Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Alan Borrowman

1. In my view, there will be a serious adverse effect locally on access to justice should the court close. People on low incomes will struggle to travel in and out to an already over busy court in Edinburgh. People will give up pursuing claims rather than face the huge inconvenience of travelling to Edinburgh. Whatever spin is put on this, access to justice will not be improved locally.

2. I have spoken to many court users, not just lawyers, but everyone, serving police officers, social workers, witnesses and so forth and every single one believes this closure will have a hugely negative impact on their ability to do their job efficiently. There will be a massive amount of wasted time spent travelling, trying to park etc. East Lothian will not be best served by this ill-judged proposal.

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