

Mr. Brendan Ryan,
Chief Executive Officer,
Courts Service.

18th August, 2014
Our Ref: M17/M20/0714

Re : Review of the Courts Services in the Greater Dublin Area - Proposed Closure of Tallaght District Court

Dear Mr. Ryan,

I refer to the letter dated the 4th June 2014 in relation to the above matter which you issued to Mr Daniel McLoughlin, Chief Executive of South Dublin County Council.

The following Motions were **PASSED** at the meeting of South Dublin County Council held on 14th July 2014:

M17/0714: “That this Council, calls on the Minister for Justice and Equality and the Court Services to respect the views of the citizens of Tallaght and retain Court Services at Tallaght Courthouse, to the benefit of all citizens of our County.”

M20/0714: “That this Council calls for a reversal of the proposed announcement by the Courts Service to close the Tallaght Court House from January next.”

The reports given to the Elected Members in response to both these motions stated that “A submission has been made to the Minister by the Chair of the Tallaght Area Committee. If this motion is passed by the Members, a submission will be made on behalf of the full Council to the Minister requesting retention of Tallaght Courthouse.”

As elected representatives for the County of South Dublin this Council is extremely concerned about the proposal of the Courts Service to close Tallaght District Court as part of the review of the court services in the Greater Dublin area. We would like to make the following representations in support of the position to retain Tallaght Courthouse:

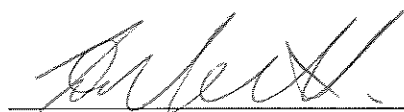
1. Under the current proposals, South Dublin County will be one of only two administrative counties within the State that will not have a District Court to serve its constituents. The proposed closure of Tallaght District Court is totally disproportionate in terms of the population of South Dublin County (265,205) that Tallaght courthouse serves. The only other Counties in the State with a greater population than South Dublin County is Cork County which currently has 11 District Courts and Fingal County which under the current proposals will retain a District Court in Blanchardstown;

2. The closure of Tallaght District Court will have a serious impact upon local businesses in Tallaght Village who fundamentally rely on trade from the users of Tallaght District Court;

3. Any efficiencies that may accrue to the operation of the Court Service by closing Tallaght District Court will be more than offset by the inefficiencies that will hamper the current users of Tallaght District Court (constituents of South Dublin County, Gardai, legal practitioners) by having to attend the District Court in the City Centre or Blanchardstown.

This Council strongly requests that you consider the representations above and retain the operation of Tallaght District Court for the people of South Dublin County.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tom O'Neill', is written over a horizontal line.

Tom O'Neill,
Meetings Administrator,
Corporate Performance & Change Management.