We appreciate being asked to comment and have looked at the questions and discussed them. On balance, we do not feel that we have enough material or expertise to enable us to answer the specific questions posed.

In more general terms; we are concerned that the pressure of increased business in courts taking on work resulting from court closures has been underestimated. We are also concerned that the abolition of corroboration and the move toward a reduction in level discretion afforded to the crown in relation to marking cases is likely to result in a significantly greater increase in the number of prosecutions than is currently estimated. We suspect that the budget for the Personal Injury court (which is restricted to approximately £10,000 and two sheriffs) is unrealistic given the anticipated number of cases. We also consider that the projections for the Sheriff Appeal Court may not reflect the level of cases which will require to be heard.

We are happy to comment further and to give input into specific issues arising should that be of assistance.