

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



Elizabeth Smith MSP
The Scottish Parliament
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Chief Executive's Office
Parliament House
Parliament Square
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30 September 2015

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Dear Ms Smith

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S4W-27283

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

S4W-27283 asked: *"How many sheriff court actions to settle disputes between small and large businesses there have been in each year since 1999?"*

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service use a live operational database system for the processing of court business. The information held on the system is structured for these operational needs, rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes.

One result of this is that we do not record case data on actions raised by companies. Our system differentiates between cases involving individuals and those involving organisations, which could, for example, include Government agencies and charities as well as companies. No record is made of the size or nature of organisation: further information would only be obtainable by detailed examination of the papers for each individual case.

For your information, I attach as an Annex the information which is available in relation to the number of actions in the Sheriff Courts where the pursuer and defender are both recorded as being an organisation. Clearly, this will include many cases involving organisations other than companies.

Please note that this data does not include all sole traders, because such persons are likely to have been recorded onto the system as individuals. The information provided is based on the best information available from the case management system as at 8 September 2015. Completion of the rollout of the case management system to all courts occurred in 2001. As a result, figures for the years 1999 and 2000 do not cover every court.

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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', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric McQueen
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Cases registered on the Scottish Courts & Tribunals service civil case management system where both the pursuer and defender have been recorded as an organisation^{1, 2, 3}

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 YTD
Cases registered	1,451	4,916	19,542	18,429	17,403	16,518	16,443	16,115	14,993	16230	16,752	13,336	11,562	9,573	9,588	9,485	5,838

Notes

1. The case management system was rolled out to all courts in 2001.
2. Please note we record data in a way that allows for an individual or an organisation to be registered. We are unable to distinguish between 'small' and 'large' organisations.
3. The data does not include all sole traders, as such persons are likely to have been entered into the system as individuals.

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service use a live operational case management system for the processing of court business. The information held on the system is structured for these operational needs, rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes. The information provided is based on the best information available from the case management system as at 8/9/2015.