

Statement on the comments of HHJ Gledhill QC

We can understand why traditionalists will want to rail against that modernisation of the legal system which increases client choice.

The substance of the judge's comments are not directed against this firm which properly briefed the right independent solicitor advocate and whose client is of course delighted with his acquittal.

It is important not to confuse matters of etiquette with justice.

Judges ought not to use the Bench as a platform for making suppositions about the way advocates are instructed without first seeking evidence of the facts.

That there was no attempt to do so in this case, sadly, does not augur well for an open and frank debate on the important issues of modernisation.

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