February 2025

Dear Chair /Leader

New City of London Court Construction.

I would be grateful if you could distribute this update to all interested colleagues and board/association members.

 Please feel free to send to others who you feel may have an interest.

You will hopefully know of the construction of the new, state of the art, 18 court room courthouse and new City of London Police Hub that was announced in October 2020.

You can view the plans on [‘The Salisbury Square Development’](https://salisburysquaredevelopment.co.uk/the-proposal/)webpage

The new courthouse will replace the capacity provided by the Mayor’s and City of London Court and the City of London Magistrates’ Court, which currently provide 4 civil and 4 magistrates’ courtrooms. The new courthouse will house 5 civil courtrooms and 4 Magistrates’ Courtrooms alongside 8 additional Crown court rooms The remaining courtroom has been designated a “multi-purpose” court.

**HMCTS Programme Update**

The Project is still very much in the construction phase and under current plans is due to complete in September 2026 when the HMCTS internal fit out will begin, with an estimated operational readiness date, of March 2027.

The HMCTS Project will now sharpen the focus on Judicial and operational issues and a new internal Programme Board held its first meeting on the 18th of July 2024. The programme will now ramp up the involvement of judicial and operational colleagues as well as external stakeholders.

That will include a regular forum with stakeholders, that I am hoping to start in approximately June 2025.

The Provision by the City of London Corporation, of a new state of the art Courthouse in London, providing upgraded facilities for Civil and Magistrates hearings and additional Crown Court capacity, is a huge milestone in the history of the London Justice system and a welcome addition to the HMCTS London estate.

Mrs Justice Yip, on behalf of the Lady Chief Justice and President of the Kings Bench Division, is currently assessing the best use of this resource and how it might also help other London courts operate more efficiently and will retain oversight of case listing proposals across all jurisdictions.

Current thinking is that.

* A caseload of predominantly economic and cybercrime cases, including, white collar crime such as fraud, is expected to be heard in the Crown Courts (subject to Senior Judicial scrutiny).
* The Magistrates Judicial Business Group will consider the type of caseload that will best utilise the new facilities and benefit the wider listing strategy in London.

I have a remit to scope the operational requirements and pull together a Project Plan and governance structure, to ensure the programme delivers on its aims. I plan to publish, on behalf of the Programme Board, more frequent Programme Updates and start more wide-reaching stakeholder engagement. If you have any questions, thoughts or suggestions relating to the Project, please email them to me at Jim.Doherty@Justice.Gov.Uk

Jim Doherty

On behalf of the City of London Programme Board.

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