

**Comparison of rates of pay to court interpreters
Applied Language Solutions (ALS) and National Agreement (NA)**

There are very few of us who can afford to work full-time as a public service interpreter with the possibility of only earning £13.32 in a day (before tax).

The calculations below show that ALS does not even guarantee a rate equal to the minimum wage and at best the gross hourly rate for half a day at court has been reduced by 57.85%.

Sample comparison

Interpreter travelling from NW London to Westminster Magistrates' Court
(Half a day at Court, Monday – Friday rates)

Distance: 29 miles return Travel time: 2 hrs	ALS	ALS	ALS	NA rates 3 hrs min
Total hours (attendance + travel time)	3	4	5	5
	10am-11am	10am-12am	10am-1pm	10am-1pm
Attendance fee:	£20.00	£40.00	£60.00	£85.00
Travel time: 2 hrs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£30.00
Mileage: ALS 40ppm after first 20m = 9 miles NA 25ppm = 29 miles	£3.60	£3.60	£3.60	£7.25
Parking expenses				£9.00
Public transport				
Total payment	£23.60	£43.60	£63.60	£131.25
Parking (2 hrs minimum) [1]	-£5.00	-£5.00	-£9.00	-£9.00
Fuel cost [2]	-£5.28	-£5.28	-£5.28	-£5.28
Total travel expenses	-£10.28	-£10.28	-£14.28	-£14.28
Income net of travel expenses	£13.32	£33.32	£49.32	£116.97
Gross income / hour *	£4.44	£8.33	£9.86	£23.39

***Gross hourly rates for self-employed interpreters liable to pay Income Tax and National Insurance, who have no pension, holiday or sick pay and no job security.**

[1] Nearby car park: Bell St. <http://www.lrparking.com/tariffs>

[2] Fuel calculator: <http://www.fuel-economy.co.uk/calc.shtml>

Approx. Journey Cost on 22/9/12: £5.28 (29 miles, estimated MPG 35, Fuel Cost: 140.15 pence/Litre)

- [According to the AA](#), the cost of running a petrol car costing up to £14,000 is 45.91p per mile; for petrol cars costing between £14,000 and £17,000 this rises to 59.83p (assumed annual mileage of 10,000) (2012 figures).

1. An ALS interpreter classified under tier 2, on an assignment for the minimum period of an hour, travel time within the 2 hour limit and travelling 29 miles return would be paid £23.60, and after deduction of £10.28 expenses is left with £13.32. Therefore, for the 3 hours spent on the assignment, the hourly rate of pay works out at **£4.44** per hour (before tax). In the event of accepting the booking on-line, a £5 supplement becomes payable in which case the hourly rate would be **£6.11** (before tax).

2. The National Minimum Wage (NMW) is £6.08. The NMW is for those on 'low pay'.

3. This indicates that public service interpreting is no longer considered a skilled profession by the MoJ, but has been reduced to become part of the low-paying industries.

Payments to interpreters under the National Agreement

Prior to the introduction of the Ministry of Justice's Framework Agreement and the outsourcing to ALS court interpreters were paid in accordance with the standardised fees and terms and

conditions set by the National Agreement on Arrangements for the use of interpreters within the CJS (as revised in 2007)

Minimum attendance fee: £85 for 3 hours attendance (excluding travelling time)
Additional attendance: £7.50 per quarter hour or part thereof after the first 3 hours
Travel time: £3.75 per quarter hour or part thereof
Mileage: 25 pence per mile
Parking expenses: reimbursed
Public transport expenses: reimbursed

A cancellation fee equal to the minimum attendance fee was payable if the booking was cancelled after 10.00 am on the working day before it was due and no replacement was offered.

Payments to interpreters under the Framework Agreement

Applied Language Solutions assigns foreign language interpreters in three tiers and pays associated (supposedly) non-negotiable payment rates of £16, £20 and £22.

Court interpreting is classified as **Tier two**:

Minimum attendance fee: £20 for 1 hour attendance
Additional attendance: not specified (£20 per hour pro-rata per minute?)
Travel time: Interpreters are not paid for travel time if total return journey time is less than two hours. £10 per hour is paid if total journey time exceeds one hour each way.
Mileage: 40 pence per mile for mileage in excess of 10 miles travelled each way
Parking expenses: ALS does not cover the cost of car parking charges.
Public transport: ALS does not reimburse the cost of train or bus tickets or any other mode of transport, calculating the journey as if the trip had been made by car.
£5 supplement for every booking accepted through any of the automation methods

No cancellation fee.