

WHAT CAN WE TELL YOU ABOUT CRIMINAL CASES?

Involvement in a criminal case is a significant life event. The SCTS is committed to secure, lawful and fair processing of all personal data that it handles in the course of court proceedings. The SCTS is also committed to ensuring public access to court hearings so that the administration of justice can be directly observed, unless there are pressing reasons for a private hearing.

SCTS is obliged to protect the personal information of those involved in criminal cases. It cannot assume that an individual accused person would wish SCTS staff to discuss the outcome of his or her case, even if the request comes from a parent or partner of the accused or where advance notice of the case has been temporarily published on the [SCTS website](#) ahead of the sitting.

As a result, SCTS staff will **not** provide members of the public with information about the outcome of criminal cases unless they have clear authorisation from the accused or it is required by law. This applies to the relatives and friends of the accused.

Can victims, relatives of a deceased victim and witnesses find out more?

Yes, legislation allows us to provide victims, certain relatives of a deceased victim and witnesses with some information. Please ask a member of court staff if you have any queries.

What does SCTS do with court case papers?

Court records schedules on the [SCTS website](#) set out what happens to case papers produced during a trial. They set out how long records are retained and also the information that will ultimately be preserved permanently in the nation's archives with National Records of Scotland. Case information about specific persons will generally only be made publicly available after the death of the person involved. Information about identifiable living individuals may be redacted.

Does SCTS publish the outcomes of court cases?

No. But a judge may issue a written judgement, and that may be published on our website.

Please see the SCTS Privacy Notice on www.scotcourts.gov.uk for further details on data protection.