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Northern Ireland Court Service

Increasing the Jurisdictional Limit of the County Courts in Northern Ireland

Consultation Response Questionnaire

March 2010

Northern Ireland Court Service
www.courtsni.gov.uk

Should you require any further information about the Court Service please visit our website at www.courtsni.gov.uk or alternatively contact us at our Communications Group.

This document will be made available in a wide range of alternative formats. Requests for alternative formats should be made to the Communications Group.

Northern Ireland Court Service
Communications Group
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast BT1 3LA

Telephone 028 9032 8594
Facsimile 028 9072 8942
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communicationsgroup@courtsni.gov.uk
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We welcome your views as part of this consultation exercise.

Please complete the attached questionnaire and return by **26th May 2010** to:

Post:

Paula Stevenson
Consultation Co-ordinator
County Court Jurisdiction Consultation
Communications Group
Northern Ireland Court Service
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA

Email: communicationsgroup@courtsni.gov.uk

Fax: 028 9041 2390

Alternatively, you may complete this questionnaire online. A copy of the questionnaire can be accessed at www.courtsni.gov.uk

If you would like a copy of this questionnaire in another format please contact Paula Stevenson, The Consultation Co-ordinator

Tel: 028 90412263

The closing date for this consultation is **26th May 2010**. Responses cannot be considered after that date.

SECTION 1 – County Court

Q1: Do you agree that the financial limit of the county court should be increased from the current level of £15,000?

Yes

No

Q2: Please state your reasons why

Q3: If the answer to Q1 is 'yes', should the county courts be financially....

Limited Go to Q.4

Unlimited (with cases being allocated to the High Court due to complexity) Go to Q.5

Q4: If the answer to Q3 is 'limited', what should the financial limit of the county courts be increased to?

£: _____

Q5: If the answer to Q3 is 'unlimited', how would you define 'complexity' when deciding which cases should be allocated to the High Court?

Q6: Should all clinical negligence cases over £15,000 be reserved for the High Court regardless of the financial limit of the county court?

Yes

No

Q7: Please state your reasons why

SECTION 2 – *District Judges’ Court*

Q1: Do you consider that the financial limit of the District Judges’ court should be increased from £5,000?

Yes

No

Q2: Please state your reasons why

Q3: If the answer to Q1 is ‘yes’, what should the financial limit of the District Judges’ court be increased to?

£: _____

SECTION 3: *Small Claims Court*

Q1: Do you consider that the financial limit of the Small Claims Court should be increased from £2,000?

Yes

No

Q2: Please state your reasons why

Q3: If the answer to Q1 is 'yes', what should the financial limit of the Small Claims Court be increased to?

£: _____

SECTION 4: *Overall county court civil jurisdiction*

Q1: If the financial limit of the county court is increased from £15,000 should scale costs be increased up to the new jurisdictional limit? (Costs in the County Court are awarded on a fixed scale. The scales correspond to different levels of damages which may be awarded).

Yes

No

Q2: Please state your reasons why

Q3: If the answer to Q1 is 'no', should scale costs be increased to a certain limit which is below the new jurisdiction limit, with taxation of costs taking thereafter? (Taxation of costs means costs are assessed by the Taxing Master in the High Court to decide the amount of costs that should be awarded in a case)


Yes

No

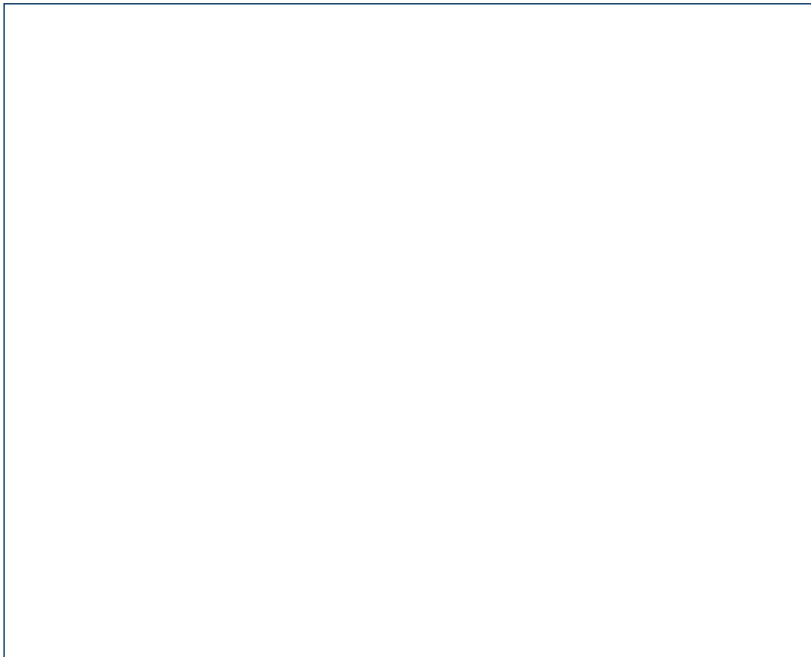
Q4: If the answer to Q3 is 'yes', what do you consider the limit of the scale costs should be?

£: _____

Q5: Please state your reasons why



If you have any further comments you wish to make please do so in the space provided:



To assist us in the collation and analysis of responses it would be helpful if you could please provide us with the following information, using block capitals:

Name:

Job Title:

Organisation:
[Name and Type]

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

Q(i) In which of the following capacities are you responding?

As an individual

On behalf of an organisation

As an employer

(If so please go to
Q (ii) below)

Other (please specify)

Q(ii) If you are responding as an employer, how many people do you employ?

Between 1 and 14 people

Between 15 and 49 employees

Between 50 and 249 employees

250 employees or more

That completes the questionnaire – thank you for your input into this consultation. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact:

Paula Stevenson
Consultation Co-ordinator
County Court Jurisdiction Consultation
Communications Group
Northern Ireland Court Service
Laganside House
23-27 Oxford Street
Belfast
BT1 3LA

This questionnaire response must arrive no later than 26th May 2010 to the name and address above.

As this is a response to a public consultation, the Northern Ireland Court Service would like to make all responses public on the Northern Ireland Court Service website – please tick here if you wish your response to remain confidential to the Northern Ireland Court Service:



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For further information on the work of the Northern
Ireland Court Service please contact

Northern Ireland Court Service

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