**Interpreting Brief**

The sight translation will take place in the context described below.

On completion of the interpreting assignment, this information sheet is given to the interpreter to sight translate for the LOTE speaker. This information sheet is for those who have been charged with offences and are required to appear in court. The information provided is especially for those who are not familiar with the court process.

**Text**

**Charges and offences**

**What offence am I charged with?**

The charge sheet will indicate to you which laws you are accused of breaking. This is usually prepared by the police and given to the magistrate. The preliminary brief of evidence can also give you more information about the alleged offence.

**Summary or indictable offence?**

The charge sheet tells you whether the prosecutor is charging you with a summary offence, (a minor criminal offence triable before a magistrate without a jury); or an indictable offence, (a more serious crime, triable by jury).

However, you can ask to have your case heard by a magistrate and in the absence of a jury even for an indictable offence. People often choose to do this because costs are lower, penalties may be less severe and cases are dealt with more quickly.

**Do I agree with the charge?**

It is not as simple as asking yourself, ‘Did I do it?’ For example, you may have done something wrong but you have a defence - i.e. a reason for your actions. You may also have been charged with more than one offence.   In such cases, the prosecution may drop some of the charges, especially if you are willing to plead guilty to the rest of the charges.