

LIAISON JUDGE / DEPUTY LIAISON JUDGE FOR THE WELSH LANGUAGE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The role of the Liaison Judge for the Welsh Language is to liaise with judges at all levels, Magistrates, Justices Clerks and HMCS staff and others to ensure the successful delivery of services to those using the courts in Wales in the Welsh Language, and to promote the use of Welsh in the courts.

In particular the Liaison Judge will:

- ensure, on behalf of the Presiding Judges, that the Practice Directions (1) The Consolidated Criminal Practice Direction paragraphs 111.23.1 – 111.23.13 (Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales 8 July 2002 as amended 22 January 2004), (2) relating to the use of the Welsh Language in the Civil Courts in Wales (The Hon. Mr Justice Maurice Kay and The Hon. Mr Justice Thomas 26 April 1999),(3) Supplementary Direction applicable to cases where the Welsh Language is to be used and which originate in North Wales (The Hon. Mr Justice Thomas and The Hon. Mr Justice Richards 28 February 2000) and (4) Guidance for the Listing of civil cases where the Welsh Language is to be used and which originate from North Wales (The Hon. Mr Justice Thomas and The Hon. Mr Justice Richards 31 July 2000) are given effect.
- receive notification of any hearing in the High, Crown and County Courts in which one of those involved wishes to use the Welsh language.
- on behalf of the Presiding Judges, oversee the practical arrangements relating to the conduct of any hearings, or the giving of evidence, in Welsh in all the Courts of Wales; to see that all the courts pursue a consistent approach and that the needs of those who wish to use the Welsh Language in the courts of Wales are met.
- review the effectiveness of the handling of matters before all the courts in which one or more of those involved wish to use the Welsh Language and make recommendations to the Presiding Judges and Regional Director on any improvements that need to be made to give effect to statutory rights and the HMCS Welsh Language Scheme.
- be provided with copies of any complaints made in respect of the use of the Welsh language in the courts of Wales and see that where such complaints are justified, steps have been taken to ensure that the statutory requirements for the use of the Welsh language are complied with in the courts.
- liaise with the HMCS and the Judicial Studies Board (JSB) to organise training for Welsh-speaking judiciary (including the Magistracy) and keep

under review the training needs of the judiciary and magistracy with regard to the conduct of hearings in the Welsh Language and support advocacy and other training courses relating to the use of the Welsh Language in the courts.

- liaise with the HMCS to organise and present training seminars for Welsh interpreters and approve those eligible to be included on the HMCS list of interpreters.
- be a member of the Lord Chancellor's Standing Committee for the Welsh Language and liaise with others involved in the justice system, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Welsh Language Board to promote the development of justice services in the Welsh Language.

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