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20 June 2014

Dear Mr Johnstone

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S4W-21385 & S4W-21386**

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-21385** asks what provision was made in the business case to close sheriff court buildings to finance any additional costs associated with their redeployment.

The business case made provision to keep surplus buildings maintained and secure for a period of at least four years pending their sale. Any property marketing decisions to incur additional costs in order to redeploy specific buildings would be made on a case by case basis - they would not be directly related to the closure decision and hence would not be included in the business case.

**S4W-21386** asks whether the business case for the closure of sheriff court buildings included capital being realised from the redundant assets.

The business case did include estimated proceeds from the sale of surplus buildings, and assumed they would realise close to their open market value.

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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