



FOI REF:	17238
RESPONSE SENT:	6 June 2026

Request

I am seeking data from you regarding spending on foreign translation services linked to either local or devolved elections. Can you please provide me with the following datapoints please:

1. How many languages do you currently translate into beyond English for election services and communications around elections, either local or devolved?
2. How many of these languages are regarded as domestic to the British Isles (i.e. Welsh, Irish, Scottish Gaelic etc)?
3. Which overseas languages do you translate into excluding languages indigenous to the United Kingdom?
4. In terms of translations, what is the spend or estimated spend on overseas languages linked to local or devolved election material, for the May 2026 local or devolved elections? This spending may have taken place across two financial years (2025/26 and 2026/27). I am looking for all translation expenditure tied to this electoral event regardless as to which financial year it took place.
5. Can you offer a segmented breakdown on the spend per overseas language for the same period/event?
6. Can you offer a segmented breakdown on how that money is spent for the same period/event? By way of example, polling station support, targeted outreach to specific communities, digital communications etc.
7. What do you understand your legal obligations to be in terms of translating election materials into overseas languages?

Response

- We do not translate any of our documents or notices into foreign languages , therefore, the answer to your questions 1 – 6 is Nil.
- Question 7 – Section 199B of the RPA 1983 refers to the Returning Officer’s legal obligations to translate election materials into overseas languages.

