

Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde

Coronavirus

Guidance in respect of Criminal Business

No. 2 of 2020

This guidance sets out further arrangements for the management of criminal business in the Sheriffdom of North Strathclyde with effect from Friday 10 April 2020. All business will be conducted in either Kilmarnock or Paisley Sheriff Courts. All other courts are closed. Accused who are at liberty should not attend. Only those required to attend in terms of an undertaking should attend.

1. Solemn Business

- No new jury trials will commence, until further notice.
- Jurors who have already been cited should not attend court.
- The position in relation to the citation of jurors will be continually reviewed. At this time, it is not expected that the citation of jurors will recommence before June 2020.
- In relation to the following categories of criminal business where the accused is not in custody, diets will be continued administratively in terms of section 75C of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 to a new first diet 12 weeks hence until further notice.

2. Sheriff Court Summary and Justice of the Peace Court Business

- From 10th April, all non-custody summary cases, except as after mentioned will be discharged administratively in terms of section 137ZB of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995, to a date at least 12 weeks after the date on which the case was due to call. Cited court cases will be continued administratively for 4 weeks. The 4 week continuation for cited cases is likely to be repeated if the current emergency continues. The dates allocated will be intimated to agents by letter. It would greatly assist if agents do not email the court seeking confirmation of dates so staff may complete the administrative process which will facilitate the letters being sent intimating the dates.
- Custody trials will call on the date fixed and a determination will be made by the sheriff in the light of submissions by parties of further procedure. Non custody trials will be discharged administratively, as narrated above.

D L Murray WS

Sheriff Principal

8 April 2020