

Transcription News for July 2026 from TP Transcription and University Transcriptions

Articles on the high cost of court transcription, invoicing before the year end and spotlight on a charity donation. Specialist academic & business transcription & translation services for all languages, established in 2001, a B Corp company and 1% For the Planet member. Our company donates 10% of annual profits to charity and is a member of the Ten Percent Group of websites and companies. For details of our company please visit www.tptranscription.co.uk. We produce a monthly news round up of our research projects, charity donations and work.

Academic Year End - Financial Budget Reminder

As the end of the financial year approaches, many university clients find themselves in a familiar position: budgets that must be spent before the deadline or returned to central funds. We have over 20 years' experience handling this. If there are any departments looking to allocate remaining amounts before year-end, commissioning transcription work with us now can ensure that your budget is protected. [Contact Anna Gresty](#) to discuss further.

Court Transcripts - Inaccessible and Unaffordable

MPs are calling for wider access to court transcripts and TP Transcription explains why court transcription needs modernisation, fairer pricing and human-led accuracy.

A recent Law Society Gazette report highlighted growing cross-party support for an Early Day Motion calling for free access to court transcripts across the justice system. The issue is not new, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore: court transcripts can be expensive, slow to obtain and difficult for ordinary people to access.

Transcription Cost Calculations – “Victorian” Method

The official guidance confirms that, for civil, family and tribunal proceedings, transcript pricing is still calculated by the “folio”: a unit of 72 words. The total price is then based on the number of folios produced. This may once have made sense in a paper-based world, but for modern digital audio transcription it is incredibly out of date. All professional transcription companies now price audio and video transcription by the recorded minute, often with clear turnaround options and transparent per-minute costs. Court transcription has not kept pace.

The problem with the current court transcript system

Only authorised or court-approved transcription companies can provide official transcripts of many court hearings. The Ministry of Justice and HMCTS periodically tender for court reporting and transcription services, with framework agreements covering work such as offsite transcription of court audio, attendance-based transcription and real-time transcription. The forthcoming Court Reporting and

Transcription procurement is estimated at more than £20 million excluding VAT and covers services across the UK.

Many experienced UK transcription companies are effectively excluded, not because they lack skill, legal knowledge or secure systems, but because the framework structure, compliance burden and procurement scale are designed around a small number of large suppliers. That reduces competition. It limits innovation. It also makes it harder to modernise pricing and delivery.

Why per-folio pricing belongs in the past

The folio system is one of the clearest examples of court transcription needing reform. A folio is 72 words. Current official guidance lists court transcript prices by cost per 72 words for different suppliers and turnaround bands. This means the final cost often depends on how many words are ultimately spoken and typed, rather than the known length of the recording.

For clients, this can make costs feel uncertain. For the wider justice system, it is an old-fashioned approach to a digital service. Not only that, folio transcription prices tend to be a lot higher than prices per minute, so the MoJ are setting prices higher than they are on the open market.

It is essentially a closed market, without any ability for new entrants to use innovation or offer alternative solutions. By contrast, price-per-minute transcription is straightforward. A 60-minute hearing costs 60 times the agreed rate. Urgency, number of speakers, audio quality and formatting requirements can still be reflected in the price, but the basic calculation is clear from the outset. In ordinary legal, academic, medical, business and public sector transcription, this is already standard practice. There is no obvious reason why court transcription should remain tied to a pricing method from another era.

Human-led accuracy still matters

There is a temptation to assume that artificial intelligence alone can solve the problem – we don't think it can and at present any efforts to use it without human intervention will end in tears we think. Court hearings are complex. Audio quality varies. Speakers interrupt each other. Names, case references, legal terminology, accents, remote-hearing glitches and confidential details all require careful handling. A raw automated transcript is rarely good enough for legal use without proper checking. The best solution is not simply "AI instead of humans". It is human-led transcription supported by modern technology where appropriate.

As a minimum, hybrid transcription models can reduce costs and improve turnaround times, while preserving the accuracy and judgement of experienced transcribers and editors. AI can help with first drafts, timestamps and workflow efficiency. Human transcribers and proofreaders can then correct, format, anonymise and check the transcript properly. This is where experienced transcription companies could make a real contribution.

A better model for court transcription

A modern court transcript system should be:

- easier to access for all court users;
- priced transparently by recorded minute;
- available from a wider panel of approved suppliers;
- secure and compliant with data protection requirements;
- human-checked for accuracy;
- capable of using AI carefully, where it improves efficiency without compromising quality.

