

SUMMARY CASE MANAGEMENT

National Rollout Report: A Shared Vision Shaped Through Collaboration

May 2026

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Annex 1: SCM Rollout Monitoring Report – Measures

FOREWORD by Lord Pentland, Lord Justice General



It gives me great pleasure to introduce this report on Summary Case Management. The project has proved to be an inspiring success. It amply demonstrates the value of close engagement between all those involved in summary criminal justice: the judiciary, the Crown, the defence, the police and the court service. This collaborative endeavour enabled efficiencies and practical improvements to be identified and introduced at every stage of a summary prosecution. The result has been a significant reduction in the number of scheduled trials, far fewer witnesses having to be cited and a lower level of adjournment of cases. There has been an impressive cultural shift delivered by improved communications and stronger judicial management of cases. Wherever possible, drift, delay and the churning of cases have been eliminated. Public trust and confidence in the system of summary criminal justice have thereby been enhanced.

Sheriff Principal Anwar has led the project with great vision and determination. I commend her and everyone else who has played a part in this transformative exercise.

There are important lessons we can learn for the improvement of other parts of the justice system.

INTRODUCTION *Sheriff Principal Aisha Anwar K.C.*



In September 2024, the Final Evaluation of the Summary Case Management (SCM) Pilot was published. It charted the design, development and piloting phases of an ambitious project to reform the summary criminal justice system in Scotland. The purpose of SCM was simple: to deliver swifter justice, reduce inefficiencies and improve the experience of all those involved in summary criminal cases.

The Final Evaluation recommended that SCM should be rolled across all 6 sheriffdoms and all 39 sheriff courts in Scotland.

The national rollout commenced in January 2025 and was completed within a year. That was a challenging timescale. It was achieved by developing a mutual understanding of a shared vision among all justice partners and by securing a commitment to improving the experiences of witnesses, accused persons and complainers. It has involved close collaboration between justice partners and the judiciary at a local level, was overseen by the national SCM Board and was led by Sheriffs Principal who worked closely together to achieve national consistency.

Historically, the summary criminal justice system faced persistent challenges which included late guilty pleas, frequent adjournments, and a high volume of unnecessary trials. These inefficiencies placed significant strain on court resources, increased costs, and caused disruption for complainers and witnesses. For accused persons, delays and uncertainty often prolonged the resolution of their case, reducing confidence in the fairness of the process.

SCM was developed to address these longstanding issues. The results are remarkable. As at January 2026:

- scheduled summary trials reduced to 27% below the pre-pandemic baseline;
- scheduled domestic abuse trials reduced to 30% below the pre-pandemic baseline;
- first witness citations in summary cases have fallen by 47% and in domestic abuse cases by 36% since May 2023;
- police witness citations have reduced in summary cases by 47% and in domestic abuse cases by 41% since May 2023;
- the percentage of trials adjourned fell from 40% to 27% and in domestic abuse cases from 40% to 30%.

This report charts the progress one year on from the national rollout. Recent figures indicate further improvements. As at March 2026, scheduled summary trials have reduced to 36% compared to pre-pandemic levels: the lowest numbers recorded.

It is estimated that over 100,000 fewer police officers were cited to give evidence during the period of the national rollout of SCM. Approximately 3000 fewer child witnesses were cited, representing a reduction of 40% in the same period.

The key to the success of the rollout lies firmly in collaboration at a local and national level. It has been a pleasure to work with so many willing partners across the justice sector to deliver a modern summary criminal justice system. I commend all of those involved; the sheriffs who embraced the changes and those who led the Local Implementation Groups, the staff of the Scottish Courts Tribunal Service, the Crown and Procurator Fiscal Service, Police Scotland, local criminal defence solicitors and the members of the Summary Case Management Board.

There are key individuals who are worthy of particular mention; John Logue (Crown Agent), Jim Brisbane (Director of Strategy, COPFS), ACC Wendy Middleton and Chief Superintendent Barry Blair (Police Scotland), Janette Purbrick (former Statistician, SCTS), Aileen Horner (former Operational Lead, Criminal Justice Reform, SCTS) each made very significant contributions to the design of SCM and deserve great credit for its success.

SCM does not simply represent an efficiency gain. It represents a change of culture. Early communication, meaningful engagement between prosecution and defence and proactive judicial case management have replaced delay and uncertainty. It is a significant improvement in how justice is delivered in the summary criminal courts.

Looking ahead, the challenge for all is to ensure that SCM becomes, and remains, business as usual.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The national rollout of Summary Case Management

The national rollout of summary case management (SCM) was designed to build on the success of the SCM pilot and to embed a consistent and proactive approach to case management across all sheriff courts in Scotland.

The national rollout commenced in January 2025 and concluded across all sheriffdoms in January 2026. The rollout was led nationally by the SCM Board, chaired by Sheriff Principal Anwar KC.

The objectives of the rollout reflected both the aims of the SCM model, and the expectations set out in [*Practice Note No.1 of 2025 - Summary Case Management*](#):

- **Judicial control and active case management:** Proper judicial control over court time is essential to ensuring a fair hearing within a reasonable period. Sheriffs were tasked with actively managing all stages of summary proceedings, with clear expectations placed on the Crown and defence to support the court.
- **Promote efficiency and best use of resources:** Measures to improve efficiency and ensure court capacity is used proportionately were implemented, supported by structured case management at first calling and continued without plea (CWP) diets.
- **Focus on early disclosure and early engagement:** To ensure the accused is informed of the case against him or her at the earliest stage, enabling meaningful legal advice before plea and reducing the number of cases proceeding unnecessarily to trial, a focus was placed on early disclosure and engagement between the defence and the Crown.

The national rollout was designed to achieve the following outcomes:

- Reduce scheduled trials, particularly those which result in a guilty plea without the leading of evidence.
- Decrease witness citations, including police witnesses.
- Improve trial performance by reducing the number of adjournments (“churn”), by focussing the issues for trial and by increasing the number of trials concluded.

Scheduled Trial Volumes (Backlog)

- By **August 2025**, scheduled summary trial volumes had dropped to **13,346**, marking the first point at which the national position fell **below the pre-pandemic baseline**.
- As sheriffdoms transitioned to SCM through 2025, the downward trend accelerated. By **January 2026**, overall scheduled trials had reduced to **10,191** – **70% below** the **July 2021** peak and **27% below** the pre-pandemic baseline.
- Domestic abuse trials showed an equally marked improvement, falling from a peak of 7,685 to 2,082 (a **73%** reduction) and now sitting **30% below** the historic baseline of 2,978.

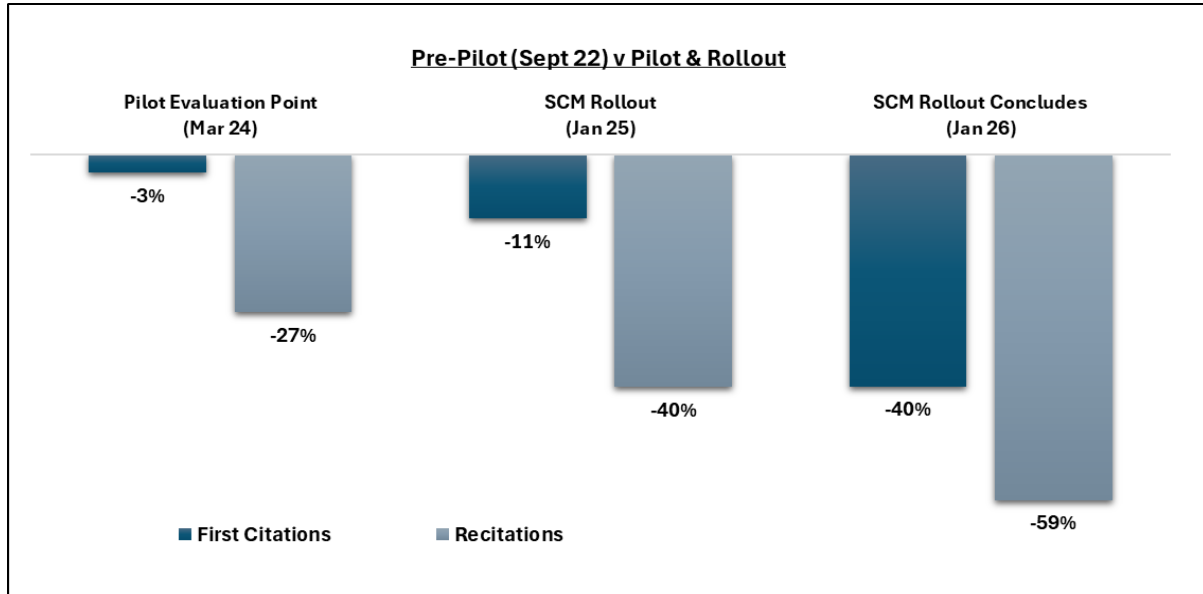
Conclusion: SCM has contributed to a sustained system-wide recovery post-pandemic in scheduled trials. It has created a significantly more efficient approach to trials than that which existed pre-pandemic.

Witness Citations (First and Re-citations)

- First citations in all cases reduced from a May 2023 peak of 16,179 to 8,512 by January 2026 (**-47%**) and around **40% below** the level at pilot commencement in September 2022.
- Domestic abuse first citations reduced from 4,208 (May 2023) to 2,672 (January 2026) (**-36%**).
- The impact on police witness citations is more pronounced: police first citations in all cases reduced from 8,180 (May 2023) to 4,296 (January 2026) (**-47%**), while police Domestic Abuse first citations fell from 2,159 to 1,266 (**-41%**).
- Re-citations also fell markedly across all categories during the rollout (see main report), evidencing less churn and improved trial readiness.

As illustrated in **Figure 1**, national witness citation volumes have shown a sustained reduction following the implementation of the SCM model. Relative to pre-pilot volumes in September 2022, first citations decreased by 40%, with re-citations falling by 59% by the completion of the national rollout. These reductions reflect a consistent downward trend through the pilot and subsequent rollout period.

Figure 1: Percentage reductions in the volume of monthly witness citations (Data Source - COPFS)¹



Conclusion: The rollout materially reduced unnecessary witness attendance delivering clear benefits for victims and witnesses by reducing avoidable disruption, minimising repeated attendance, uncertainty and potential trauma for victims and civilian witnesses. The reduction in police witness citations is particularly marked, releasing operational capacity.

Trial Performance (Churn and Evidence-Led Trials)

- Churn at trial (adjourned to new trial diet) fell significantly during the rollout:
 - Non-Domestic Abuse: 40% (2021/22) → 33% (aggregated pilot courts) → **27% (national rollout)**.
 - Domestic Abuse: 40% (2021/22) → 34% (aggregated pilot courts) → **30% (national rollout)**.
- Evidence-led rates increased from recovery-period lows:
 - Non-Domestic Abuse: 9% (recovery) → 10% (aggregated pilot courts) → **12% (national rollout)**.
 - Domestic Abuse: 13% (recovery) → 16% (aggregated pilot courts) → **16% (national rollout)**.

¹ The percentages shown in the 'Pilot Evaluation Point' column reflects the national position at that time, not the position in the pilot courts. Figures referenced in the Executive Summary are presented in the main body of the report.

Conclusion: More trials now proceed on the scheduled day, with fewer adjournments to new trial diets. This reflects the benefits of earlier disclosure, focused preparation and purposeful judicial case management under SCM.

The national rollout has consolidated and amplified the gains demonstrated during the pilot. The marked fall in scheduled trials, substantial reductions in witness citations, and improved trial performance provide clear evidence that SCM has modernised summary case handling and supported more proportionate and trauma-informed practice. Improvements in contest rate, intermediate diets and trial performance show that SCM is driving earlier, better-informed decisions and more effective use of court time.

Feedback from Justice Partners

These outcomes are translating into transformational benefits for those involved, as evidenced by the feedback from justice partners.

“The success of the Summary Case Management project reflects the very best of what we can achieve when the judiciary, SCTS, and justice partners work together with a shared purpose.

This transformation is not simply about streamlining processes; it is about improving the experience of victims, witnesses and accused persons by ensuring cases progress with greater clarity, earlier resolution and fewer unnecessary appearances. We will continue to work in partnership across the justice system in delivering a more responsive, person-centred approach that strengthens confidence in Scotland’s summary courts.”

Malcolm Graham, Chief Executive Officer, SCTS

“As the Lead Sheriff in Dundee Sheriff Court, one of the three pilot courts implementing summary case management, I was privileged to see the transformative impact of this new way of approaching summary criminal procedure. From the outset the results were remarkable, and it was clearly demonstrated that active early engagement from the crown and the defence along with effective judicial management could result in timely resolution of cases and a reduction in the citation of witnesses for trial. This delivered benefits for the police, the crown, the defence and the courts. Importantly, it also introduced benefits for complainers and witnesses as well as accused persons. A key aspect was the reduction in the number of adjourned trials following on from the scrutiny applied to the state of preparation of parties at the case management hearing. There was a precipitous decline in the number of outstanding summary trials at Dundee Sheriff Court during the life of the pilot with all the benefits that entailed for early trial dates being fixed and the avoidance of unnecessary and often stressful

inconvenience for those involved in the criminal justice system. The national rollout has since ensured that these benefits are now felt across the country. “

Sheriff Paul Brown

“It is now beyond doubt that Summary Case Management (SCM) has created a more modern and efficient approach to summary criminal prosecutions in Scotland. Its transformational effect is unparalleled for both practitioners and the wider public.

