

ITEM 4.5: STAKEHOLDER EVENTS**Purpose**

1. To ask the Council to approve in principle arrangements for a series of stakeholder events on courts reform towards the end of the year.

Discussion

2. At its last meeting, the Secretariat was asked to bring forward proposals for possible stakeholder events to gain input on implementation of the new rules and/or gather data.
3. We suggest that there would be benefit in holding 3 events, along the following lines.

Purpose

- To seek stakeholder input to help shape how courts reform should be evaluated
- To gather views on issues/potential arising for the implementation of the forthcoming suites of rules
- To communicate the work of the SCJC and plans for the programme of reform.

Audience

- Up to c. 60 individuals with an interest in courts reforms, including judiciary, practitioners, court staff, individuals/representatives of organisations with an interest in the programme of reform.

Timing

- November-December 2014. It is suggested that it would be appropriate to hold the events towards the end of the year, after the Courts Reform (Sc) Bill has completed its parliamentary passage (it will be possible to set dates once Parliament has scheduled the Stage 3 debate). This would ensure discussions can be held in the knowledge of the legislative framework that will apply, while allowing sufficient time for the implementation programme or rules to be adjusted in light of findings.

Location

- Holding similar events in different locations across Scotland would help reach as wide as possible an audience and enable local experience to be taken into account. Suitable locations might be Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.

Format

- It is suggested that the events should last around 2 hours and should involve introductory presentations by SCJC representatives (and other organisations as appropriate) followed by a series of roundtable discussions or workshops. The exact format of such discussions would require to be worked up in more detail as proposals are developed. Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services are currently giving consideration to the evaluation of the reform programme and have offered to assist with the design and facilitation of workshops on evaluation and civil data needs, which would assist with developing this work.

Links with other organisations

- In addition to Justice Analytical Services, it is suggested that the outputs of the events would be of interest to the Criminal Courts Rules Council and as such that its members should be invited to participate. The Secretariat would intend to work with that Council's Secretariat in further developing the events.

Budget

- It is expected that the 3 events could be delivered within a total budget of £3000 (or significantly less if they can be accommodated within suitable court buildings).

Recommendation

- 4. Members are invited to approve in principle the outline arrangements for a series of stakeholder events as outlined above. Subject to members' agreement, the Secretariat intends to develop detailed proposals for the Chairman's consideration in light of views expressed at today's meeting.**

SCJC Secretariat

June 2014