Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Stonehaven and District Community Council

My name is Michael Innes and I am the Chair of Stonehaven and District Community Council.

I have read all the corresponding information on the restructuring of Sheriff Courts and Justice of the Peace Courts.

Stonehaven Sheriff Court sits at the gateway to our town from the south. It is a prominent landmark building that visitors stop and admire and photograph. It also houses our police force. The building could do more in relation to the Sheriff Court business in the way of sitting every day and having our own local judge.

Extend the cell capacity housed at the police station would also free up police time which at the moment is taken up by transferring offenders to Aberdeen and then have to be returned, next work day but this could change, if housed within, offenders cases would be heard on the first day of business and the court could take care of all the Kincardine and Mearns court business.

The Sheriff Court, at the moment, does the business that Aberdeen has not got the capacity to do because it's already too busy and can't be extended.

In my summary I, with the power and standing I have within the community, encourage the Justice Committee, before making any final decision, come to Stonehaven Sheriff Court, see the potential, hear the employees, community response and see the potential which would make the police station and this Sheriff Court, one of the best.

Michael Ian Innes
Chairperson
Stonehaven and District Community Council
14 April 2013