

Ms Margaret Mitchell MSP

Dear Ms Mitchell

There's so much to welcome in your Consultation, and thank you for creating this. I welcome the suggestion indicated on page 18 for use of IT to extend the opportunity for mediation.

I am supportive of parties learning more about mediation and the opportunities it offers, although feel it should remain ultimately a voluntary process.

However, I'd like to explore the issue of models for how a Duty Mediator (p14) can be provided. I know some people favour there being a single individual mediator attached to each Court who would provide mediation services every day.

I hope you will explore/specify the model, and favour the opportunity for mediation instead to circle through a Panel for each court – or the provision of a roster as is done for the Glasgow Sheriff Court through the Strathclyde HASS scheme. This would have the benefits of widening the opportunity for mediation, providing more opportunity for shared learning, and more robustness in case of illness etc.

Linn Phipps, Independent Coach & Mediator, Ceist Consulting; & Vice-Chair, Scottish Mediation, writing in a personal capacity.