



Hugh Henry MSP
The Scottish Parliament
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Chief Executive's Office
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Dear Mr Henry

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS S3W-38327, S3W-38328, S3W-38332
and S3W-38333 – FINANCIAL PENALTIES**

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.

S3W-38327 asks *how many warrants were issued for those who failed to appear at a fines court in 2009-10.*

18,388 warrants to apprehend were issued by fines courts in 2009-10 in relation to all enforceable penalty types.

S3W-38328 asks *how many people have reappeared at a fines court following a failure to fulfill previous requests in each year since 2007*

Information relating to the enforcement and recovery of financial penalties, including fiscal fines, is now published in reports on the Scottish Court Service website. This can be accessed at www.scotcourts.gov.uk/courtsadmin/scs_strategy.asp. However the detail required to answer this question does not form part of that analysis and its extraction from information held by SCS would be likely to incur disproportionate cost.

S3W-38332 asks *how many fiscal fines were not paid in 2009-10.*

Of the 39,242 fiscal fines imposed during 2009-10 and due for payment, 18,423 are either fully paid or being paid by instalments: the remaining 20,819 are subject to enforcement action to ensure payment is made. This is the position as reported as at 11 October 2010. Prior to SCS taking responsibility for the collection and enforcement of Fiscal Fines in March 2008 only around 40% of fiscal offers made were accepted and paid. The current collection rate is at an all time high, with 74% of the value of fines imposed in the 2008-09 financial year having been paid or on track to be paid by instalments.

S3W-38333 asks *how many unpaid fixed penalty notice cases were taken before a fines court in 2009-10.*

3,250 registered fines following on from anti social behaviour fixed penalty notices were taken before a fines court in 2009-10.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eleanor A Emberson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'E'.

Eleanor Emberson
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