) In the 2010/11 financial year, DSA spent £695 on translation services between English and Welsh. The accounting system records written translation and spoken translation services under one code. To split the translation services would involve checking invoices and if these did not contain the information, to contact individual business areas. This information is therefore exempt under section 12 as to determine whether the information is held, locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed the appropriate limit.
- (ii) DVLA is unable to provide the level of detail requested in order to isolate the costs directly associated with translation and interpretation into Welsh as this information is not captured separately on their accounting systems - all translations to all languages are captured under one code. The information requested therefore may or may not exist. To determine whether it does and to attempt to isolate the costs would involve checking individual invoices and if these did not contain the information, to contact individual business areas. This information is therefore exempt under section 12 as to determine whether the information is held, locate, retrieve and extract this information would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

No assessment has been made by the Department or its Agencies in relation to the extent to which people have used the Welsh version of our publications or the extent to which people benefit from spoken translation facilities.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the Freedom of Information Act, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. A copy of this response and the information provided may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

If you are unhappy with the way the Department has handled your request or with the decisions made in relation to your request you may complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter by writing to the Department's Information Rights Unit at:

Zone D/04
Ashdown House
Sedlescombe Road North
Hastings
East Sussex TN37 7GA
E-mail: FOI-Advice-Team-DFT@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Please see attached details of DfT's complaints procedure and your right to complain to the Information Commissioner.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

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Section 12 exemption:

Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

(2) Subsection (1) does not exempt the public authority from its obligation to comply with paragraph (a) of section 1(1) unless the estimated cost of complying with that paragraph alone would exceed the appropriate limit.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) “the appropriate limit” means such amount as may be prescribed, and different amounts may be prescribed in relation to different cases.

(4) The Secretary of State may by regulations provide that, in such circumstances as may be prescribed, where two or more requests for information are made to a public authority—

(a) by one person, or

(b) by different persons who appear to the public authority to be acting in concert or in pursuance of a campaign,

the estimated cost of complying with any of the requests is to be taken to be the estimated total cost of complying with all of them.

(5) The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for the purposes of this section as to the costs to be estimated and as to the manner in which they are to be estimated.

Your right to complain to DfT/Agency and the Information Commissioner

You have the right to complain within two calendar months of the date of this letter about the way in which your request for information was handled and/or about the decision not to disclose all or part of the information requested. In addition a complaint can be made that DfT has not complied with its FOI publication scheme.

Your complaint will be acknowledged and you will be advised of a target date by which to expect a response. Initially your complaint will be re-considered by the official who dealt with your request for information. If, after careful consideration, that official decides that his/her decision was correct, your complaint will automatically be referred to a senior independent official who will conduct a further review. You will be advised of the outcome of your complaint and if a decision is taken to disclose information originally withheld this will be done as soon as possible.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF