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Dear Mr Aitken

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS S3W-38230 AND S3W-38231  
DOMESTIC ABUSE COURT CASES**

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQs indicated that they related to operational matters being the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service corporate body. I am now writing to you regarding the matters you have raised.

The first PQ **S3W-38230** asks *how many cases have been brought before the domestic abuse court in each of the last five years.*

The number of new cases calling in the Domestic Abuse Court since it was first established in October 2004 to the end of 2010 is as follows:

2004	95
2005	765
2006	744
2007	822
2008	908
2009	2099
2010	2450

Source: Monthly data recorded by the Glasgow Domestic Abuse Court.

Note: New cases originated in Strathclyde Police 'G' Division only from October 2004 to October 2008 inclusive. From November 2008 to December 2009 new cases originated in both 'G' Division and 'A' Division. From January 2010 new cases originated in Glasgow 'A', 'B' and 'G' Divisions.

**S3W-38231** asks in how many cases before the domestic abuse court the accused plead at the (a) first appearance and (b) intermediate diet and was found guilty after trial in each of the last five years.

We have not been able to compile the requested information for the full period. It has, however, been possible to combine data used in the Evaluation of the Domestic Abuse Court by Reid Howie Associates published by the Scottish Executive in March 2007 with weekly data recorded by the Domestic Abuse Court for an 18 month period from July 2007 to December 2008 and monthly data recorded by the Domestic Abuse Court for a 2 year period from January 2009 to December 2010. From this we can provide information for parts (a) and (b) for each of these periods but data on trial findings was not collated in 2009 and 2010. This information would now only be available through a full manual check of the records at disproportionate cost.

	Oct 2004- Sept 2006	July 2007- Dec 2007	2008	2009	2010
(a) guilty pleas at first appearance	316	75	222	648	796
(b) guilty pleas at intermediate diet	412	79	133	307	445
(c) guilty findings after trial	71	14	38	n/a	n/a

Sources: Data published in Domestic Abuse Court evaluation report for October 2004 to September 2006, weekly data recorded by the Glasgow Domestic Abuse Court from July 2007 to December 2008, and monthly data recorded by the Glasgow Domestic Abuse Court for the calendar years 2009 and 2010.

Notes: Part (a) includes guilty pleas at first calling, guilty pleas after warrant and guilty pleas at an accelerated diet. Data on pleas and findings from the evaluation were not broken down by month or year.

Yours sincerely



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