Question 18 How would the closure of any of these courts affect you?

Please give reasons for your answer and indicate to which court(s) your answer relates.

Response

Sheriff courts in proximity to each other

Pages 38, 39 and 42 to 44 of the Consultation Paper.

Proposal 6

The proposal for the sheriff courts that are in proximity to another sheriff court where there is capacity to take additional business, or that capacity will become available as a consequence of other changes, is that:

(a) sheriff courts and justice of the peace courts should cease to be held in Alloa, Cupar, Dingwall, Arbroath, Haddington and Stonehaven and the court buildings and court accommodation in those places should be closed;

(b) the business from these courts should be transferred to the neighbouring sheriff court districts and be heard at the sheriff courthouse in Stirling (solemn business in Falkirk), Dundee, Inverness, Forfar, Edinburgh and Aberdeen respectively;

(c) the changes should be phased over the two years 2013/14 and 2014/15, or as the necessary capacity becomes available.

Question 19 Do you agree with the proposals to close the sheriff courts and justice of the peace courts at Alloa, Cupar, Dingwall, Arbroath, Haddington and Stonehaven and transfer the business into the sheriff court districts of Stirling/Falkirk, Dundee, Inverness, Forfar, Edinburgh and Aberdeen respectively?

Response

I disagree with the planned closure

Question 20 If you disagree with the proposals to close these courts, please say:

(a) why you disagree, and

(b) how you would prefer the sheriff court and justice of the peace court provision for these districts structured, being as specific as you can about how your preference would operate in practice.

If you are commenting on only some of the courts affected, please indicate to which court(s) your answer relates.

Response

My comments are in connection with the planned closure of Haddington Sheriff Court.

The one-off saving and ongoing annual savings are far outweighed by the cost to the community of Haddington and East Lothian if Haddington Sherrif Court is closed. The judiciary system in the county works for local residents, Police and Social Workers because it is locally based. Centralising this service not only diminishes the effectiveness of the judiciary in East Lothian, it also damages the community.

Question 21 How would the closure of any of these courts affect you?

Please give reasons for your answer and indicate to which court(s) your answer relates.

Response
I will not be affected personally or professionally.