Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Mary Wallace

I think that the court should remain open in Haddington. Haddington is the county town of East Lothian and the court has been a feature of the town for many years. There are bound to be redundancies among the staff of the court, not everyone will be able to work in Edinburgh or be willing to travel there.

I feel that to expect witnesses to travel to Edinburgh when they may not have the money, no doubt reimbursed but still not in their pocket before they come. I am sure that some people will just not turn up, either defendants or witnesses and will cause more problems by being in contempt of court which would mean another court appearance.

People travelling a distance from the countryside to Edinburgh may not be able to get there in time if they use public transport. For me to travel from where I live would mean a 1 mile walk, a 5 mile local bus to Haddington and then catch a bus to Edinburgh. timing probably around 2 plus hours.

I think that it will be more expensive to run than keeping it local. If there are more cases in Edinburgh to be processed through the courts there will be more delays and more waiting for all concerned.

Please don't close the court in Haddington

Mary Wallace
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