That can be seen most obviously in the dramatic reduction in the number of victims and witnesses being asked to attend court. It is also demonstrated by the reduction in outstanding trials (the so-called backlog) which is now significantly below the pre-pandemic level. We believe these trends can continue.

COPFS acknowledges the significant role played by Police Scotland in now providing disclosure much earlier than they had previously been required. This key foundational step has enabled all that has followed, particularly engagement with the defence. We also recognise the extent to which defence practitioners have embraced the SCM model and have provided helpful input on its development. We are especially grateful for the leadership of Sheriff Principal Anwar since the inception of SCM and the support of other Sheriffs Principal as it has developed.

The success of SCM as a concept, pilot, and now a national model, has been founded on a clear vision, increased co-operation between all the participants, and effective judicial leadership. These important features are now informing how we can achieve a similarly transformational effect in solemn cases as we continue to make further improvements to summary business for the benefit of practitioners and the public.”

John Logue, Crown Agent, COPFS

“As criminal justice partners we have a shared objective and responsibility to ensure the interests of victims, witnesses and accused persons are best served. Summary Case Management demonstrates what can be achieved when justice partners work collaboratively to provide an efficient and effective justice system. Providing disclosure of evidence earlier in the criminal justice process has reduced delays, ensured early resolution, and delivered positive outcomes for all those involved in the criminal justice system. The benefits of summary case management go beyond the justice system and have wider public safety benefits for communities in Scotland. Summary Case Management has reduced the number of police officers being cited for court, this means officers are not abstracted from front line policing and instead remain within local communities. We are grateful for the leadership and

collaboration from all partners, and we will continue to work in partnership to ensure the continuous improvement of summary case management in Scotland”.

ACC Mark Sutherland, Police Scotland.

“Summary Case Management offers enormous benefits to both accused persons and defence lawyers. Clients now have the benefit of their case concluding within weeks rather than months which minimises the inevitable anxiety that arises as a result of a prosecution.

Our own firm has enjoyed a number of benefits from the implementation of SCM. Diary management is one of the biggest challenges for any criminal defence firm and SCM has significantly improved our ability to manage our diary as we have fewer unnecessary hearings to cover. This has also allowed us to focus our firm on more profitable areas of work, and our firm has seen a significant increase in turnover since SCM was introduced. I believe the two are connected.”

Matthew McGovern, Defence Agent, Hamilton

1. THE PRINCIPLES OF SCM

The core principles of Summary Case Management (SCM), as illustrated in **Figure 2**, include early disclosure of evidential material to the defence, early and meaningful engagement between Crown and defence, and early judicial case management to ensure cases progress efficiently. In practice, this means that prosecution and defence engage early to explore resolution and identify key issues, digital platforms are used to share evidence effectively, and case management hearings provide a forum for proactive judicial oversight to monitor progress and minimise delay. By promoting early resolution, improving the quality and timing of communication and engagement, and reducing unnecessary procedural churn, SCM was designed to deliver a more efficient, effective, and fair summary justice process. This approach aligns with Scotland’s commitment to trauma-informed practice, as earlier engagement, clearer communication and fewer unnecessary court appearances help to minimise uncertainty and reduce the risk of re-traumatisation for victims and witnesses, particularly in sensitive cases.

Figure 2: Key Elements of SCM Model



Following a successful pilot across selected Sheriff Courts, the decision was taken to introduce Summary Case Management in all sheriff courts in Scotland. The pilot, supported by robust evaluation, demonstrated not only operational benefits – such as reductions in witness citations and a decrease in the number of scheduled summary trials – but also improvements in user experience, including earlier contact with victims, clearer communication for accused persons, and a more streamlined process for practitioners. Building on this evidence, the national rollout of SCM provided an opportunity to embed these practices consistently across Scotland.

This report evaluates the effectiveness of the rollout, examining both quantitative outcomes—such as trial avoidance and reductions in witness citation volumes—and

qualitative feedback gathered from the judiciary, legal practitioners, victims' organisations and operational staff. It explores the challenges encountered during implementation, including workforce pressures, variations in local practice, and the need for sustained cross-agency coordination to maintain and build on benefits over time.

The findings presented here are intended to inform future policy decisions and operational strategies, ensuring that Scotland's summary justice system continues to evolve in line with modern expectations of efficiency, transparency, and user experience. They highlight the progress achieved to date, identify areas where further refinement may be required, and outline opportunities to strengthen collaborative working across the justice sector as SCM becomes embedded within summary criminal court practice.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE PILOT PROGRAMME

The Summary Case Management (SCM) pilot programme was designed by Sheriff Principal Anwar K.C. in close collaboration with all justice partners. The pilot launched in September 2022. While SCM applied to all summary cases, the pilot placed particular emphasis on domestic abuse cases.

Pilot Locations and Duration

The pilot commenced in Dundee, Hamilton and Paisley Sheriff Courts for all sheriff summary cases in September 2022. In 2024, the pilot was extended to Glasgow and Perth Sheriff Courts for domestic abuse cases only. The pilot ran for 19 months, providing sufficient time to test processes and gather meaningful data.

Objectives of the Pilot

The pilot aimed to:

- Increase early resolution at the initial procedural stages (First Calling and Continued Without Plea (CWP)).
- Decrease the number of witness citations issued.
- Reduce the number of scheduled trials at which no evidence is led.

Key Features of SCM During the Pilot

The pilot introduced features designed to strengthen early case preparation, improve information flow between agencies, and support proactive judicial oversight. Prosecution and defence were required to explore resolution opportunities and identify issues, supported by secure digital platforms that enabled timely sharing of evidence. These developments were underpinned by case management hearings that provided proactive oversight and helped to reduce unnecessary trials.

Outcomes and Impact

Following the 19-month pilot period, a full evaluation was conducted, and the [*SCM Pilot Final Evaluation Report*](#) was published in September 2024.

The report concluded that SCM had a positive impact on:

- Early resolution at initial stages (First Calling and CWP).
- Witness citation volumes.
- Scheduled trial volumes.
- The overall experience of court users (victims, witnesses and accused persons).

Lessons Learned

The pilot programme provided insights that shaped the national rollout of SCM:

- Strong inter-agency collaboration proved essential for maintaining momentum and ensuring consistency across courts and partner organisations.
- Robust digital infrastructure (including reliable connectivity) was vital in supporting early resolution and secure, timely disclosure; addressing early technical challenges helped build confidence in digital processes.
- Comprehensive training for legal professionals, police officers, and court staff supported the embedding of new practices and promoted a shared understanding of roles and expectations.
- Effective judicial case management enabled intermediate diets and pre-intermediate diet meetings (PIDMs) to be dispensed with, creating capacity in court programmes for case management hearings.
- Consistent use of applications under Sections 134 and 137 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 helped avoid unnecessary trial diets, reduce churn, and minimise inconvenience to witnesses.

Collectively, these lessons informed improvements that strengthened efficiency, reliability, and collaboration during national rollout, ensuring that the benefits demonstrated during the pilot were replicated across Scotland.

3. ROLLOUT IMPLEMENTATION

The national rollout of SCM built on pilot success to deliver a phased, digitally enabled model across all Sheriff Courts. Informed by pilot feedback, the strategy prioritised police readiness, including the availability of Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC)², structured training, and strong local governance to minimise disruption and ensure consistent adoption.

Rollout Schedule

Schedule 1 of [Practice Note No 1 of 2025](#) established a phased, sheriffdom-by sheriffdom rollout of SCM, beginning in January 2025 in the Sheriffdom of Glasgow & Strathkelvin with the rollout to non-domestic cases. The programme followed a clear chronological structure aligned with local training and workshop support.

The rollout was supported and led locally by each Sheriff Principal and progressed steadily from early adoption in Glasgow, through major implementation phases in Tayside, Central & Fife and Grampian, Highlands & Islands, before extending into Lothian & Borders during the summer. Late summer and early autumn saw further expansion into South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway and North Strathclyde, with each locality transitioning domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse business types in a planned and sequenced manner, with the exception of Dumbarton, Oban and Campbeltown Sheriff Courts, which implemented both domestic and non-domestic cases simultaneously.

By January 2026, following a change to the schedule for the remaining North Strathclyde courts for operational reasons, each sheriffdom had fully implemented SCM across all summary business.

Implementation Progress

Since January 2025, SCM has been implemented in 35 Sheriff Courts across six sheriffdoms. The rollout began in Glasgow on 13 January 2025 with non-domestic abuse cases and concluded in Campbeltown on 28 January 2026.

In the majority of courts, a staged approach was followed, beginning with domestic abuse cases before expanding to non-domestic abuse cases to support a smooth transition. Due to Glasgow's high case volume, non-domestic abuse cases were introduced across three stages: custody cases, undertakings, and cited cases.

² DESC is Scotland's national Digital Evidence Sharing Capability – a secure system that allows police, prosecutors, defence, and courts to collect, store and share digital evidence.

The rollout was further strengthened by developments to the SCM model, including the extension to cases involving charges of shoplifting where video evidence captured the offence in whole or in part. This followed a successful pilot in Dundee, which demonstrated improvements in the management of such cases. Under the extended model, police provided key evidence, specifically any video footage, at the point of reporting, enabling COPFS to consider the material during case marking and disclose it earlier to the defence, thereby supporting faster and more efficient case resolution. Further opportunities are now being explored to identify additional categories of cases that might benefit from a similar front-loaded approach.

Local Delivery and Governance

Implementation in each court was judicially led and supported by Local Implementation Groups (LIGs), ensuring effective governance, operational oversight, and stakeholder engagement.

The key components identified as “Essentials for National Rollout” in the [SCM Final Evaluation Report](#) were adopted and included:

- [Practice Note No.1 of 2025](#) - which governed the rollout process, set out timelines, and clarified expectations for all justice partners.
- Reconstitution of the Summary Case Management (SCM) Board, chaired by Sheriff Principal Anwar, providing strategic oversight of the national rollout.
- Mandatory training for police officers, COPFS staff, sheriffs and court staff prior to implementation.
- Review and refinement of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to support monitoring at national, sheriffdom, and local levels.
- Judicially led readiness workshops held in each locality ahead of commencement, attended by all justice partners and stakeholders.
- Formation of Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) to support Sheriffs Principal in preparing for and delivering SCM.
- Introduction of engagement surgeries; promoting collaboration and early resolution of cases or issues.

Stakeholder Involvement

The successful implementation of SCM relied on strong collaboration among key justice partners.

- **Judiciary**

The Judiciary played a central role in supporting the effective implementation of the SCM model and ensuring consistent adherence to the Practice Note across Scotland. All Sheriffs Principal provided strategic oversight through their membership of the SCM Board, offering leadership for their respective sheriffdoms and contributing judicial perspective to national decision-making and system development. Their involvement ensured that the model was grounded in judicial expectations, was applied consistently and that operational planning aligned with the requirements of active case management set out in the Practice Note.

At a local level, Sheriffs Principal and sheriffs supported implementation by chairing Local Implementation Group (LIG) meetings, bringing together justice partners to oversee preparation for rollout, resolve emerging issues and promote a shared understanding of courtroom practice under SCM. Their leadership within LIGs was critical in driving consistency, reinforcing expectations and resolving issues. In courts, sheriffs actively managed cases in line with SCM expectations, maintaining adherence to the Practice Note and promoting consistent application of the model. Sheriffs also engaged directly with local practitioners to clarify procedural expectations, discuss case management approaches and encourage alignment with the requirements of the Practice Note.

Throughout rollout, the judiciary maintained a visible and sustained leadership role. Sheriffs Principal ensured that sheriffs received appropriate guidance on the model and had mechanisms for raising concerns or seeking clarification. Judicially led engagement sessions supported a consistent understanding of SCM's aims and responsibilities, as well as facilitating discussions on how SCM would work in practice. The ongoing involvement of the judiciary ensured that the procedural and cultural changes required by SCM were understood, supported and applied consistently across courts, strengthening the overall impact of the model.

- **SCTS**

To support the effective implementation of the national rollout of the SCM model, SCTS appointed a dedicated operational lead who coordinated the organisational preparations across the court estate. Working closely with sheriff clerks and sheriffdom business managers, the operational lead oversaw local readiness, prepared training materials, facilitated SCM workshops, and ensured that administrative processes and courtroom workflows were adapted to meet the expectations of the Practice Note. The operational lead represented SCTS on the SCM Board, along with

the CEO and Executive Director of Court Operations, providing a vital link between court operations, senior leaders and the judiciary, and ensuring that operational perspectives informed strategic decision-making.

The operational lead undertook extensive engagement with justice partners, including attending the Police Oversight meeting, to support a shared understanding of how SCM would operate in practice. They facilitated SBM/Sheriff Clerk meetings to support joint planning, promote consistency and resolve operational issues in the early stages of rollout. The operational lead also ensured that senior leaders were kept informed of emerging risks, pressures and implementation progress, and provided a clear point of contact for escalation and oversight.

SCTS ensured that robust performance management information was available to support implementation. The Management Information and Analysis Team (MIAT) developed the SCM Pilot KPIs and, more recently, the SCM Monitoring Report, both of which consolidated performance data from partner agencies and provided the metrics used to measure progress through the pilot and national rollout. These reporting products supported local and national oversight, informed decision-making and enabled early identification of performance trends.

