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Dear Mr Baker

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS S3W-35315 AND S3W-35318 – INTERPRETERS

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQs indicated that they related to operational matters being the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service corporate body. I am now writing to you regarding the matters you have raised.

The first PQ **S3W-35315** is a follow up to S3W-30561 and asks*how many interpretation assignments have been undertaken by the Scottish Court Service in each month of 2010, broken down by interpreters (a) with and (b) without a Diploma in Public Service Interpreting.*

The figures are set out in the following table. Please note that some figures for May 2010 may still be forthcoming.

2010	Assignments	DPSI	Non DPSI
January	729	174	555
February	817	188	629
March	926	191	735
April	818	169	649
May	607	138	469

The figure in the final column of the table indicates the number of interpreters who attended court in that month who did not hold the DPSI qualification but who hold equivalent qualifications or experience in the requested language which the court has considered satisfactory for the conduct of the court proceedings.

The second PQ **S3W-35318** asks ...*since the implementation of the framework contract for the provision of interpreting, translation and transcription services, on how many occasions courts have advised the Scottish Court Service about a case in which an aspect of the performance of the interpretation service has had an effect on*

proceedings, broken down by month, and how this compares with the situation prior to the introduction of the framework contract.

The Scottish Court Service introduced a process in January 2010 whereby the courts highlight where the performance of the interpretation service had had an effect on the proceedings and to date we have received the following numbers of reports:-

2010

January - 1

February - 4

March - 2

April - 1

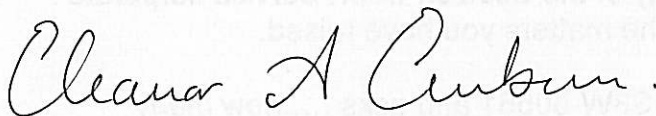
May - 1

June - 5

Prior to the new contract framework there were no formal arrangements for the provision of interpretation services for accused persons. Services were arranged by the courts directly with various agencies across the country. No information is held centrally which would enable a comparison with the approach taken previously.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Court Service website.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive

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Month	Number of reports
January	1
February	4
March	2
April	1
May	1
June	5