



SHERIFFDOM OF LOTHIAN AND BORDERS
SHERIFF AND JUSTICE OF THE PEACE COURTS
COVID-19

Summary Criminal Proceedings

Guidance and notice in respect of summary criminal cases where pleas of guilty are to be tendered.

[1] Where an accused who is represented by a solicitor, seeks to plead guilty and an acceptable plea has been agreed with the prosecutor parties should follow the guidance "Facilitating Pleas of Guilty in Summary Criminal Proceedings" published on the SCTS Website on 11 May 2020. Applications made under and in terms of that guidance shall be made by electronic means to the email address GuiltyPleaEdinburgh@scotcourts.gov.uk. That procedure is only be adopted where the solicitor for the accused and the prosecutor have agreed both the plea and the facts on which the plea proceeds and they are each of the opinion that the proceedings may be capable of determination in the absence of the accused or the solicitor for the accused. Applications will be considered by a sheriff at courts convened commencing on Wednesday 27 May 2020 and on subsequent Wednesdays until further notice.

Letter pleas of Guilty

[2] In summary prosecutions in which letter pleas of guilty have been tendered the court, in accordance with the powers set out in section 137ZB of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, will, of its own accord, discharge the diet fixed for the calling of the case and will of new fix a diet in the cases mentioned in the schedule to this guidance. The new diet for the

cases mentioned in the schedule will be 27 May 2020 at 10am. This applies to the cases set out in column A of the schedule and in respect of which a diet is fixed for dates specified in column B of the schedule which, in the current circumstances and given that letter pleas have been tendered are no longer suitable to the court.

[3] Cases where letter pleas have been received by the Procurator Fiscal will continue to call in Edinburgh Sheriff Court on subsequent Wednesdays. The Procurator Fiscal will notify the Sheriff Clerk of the names and case references. The Sheriff Clerk will then prepare a schedule in a similar manner to that attached to this notice listing the cases to call on a particular Wednesday court giving the date when they are currently listed to call. The court will of its own accord discharge the diet fixed in Column B and in lieu fix the date of the most suitable Wednesday court, all in terms of s.137ZB of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995.

Mhairi M Stephen

Sheriff Principal M M Stephen QC
20 May 2020

SCHEDULE

LETTER PLEAS OF GUILTY CALLING ON 27 MAY 2020

COLUMN A		COLUMN B
CASE NUMBER	ACCUSED'S NAME	DIET CURRENTLY FIXED