Importantly, SCTS's role extended beyond the point of implementation. Strategic and operational support continued to be provided as sheriffdoms transitioned to SCM, including monitoring performance information, and supporting consistent application of SCM practices. Alongside this national coordination, sheriff clerks and sheriffdom business managers provided visible and sustained local leadership, supporting day-to-day implementation, and sharing learning across courts. Their contribution was central to embedding SCM and ensuring that the procedural, scheduling and administrative changes required were delivered consistently across Scotland.

- **COPFS**

To support effective implementation of the national roll out of the SCM model, COPFS established a dedicated national team, comprised of both legal and operational delivery staff. The team coordinated COPFS's preparation for implementation, including office readiness, staff training, prospective court programming, defence engagement and participation in Local Implementation Groups (LIGs). The team also undertook extensive engagement and awareness raising with key external stakeholders. This included input at both operational and senior leadership levels

within Police Scotland, supporting a shared understanding of the end-to-end criminal justice process and the implications of the SCM model.

This engagement helped to foster strong local working relationships between COPFS and Police Scotland which remain critical to the continued success of SCM:

“The introduction of SCM in Airdrie has crystallised a real joint purpose and approach between COPFS and Police Scotland. When I came to Airdrie relations between Airdrie PFO and our local police were distant and lacking in enthusiasm and cohesion. I had made efforts to change that; however, the going was slow. Now, with the roll out of SCM, introductions have been made, relationships forged and working together has never been better. We have the right people engaged at the right time, in the right way, and already the benefits have extended far beyond SCM. While this may not have been the purpose of SCM it is a positive and welcome outcome.”

Carol Cameron, Principal Depute, Airdrie

The national team also worked closely with and delivered awareness sessions for advocacy services, ensuring that those supporting victims through the court process were equipped to understand the model and communicate its operation clearly and accurately.

Importantly, the team’s role was not confined to the pre-implementation phase; it continued beyond implementation, providing a central point of strategic direction and operational support. The team monitored emerging performance information, offered advice and guidance to local offices, and reinforced a consistent approach to implementation across Scotland.

Through its continued post implementation role, the team was well placed to capture insight and feedback from practice and to provide a critical business perspective to wider system development initiatives, including the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC), the Defence Agent’s Service (DAS) and Body Worn Video (BWV)³.

Alongside the national structure, COPFS recognised the importance of visible and sustained local leadership in supporting change. A network of SCM champions was established in each area to act as specialist points of contact in each local office. SCM champions played a key role in promoting best practices, supporting local problem-solving and providing feedback to inform ongoing refinement of the model. Their

³ DESC, DAS and BWV are referenced here for completeness; full explanations of each are provided later in this section under the heading ‘Digital Infrastructure’.

contribution was central to embedding consistent processes, capturing local insight, and sharing learning across areas.

“Our lead Deputes have been crucial in the roll out, using their in-depth knowledge of Summary Case Management and detailed case preparation to bring the local bar on board, which has been essential to the success we are seeing in Grampian. All of this was supported by the local judiciary who early on set firm boundaries for both the Crown and Defence, ensuring there was full engagement from the Defence bar, allowing them to see the benefits of SCM for all involved.”

Jane Spark, Principal Depute, Grampian

- **Police Scotland**

During the pilot, Police Scotland established operational requirements for SCM, planned and prepared local delivery, and created a dedicated intranet area to support internal communication at local and national levels. Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) were identified across divisions to lead engagement, support compliance monitoring, and coordinate training. These arrangements were then incorporated into preparations for the national rollout.

During the rollout, senior leadership was engaged through Commander and SLT-level awareness sessions. National SPOCs liaised with local divisions using a published rollout plan and Gantt-based schedule, and readiness reviews were undertaken to manage the handover of monitoring and compliance to local policing.

Police Scotland attended LIG meetings, convened a short-life working group to resolve problematic issues, maintained a live action log, and issued internal communications, including intranet updates and welcome packs for divisional SPOCs. Supervisory support was reinforced, and Police Scotland worked with the Digital Support and Evolution Group (DSEG) to embed SCM within the Standard Prosecution Report (SPR). Oversight and partner engagement meetings supported consistent delivery.

Post-rollout, Police Scotland has continued to drive improvements and efficiencies, support divisions in establishing or refining compliance teams, and attend joint partner meetings and LIGs. Work with justice partners continues to scope potential expansions, update policy, standard operating procedures and training, and ensure

divisions are fully supported to embed SCM as business-as-usual. With rollout complete, feedback will be gathered through a post-delivery survey.

Preparation for Rollout

Prior to implementation, SCM workshops were conducted in each area to support readiness and build understanding of SCM processes. These sessions were facilitated by the Sheriffs Principal, with contributions from the local judiciary, Police Scotland, COPFS, and the Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB).

The workshops provided comprehensive information on the background of SCM, its objectives, anticipated benefits, and operational processes, including evaluation arrangements. They also offered an open forum for participants to seek clarification, raise concerns, and obtain further detail, ensuring all stakeholders were fully informed and engaged ahead of rollout. Practical demonstrations of the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) and the Defence Agent Service (DAS) were incorporated into some of the sessions. These demonstrations were designed to inform defence practitioners and promote understanding of the new digital tools.

Two further workshops were held in Glasgow, where rollout was phased over a period, ensuring that all justice partners received timely support aligned with the implementation schedule.

Formation of Local Implementation Groups (LIGs)

Local Implementation Groups (LIGs) were set up in each area in advance of the rollout to ensure effective local coordination and operational readiness.

LIGs formed a cornerstone of SCM implementation, providing a vital link between national direction and local delivery. Their primary function was to tailor implementation to the specific needs, challenges and infrastructure of each court while maintaining the integrity of SCM through a consistency of approach. By involving court staff, prosecutors, defence practitioners, police representatives and other key partners, LIGs helped translate programme objectives into practical, locally workable solutions.

LIGs also acted as collaborative forums for early identification of challenges and development of prompt, effective responses. Their work included:

- Refining local processes to align with SCM requirements.
- Supporting robust planning and preparation ahead of go-live dates.
- Resolving early operational issues to minimise disruption.

- Monitoring performance data to identify successes and areas for improvement.

LIGs were further supported by the establishment of complementary governance and coordination structures at national and regional levels. Notably, the SCM Police Oversight Group provided assurance and operational coordination, ensuring police readiness, and promoting consistent national practice. By offering a direct link between Police Scotland leadership and local policing representatives sitting on LIGs, the group enabled timely resolution of issues and ensured policing considerations were fully embedded in implementation planning. Representatives from COPFS and SCTS also attended the group, enhancing collaboration, supporting the sharing of learning, driving performance and helping to ensure partners met key milestones.

Through combining local expertise with national aims, LIGs help drive the success and long-term sustainability of SCM, supporting smooth implementation, and underpinning wider improvements in the summary justice system.

Training and Support Provided

Comprehensive training programmes were delivered to the judiciary, court staff, COPFS staff and police officers. These sessions focused on understanding SCM principles and objectives, using digital tools for disclosure and case management, and adapting to new workflows and collaborative practices.

Judicial Training

Judicial training was developed by Sheriff Principal Anwar in partnership with the Judicial Institute, with tailored materials designed to support the new model of case management. Dedicated SCM sheriffs were appointed within each sheriffdom to lead and apply the model consistently, ensuring judicial continuity and expertise.

A key component of the training package was the production of two SCTS training videos:

- **Overview Video** – featuring contributions from the Judiciary, Police Scotland, and COPFS, aimed at supporting a broad range of audiences by explaining the purpose, principles, and expected benefits of the SCM model.
- **Instructional Video** – providing detailed guidance on judicial responsibilities within SCM, including expectations around active judicial case management, use of case management hearings, and engagement with parties to support early resolution where appropriate.

These resources strengthened judicial confidence and supported consistent applications of SCM across sheriffdoms.

Training for Court Clerks

Court clerks received structured, workshop-based training designed to equip them with the practical knowledge and confidence required to operate the SCM model effectively. Training was interactive and scenario-based, enabling clerks to test processes, and clarify uncertainties.

The training was supported by detailed written guidance, which included:

- Background context, outlining the purpose of SCM, expected benefits, and changes to existing procedures.
- Comprehensive flowcharts, visually mapping each stage of the SCM process and supporting quick reference during live court operations.
- Step-by-step instructions for all 'in-court' processes, ensuring clarity on procedural requirements and enabling clerks to apply the model consistently.

Enhancements were also made to COPII, the court administration system, informed directly by feedback from pilot courts, reducing administrative burden and improving accuracy.

Training for COPFS Staff

COPFS staff training was designed and delivered by the dedicated national team, ensuring a coherent and standardised approach across all areas. Members of the national SCM team travelled across the country to deliver face-to-face training, supplemented by online sessions to maximise accessibility and engagement for staff across different locations.

The programme was designed to meet the needs of a broad range of staff groups. Tailored training was provided for legal staff, operational support colleagues and Victim Information and Advice (VIA) staff, reflecting their distinct roles within summary casework. In addition, awareness raising sessions were delivered for staff who were not directly involved in summary case management, promoting wider organisational understanding of the SCM approach and its implications.

The training sessions were supported by detailed written guidance, providing staff with a clear and accessible reference point to reinforce learning from the formal training and support consistent application of SCM principles in practice.

Training content was informed by practical learning and operational insights from pilot courts and earlier phases of rollout. This ensured the programme reflected real-world experience and addressed issues identified during initial implementation, enhancing both the relevance and effectiveness of the training provided.

Training for Police Scotland

Police Scotland delivered an extensive programme of training to support the implementation of SCM, ensuring that officers were equipped to meet its expectations. From November 2024 onwards, training was offered three times per week to local policing teams, with a blended model of in-person and Webex sessions tailored to the needs of divisional compliance teams and officers involved in case management. These sessions provided practical instruction on completing SCM-related tasks, understanding disclosure requirements, and using digital systems central to the model.

To reinforce learning, Police Scotland developed a range of guidance materials, including flow charts, aide-memoire documents, welcome packs for divisions, supervisor guidance notes, intranet updates, and posters featuring QR-coded links to key resources placed in report-writing rooms across Scotland. These resources supported consistent understanding of processes and provided officers with readily accessible reference material during operational duties.

Training was also aligned with division-specific training plans and probationer programmes, ensuring that new officers were introduced to SCM expectations at the start of their careers. Collectively, this training approach strengthened operational readiness, supported consistency of practice, and helped embed SCM as routine business across policing divisions.

Digital Infrastructure

A robust digital infrastructure was essential for effective implementation of SCM. This included reliable case management systems, secure data-sharing platforms, and integrated tools that supported real-time communication across agencies. Digital readiness was identified during the pilot as critical to success, with early challenges highlighting the need for proactive technical planning and support.

Connectivity

Reliable Wi-Fi connectivity is fundamental to SCM. Core systems underpinning disclosure, evidence handling, and case progression require stable, high-speed internet access. Connectivity issues during the pilot demonstrated that even minor

disruptions could delay hearings and hinder inter-agency collaboration. As a result, network resilience was strengthened and contingency plans developed across sheriffdoms, including bandwidth upgrades in Glasgow and Tayside, Central and Fife.

Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC)

The Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC) provides a secure, national platform for the digital submission, storage and sharing of evidential material throughout the lifetime of a criminal investigation and prosecution. It enables Police Scotland to submit digital evidence—such as video, audio and still images—at the earliest stage of reporting, with that material then accessible to COPFS for marking, preparation and disclosure. By replacing fragmented and paper-based processes with a single, secure digital pathway, DESC supports earlier, better-informed decision-making by prosecutors, facilitates earlier engagement with the defence, and reduces delay in the progression of cases.

As demonstrated during the SCM pilot, DESC plays a critical enabling role in supporting the objectives of SCM by improving the timeliness, quality and accessibility of evidential material across justice partners.

Defence Agent's Service (DAS)

The introduction of the Defence Agent's Service (DAS) represented a significant step in the transition from paper-based processes to digital disclosure. Rolled out nationally between February and June 2025, DAS improved efficiency and strengthened engagement between justice partners.

DAS provides a single, secure national digital gateway through which defence agents can securely access case information and disclosure material, including evidence held on DESC. The system delivers enhanced efficiency, streamlined processes, and an improved user experience, allowing defence agents to access all case information through one portal.

Feedback from COPFS staff indicates that DAS has improved disclosure processes and supported efficiency at court:

“DAS has also made disclosure much more straightforward both in terms of the speed in which productions are disclosed but by also providing an easy-to-read disclosure receipt that the deposes can use in court to prove that disclosure has been carried out prior to the case calling.”

Further enhancements to DAS are planned in response to user feedback and are intended to strengthen alignment with the objectives of SCM. Planned developments include:

- A digital mechanism for defence solicitors to notify COPFS of an instruction to act, replacing the existing Letter of Engagement process.
- Functionality enabling the sharing of copy complaints via DAS, allowing defence solicitors earlier access to charges, summaries of evidence and previous convictions.

Body Worn Video (BWV)

The introduction of Body Worn Video (BWV) represents a further significant development in the way in which Police Scotland and COPFS investigate and prosecute cases. National rollout commenced in Tayside, Central and Fife in March 2025 and is scheduled to complete across all sheriffdoms by May 2026.

Building on the success of SCM, officers are now expected to submit this evidential footage at the outset via DESC. Early sharing of this material supports more informed marking decisions, facilitates early resolution and strengthens trial preparation. Collectively, SCM, BWV, and DESC underpin a more streamlined, digitally supported summary justice system.

Susan Dickson, Assistant Procurator Fiscal, COPFS highlights how BWV supports the aims of SCM:

“What I was struck by was the amazing interaction between DESC/BWV and SCM; in that the DESC footage and calls allowed me to be in a really strong position to negotiate a plea at the first Case Management Hearing which resulted in a reluctant complainer and two other civilian witnesses not needing to be cited; and allowing a total of 8 police citations not to be issued.”

In summary, the successful implementation of SCM depended on the strength of collaboration, planning, governance, and preparatory work undertaken across all justice partners. A structured and phased approach, supported by clear national direction and robust local coordination, ensured that each court was fully equipped for the transition. Comprehensive training programmes, digital readiness activities, and the work of Local Implementation Groups enabled the early identification and resolution of issues, contributing to a smooth and consistent rollout across all

sheriffdoms. This collaborative and well-executed planning process established a strong foundation for the continued development of SCM and reinforces Scotland's commitment to a more efficient, consistent, and modern summary justice system.

4. PERFORMANCE – MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND ANALYSIS

A structured performance-monitoring and evaluation framework was integral to assessing the effectiveness of SCM during both the pilot and national rollout phases.

The evaluation drew upon a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data, qualitative feedback and operational insights from participating courts and justice partners. While the monitoring framework incorporates a broad suite of performance indicators, the analysis presented in this section focuses on the core measures that are sufficiently developed and robust for comparative reporting. A small number of indicators, particularly those relating to the disclosure of evidence and pre-disclosure activity, remain under development and therefore cannot yet support meaningful analysis, although they are included in the full indicator list for completeness.

Performance Indicators

The evaluation framework was designed to assess the extent to which SCM delivered its intended outcomes. A suite of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), originally developed for the pilot were refined for national rollout, and designed to provide a consistent basis for monitoring performance at national, sheriffdom and local levels.

During the rollout, the SCM Monitoring Report was under development and was first shared internally within SCTS in November 2025, with justice partners receiving it in early 2026. It reported data from April 2025 and, for each court, from its rollout date to the present. Throughout this period, existing management information reports and locally produced reports supported ongoing monitoring of the main SCM measures.

The SCM Monitoring Report – drawing on inputs from SCTS, COPFS and SLAB – consolidated these indicators in a single reporting product and, unlike the pilot KPI report, could be filtered to police command/division areas to support local monitoring by Police Scotland. The full list of performance indicators, including definitions and data sources, is provided in **Annex 1**.

Analysis of Performance

To evaluate the overall impact of the rollout, progress is assessed against a series of defined milestones that allow meaningful comparison over time. These milestones, where that comparison can be made, reflect key stages in the system's recovery and development: the pre-COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 pandemic position, the SCM pilot period – represented, where appropriate, by the baseline aggregated pilot courts - and the commencement of the national rollout through to its conclusion. Together, these points formed the baseline, recovery, pilot and rollout reference periods used

for comparison across all performance measures, enabling changes in practice, behaviour and system performance to be assessed consistently.

Cases Resolved at First Calling and CWP (SCM Measures 3 and 5)

Early resolution performance for both non-domestic abuse and domestic abuse cases shows a broadly similar overall trajectory across the pilot and national rollout phases. During the post-pandemic recovery period, early-resolution rates fell for non-domestic abuse cases but increased slightly for domestic abuse cases. Both categories recorded modest improvements during the pilot phase, before reducing to levels below the 2019/20 baseline during rollout. Performance during the rollout period must also be considered in the context of the SSBA boycott of SCM, which significantly reduced defence engagement at key stages and likely constrained further improvement.

Analysis of early-resolution activity shows that headline percentages can give a misleading impression of performance, particularly at CWP/CMH stage. The apparent stability of the CWP resolution rate – despite a substantial rise in the number of cases actually resolved – is a result of how the metric in the SCM Monitoring Report is constructed. Because the rate is calculated as resolutions divided by all CWPs/CMHs called, the sharp increase in hearings has diluted the percentage figure and masked the underlying growth in early resolutions. This means that CWP performance has strengthened in absolute terms, even though this improvement is not reflected in the headline percentage.

This pattern is evident in data shown at **Figure 3** below. It demonstrates that although First Calling and CWP resolution rates (SCM Measures 3 and 5) increase only gradually over the period, the number of resolutions rises sharply, particularly during rollout. This reinforces the point that the percentage-based metrics shown on the SCM Monitoring Report understate the scale of early-resolution activity during periods of sharply rising case volumes.

Figure 3 – Cases resolved at First Calling and CWP (Data Source: COPFS)⁴

		Pre-Pandemic	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout	Current
		National	Pilot Courts	National	National
		Apr 19-Mar 20	Apr 23 – Mar 24	25/26 YTD	Jan 26
First Calling	PG	16748	2282	9143	894
	Not Called/Deserted	788	111	539	61
	PNG Accepted	465	82	413	42
	Total First Calling	18001	2475	10095	997
CWP	PG	2548	780	5419	724
	Not Called/Deserted	729	284	1472	179
	PNG Accepted	205	100	594	88
	Total CWP	3482	1164	7485	991
All Pleading Diets	Resolved	21483	3639	17580	1988
	Not Resolved (PNG)	38824	4343	20046	1551
	Total	60307	7982	37626	3539
Rates	Resolution Rate	36%	46%	47%	56%
	Contest Rate	68%	59%	58%	49%

This context helps interpret the SCTS performance trends presented in **Figures 4 and 5 below**.

Figure 4 shows early-resolution rates for non-domestic abuse cases at First Calling and CWP from 2019/20 through the post-pandemic period, the aggregated pilot courts, and the national rollout period (April 2025 – January 2026). At First Calling, rates fell from 30% in 2019/20 to 23% in 2021/22, rose to 27% in the aggregated pilot courts, and stabilised at 22% during rollout. At CWP, rates fell from 22% in 2019/20 to 18% in 2021/22 remained at 18% in the pilot and increased to 20% during rollout.

Figure 4 – Non-Domestic Abuse Cases resolved at First Calling and CWP (Data Source SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21 – Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 3	Percentage of cases resolved at First Calling (Pilot KPI 4)	30%	23%	27%	22%
SCM 5	Percentage of cases resolved at CWP (Pilot KPI 5)	22%	18%	18%	20%

Figure 5 presents early-resolution rates for domestic abuse cases at First Calling and CWP over the same time periods. At First Calling, rates increased from 25% in 2019/20 to 27% in 2021/22 and 28% in the aggregated pilot courts, before reducing to 21% during rollout. At CWP, rates fell from 21% in 2019/20 to 18% in 2021/22 and 17% in the pilot courts, before rising to 19% during rollout.

⁴ The data and analysis shown in Figure 3 were provided by COPFS

Figure 5 – Domestic Abuse Cases resolved at First Calling and CWP (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21-Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 3	Percentage of cases resolved at First Calling (Pilot KPI 4)	25%	27%	28%	21%
SCM 5	Percentage of cases resolved at CWP (Pilot KPI 5)	21%	18%	17%	19%

Overall, while early-resolution rates have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels for either case type, the pilot and rollout data indicate recovery from the lowest point observed during the post-pandemic period, particularly for non-domestic abuse cases. Performance during rollout was likely affected by the SSBA boycott, and with its conclusion in January 2026, early resolution rates would reasonably be expected to improve as full participation is restored.

Contest Rate (SCM Measure 7)

The contest rate measures the ratio of not guilty pleas to guilty pleas - expressed as a percentage – and is a key indicator of the extent to which trials are being set following meaningful engagement in case management. Hypothetically, if the contest rate were 61%, this would mean that for every 100 pleas tendered at pleading diet (First Calling and CWP), 61 were not guilty and 39 were guilty. A lower contest rate is therefore desirable, as it reflects a greater balance of guilty pleas, where appropriate, at the earliest stage.

Its significance is two-fold: it provides insight into early decision-making and case preparation, and it serves as a proxy for the number of cases likely to require a trial diet. SCM practice should support an increase in appropriate early guilty pleas and a corresponding reduction in the contest rate. A **falling** contest rate therefore provides evidence that SCM is helping parties reach earlier, better-informed decisions and reducing the number of cases proceeding unnecessarily to trial.

Figures 6 and 7 below show that, for non-domestic abuse cases, the contest rate increased from 65% in 2019/20 to 70% during the 2021/22 recovery period, before falling to 58% in the aggregated pilot courts and 57% during the national rollout. Domestic abuse cases followed a different trajectory: from 73% in 2019/20, the contest rate eased to 70% in 2021/22, then reduced further to 57% in the aggregated pilot courts and 60% during national rollout.

Overall, this represents a fall of 8 percentage points from the 2019/20 baseline for non-domestic abuse and 13 percentage points for domestic abuse, indicating a substantial shift away from not guilty pleas at the pleading diet and, by extension, fewer cases being set down for trial unnecessarily.

Figure 6 – Non-Domestic Abuse Contest Rate (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21 – Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 7	Contest Rate	65%	70%	58%	57%

Figure 7 – Domestic Abuse Contest Rate (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21-Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 7	Contest Rate	73%	70%	57%	60%

Although the rollout-period data shows the domestic abuse contest rate stabilising at around 60%, more recent management information indicates that the rate fell to 57% in January 2026, suggesting that the downward trend is continuing as later-rollout courts come fully online and the model becomes more firmly embedded across all locations. The same pattern is evident for non-domestic abuse cases, where the contest rate fell to 46% in January 2026, the lowest rate recorded, reflecting the benefits arising from full implementation in courts that adopted the model at a later stage.

Volume of Cases Requiring to Call at Intermediate Diet

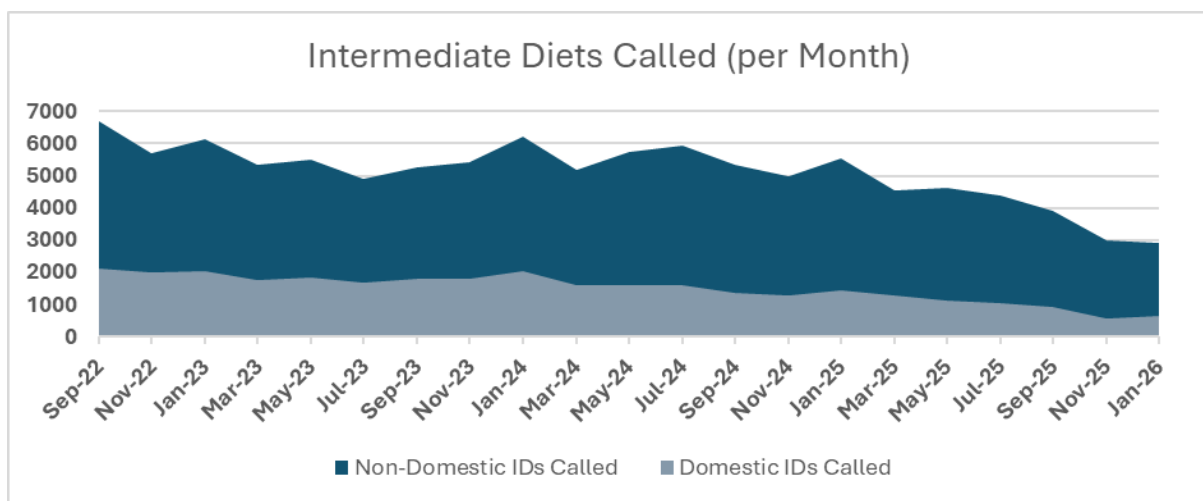
Under SCM, cases that are managed in line with the expectations set out in the Practice Note should not require an intermediate diet (ID) or pre-intermediate diet meeting (PIDM) before trial. Where SCM is followed properly, the need for an ID and PIDM should be largely eliminated. The Practice Note provides that these diets should be dispensed with unless the sheriff considers them necessary, in which case the reasons for assigning must be recorded in the court minutes. This direction is intended to avoid unnecessary hearings and create additional capacity within the court programme to accommodate the increase in case management hearings at the outset of the case. The volume of cases calling at ID therefore acts as a direct indicator of

adherence to the SCM model, as well as a measure of case readiness and system efficiency.

Since the introduction of SCM, this measure has shown sustained improvements across both non-domestic abuse and domestic abuse business. However, the data reveals inconsistencies which suggest that this aspect of the Practice Note is not yet being applied consistently across all courts, highlighting the need for continued focus on compliance and local reinforcement of expectations.

Figure 8 below shows the monthly volume of intermediate diets. The number of IDs calling each month has fallen substantially for both non-domestic abuse and domestic abuse cases over the period. From peaks in September 2022 of 6,692 (non-domestic abuse) and 2,132 (domestic abuse), volumes declined to 2,903 and 627 respectively by January 2026 – reductions of around 57% (non-domestic abuse) and 71% (domestic abuse). The step-down is particularly evident through 2025, coinciding with national rollout: relative to April 2025, non-domestic abuse IDs fell by around 35% and domestic abuse by around 49% by January 2026.

Figure 8 – Monthly Volume of Intermediate Diets Called (Data Source: SCTS)



Overall, the reductions in intermediate diets demonstrate the operational benefits of SCM in reducing unnecessary procedural hearings. However, the data also make clear that SCM's impact is directly dependent on adherence to the processes set out in the Practice Note. Where SCM is followed rigorously, fewer cases require IDs; where adherence is inconsistent, this measure correspondingly rises. Maintaining these improvements therefore requires ongoing commitment from all justice partners to the core practices underpinning SCM.

