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2 March 2015

Dear Ms Grant

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S4W-24304

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQ indicated that it relates to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service corporate body. I am now writing to you in response to the matter you have raised.

S4W-24304 *What contingency plans there are to accommodate court business if Inverness Sheriff Court is unavailable?*

The Scottish Court Service has invested significantly in its estate over recent years in order to ensure that court accommodation is provided to a high standard, minimising the likelihood of courts becoming unavailable.

The priority during a period of disruption would be to ensure that no cases are lost due to an inability to run courts.

Where a court complex becomes completely unavailable we would identify critical business that must be processed and then implement options to ensure that business can be heard. These options include the establishment of temporary court facilities to deal with business within the locality or the transfer of business to another court within the Sheriffdom.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Court Service website.

Yours sincerely

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