

“Wales’ justice arrangements are not fit for purpose” Counsel General tells Law Society event

Speaking to an audience of legal practitioners the Counsel General will say:

“We must realise a vision for Wales that reflects the values and particular characteristics of Welsh society and is based on fairness, and social and economic justice, by developing a distinct justice system for Wales.”

“One of the most profound challenges to a fair and equitable justice system is the increasing pressure brought about by repeated cuts in funding. In Wales we have experienced disproportionately higher cuts to legal aid compared to those for the whole of England and Wales. Legal Aid provision is facing a fundamental crisis in the UK today and we need to take action.”

The Counsel General will argue that current justice arrangements are not fit for purpose and that policing and justice need to be devolved in order to deliver a fair and equitable justice system in Wales.

He will say;

“Another major challenge facing the justice system in Wales is the integration of justice with public services. Our current system of government is complex and confusing and inconsistent with the rest of the UK and other decentralised legislatures across the world. This is largely due to the growing divergence between the laws in England and Wales and the UK Government’s wish to protect a single legal jurisdiction. This impacts upon our ability to provide efficient and effective, joined-up public services for Wales.

Speaking about the inaugural Justice Week event he continued;

“It is important to bring justice and the rule of the law to the forefront of public and political thinking, especially during a time of significant change. Many of the events taking place this week will present an opportunity for discussions and debate about innovative solutions and I encourage all with an interest to get involved.”