

Virtual Courts and Real Life Lessons

A presentation was given at the e-Justice conference in Slovenia about the England and Wales Proof of Concept work on Virtual Courts in London. The Proof of Concept identified that the use of Videoconferencing and document sharing technologies had the potential to improve speed of disposal of cases and also to provide a better experience for all parties. Following the success of the proof of concept the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has commissioned a full pilot based in courts in London and Kent. The work associated with the move to a full pilot is considered together with the lessons that can be learned.

Since the United Kingdom has been using videoconferencing in courts for some years and has recently updated the equipment and network, this more general experience in implementing and using videoconferencing provides general guidance and hints.

Speakers Biography

Graham Patterson has been associated with central Government computing in England and Wales for 20 years with the last 10 being spent working in the technology area of the UK Ministry of Justice and its predecessor. Graham was responsible for the first widely published IT Strategy for the Lord Chancellor's Department in 2000 as well as the design of several of the IT services used. He has managed IT Architecture and Design teams in the Department for Constitutional Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. He is currently Head of Architecture within the eDelivery Group of the Ministry. Graham has been part of the EU eJustice Working Group since it began in early 2007.