Impact on the Volume of Witness Citations (SCM Measures 11 and 12)

The introduction of SCM has had a clear and sustained impact on witness citation activity across the summary justice system, reflecting one of its central objectives: to reduce unnecessary witness attendance. This represents a significant shift when set against the pre-SCM position. In 2019/20, over 320,000 witness citations were issued for sheriff court trials, yet an overwhelming majority of those witnesses never gave evidence; fewer than one police officer in every ten cited ultimately gave evidence at trial. This placed considerable pressure on police operational capacity and risked undermining public confidence in the criminal justice system. By 2021/22, the number of witness citations had increased further to more than 400,000, over half of which were police officers, with civilian, professional, healthcare and scientific witnesses similarly affected. Against this backdrop, the reductions achieved under SCM are significant, across both first citations and re-citations.

The national rollout of SCM is estimated to have resulted in over 100,000 fewer police officers being cited to give evidence. Over the same period, the number of child witnesses cited fell by approximately 3,000, representing a reduction of around 40% compared to the previous year.

Figures 9 – 12 below show that monthly first citations reached their peak in May 2023, with 16,179 citations issued for all cases. As SCM practices were embedded during the pilot and expanded through national rollout, volumes fell markedly, reducing to 8,512 by January 2026 – a 47% reduction from peak and approximately 40% below the level recorded when the pilot commenced in September 2022. Domestic abuse first citations followed the same trajectory, dropping from a peak of 4,208 in May 2023 to 2,672 in January 2026 (-36%).

The impact on police witnesses is even more pronounced. Police first citations for all cases decreased from 8,180 in May 2023 to 4,296 in January 2026 (-47%), while, over the same period, police domestic abuse citations fell from 2,159 to 1,266 (-41%).

These improvements are reinforced by year-on-year comparisons, which show reductions of 32% (all first citations), 23% (domestic abuse first citations), 32% (all police first citations), and 21% (police first domestic abuse citations) between January 2025 and January 2026.

As a result of earlier agreement of evidence - a key feature of SCM - and a reduction in trial adjournments, a similar pattern is evident within re-citations, which occur when witnesses must be re-cited because a trial did not proceed and a subsequent date is assigned. Re-citations for all cases were 23,469 for the month of September 2022,

before falling steadily throughout the SCM pilot period and more significantly during the national rollout. By January 2026, re-citations had reduced to 9,620, a 59% reduction from peak. Police re-citations decreased from 11,499 to 4,394 (-62%) over the same period.

Domestic abuse re-citations fell from 5,974 to 2,552, a reduction of 57%, and police domestic abuse re-citations from 2,802 to 1,075 (-62%). These figures reflect some of the most substantial improvements across the entire set of operational metrics. The consistent downward trend across all subsets indicates that SCM has significantly reduced the need for repeated witness citation caused by late disclosure, late pleas or adjournments linked to a lack of preparedness.

Figure 9 – First Witness Citations (All Summary) (Data Source: COPFS)

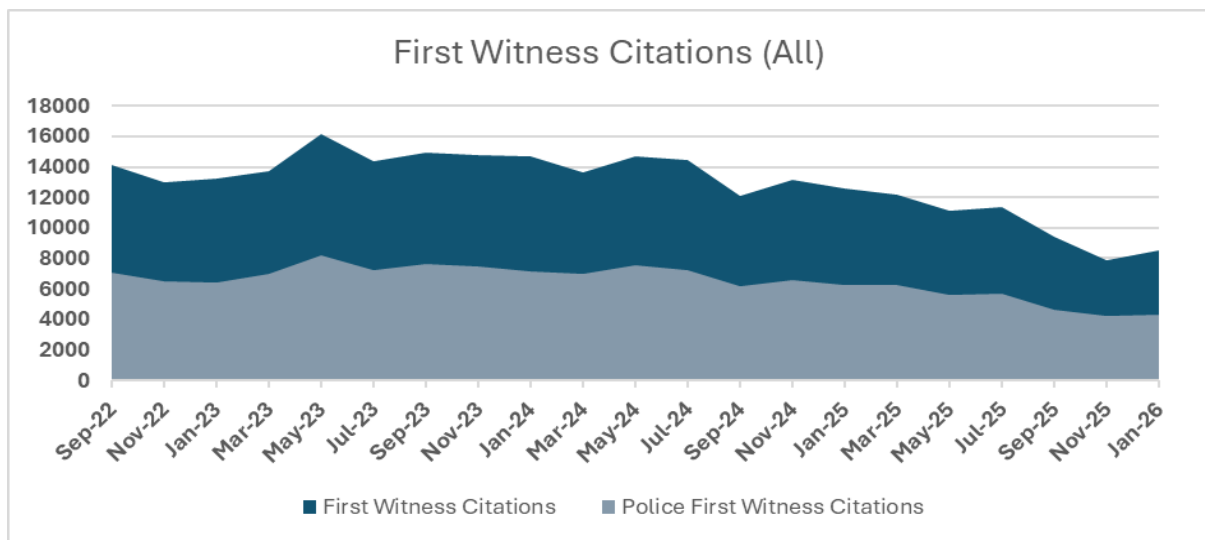


Figure 10 – First Witness Citations (Domestic Abuse) (Data Source: COPFS)

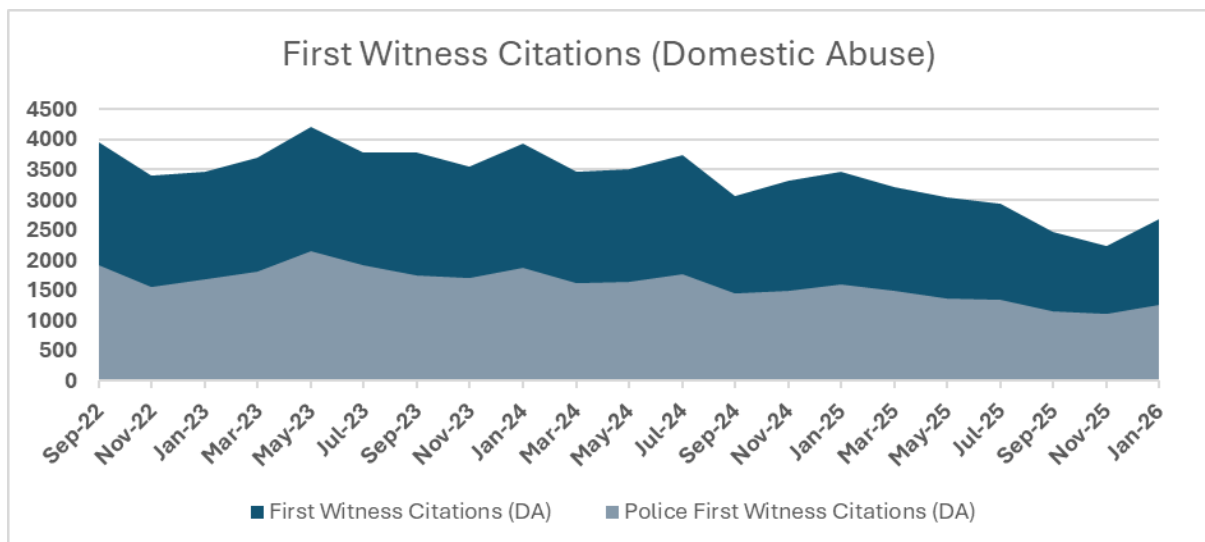


Figure 11 – Recitations (All Summary) (Data Source: COPFS)

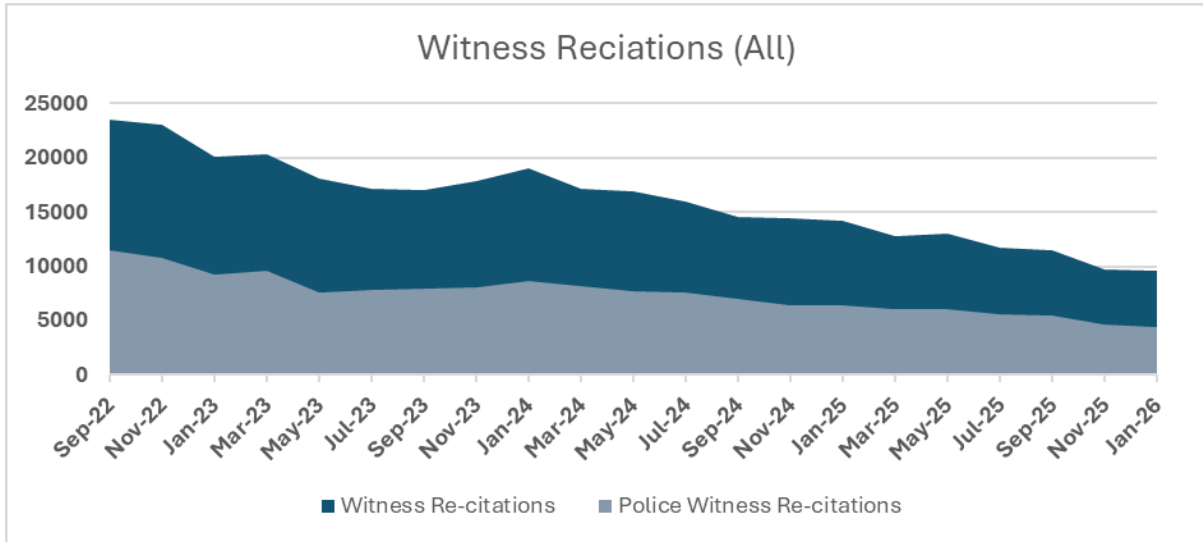
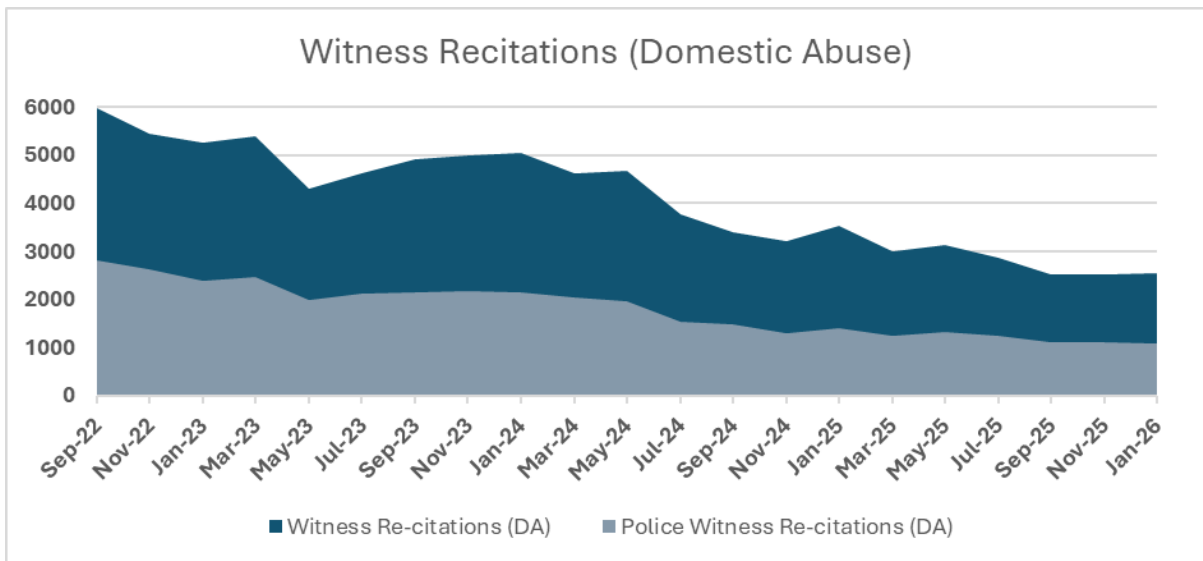


Figure 12 – Recitations (Domestic Abuse) (Data Source: COPFS)



Taken together, the reductions in both first citations and re-citations demonstrate the practical impact of SCM. They also reflect increased efficiency within the justice system: fewer police officers are abstracted from frontline duties, fewer victims and witnesses face repeated or unnecessary attendance, and justice partners experience lower administrative burden associated with issuing and serving witness citations and assigning unnecessary trials. These improvements reinforce the sustained operational

benefits delivered by SCM and underline its contribution to a more proportionate, efficient and trauma-informed summary justice system.

Performance at Trial Diet (SCM Measures 13 and 14)

Measure 13 monitors churn i.e. the proportion of trials that are adjourned and require a new date. Lower churn indicates stronger preparation and earlier resolution of issues. Measure 14 records the percentage of trials at which evidence is led, demonstrating the proportion of cases that utilise trial courts for the primary purpose for which they are set – the hearing of evidence. Together, these measures reflect the effectiveness of pre-trial case management under SCM and the extent to which cases are ready to proceed as scheduled.

Figures 13 and 14 show that performance at trial diet has improved under SCM, with a clear reduction in churn and a corresponding increase in the proportion of trials at which evidence is led.

- Churn (Measure 13). For non-domestic abuse cases, churn rose from 34% in 2019/20 to 40% (2021/22) during recovery, before improving to 33% in the aggregated pilot courts and falling further to 27% during national rollout. For domestic abuse cases, churn rose from 36% in 2019/20 to 40% in 2021/22, reducing to 34% in the aggregated pilot courts and further to 30% during rollout.
- Evidence-led rate (Measure 14). Evidence-led rates declined during post Covid recovery (non-domestic abuse 9%, domestic abuse 13%) then improved under SCM. For non-domestic abuse, rates rose to 10% in the aggregated pilot courts and 12% during rollout. For domestic abuse, rates returned to the aggregated pilot-court level during rollout, compared with 13% in 2021/22.

Taken together, these improvements indicate that a greater proportion of trial diets are now proceeding as intended, with fewer adjournments to new trial diets and more trials leading evidence when called. In turn, these changes are associated with fewer unnecessary attendances and reduced inconvenience for victims and witnesses.

Figure 13 – Performance at Trial Diet (Non-Domestic Abuse) (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21 – Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 13	Churn at Trial diet: adjourned to new trial diet	34%	40%	33%	27%

SCM 14	Percentage of Sheriff Summary Trials at which evidence is led (Pilot KPI 7)	16%	9%	10%	12%
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Figure 14 – Performance at Trial Diet (Domestic Abuse) (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21-Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 13	Churn at Trial diet: adjourned to new trial diet	36%	40%	34%	30%
SCM 14	Percentage of Sheriff Summary Trials at which evidence is led (Pilot KPI 7)	19%	13%	16%	16%

Journey Time and Pre-Trial and At Trial Conclusions (SCM Measures 16 and 18)

These measures assess the overall efficiency of case progression under SCM and the point at which cases are disposed of.

SCM Measure 16 monitors journey time, defined as the ‘*average period (weeks) between first calling and evidence led trial where evidence was led in the period*’. Shorter journey times indicate more efficient preparation and earlier resolution of issues.

SCM Measure 18 records the percentage of cases concluded pre-trial, and the percentage concluded at trial. SCM should support a higher proportion of cases concluding pre-trial, and a smaller proportion concluding at trial, as parties reach earlier, better-informed decisions.

Taken together, these indicators provide a rounded view of system efficiency and the extent to which SCM is improving the timeliness and quality of case progression.

Figures 15 and 16 show that, across both non-domestic abuse and domestic abuse business, journey times and conclusion patterns have improved under SCM.

Journey Time (Measure 16)

For non-domestic abuse cases, average journey time increased from 26 weeks in 2019/20 to 56 weeks during the 2021/22 recovery period, before improving to 46 weeks⁵ in the aggregated pilot courts and falling further to 37 weeks during national rollout. For domestic abuse cases journey time increased from 18 weeks in 2019/20 to 38 weeks in 2021/22, before reducing to 28 weeks during rollout.

Pre-Trial and At Trial Conclusions (Measure 18)

In parallel, a greater proportion of cases are concluding pre-trial, with corresponding reductions in cases concluding at trial.

- For non-domestic abuse cases, the proportion concluded pre-trial rose from 51% in 2021/22 to 56% in the aggregated pilot courts and 59% during rollout.
- For domestic abuse cases, the percentage concluded pre-trial increased from 39% in 2021/22 to 47% in the aggregated pilot courts and 48% during rollout.

Conversely, the share of cases concluding at trial has fallen – for example, non-evidence trials, including late pleas, or cases desertions:

- Non-domestic abuse: 49% to 44% to 41%
- Domestic abuse: 61% to 53% to 52%

Taken together, these results show that cases are progressing more quickly: more are concluding before trial, and fewer are concluding by way of late guilty pleas at the trial diet.

Figure 15 – Journey Time and Trial Conclusion Rates (Non-Domestic Abuse) (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21 – Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 16	Average period (weeks) between first calling and evidence led trial where evidence led occurred in the period	26	56	46	37
SCM 18	Percentage of cases concluded pre-trial	64%	51%	56%	59%
	Percentage of cases concluded at trial diet	36%	49%	44%	41%

⁵ The 46-week pilot court figure for non-domestic abuse includes an unusually high value from one pilot court and should not be considered a representative baseline. The direction of travel, however, remains robust.

Figure 16 – Journey Time and Trial Conclusion Rates (Domestic Abuse) (Data Source: SCTS)

SCM Measure		Pre-pandemic	Recovery Period (additional courts Sept 21-Apr 23)	Pilot Phase Baseline	Rollout
		National	National	National	National
		Apr-19 – Mar-20	Sept-21 – Aug-22	Apr-23 – Mar-24	Apr-25 – Jan-26
SCM 16	Average period (weeks) between first calling and evidence led trial where evidence led occurred in the period	18	38	46	28
SCM 18	Percentage of cases concluded pre-trial	46%	39%	47%	48%
	Percentage of cases concluded at trial diet	54%	61%	53%	52%

Impact on the Volume of Scheduled Trials (SCM Measure 17)

The volume of scheduled trials increased sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing from a pre-pandemic baseline of 13,971 to a peak of 33,602 in July 2021 – an increase of over 140%. A similar pattern was observed for domestic abuse cases, where the backlog increased from a pre-pandemic baseline of 2,978 to a peak of 7,685 in June 2021 – more than 2.5 times the normal level.

To address these unprecedented pressures, Summary Recovery Courts operated between September 2021 and March 2023, providing additional trial capacity to stabilise the system. However, once the Summary Recovery Programme concluded, there was a clear risk that scheduled trial volumes might begin to rise again in the absence of a further structural intervention. Importantly, case registrations remained broadly stable during this period, meaning that any reductions in scheduled trials reflects genuine improvements in case management, not a falling incoming volume.

The introduction of the SCM Pilot, and its subsequent national rollout, provided that essential stabilising effect. As enhanced case-management practices became embedded, scheduled trial volumes continued to fall even after the additional capacity from the recovery courts was withdrawn.

By August 2025, scheduled trial volumes had dropped to 13,346, marking the first point at which the national position fell below the pre-pandemic baseline.

As sheriffdoms transitioned to the SCM model through 2025, the downward trend accelerated. By January 2026, the national position demonstrated a sustained, system-wide recovery: overall scheduled trials had reduced to 10,191, a 70% reduction from the July 2021 peak and 27% below the pre-pandemic baseline. Domestic abuse trials

showed an equally marked improvement, falling from a peak of 7,685 to 2,082 – a 73% reduction, and now well below the historic baseline of 2,978. In February 2026, total outstanding summary trials fell to 9,536, providing further confirmation of the sustained downward trajectory.

Figures 17 and 18 below illustrate the effects of the Summary Recovery Programme, the SCM pilot, and the national rollout. The green line shows the Covid-period backlog level, providing an essential benchmark for comparison.

Taken together, these measures not only reversed the pandemic-driven escalation in scheduled trials but have delivered a more efficient, stable, and sustainable summary justice system than existed prior to COVID-19.

Figure 17 – Trial Backlog Visualisation Chart (All Summary Scheduled Trials) (Data Source: SCTS)

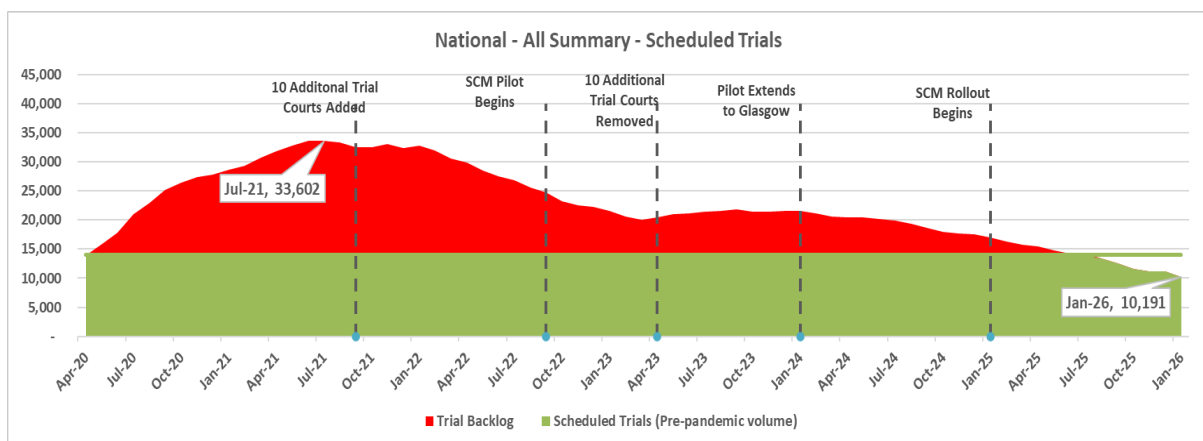
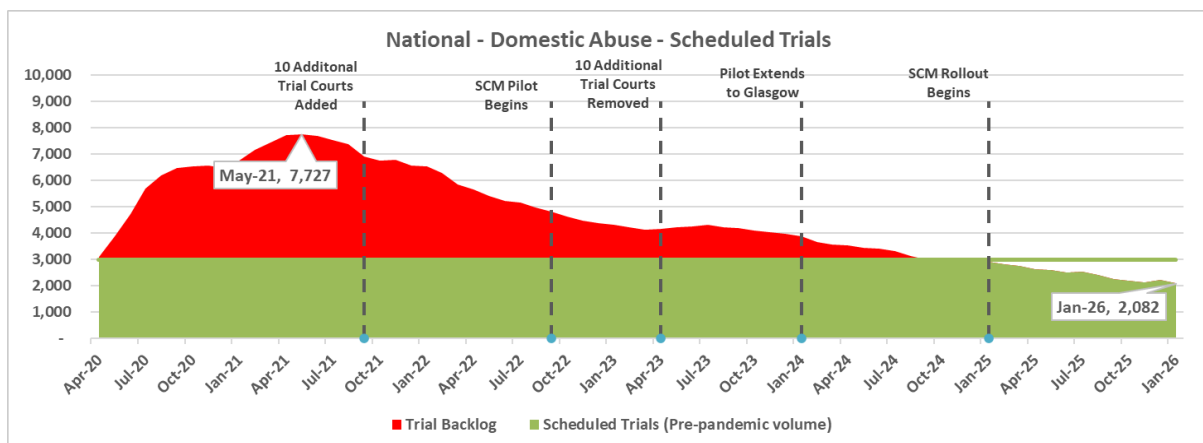


Figure 18 – Trial Backlog Visualisation Chart (Domestic Abuse Scheduled Trials) (Data Source: SCTS)



Qualitative Feedback

Qualitative feedback formed an important part of the evaluation, providing insight into the practical experiences of those involved in delivering and operating the new model. Feedback gathered through workshops, engagement surgeries, LIGs, and operational discussions highlighted the benefits of earlier engagement, improved collaboration, and clearer expectations between justice partners.

Police Scotland also reported early benefits in areas newly transitioned to SCM, particularly around witness citation activity:

“Since the arrival of Summary Case Management in Dumfries & Galloway in September 2025, we have already started to realise real benefits with a noticeable reduction in witness and police officer citations. The start has been really encouraging as having less victims and witnesses attend court is what the project set out to achieve and it’s apparent to me that justice is being achieved at a much earlier stage. I have no doubt that the excellent start has been achieved through the co-operation and close working relationships of all justice partners involved in the project and I look forward to continuing in this regard to make the project even more of a success in the future”

Dean Little, Chief Inspector, Dumfries & Galloway

“Have noticed improvements with citations as smaller teams in outlying areas are feeling the impact of not having citations.” - N Division, oversight meeting, 11 December 2025 (Anon)

Courts, prosecutors, police officers and defence agents reported increased confidence in the processes introduced under SCM, particularly around early evidence sharing and structured case management hearings.

The quotes from justice partners below reflect this:

“The case management hearings have revolutionised the way we all deal with summary business. Being able to consider evidence at the outset allows proper engagement between the defence and the prosecution. It narrows the issues in dispute resulting in a more expeditious outcome for all concerned”

Annika Jethwa, Defence Solicitor

Prosecutors reported improvements in the case marking process because of earlier access to evidence:

“Having all statements/key evidence available for marking has been a long overdue improvement and the accuracy of marking as a result has significantly improved.”

Fiona Hamilton, Principal Depute, Lothian and Borders

Critically, the benefits to case marking are not limited to summary cases. Those based in solemn teams also benefited from the early provision of evidence in domestic abuse cases:

“Having the full statements and info at the beginning like this allows me to make that forum call accurately. In terms of amending the charge, and/or adding potential charges; just marking in general, it was invaluable having all the evidence in front of me. This all saved a lot of time, and on this occasion allowed a petition sexual offence to be reported to us by the police and fully marked for petition on the same day, as there is nothing I need to ask for or have done from/by the police. This is fantastic, and most importantly prevents any potential continuation of a petition undertaking which is what we are all trying to avoid, especially in sexual cases like this.”

Rebecca Clark, Procurator Fiscal Depute

The emphasis on continuous improvement was central to the SCM evaluation approach, with performance data and stakeholder feedback used proactively to refine guidance, strengthen digital tools and enhance training materials. Early issues – such as delays in evidence availability, variations in digital capability and local process challenges – were identified promptly and addressed collaboratively through established governance channels.

Lessons learned from early implementation areas were shared widely, supporting consistency of practice and enabling other courts to adopt effective approaches and avoid common pitfalls. This culture of shared learning and responsiveness ensured that SCM continued to evolve in line with operational experience and the needs of users. Overall, the evaluation and performance monitoring arrangements provided a robust evidence base for assessing the success of SCM, ensuring that implementation remained focused, adaptive and grounded in real-world practice, while also establishing a strong foundation for long-term improvement in summary case management across Scotland.

“Summary Case Management offers enormous benefits to both accused persons and defence lawyers. Clients now have the benefit of their case concluding within weeks rather than months which minimises the inevitable anxiety that arises as a result of a prosecution.

Our own firm has enjoyed a number of benefits from the implementation of SCM. We have to be realistic about the funding that is available through the legal aid scheme: summary fees are fixed so the more hearings that are fixed, the less profitable the fee is. SCM provides us with the opportunity to identify- at a far earlier stage of proceedings than pre-SCM- which cases are likely to resolve, and which cases are likely to proceed to trial. By identifying cases which are likely to resolve, we are able to resolve them without the need for a trial diet being fixed which reduces the number of times a case which is going to resolve requires to call at court. Equally, by identifying which cases are going to proceed to trial, we now have more time to prepare for them rather than wasting time preparing for a case which is unlikely ever to proceed to trial. Diary management is one of the biggest challenges for any criminal defence firm and SCM has significantly improved our ability to manage our diary as we have fewer unnecessary hearings to cover. This has also allowed us to focus our firm on more profitable areas of work, and our firm has seen a significant increase in turnover since SCM was introduced. I believe the two are connected.

Sheriff Principal Anwar deserves enormous credit for adopting such an inclusive approach to the implementation of SCM. Defence lawyers’ perception- whether right or wrong- is that we are often the scapegoats for inefficiencies and failing within the justice system that are out with our control. Our perception stems for often being excluded from any consultation process about changes to the system and then being expected to fix the problems that would have been avoided had we been properly consulted. As a member of the previous National Pilot Board, a current member of the Local Implementation Group (LIG) and a solicitor who is based at Hamilton Sheriff Court (which has operated SCM since 2022), I knew from my own experience this problem has not arisen with SCM. Local Implementation Groups have given defence lawyers not only a seat at the table but also a voice in the room. LIGs allow for meaningful discussions between the various justice partners to iron out any issues arising from SCM and to maximise the benefits that SCM offers not only the defence but also the wider system.

If there is to be any lessons learned from SCM, it is this: when the defence are treated with respect, the administration of justice improves and there is no doubt that SCM has improved the administration of justice.”

Matthew McGovern, Defence Agent, Hamilton

Areas of Best Practice

Building on the qualitative insights gathered during the rollout, several areas of best practice emerged that consistently strengthened the effectiveness of SCM and supported more efficient, collaborative and predictable case management.

Engagement Surgeries

Engagement surgeries, which allow the defence and the Crown to discuss cases prior to hearings in court, have emerged as a clear area of best practice. COPFS has sought to implement engagement surgeries on a consistent basis, while retaining sufficient flexibility to reflect local court programming, established local practices and accommodation constraints. This balance between consistency and local adaptability has facilitated meaningful engagement between justice partners and, where used effectively, enhanced efficiency in case management courts.

Feedback indicates that strong uptake and attendance at the engagement surgeries by defence agents contributes to more efficient court process, with both parties better placed to assist the sheriff in completing the case management note.

The surgeries provide a structured opportunity to explore potential resolution and, where resolution cannot be achieved, they allow for a focused discussion of the evidence capable of agreement. This prevents the unnecessary citation of witnesses who, in light of these discussions, are no longer required.

The surgeries, combined with the attendance of the accused, allow for a comprehensive review of the status of case preparation. They also provide valuable time for the depute and agent to identify and resolve issues which would otherwise give rise to a continuation.

Amy Robertson, Procurator Fiscal Depute, highlights how the structured arrangements have improved relationships between the Crown and the defence:

"I think that SCM has improved relationships with the defence; the pre-court discussions give space for real conversations about the case, a discussion about strengths and weaknesses in both the Crown and defence case and a general feeling among the defence that the Depute in court is empowered to make decisions regarding the case whether that be plea negotiations, agreement of evidence or discontinuation if the case is no longer deemed by the Depute to be in the public interest.

I also feel that SCM presents a forum for the defence to submit any exculpatory evidence and for decisions to be had regarding this without the need for a trial, should the evidence present a fatal flaw in the Crown case or a complete defence.

Overall, I do think [SCM] has been a really good thing for collaborative working with the defence within an adversarial system with the common goal being to streamline the court process minimising inconvenience to all parties whether that be the Deputes, Crown witnesses, defence witnesses, police officers, agents themselves, vulnerable accused etc."

Local Implementation Groups

Local Implementation Groups have been identified as a critical enabler of consistent and sustained success for SCM. They have provided a unique and valuable opportunity for all justice partners to convene, collaborate, and develop shared solutions to operational challenges. Experience from the national rollout indicates that these groups are most effective when established as an ongoing requirement rather than a time-limited initiative.

Reflecting on the role of Local Implementation Groups, Nicola Brown, Head of Service at the Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO), highlighted their importance in driving progress of SCM:

"As a solicitor working in one of the three pilot areas of the summary case management roll out a great deal of progress has been made in a relatively short period of time in terms of Police Scotland and COPFS designating appropriate resource to the appropriate areas of work as well as technological advances. As the pilot progressed in terms of geographical roll out it has been a source of frustration that lessons learned in the initial pilot sites particularly around resourcing were not learned and issues with provision of disclosure required to be ironed out regularly throughout the implementation process. However, focus groups which have brought together relevant criminal justice partners at both a local and national level has secured the progress required to increase faith in the processes and systems."

As SCM continues to embed and transitions into business-as-usual practice, Local Implementation Groups should be maintained as a key forum for performance monitoring, collaborative problem-solving, and continuous improvement. Strong local representation from decision-makers across all justice partners will be essential to sustaining momentum, resolving operational issues, and supporting the full integration of Summary Case Management principles into routine practice. The value of these strong local relationships is also reflected in the experience of partner agencies engaging directly with the model as highlighted by ASSIST:

"The case management model has enhanced the working relationships locally and also from a policy perspective. We attend the LIG's, have points of contact locally to raise any challenges and welcome the proactive response from the policy team with issues relating to individual cases and more widely. As an example, we raised an issue about a case that had been CWP

on multiple occasions. COPFS was able to confirm the reasons behind this and took actions to help mitigate any further delays and alleviate the risk of the young person disengaging”.

Fiona McMullen, ASSIST

Engagement with Victims in Domestic Abuse Cases

As set out in the evaluation of the SCM pilot, COPFS committed to strengthening engagement with victims of domestic abuse through earlier, clearer and more trauma-informed communication. As SCM has moved from pilot to wider implementation, this approach has been embedded in practice, with both legal and non-legal staff recognising the tangible benefits of enhanced engagement for victim experience, effective case preparation and constructive defence engagement.

Legal staff now proactively make early contact with victims to reinforce understanding of the SCM process, the role of the Procurator Fiscal and what to expect as a case progresses. Clear emphasis has been placed on managing expectations, demystifying the court process and minimising uncertainty, supporting more informed participation and improved confidence in the prosecution process.

Gary Melville, VIA Business Manager, COPFS reflects the positive impact of this approach for victims:

“VIA have had a number of victims feedback to our team with gratitude for the contact. I believe the enhanced engagement from legal staff provides more of a positive reinforcement and alleviates some of the main concerns over the course of these domestic cases”

The benefits of enhanced engagement are now widely understood by COPFS. The model allows consideration to be given to the inclusion of other categories of witnesses in this enhanced engagement process as part of an ongoing commitment to improve the service offered to victims. The positive impact of this approach is also evident in the experiences of those directly supporting victims, as demonstrated by the following accounts from ASSIST:

“A client requested a meeting with the Procurator Fiscal prior to trial as she was incredibly anxious, to the point she did not want to attend. Having the opportunity to meet the depute in person provided her with reassurance and the chance to ask questions. She advised that on the day of trial, the depute was aware she was nervous and came in and out of the waiting room a few times to speak to her, which she found helpful. Our client felt she would have struggled to attend and give evidence had she not had this opportunity.”

“One of our clients had several discussions with the PF in her case, including a face-to-face meeting ahead of the trial. The accused pled guilty, so she was not required to give evidence. During her closure call, she specifically mentioned the PF by name and the difference that his approach had made to her experience.”

Fiona McMullen, ASSIST

Court Programming

Effective court programming has played an important role in supporting the aims of SCM. Where listings are structured to facilitate early engagement, disclosure and meaningful discussion between parties, courts are better placed to realise the intended benefits of the model.

SCM works best when court programmes provide protected capacity for case management hearings, allowing parties time to review evidence, narrow issues and make informed decisions. Well-designed programming reduces unnecessary trials; limits churn and ensures that trial courts are used only for cases genuinely requiring evidence.

Conversely, programmes dominated by trials diets or lacking space for early discussions can limit opportunities for early resolution.

That principle was clearly demonstrated in Glasgow during the pilot. A reduction in domestic abuse trial volumes enabled four domestic abuse trial courts per week to be repurposed as case management hearing courts, creating the capacity required.

Court Support Pilot

As part of efforts to support and build on the success of SCM, COPFS piloted a court support model at Dunfermline Sheriff Court from November 2025. The pilot involved embedding a member of the administrative team within the court environment to provide direct support to the depute during SCM engagement surgeries and Case Management Hearings (CMHs). The aim was to address at the earliest opportunity issues that commonly result in unnecessary continuations.

The Court Support colleague is able to resolve issues at court by processing Letters of Engagement, carrying out immediate disclosure of material via the Defence Agent Service, confirming that disclosure has been effected and accessed, and the presenting digital evidence—such as body-worn video—to defence agents at court. In addition, court support colleagues can assist with confirming witness availability when fixing

trial diets, issuing instructions to the police where required, and supporting, where possible, in avoiding unnecessary adjournments.

Feedback from participants indicates that the model has had a positive impact on both case progression and professional working relationships. The pilot has demonstrated tangible efficiencies, and early evidence suggests that it has reduced the number of cases continued to a further case management hearing. In several cases, the ability to view digital evidence at court enabled resolution without the need to cite vulnerable witnesses. In other cases, early agreement on the evidential position supported the assignment of trial diets without delay and ensured that only essential witnesses were cited, contributing to more efficient case management.

Overall, the Dunfermline Court Support Pilot embodies the core principles of SCM. It illustrates how administrative support embedded within the courtroom can resolve issues in real time, reduce avoidable continuations and improve outcomes for all court users.

5. CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

While the rollout of SCM delivered significant progress across the wider summary justice system – promoting earlier case preparation, improving coordination and collaboration between agencies, and supporting more efficient and effective case progression - several challenges and limitations nevertheless emerged during implementation. Given the scale and pace of change involved, this was an inevitable consequence of introducing a major operational reform that required new ways of working, revised processes, and sustained inter-agency collaboration. Recognising these issues is essential for understanding the operational context of SCM, interpreting performance data, and identifying areas where further development or additional support may be required.

Each of the challenges identified below are areas in relation to which work in on-going to secure the full benefits of SCM.

Data Capability and Infrastructure

Digital readiness varied across courts and partner agencies, influencing the consistency with which SCM processes could be applied. Although the introduction of secure digital platforms supported more efficient disclosure and evidence sharing, early implementation highlighted issues such as uneven Wi-Fi coverage, limited availability of suitable hardware for defence practitioners, and differing levels of confidence in using new systems.

In some locations, Wi-Fi performance was constrained by the physical characteristics of the building or wider estate, including older construction, thick walls, or layout-related limitations that affected signal strength and reliability. These challenges periodically resulted in delays in accessing evidence, increased administrative burden, or the need for local workarounds. While significant improvements were made throughout the rollout, variations in digital capability continued to shape the pace and quality of operational delivery.

In addition to connectivity issues, a proportion of defence practitioners continued to work without mobile devices, meaning they were less able to access or review digital evidence or engage with digital material when working away from the office. This affected the consistency of digital engagement across the system and had an impact on early engagement.

Differences in confidence levels also reflected the wider challenge of adapting to rapid technological change across the justice system. For individuals who had limited prior

experience with newer digital tools or mobile technologies, additional time and support were often required to develop familiarity with the systems introduced through SCM. This was not indicative of resistance to change, but rather a natural aspect of transitioning to more technology-enabled ways of working. Support was offered through DESC/DAS and Wi-Fi awareness sessions, which provided opportunities to build confidence, address queries, and develop a clear understanding of the digital processes involved. These measures helped mitigate early variability, though underlying disparities in digital capability persisted in some localities.

Resource Pressures

Several courts and agencies experienced resource pressures during the transition to SCM. High-volume areas, in particular, faced competing demands on judicial time, court programme capacity, and police and prosecution resources. Implementing new processes – while maintaining existing service levels – created additional workload during the early stages of rollout, with some areas reporting sustained pressure on operational teams responsible for day-to-day delivery.

These pressures were further compounded by the introduction of other major initiatives during the same period, including the Digital Evidence Sharing Capability (DESC), the Defence Agent Service (DAS), and the expansion of Body Worn Video (BWV). Whilst aligned with the aims of SCM, these programmes required significant operational preparation, training and technical support, creating cumulative demands on staff and partners who were simultaneously working to embed SCM, which, in some areas, contributed to a degree of change fatigue.

In some areas, these factors combined to affect the availability of evidence, the timeliness of disclosure, or the scheduling of case management hearings, particularly where multiple initiatives placed pressure on the same operational teams. Although these pressures were mitigated through local planning and coordination via LIGs, resource constraints remained a limiting factor in some areas, influencing both the pace and consistency of implementation.

