



Kaukab Stewart
Convener
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil
Justice Committee

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Dear Kaukab

Petition PE1787 on The Use of Makaton Sign Language in the Legal System

I refer to your recent letter of 2nd June 2023 seeking details of any information that Police Scotland holds in relation to the number of requests received for the provision of Makaton interpreters, over the last 18 months.

Police Scotland's translation and interpreting requests are currently facilitated by 4 service providers across Scotland; however, none of these supply Makaton interpreters as a standard option, as Makaton signs differ from those of the recognised British Sign Language.

Whilst Makaton is not a standard provision, all providers have given assurance that, should such an interpreter be required, they would make every effort to source that support.

To date, none of our service providers have had any requests for Makaton interpreting.

It may be of interest to the Committee to note that Police Scotland has a further accessibility measure in place. The 'easy read' system makes information easier for everyone to understand and translates documents into simple language or uses images or symbols to assist this translation.

I trust you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

Gary Ritchie
Assistant Chief Constable

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