

HIGH COURT REFORM – COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAINING PLAN

Background

Communication with, and training for, those affected by the current High Court reform programme will be an essential part of the strategy required to ensure successful implementation. In recognition of this, a working group has been set up to oversee the development and implementation of a training and communication plan. The group comprises representatives of the Justice Department, The Crown Office/Procurator Fiscal's Service and the Scottish Court Service and also those from the Lord Justice General's legal team, the Faculty of Advocates and the Law Society of Scotland. Other bodies with an interest, e.g., the Judicial Studies Board and the Society of Solicitor Advocates, are aware of the group's existence and have an open invitation to participate in its work.

Objectives to April 2005

The main objectives of the working group are as follows:

- To ensure that the main High Court practitioners are fully involved in two-way consultation about implementation issues and receive appropriate training and guidance;
- To ensure that other practitioners and stakeholders are informed about the timing of the implementation of the reform programme and the implications for them, and given appropriate and proportionate opportunities to contribute to discussion about implementation; and
- To take appropriate opportunities to raise awareness among the general public about the purpose and intended benefits of the High Court reform programme.

Action

The group is meeting regularly and considering a series of awareness raising and training events which will take place over the Autumn and into the early months of 2005. Further details of these will be published on this web site as and when they become known.