

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair of the Senedd's Legislation, Justice  
and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

**MoJ ref:** ADR131833

17 March 2026

Dear Mike,

### **CARDIFF CIVIL JUSTICE CENTRE**

Thank you for your letter of 9 February regarding the recent session between the Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee and the Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales. I was pleased to note the constructive discussion held on 2 February 2026, covering a wide range of matters concerning the operation of the justice system in Wales.

In your letter you raise the matter of the Civil Justice Centre (CJC) in Cardiff, noting the Lady Chief Justice's comments that there is an operational case for a new civil justice centre in Cardiff. The Lady Chief Justice also observed that cross-governmental collaboration is required to find a solution.

I recognise the importance of the Cardiff CJC as the major civil court in the Welsh capital. I am aware that the building has operational challenges, particularly constraints relating to space and layout. I am also aware that there is strong support locally for the relocation of the Cardiff CJC to improved premises.

HM Courts and Tribunals Service (HMCTS) officials are in ongoing discussions with the Welsh Government and Cardiff City Council on potential relocation options within the city. I recognise the frustration that progress has not kept pace with expectations. Key considerations for relocation include feasibility, funding, terms of occupation, and access and operational requirements. Any relocation would require substantial capital expenditure. Therefore, it is right that relocation options are considered thoroughly, and alongside all other potential approaches.

HMCTS will continue to engage with the Welsh Government and Cardiff City Council to identify relocation options, so that these can be fully considered.

Enclosed with this letter are details of recently completed court estate capital improvement works across Wales, as well as works that are currently underway, or are due to commence shortly.

You will be aware the UK Government recently announced that in 2026/27, £287 million will be invested into the fabric of the HMCTS estate – delivering vital repairs and digital upgrades to courts and tribunals up and down the country and bringing the court system into the 21st century.

This represents significant investment, and for the first time the UK Government and the Judiciary have also agreed firm funding commitments for the next three years simultaneously. This gives HMCTS the long-term stability it needs to plan ahead and deliver improvements across the court and tribunal estate, including in Wales.

I trust my reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Sackman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**SARAH SACKMAN KC MP**  
**Minister Of State**

## Court estate in Wales - Capital maintenance and improvement works

### Works completed in 2025/26

Site	Works	Completed Date
Port Talbot Justice Centre	REPLACE HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM	May-25
Cardiff Magistrates Court	REPLACE AUDIO BROADCAST SYSTEM	June 25
Newport IAT - Columbus House	REPLACE VOICE ALARM SYSTEM	April-25
Haverfordwest Magistrates Court and Family Court	REPLACE SECURITY SYSTEM	April-25
Merthyr Tydfil Combined Court Centre	REPLACE FALL SAFETY SYSTEM	September-25
Wrexham Magistrates Court	REPLACE SHUTTER ON CUSTODY SUITE VAN DOCK	June-25
Newport Civil and Family	REPLACE AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM SERVING COURTS 1 & 2	November-25
Swansea Crown Court	REPLACE VAN DOCK ROLLER SHUTTER	December-25

### In Progress Works

Site	Works	Expected Completion Date
Wrexham Magistrates Court	UPGRADE OF BUILDING POWER SUPPLY	Summer 2026
Wrexham Magistrates Court	FIRE COMPARTMENTATION WORKS, REPLACE FIRE DOORS, INTUMESCENT STRIPS AND SEALS IN VARIOUS AREAS	Spring 2026
Newport IAT - Columbus House	REPLACE LIFT	Spring 2026
Cardiff Crown Court	REPLACE PASSENGER LIFT - VULNERABLE WITNESSES	Summer 2026
Newport Civil and Family	REPLACE PLATFORM LIFT	Spring 2026
Swansea Magistrates Court	REPLACE EXTERNAL PLATFORM LIFT	Spring 2026
Various Courts	REPLACE PANIC ALARM SYSTEMS X 19 SITES	Spring 2026

Swansea Crown Court	REPLACE SITE WIDE LIGHTING SYSTEM	Summer 2026
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**Pipeline of Works**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Works</b>	<b>Expected Start Date</b>
Cardiff Crown Court	FIRE DOOR REPLACEMENTS	Spring 2026
Port Talbot Justice Centre	REPLACE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Summer 2026
Swansea Crown Court	REPLACE ROOF AND WINDOWS	Spring 2027
Wrexham Magistrates Court	REPLACE ROOF	Spring 2026
Cardiff Crown Court	ASBESTOS REMOVAL	Spring 2026
Swansea Crown Court	REPLACE AUDIO BROADCAST SYSTEM	Summer 2026
Newport Magistrates Court	REPLACE BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Summer 2026
Cardiff Civil Justice Centre	REPLACE ROOF AND RAINWATER GOODS	TBC
Merthyr Tydfil Combined Court Centre	REPLACEMENT DOOR ACCESS SYSTEM	Autumn 2026
Newport Crown Court	REPLACE MAIN CHILLED WATER PUMPS	Autumn 2026