



## By email

Our ref: 09/01/sr/535

20 January 2015

Dear

### Re: Translation of Bowel Cancer Screening leaflet

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2015 in which you asked about the translation of a bowel cancer screening leaflet into languages other than English. Your questions have been considered under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act; however, the questions you have asked are not valid questions under the FOI legislation as they do not relate to information held by Public Health England (PHE). However, in accordance with Section 16 of the FOI Act - *duty to provide advice and assistance* the following information has been provided to address your questions.

You asked:

- 1. *How many people over the age of 60 who only speak the languages listed on the bowel screening programme are registered with GPs?***

PHE does not hold this information.

- 2. *What is the annual cost to the NHS of the translation department for the Bowel screening programme?***

PHE does not hold this information. You may wish to contact the National Health Service (NHS) directly for information on their annual expenditure on translation services within the bowel screening programme.

- 3. *What is the annual cost of translation per non-English speaker to the NHS Budget for Bowel screening?***

As above, PHE does not hold this information.

- 4. *Can a similar approach be applied over all the screening programmes?***

This question does not relate to information held by PHE.

**5. Are other screening programmes costed per capita?**

PHE does not hold this information. However, I suggest that you contact the NHS directly for information on this issue.

**6. Does the overall cost of translation services equate to a net gain either financially or in terms of public health for 'Public Health England'?**

Cancer screening programmes are commissioned by NHS England. PHE is responsible for developing cancer screening initiatives, including the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) pilot, and the second stage of the roll out of bowel scope screening (flexible sigmoidoscopy).

In regards to the translation of cancer screening programmes documents into languages other than English, PHE does not operate under a specific translation policy. In general, PHE is committed to providing information, advice and guidance that is clear, accessible and easy to understand, which meets all of its responsibilities under equalities legislation. It is PHE's practice to contact relevant screening organisations to ascertain what their most commonly requested languages are, and use that data as a basis for commissioning translation. For cancer screening programmes, PHE provides documents in approximately 18-20 languages, based on historical practice. These are provided in PDF format only, which are available online from the PHE website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>). People requiring documents in a language not provided by PHE must rely on local translation services (e.g. within a hospital trust).

PHE's policy on translation of documents is aligned with the Commission on Integration and Cohesion's summary document *Our Shared Future*, which sets out ways in which public bodies can help to build strong communities by promoting cohesion and integration locally. PHE also adheres to the principles of issuing information in a way that supports improved community cohesion, as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government's *Guidance for Local Authorities on Translation of Publications*. This document states that translation must be targeted to particular needs and decisions about appropriate translation should be made locally, in order to meet the needs of particular communities.

Where translation is deemed appropriate and necessary, a business case is prepared, which may need to be submitted to the Department of Health's Communications Control Panel and/or HM Treasury (depending on the spending thresholds in place at the time).

If you have any queries regarding the information that has been supplied to you, please contact us at the address above or by emailing [foi@phe.gov.uk](mailto:foi@phe.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer