

## Concerns for the Commission's Consideration

There needs to be a recognition within Wales of the need for access to justice. For us practising in Mid and West Wales, maintaining the Courts is a significant issue.

A great deal of money was spent recently on the Aberystwyth Justice Centre, but our resident District Judge left to become a Circuit Judge in March of this year. Since then, there have been 7 District Judges travelling to Aberystwyth as no resident District Judge has been appointed as a replacement in either Haverfordwest or Aberystwyth. We would ask that the Commission considers the need for a permanent post to be a priority in West Wales – it is highly important for continuity (especially in children cases). Having District Judges travel from Swansea to Aberystwyth and Haverfordwest and not knowing who is sitting from one week to the next is not conducive to best practice.

In addition, I would certainly wish the Commission to investigate the age of practitioners in rural Wales and to encourage firms bringing in Trainee Solicitors into practice. As a professional, I view it as our duty to train young students. In the last 10 years, since I set up in practice on my own, I have trained 4 solicitors, but there has been no financial support in which to do so – perhaps this is an avenue that can be looked at?

In terms of devolved powers and the increasing legislation, I feel that there is a need for courses to be set up for practitioners and an awareness of the new powers of Welsh Government.

I hope that the above assists and wish you all the very best as a Commission.

Kind Regards,  
Mair Williams

**Mair Williams Solicitors**