Justice Committee

Scottish Court Service recommendations for a future court structure in Scotland

Written submission from Eric Milne

Closure of Cupar Sheriff Court

My name is Eric Milne. I am the managing director of Fisher and Donaldsons family bakers in Cupar since 1919. We are one of the largest employers left in Cupar and we employ over 100 staff.

It worries me that the projected closure of Cupar Sheriff Court will have a severely detrimental effect on my business and my local staff and the wider public in the surrounding areas of NE Fife including St Andrews.

This closure will make justice harder to find and makes no financial sense!

1. From a purely business point of view I cannot understand how the projected £35,000 saving will not lost immediately on the inevitable increased costs and expenses which will be incurred by witnesses, jurors, police, local social services having to travel to and from NE Fife to a Dundee court, let alone the complete impracticality of having to try to get from the East Neuk to Dundee in time for an early court by public transport.

2. Local easily accessible access to justice will be lost and is definitely not in the interest of the public of NE Fife.

3. It will cost me and my business more time and expense to allow employees time to attend court and correspondingly it will cost members of the public more time and expense by not having a local court available to them.

I hope that common sense prevails

J Eric Milne
16 May 2013