

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



Liam Kerr MSP
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14 May 2020

Dear Mr Kerr

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION [S5W-28513](#)

COMMISSARY BUSINESS

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQ indicated that it related to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service corporate body. I am now writing in response to the matter raised.

S5W-28513 asks: whether wills are still being processed by the court system during the COVID-19 outbreak, and whether there are any barriers to this work being carried out remotely.

The commissary function of the SCTS, the processing of wills, was initially halted as a result of the stringent lockdown measures introduced to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Having expanded our capability for remote working the commissary function was restarted on 1 May 2020, with almost 400 confirmations processed in the first week.

The main barrier to carrying out the entire commissary function remotely is the volume of paperwork currently provided in hard copy. However the interim solution implemented from 1 May 2020 enables us to handle the hard copy element while maximising those parts of the process that can be achieved remotely. As part of our longer-term planning the aim will be to move commissary to an entirely digital process.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric McQueen'.

Eric McQueen
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