



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

22 September 2014

Mr. Tom O'Neill
Corporate Performance and Change Management
South Dublin County Council
County Hall
Tallaght
Dublin 24

Re. Review of Circuit and District Court Services in the Greater Dublin Area

Dear Mr. O'Neill

I refer to your letter of 18th August 2014 concerning the motion passed by the Council concerning the Review of Circuit and District Court Services in the Greater Dublin Area.

The Courts Service recently undertook a review of the administration and delivery of court services in the Dublin Region. The purpose of the review was to identify in consultation with all stakeholders, a range of options which could be considered to enable the Courts Service to maintain frontline court services, and support court sittings in the context of reduced budgetary and staffing availability.

Arising from the review, draft proposals were formulated to address the resourcing and budgetary deficit including the closure of suburban court offices and venues in the city and county.

The Service has undertaken extensive consultation with Court users across the city, county and justice sector. We engaged thoroughly and listened actively to what people told us.

While the reorganisation as proposed would yield significant benefit to the Courts Service, we have always been aware of the potential impact on court users. We have now been told that the proposals could also result in increased costs across the justice sector and be organisationally challenging for other agencies in the sector.

We are always cognisant of the needs of court users and of other justice sector agencies and have accordingly decided not to proceed with the reorganisation at this time.

The issues which triggered the review remain and the Service will now have no option but to seek alternative strategies, which will inevitably require the assignment of additional resources to maintain existing levels of service.

Yours sincerely

Tom Ward
Chief Clerk

