

# **SHERIFFDOM OF LoTHIAN AND BORDERS**

## **Practice Note**

### **Summary Trials at Edinburgh Sheriff Court**

With a view to securing greater efficiency in the disposal of summary trials at Edinburgh Sheriff Court the following arrangements will come into effect in relation to trials calling on and after Monday 7 August 2000.

1. The accused and all witnesses will be cited to attend court at 9.30 a.m.
2. A procurator fiscal depute will be available in each trial court at 9.45 a.m. to discuss pleas, the running order of the day's business, and any other matters relevant to the day's business.
3. Court officers will, by 9.45 a.m., provide each procurator fiscal depute with a full list of the accused and witnesses who are in attendance.
4. Defence solicitors are expected to be in attendance in court at 9.45 a.m. in order to discuss pleas, to advise the procurator fiscal depute of cases which will be proceeding to trial, and to discuss any other matters relevant to the day's business.
5. Sheriffs will sit promptly at 10 a.m. and they will expect the procurator fiscal depute and defence solicitors to be in a position to proceed at once with the day's business.
6. Any pleas which have been agreed between the procurator fiscal depute and defence solicitors will be disposed of first along with any motions. The first trial will commence immediately thereafter.

**Edinburgh, 22 March 2000**

*Gordon Nicholson*

**Sheriff Principal  
Lothian and Borders**