

News Release

(Issued on behalf of the Scottish Court Service)

Monday 14 December 2010

UNIFIED COURTS ADMINISTRATION IN NORTH STRATHCLYDE

From today (Monday 14 December), the Scottish Court Service is responsible for the administration of the former District Courts in the Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde.

The Courts will operate as Justice of the Peace Courts and are located at Campbeltown, Dumbarton, Dunoon, Greenock, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Lochgilphead, Oban and Paisley.

Dumbarton, Greenock, Oban, Campbeltown and Dunoon Justice of the Peace Courts will sit in the Sheriff Court buildings in these towns.

The remainder of the courts will sit in their former District Court buildings, with either ownership of the building transferring to the SCS or through lease arrangements with the local authorities or Strathclyde Police. The SCS plan to accommodate Kilmarnock Justice of the Peace Court in the Kilmarnock Sheriff Court building within the next 18 months.

Chief Executive, Eleanor Emberson, said: "The Scottish Court Service aims to provide the best possible quality of facilities and support to all courts in Scotland. Since 2008 we have been conducting a programme to unify the administration of summary criminal courts in Scotland under the Scottish Court Service. North Strathclyde is the fifth Sheriffdom of six in the programme, with South Strathclyde due to unify in February 2010.

"These reforms will help our summary justice system to operate as efficiently and effectively as possible bringing speedy justice to those who commit crime.

"The changes also allow us to further streamline business processes and introduce compatible court technology linking all of the justice agencies involved.

"Unifying the administration of these courts is a complex and difficult task and to ensure this successful transition there has been a vast amount of participation and co-operation from all the agencies concerned with justice in the North Strathclyde Sheriffdom. I would particularly like to thank all the staff involved - from the Court Service and the local authorities concerned - for their hard work and commitment to implementing these changes."

Notes for News Editors

1. District Courts were operated by local authorities. On unification they become Justice of the Peace Courts. From today there are 40 Justice of the Peace Courts in Scotland. Local authority run District courts continue to operate in South Strathclyde where unification has yet to take place (February 2010). The SCS is

also responsible for the Court of Session, High Court, Sheriff Court and Office of the Public Guardian

2. On 18 January 2007 the enabling legislation in the Criminal Procedure etc (Reform) (Scotland) Act was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament and received Royal Assent on 22 February 2007.

3. Court Unification is one aspect of the Scottish Government's programme of summary justice reform, to ensure that the justice system operates effectively in tackling the low-level crime which can blight communities.

4. For more information on the unification of the Courts' administration in North Strathclyde visit:

www.scotcourts.gov.uk/court_unification/sheriffdoms/north_Strathclyde/index.asp
[Scotcourts](http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk)

5. For more information on the wider reform of summary justice visit:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/legal/criminalprocedure/19008>

Justice of the Peace Court Contact Details

Dumbarton Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court

Sheriff Court House
Church Street,
Dumbarton, G82 1QR
Tel No: 01389 763266
Email: dumbarton@scotcourts.gov.uk
Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

Paisley Justice of the Peace Court

Mill Street
Paisley, PA1 1ND
Tel No: 0141 887 5291
Email: paisleyjp@scotcourts.gov.uk
Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm

Paisley Sheriff Court

Sheriff Court House
St James Street
Paisley, PA3 2HW
Tel No: 0141 887 5291
Email: paisley@scotcourts.gov.uk
Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

Greenock Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court

1 Nelson Street
Greenock, PA15 1TR
Tel No: 01475 787073
Email: greenock@scotcourts.gov.uk
Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

Kilmarnock Sheriff Court

St Marnock Street
Kilmarnock, KA1 1ED
Tel No: 01563 550024
Email: kilmarnock@scotcourts.gov.uk
Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

Kilmarnock Justice of the Peace Court

Civic Hall
John Dickie Street
Kilmarnock, KA1 1HW

Please note: Court staff only attend the Justice of the Peace Court when the Court is sitting. Staff can be contacted at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court.

Irvine Justice of the Peace Court

Town House
66 High Street
Irvine, KA12 0AZ
Tel No:0300 7900075

Email: Irvine@scotcourts.gov.uk

Opening Hours: Mon – Thurs 9am to 4.45pm and Fri 9am to 4.30pm

Oban Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court

Albany Street
Oban, PA34 4AL
Tel No: 01631 562414

Email: oban@scotcourts.gov.uk

Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Campbeltown Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court

Castlehill
Campbeltown, PA28 6AN
Tel No: 01586 552503

Email: campbeltown@scotcourts.gov.uk

Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm

Dunoon Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court

George Street
Dunoon, PA23 8BQ
Tel No: 01369 704166

Email: dunoon@scotcourts.gov.uk

Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm

Lochgilphead Justice of the Peace Court

Lochnell Street
Lochgilphead, PA31 8JJ

Please note: Court staff only attend the Justice of the Peace Court when the Court is sitting. Staff can be contacted at Dunoon Sheriff Court.