

The following sets out the civil business that is being dealt with as part of our response to the Coronavirus. Further details can be found in the Practice Notes and other guidance available via www.scotcourts.gov.uk/coronavirus.

National Courts	All Sheriff Courts	Additional Business in the Hub Sheriff Courts
<p>Court of Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner House business including virtual hearings and/or written submissions, where appropriate • Outer House business including virtual and telephone hearings and/or written submissions, where appropriate 	<p>Sheriff Courts</p> <p>The main focus is dealing with the backlog of casework submitted during the lockdown. Priority will be given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undefended actions seeking decree (e.g. Ordinary and simplified divorces) • cases which have resolved by joint minute • cases with unopposed motions • issuing pending extract decrees, and • simplified divorces. <p>Other work such as notices of intention to defend, returned citations, initial writs, and simple procedure registrations will be processed as part of the backlog. However, any new civil litigation received after 2 June will not be progressed before 15 June and will ultimately be processed in chronological order unless it pertains to an urgent matter.</p> <p>Local courts will resume dealing with commissary business received by post and will deal with Civil Restart Applications ie applications in relation to cases that were sisted or administratively adjourned in the ordinary, family or commercial court, Adults with Incapacity applications and corporate insolvency proceedings where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the court is satisfied there is good reason for doing so; ○ the action can be progressed remotely; and ○ a hearing requiring the leading of evidence is not required. 	<p>Hub Sheriff Courts</p> <p>The hub courts will continue to consider urgent and/or necessary actions up until 15 June. Thereafter, all civil applications should be submitted to local courts having jurisdiction. Depending on volumes, hub courts may re-direct actions to alternative courts within the sheriffdom for processing but parties will be advised if this is the case.</p> <p>Business considered urgent and/or necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications/motions relating to the care and protection of children, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ permanence order applications where an urgent interim order is sought ○ urgent applications in relation to parental responsibilities and rights, for example in relation to contact or residence ○ proceedings under the Children’s Hearings (Scotland) Act 2011, such as urgent appeals against a decision of a children’s hearing or applications relating to interim compulsory supervision orders • Caveats • Urgent applications/motions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ for interim interdicts ○ for interim orders under the Adults with Incapacity Scotland (Act) 2000 ○ for interim sexual offences prevention orders or interim risk of sexual harm orders ○ for non-harassment orders ○ for interim antisocial behaviour orders ○ under the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003 ○ under the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 ○ under the Proceeds of Crime (Scotland) Act 2002 • Urgent corporate insolvency and sequestration applications • Any other application determined by the court to be urgent, e.g. imminent time bar cases
<p>Sheriff Appeal Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil business by virtual hearing, telephone conference and/or written submissions, where appropriate 		
<p>All Scotland Sheriff Personal Injury Court (ASSPIC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urgent motions, caveats and imminent time-bar cases; and other urgent matters on cause shown • The court will also process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the backlog of unopposed motions ○ NIDs and defences and issue timetables ○ steps of process lodged with the court in actions where timetables have already been issued • Hear opposed motions and procedural hearings by teleconference unless parties agree the motion may be determined on written submissions • Check and book imminent time barring initial writs when lodged with the court. Practitioners should refrain from submitting writs where the time bar is more than 6 months ahead. 		