

Lost in Translation: luxury, necessity, or a right ?

- A Civil Service Permanent Secretary was described as an 'eternal typist' by a foreign delegate.
- The James Bond film Dr No, was first translated in Japan as : 'We don't need a Doctor'.
- In Copenhagen an Airline office notice read: We take your bags and send them in all directions
- GM initially marketed their Nova car in South America without realising locally "no va" meant "won't go"
- Andras Toma, originally a p.o.w. from Hungary, languished in a Russian institution for 50 years due to language barriers. Discovered accidentally by a visiting linguist, he finally returned home, Summer 2000.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prosecution: Without Prejudice? A Thematic Inspection of Police Race Relations in Scotland 2001.
- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, Crown Office, Scotland Lord Advocate's Guidelines, May 2001, consolidated January 2002.
- 'A political agenda for multilingualism. Multilingualism was created as a separate portfolio in January 2007 to reflect its political dimension in the EU given its importance for initial education, lifelong learning, economic competitiveness, employment, justice, liberty and security.'
- '...at the moment in the EU there is an insufficient number of qualified legal interpreters and translators. There are also huge differences in the provision of legal interpreting and translation, and standards of training and qualifications in the Member States differ greatly'Leonard Orban European Commissioner responsible for Multilingualism, Finland May 2008

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any language any subject anytime



Serving the whole of Scotland and Beyond
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Who is Alpha?

Managing Director and experienced linguist Masud M Khan, formed Alpha in 1997 which became a limited company in 2000. Its head office is in Edinburgh, along with sub-offices providing services throughout Scotland, the UK, Europe and beyond.

What does Alpha do?

Alpha provides a comprehensive and diverse range of linguistic services in over 60 languages, including all of the most commonly used community languages, to both the private and public sector.

Why use Alpha?

Alpha has a team of full time staff including DPSi qualified linguists, complemented by trained and experienced freelance linguists, contracted staff and consultants. Alpha operates Disclosure Scotland, is a member of the ITI and uses the very latest, custom – built IT systems.

Alpha is the leading criminal justice and public sector specialist in Scotland with over 10 years experience. Our reputation as highly professional translating and interpreting agency continues to grow thanks to inward investment and innovation. This includes offering 24/7,365 days a year emergency service. The use of this service has now extended to a number of Police Forces and other clients requiring access to interpreting facilities outside of normal business hours. Thorough proof reading is an inherent part of all translation work and off-shore project checks are part of quality control tools.

Alpha understands and operates within public sector price constraints, has professional indemnity insurance of £1m and is the only translating and interpreting organisation to offer such a comprehensive service throughout Scotland. Alpha also offers transcription and voice over services and is now adding telephone interpreting to its portfolio. Reflective of its commitment to excellence Alpha continues to enjoy healthy growth in its client portfolio.

Recent successful examples of key clients and services are:

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Interpreting:</i> | Crown Office P/F Service | (tender won 2007) |
| <i>Transcription:</i> | The Scottish Parliament | (tender won 2007) |
| <i>24/7 service:</i> | Scottish Police Forces | (various tenders) |
| <i>Translation:</i> | The London Olympics | (tender won 2008) |

What do Alpha's clients think?

‘It is quite clear to me that the co-operation and support of Alpha played a vital part in managing G8 protest, events and custodies safely and successfully’: **Ian Dickson, Assistant Chief Constable, L&B Police, August 2005**

‘Alpha has established itself as the major provider of interpretation services to the justice sector in Scotland’: **David Shand, Sheriff Clerk Edinburgh and Peebles; Business Manager for Lothian and Borders August 2007**

‘They have always provided a cost effective and well recognised service’: **Mohammed Akram JP, President, Council of British Pakistanis (Scotland) September 2007**

Alpha's clients include:

Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service
Scottish Courts Service
Scottish Police Forces (All 8)
Law Society of Scotland
London Olympics 2012
BBC Scotland
Lothian NHS Trust
Borders NHS Trust
The Daily Record
Health Education Board Scotland
Glasgow City Council
The Highland Council
Scottish Borders Council
The Moray Council
Islington Council
Scottish Women's Aid
Edinburgh Film Festival
Private Businesses
and the NGO Sector

