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DX: PE 20

Dear Mr Macdonald

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S4W-16559
SHERIFF COURT TRIALS**

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-16559 asks: *how many sheriff court trials have been (a) abandoned and (b) delayed in each month since April 2007.*

Figures for the last 5 financial years are provided in the accompanying tables. For the purposes of the above question(s) **abandoned** has been interpreted as relating to trials in cases which have been deserted *pro loco et tempore*, deserted *simpliciter* and those which have been *not called* on the day. Proceedings which have been deserted *pro loco et tempore* and those *not called* may be raised again by the Crown at some later time. **Delayed** has been interpreted as relating to trials where no evidence was led on the day and the diets were adjourned, for a specified reason. Figures for total trials called are shown from April 2009 to provide additional context to recent figures.

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

Yours sincerely

David Fraser

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