

ESDU Open Event

Glasgow High Court

Thursday 24 November 2005

ESDU?

Electronic Service Delivery Unit

Who are we?

- Colin C Armstrong – ESDU Manager
- Ellen Haggerty – Project Manager
- Allan Girvan – Project Manager

Who joins us at the top table?

- Rob Brownright, Robbie Brownright and Ian Trench from Messrs Heriot Video, Edinburgh
- Kelvin McGregor from Messrs Kroll Ontrack
- David Morris, Information Services Manager, Scottish Court Service

What is ESDU's background?

- We have vast experience of the work of the Sheriff Court, High Court of Justiciary, Court of Session and Appeal Courts.
- If it happened in these courts, we've probably seen it. Collectively we have 97 years service.
- Don't ask what the split is!

What does ESDU do?

- Co-ordinate the provision, installation and maintenance of new technology in the Courtroom and Court office
- Provide assistance with setup and testing of equipment in advance of court hearings
- Offer practical advice and assistance to all court staff and court users in the use of technology

What have we done already?

- In partnership with Heriot Video, we have –
- Installed electronic evidence presentation equipment in all of the larger courtrooms
- Provided video conferencing facilities between courtrooms and/or witness rooms throughout the SCS estate

- Provided video conference links between HMP Barlinnie and Glasgow, Airdrie, Hamilton and Paisley Sheriff Courts to facilitate petition further examination and committal hearings
- Equipped two courtrooms with technology suitable for high definition image display
- A complete list of available equipment can be found on our website at www.scotcourts.gov.uk

The Transco Case

- Over 3000 Crown and defence productions, containing approximately 140,000 pages were presented to the court electronically
- Estimated savings of approximately 42 court days
- Estimated cost savings of £500,000 - across the board
- Atypical – not every case needs this technology – perhaps only 20% of the current court workload would benefit from it

What's in the pipeline?

- We are soon to replace ageing analogue audio recording units with modern digital equipment in 24 courtrooms
- In association with the Scottish Executive, we are establishing a number of non-court venues from where vulnerable witnesses may give evidence without having to attend the courtroom

- We are examining ways in which small claim and summary cause actions can be raised and concluded electronically
- We are also examining e-filing systems – where court documents are lodged, filed and processed electronically

What comes next?

- This is where all of you have an input
- We need to raise awareness of ESDU's existence and the work it does
- We need you to tell your colleagues what you have seen this evening

- We need to establish and maintain an infrastructure within the SCS arena, which facilitates the use of technology to the benefit of all court users
- We need you, working with us, to be prepared to invest funds, public or otherwise, in the use of that technology to achieve potentially greater savings in court time and expense – to the benefit of the justice system as a whole

Why did we invite you this evening?

- You may not have heard of us?
- You may not have appreciated what we do or have done?
- You may not have realised what is available?
- Hopefully you do now!