TP Transcription Limited is ideally suited to this type of work. We already provide accurate, confidential transcription services for legal, academic, medical, research, public sector and business clients. Our systems are designed around security, confidentiality, careful speaker identification and high-quality human transcription. For larger-scale reform, a hybrid human and AI option, such as the secure system being developed in conjunction with the University of Salford for our new Unitranscribe.com service, could also offer a practical way forward: lower cost, faster delivery and carefully checked accuracy.

Access to Justice Denied?

The debate about free court transcripts is really part of a wider issue. Access to justice depends on access to the record. If a person cannot afford to find out exactly what was said in court, the justice system is less transparent than it should be. Free access may not be achievable overnight for every hearing in every court, but the present model can certainly be improved. Wider supplier access, modern pricing structures and human-led hybrid transcription would be a sensible start.

Live Transcription

Our specialist subsidiary company The Typing Works is able to assist with all aspects of live transcription, including on-site and off-site transcription and live note-taking. Very popular in particular where there is a need for highly sensitive data handling or for audio recordings to remain onsite. Our specialist team are BPSS & DBS checked. To discuss your requirements please contact Rebecca Hughes here:

<https://thetypingworks.com/contact/>

£1000 Donation to Blood Bikes

SERV Ox Bucks Berks N'hants Blood Bikes has been nominated for a £1,000 donation from the Ten Percent Foundation.

SERV OBN is a volunteer-run charity supporting NHS hospitals across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Northamptonshire. Its volunteers provide a rapid-response courier service, using a dedicated fleet of motorcycles and 4x4 vehicles to transport blood products and other urgent medical items to where they are needed.

The service operates outside normal working hours, helping hospitals avoid the cost of taxis and commercial couriers while ensuring essential supplies can continue to move quickly between NHS sites. The charity also supports neonatal units by collecting and delivering donated human milk.

SERV OBN's work is carried out by trained volunteers. Riders and drivers are given specialist instruction, including guidance on the correct handling of blood products and familiarisation visits to key hospital collection and delivery points.

The organisation has over 100 volunteers and provides its rapid-response motorcycle courier service to the NHS free of charge, relying on charitable support to maintain its vehicles, equipment, insurance and operational work.

SERV OBN is an excellent example of volunteers using their time and skills to provide a practical service with a direct benefit to patients and local NHS teams. Every journey helps medical professionals access important supplies promptly, often during evenings, nights and weekends. We are very grateful to Rebecca Hughes for nominating SERV Ox Bucks Berks N'hants Blood Bikes and bringing its valuable work to the attention of the Ten Percent Foundation.

For further information about the work of the charity, please visit their website here: <https://serv-obn.org.uk/>

What is this all about?

TP Transcription Limited, including TP Translations Limited and University Transcriptions, donate 10% of annual net profits to charity via the Ten Percent Foundation, a charitable trust set up by our group of companies to distribute monies to charities in the UK and Africa. We have been doing this for over 25 years. The Foundation never incurs any administration costs other than minimal bank charges. All monies donated are distributed to charities and community organisations.

Recent Articles

- [Beat The Deadlines](#) - This is just a quick reminder that if you have funding that needs spending before the end of the university financial year, we are always happy to invoice in advance for any transcription & translation work.
- [AI & Multi Speaker Recordings](#)
- [The True Cost of Meetings](#)
- [A Guide to Apple Transcription for Voice Memo Recordings](#)
- [Surviving the ISO 27001 Remote Surveillance audit](#)
- [Anonymising Interviewees in Video Research Interviews: A Practical Guide](#)
- [Scottish accents](#) - our guide
- [English Accents](#) - which are the hardest to understand?
- [Google Meet transcription](#) - How to Get a Transcription from a Google Meet: A Comprehensive Guide.
- [Zoom Teams How to Improve the Quality of Zoom Transcriptions](#)
- [TP Transcription & University Transcriptions Nominated Charities for the Ten Percent Foundation in 2024](#)
- [Looking after the welfare of transcribers - a study](#)

Peaceful Shropshire Getaways

St Milburga Chapel in the Shropshire Hills is a cosy 4 star, 4 person, Grade 2 listed holiday home in open countryside overlooking the Clee Hills. Renovated in 2022, it is approximately 10 minutes' drive from Ludlow with its highly regarded restaurants, cafes and independent shops. The chapel is perfectly located for family holidays, weekend breaks and walking holidays. 10% of profits from the chapel lettings are donated to the Ten Percent Foundation. Quote LOCAL10 for a special readers discount. Website:

<https://www.stmilburgachapel.co.uk>



We hope you have enjoyed reading our monthly newsletter and look forward to hearing from you if we can assist further.

Kind regards

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Part of the Ten Percent Group of websites, donating 10% of annual profits to charity

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