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High wire act: Aberdeen-based rector

SCOTLAND ON
SUNDAY 1/2/09

Law to give Scots lead in arbitration

Terry Murden

PROPOSALS to cut down on the cost and time involved in resolving disputes have been submitted to the Scottish Parliament.

The Arbitration (Scotland) Bill could save millions of pounds and thousands of hours in court time and lead to Scotland becoming a world leader in settlements.

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators says it could also build up a new specialism with an annual turnover of at least £15m.

The institute, a global body whose current president is Scots lawyer John Campbell QC, envisages handling 500 new cases per year that might otherwise clog up the courts and incur hefty expenses.

It is hoped that the new system will be of particular benefit to small businesses and individuals in giving them cheaper, easier and more user-friendly access to justice.

Campbell said: "The reality is that a lot of small businesses choose to write off debts and disputes because they decide that they can't risk or can't afford to take the matter to court. Arbitration will give them a less expensive and more accessible route for them to have their dispute heard."

The bill, which has cross-party support, was presented by Fergus Ewing, minister for community safety. He said: "Scotland should be an easy place to do business and it needs the law and courts to back this up and make Scotland the choice for dispute resolutions."

36 Sunday Mail February 1, 2009

Courts by-pass to save millions

LEADING lawyers yesterday backed plans to save millions of pounds by keeping cases out of court.

The system will see more disputes settled by arbitration and help unclog Scotland's overworked courts.

John Campbell QC, president of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, believes people and small firms will get cheaper and easier access to justice.

He said: "The reality is a lot of small businesses choose to write off debts and disputes because they decide that they can't risk or can't afford to take the matter to court."

The Arbitration (Scotland) Bill, which has cross-party support, was launched in the Scottish Parliament by Fergus Ewing MSP, Minister for Community Safety.

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● THE new Arbitration (Scotland) Bill, launched in the Scottish parliament last Thursday and designed to cut costs as well as save thousands of hours in court time, has the potential to build up a new specialism with an annual turnover of at least £15 million, according to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

The Institute, a global body whose president is leading Scots lawyer John Campbell QC, believes that the new bill will be of particular benefit to small businesses and individuals in giving them cheaper, easier and more user-friendly access to justice. It also says the new law will enable Scotland to develop a dispute resolution centre which will attract international as well as domestic arbitration cases.

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BUSINESS P.2

Scots to arbitrate

SCOTLAND could become a world leader in business arbitration creating a new specialism with a turnover in excess of £15m. The Arbitration (Scotland) Bill which was launched last week in the Scottish parliament, aims to increase the number of business disputes settled by low-cost arbitration. The legislation could lead to 500 new cases per year for arbitrators.

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