Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Annette McGuire

1. Closing Haddington Sherriff Court will have a huge impact locally.

The local economy has been hard hit (as elsewhere) by the recession.
The people who work in the court will lose their jobs.
those who work in lawyers' offices could lose their jobs, the lawyers offices could closing down completely or reduce staff.
The town will also suffer - local businesses will lose the trade court users bring to the town.
The county will suffer if lawyers move to the city taking their expertise with them.

2. Closing Haddington Sherriff Court - impact on Court users.

Users of the court will suffer by this closure.
Financially they will suffer, the taxpayer in general will also suffer.
It is not cheap to travel to Edinburgh. People will have to travel to see lawyers if there are few lawyers locally.
Users' expenses will go up drastically - affecting taxpayers.
Some 'offenders' may not bother to turn up at court for their hearing - no money for their bus fares.
Courts and police will then be busier processing warrants - more cost to the taxpayer. Time the police could be using elsewhere.
I think closing the court will have a huge impact on the County of East Lothian.
Haddington has had a Sherriff Court for many, many years, it's part of our local history.
Haddington Sherriff Court has provided a much needed service for many, many years.
I think this decision has been badly thought out.
The closure will not save money, I think it will cost a great deal more.

I would like to urge you to reconsider this decision.

Annette McGuire
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