

**For the Record – Press Statements**

<b>Publication</b>	Express and Star
<b>Date of article</b>	Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> December 2012
<b>Reporter</b>	David Lumb
<b>Headline</b>	Hospitals hit by big bill for translators
<b>First paragraph/s of article</b>	Cash-strapped hospital trusts in the Black Country and Staffordshire are spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on translators to cater for patients who do not speak English.
<b>Paragraph/s relating to The Dudley Group</b>	Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, which has a multi-million pound deficit, spent £26,472 while £15,000 was spent at Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley. The Dudley Group of Hospitals plans to save £9.7m of its total income budget in 2012/13.
<b>Press enquiry</b>	<p>An Express and Star reporter is doing a roundup of what trusts spend on translation services.</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How much did we spend?</li> <li>2. How do you justify spending this?</li> <li>3. What plans have you got in place to stop money having to be used in this way?</li> </ol>
<b>Also issued to:</b>	NA
<b>Trust response</b>	
<p>The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is committed to providing excellent public services to all our patients, service users, carers, relatives and or their representatives through effective communication thus improving the overall experience of the service they receive. This includes those where English is not their first language or who are visually, hearing or speech impaired.</p> <p>The Trust spent £15,000 on interpreting services in 2011/12. This includes telephone interpretations, face to face and British Sign Language interpreting.</p> <p>We have systems in place to guide staff to the appropriate resource to access interpreters which supports the promotion of equality and challenges discrimination.</p>	