



Proposed court closures in Wales (Welsh regional newspapers)

Sir,

If plans go ahead to close 11 courts across Wales, it could cause chaos in the remaining courts as well as uncertainty for injured people, particularly in our rural areas.

Where courts are tipped for closure in a Government consultation, injured people, who are already vulnerable, may find they have to travel considerably longer distances to have their cases heard. For a fair and just system to prevail, the requirements of all court users must be met, but this is not necessarily being ensured. For example, Welsh speakers will be left particularly vulnerable as provisions will be reduced. There also needs to be consideration for the inevitable delays and backlogs for the remaining courts left to absorb the workload.

It is difficult to see how, post-cull, the court service in Wales can provide fair access to justice for all who need it. Not all courts are being examined and therefore opportunities for costs savings elsewhere could be missed. The court estate should be reviewed in the round and resources must be allocated throughout Wales to ensure that everyone has equal access to justice.

Centric Clement-Evans

Executive committee member for Wales for the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)