

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



Jamie Greene MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Chief Executive's Office
Parliament House
Parliament Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1RQ

12 February 2026

DX 549306
LP1 Edinburgh 10

Dear Mr Greene

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S6W-43406 & S6W-43407

The Cabinet Secretary in her response to the above PQ indicated that it related to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service corporate body. I am now writing in response to the matter raised.

S6W-43406 asks: what the average time, in weeks, is between the first calling and the conclusion of summary criminal cases at Greenock Sheriff Court, in the most recent year for which data is available.

Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service (SCTS) use a live operational case management system for the processing of court business. It is structured for these operational needs rather than for statistical reporting purposes.

SCTS do not collate the statistical information sought and unfortunately cannot produce the statistics sought from the case management system without significant development work with the system developers. This can include substantial costs for the development of tailored programming scripts to extract the data sought.

The length of time for a case to conclude is complex and multifaceted. Some cases may conclude at time of sentencing, while others may have orders imposed at sentence which necessitate future calling dates such as reviews of Community Orders or Drug Treatment and Testing Orders etc.

Whilst not possible to produce the statistics requested, SCTS does produce official statistics concerning business levels both at national and court level, which includes data on the average time between pleading diet and evidence led trial, where evidence led trial occurred in the period is available. The publication is available on the [Official Statistics Section](#) of our website.

The latest Courts and Tribunal Data Scotland (CTDS) - Criminal tables was published on 20 January 2026. The next update of the CTDS – Criminal tables is due for publication on 17 February 2026.

You may also wish to note the Scottish Government publication '[Journey times in the Scottish Criminal Justice System interactive dashboard](#)' which may be of interest to you. This bulletin presents an accused person's criminal justice journey time from offence date to case conclusion or verdict.

S6W-43407 asks: how many cases scheduled to be heard at Greenock Sheriff Court were adjourned due to court capacity or scheduling issues, in each of the last five years.

The table below provides figures on the number of trials adjourned due to 'lack of court time' for Greenock Sheriff Court Solemn and Summary criminal trial business in each of the last five financial years. It is important to note that a single trial can experience multiple adjournments throughout its progression due to the complexities inherent in criminal proceedings.

Greenock Sheriff Court		Financial year					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 YTD**
Number of trials called and adjournment granted for reason 'lack of court time'	Solemn	2	11	18	4	3	3
	Summary	26	33	48	48	50	65

For additional context, please also see below table which provides the number of trials adjourned 'due to lack of court time' as a percentage for Greenock Solemn and Summary trial business in each of the last five years.

Greenock Sheriff Court		Financial year					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26 YTD**
Percentage of trials called and adjournment granted for reason 'lack of court time'	Solemn	8.7%	10.9%	15.9%	1.9%	2.3%	4.2%
	Summary	4.5%	2.7%	3.0%	3.8%	4.0%	8.3%

Source: Courts and Tribunals Data Scotland – Criminal (<https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/about-us/scts-statistics/>)

Data Table - Notes

*Average time to evidence led trial shows the up to date position for the current financial year.

**Financial Year 2025/26 YTD (Year to date) covers the period from 1 April to 31 December 2025

The statistical information contained in the above detailed tables is derived from a long-established series of internal monthly management information reports that are populated from a monthly data extract from COPII – the live operational case management system (an administrative database) used by SCTS to record activity on criminal court cases.

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

Yours sincerely



Malcolm Graham
Chief Executive