Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Scottish Borders Council

I am pleased to note that the Scottish Borders Council paper has been accepted and will form part of the evidence before the Justice Committee when they next consider the matter further at their meeting tomorrow, 4 June.

I am further instructed by my Council following an emergency motion at their meeting on 31 May to write and express the Council’s extreme disappointment at the Cabinet Secretary for Justice’s recommendations which would see the closure of two of the four courts in the Scottish Borders, namely Duns and Peebles. The Council at their meeting reaffirmed their unanimous opposition to these proposals and agreed to reiterate their position to the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee, and other parties including the Justice Minister asking him to reconsider his position on these proposals.

Accordingly I am writing to you to request that this further submission be put before the Committee with the request that the Cabinet Secretary reconsider his position on these recommendations. The Council fully believes it has shown extensive local impact of the recommendations on both access to justice and the local impact on court users in the Scottish Borders.

Anne Isles
Legal and Licensing Services Manager