Variation in Local Practice

Despite the national framework and Practice Note designed to promote consistency in approach, ongoing variation in local practices and differences in the application of the Practice Note have continued to pose a challenge to embedding the SCM model. Variations in court programming, administrative routines, office structures and local

partnership working meant that the extent to which SCM processes were applied differed across areas.

Variation has been observed in the degree of robustness applied to case management at the earliest stages of proceedings, with differences in approach at first appearance and at the Continued Without Plea (CWP) diet evident across the country. Where sheriffs applied the Practice Note robustly, this established clear expectations for both the Crown and the defence regarding early preparation, disclosure and engagement. Where this approach was taken, it supported more meaningful early engagement between parties, improved levels of preparedness, and enabled the intended benefits of SCM to be realised in practice. Conversely, where a less robust approach was adopted, expectations were less clearly established at the outset, contributing to variable levels of engagement and limiting the effectiveness of early case management.

Varying interpretations of the types of cases suitable for inclusion within the SCM processes have emerged as one of the most significant areas of inconsistency nationally, affecting the intended uniformity of case selection. All summary cases should be subject to early and proactive case management, with a focus on early engagement between parties and the identification, agreement and resolution of evidential issues at the earliest possible stage. A trial should be fixed only once meaningful attempts to resolve the case and to agree the scope of evidence have been fully explored through the SCM process. The Practice Note provides for only limited exceptions to this approach, namely where the accused is remanded in custody, or where the accused is self-representing at first appearance or at a CWP diet, as set out in paragraphs 6 and 7. Departures from this approach in some areas – including the early exclusion of categories of cases from SCM or the routine fixing of trials without full engagement in early case management – contributed to variation in practice and reduced the consistency with which the benefits of SCM were realised across the system.

In some areas, this has been compounded by the continued fixing of Pre-Intermediate Diet Meetings (PIDMs) and Intermediate Diets (IDs), despite the Practice Note being explicit that such diets should not be fixed where effective case management has taken place, and notwithstanding data demonstrating that the fixing of Intermediate Diets has no measurable impact on performance outcomes.

Achieving consistency in the application of SCM was further constrained in some areas by the limited availability of specialist, repeat-sitting practitioners. In larger courts with more complex court programmes, it was often challenging to deploy the

same sheriffs, reducing opportunities for practitioners to build and maintain specialist expertise. As a result, responsibility for SCM frequently rotated across different sheriffs who were managing multiple operational demands, which contributed to variability in how processes were applied. On occasion, where no dedicated sheriff was available, reliance on part time or retired sheriffs – who were less likely to have regular exposure to SCM – added an additional risk of inconsistency.

Collectively, these factors meant that some areas were unable to apply SCM uniformly, underscoring the need for sustained support, clear guidance, and ongoing training to promote consistent understanding and application of the model across all courts.

First Appearance Effectiveness

A persistent challenge throughout both the pilot phase and the national rollout of Summary Case Management was achieving effective case management at the first appearance without the need for a continuation.

The design and modelling of SCM envisaged that disclosure and meaningful engagement would take place in advance of the first appearance, enabling effective case management to be undertaken at that hearing. In practice, however, the default position in most areas has been to continue cases to a subsequent case management hearing, rather than treating this as an exception. This results in cases requiring repeated preparation, accused persons and solicitors attending unnecessary hearings, court programmes becoming overloaded, and outcomes delayed for victims and witnesses.

There are several factors that can make achieving effective case management at the first appearance challenging. These include time pressures within court programmes, competing demands on legal practitioners, constraints on available resources, and practical challenges associated with the provision of early disclosure.

A series of enhancements to DAS are expected to alleviate many of the barriers to achieving effective case management at first appearance. The introduction of the new Notice of Instruction (NOI) function, launched on 1 April 2026, replaces the current Letter of Engagement process and allows defence agents to submit NOIs directly through DAS. Once accepted by COPFS, case access will be granted within minutes, with immediate access to any available disclosure documents, enabling earlier and more meaningful engagement. Additional improvements will further streamline workflow.

Notwithstanding these difficulties, a small number of areas have successfully adopted the optimum model during rollout, demonstrating that it is achievable. Where this approach has been implemented, clear benefits have been identified for all justice partners, including increased early resolution, a reduction in the number of hearings per case, and more streamlined and efficient court programmes. These practical advantages are also reflected in the experiences of those working within the system, as illustrated by the following example:

“In terms of letters of engagement, I find it extremely useful to submit one as soon as I’m instructed, usually when my file is opened and significantly prior to the date of any pleading diet.

It does in my experience sometimes lead to disclosure being effected prior to the first calling of the case. This is invaluable in terms of potential resolution”

Anika Jethwa, Defence Solicitor

For this reason, effective case management at first appearance should be regarded as the optimum model, and all courts should strive to embed this approach wherever possible.

Workflow Challenges

The interaction between resource pressures and variations in local practice at times affected the smooth operation of SCM processes. In some areas, cases not being fully prepared in advance of hearings resulted in continuations, including multiple continuations in some instances, that might otherwise have been avoided. This contributed to substantial churn within the case management hearing programme. In several courts, these pressures led to periods of significant overloading within case management hearing courts and placed additional strain on already stretched court programmes and legal resources. This was particularly evident in high-volume courts where the scale of demand and the limited time available to practitioners managing extensive caseloads reduced opportunities for meaningful engagement early in the process.

Repeated continuations also have a direct impact on complainers and victims. Each delay prolongs uncertainty and can undermine confidence in the process – particularly for children and vulnerable individuals. As ASSIST noted:

We understand the many complex reasons for continuations and that multiple adjourned trials would be even more distressing for a complainer/child, but it would be remiss not to acknowledge that this is a challenge. And that improved engagement during this time would

be helpful. There are times when a call even without additional information would feel more validating than a complete void.

Fiona McMullen, ASSIST

High-volume courts – most notably Glasgow and Edinburgh – faced unique pressures associated with the scale and complexity of their workloads. The phased introduction of non-domestic abuse cases in Glasgow reflected the operational challenges of applying SCM in such demanding environments. High case volumes increased pressure on disclosure processes, case preparation, and court programming, underscoring the need for proportionate or tailored support in areas with disproportionate workload profiles.

Cultural and Practice-Based Challenges

The national rollout of SCM also intersected with cultural and practice-based differences across the justice system. In some areas, established ways of working made it more challenging to secure early engagement and introduce accelerated disclosure practices central to the SCM model. As SCM is a collaborative process that relies on active participation from all justice partners, resistance or variations in levels of engagement influenced the consistency with which the model could be embedded and contributed, in some cases, to increased continuations. Addressing these concerns required sustained communication, reassurance and dialogue to support confidence in the new approach.

Progress in certain areas was significantly disrupted by the Scottish Solicitors' Bar Association (SSBA) legal aid dispute, which resulted in widespread withdrawal of defence participation from Local Implementation Groups and from SCM processes more generally. This had a pronounced impact in Lothian and Borders, where the boycott coincided with the implementation of SCM and disrupted local planning, limited opportunities for collaborative working and significantly impacted the day-to-day running of the court. The legal aid dispute concluded in January 2026, bringing an end to the industrial action in SCM cases and enabling local practitioners to re-establish collaborative arrangements.

Data Quality and Reporting Limitations

While the SCM Monitoring report, developed through the rollout and distributed towards the beginning of 2026, provided a comprehensive set of performance measures, limitations in data quality and completeness affected some indicators. Variations in recording practices, system constraints, and inconsistent reporting

periods meant that certain measures could not be used reliably for evaluation purposes. The different agencies involved often used different counting periods, making it difficult to meaningfully compare data. System limitations also restricted the ability to capture key operational milestones – such as the timing of early engagement activity, compliance relating to disclosure-related timescales, or reasons for continuations – with sufficient granularity. In addition, the transition to new reporting mechanisms created periods of partial data capture, where legacy and new systems operated in parallel and produced discontinuities in reporting.

A further limitation arose in areas where manual counts were required to supplement or replace system-generated data. While often necessary, manual counting is inherently less precise, relies on individual interpretation, and can introduce inconsistencies or errors. As a result, manually collected figures were not always directly comparable across locations or reporting periods and could only be used as indicative rather than definitive measures.

These limitations required careful selection of the most robust and analytically meaningful data, as well as continued improvements in data capture, reporting accuracy, and system integration to support long-term monitoring. SCTS, COPFS and Police Scotland have worked collaboratively to develop the SCM Monitoring Report and will continue to review and refine these measures to ensure the data available to justice partners is sufficiently robust and relevant.

Taken together, these challenges illustrate the scale and complexity of implementing SCM across a diverse justice system. While the reform delivered important progress in supporting earlier preparation, stronger collaboration and more effective case progression, its impact was shaped by variations in local practice, resource availability, digital capability and data reliability. These factors are typical of major operational change programmes and provide valuable insight into the conditions required for consistent and sustained improvement. Recognising the practical limitations encountered during rollout is therefore essential not only for interpreting the early performance of SCM, but also for informing the next phase of development, ensuring that support, guidance and infrastructure continue to evolve in ways that consolidate and extend the foundations established to date.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

The national rollout of Summary Case Management represents a significant step forward in modernising the summary justice system in Scotland. Building on the foundations of a robust pilot and shaped through extensive stakeholder collaboration, SCM introduced earlier case preparation, timelier disclosure of evidential material, more effective use of digital tools, and clearer structures for judicial oversight. By addressing long-standing inefficiencies – such as late guilty pleas, frequent adjournments, and unnecessary trials – SCM has modernised case handling and enhanced the experience for victims, witnesses, and justice partners. These developments contributed to more efficient case progression, reduced unnecessary trials, and strengthened collaboration across justice agencies.

While SCM has delivered measurable efficiencies in case progression and reduced the volume of ineffective hearings and unnecessary trials, the resources released through these improvements have been reinvested to support other areas of pressure within the court programme. In practice, this includes creating more room for priority and high-volume business, accommodating additional procedural hearings arising from SCM, and enabling courts to respond more flexibly to fluctuations in local demand. The additional capacity generated by SCM therefore strengthens overall system resilience by allowing courts to reallocate judicial and administrative time where it is most needed, rather than reducing the underlying resource requirement.

The evaluation demonstrates that SCM has largely achieved its core objectives:

Improved Case Progression

SCM supported earlier, better-informed decisions, which reduced unnecessary trials and improved the flow of cases through the system. By endeavouring to ensure that key evidence and specified disclosure material were available at the earliest stage, parties were able to engage meaningfully, leading to more purposeful discussions at case management hearings. This reduced late changes of plea, avoided unnecessary adjournments, and helped to ensure that only cases which required evidence to be led progressed to trial. Structured judicial oversight further improved case readiness, enabling more predictable scheduling and reducing disruption caused by unprepared cases. Collectively, these operational improvements strengthened case progression, eased pressure on witnesses and court programming, and contributed to a more streamlined and reliable summary justice process.

Improved Witness Experience

SCM contributed to a measurably better experience for victims, civilian witnesses and police witnesses by reducing the likelihood that they would be cited unnecessarily or repeatedly. Earlier engagement between parties, combined with improved disclosure and clearer case management, meant that cases capable of early resolution were identified sooner, preventing witnesses from being cited for trials unlikely to proceed or for which their attendance was not required. This reduced the inconvenience and uncertainty often associated with repeated trials or late-stage adjournments. Where trials were required, robust case management focussed the scope of the trial and ensured that only essential witnesses were cited. By ensuring that only cases requiring evidence proceeded to trial, SCM supported a more predictable and proportionate approach to victim and witness involvement, aligning with the transition towards trauma-informed practice.

Enhanced Collaboration

SCM strengthened communication and collaboration across all justice partners by creating clear expectations around early engagement, promoting consistent use of secure digital tools, and creating structured forums for joint problem-solving. The case management hearing provided a focused platform for the Crown, defence, and judiciary to discuss key issues at the earliest stage, supporting transparent decision-making and shared understanding of evidential requirements, case readiness, and likely outcomes. Increased use of digital platforms – such as DESC and DAS – improved access to information and reduced delays associated with paper-based processes. This collaborative approach fostered a more joined-up way of working, improved predictability, and strengthened mutual accountability across agencies.

The phased approach to rollout, supported by detailed planning, active Local Implementation Groups, and comprehensive training and guidance, ensured that courts were increasingly well-equipped to operate the new model. Performance monitoring and qualitative feedback provided a strong evidence base for refining practice and addressing emerging issues in real time. Continuous improvement became a defining feature of the implementation, with guidance, digital systems, and operational processes evolving in response to observed challenges.

Despite these positive developments, several limitations influenced the pace and consistency of rollout. Variations in digital capability – including unreliable Wi-Fi in older or structurally complex buildings – affected the reliability of evidence sharing and access. Resource pressures, particularly in high-volume and remote courts, placed

strain on administrative resources and operational teams. Concurrent new initiatives such as DESC and BWV added further pressure during the rollout period. Differences in local workloads and availability of those with consistent exposure to and familiarity with SCM processes also made consistent application more difficult to embed. Cultural and practice-based challenges similarly emerged, including differences in interpretation of SCM processes and reduced defence participation during the SSBA legal aid dispute. The impact of the legal aid dispute on the performance measures will become more apparent now that the boycott has ceased.

Limitations in data completeness and recording practices further affected the reliability of some performance measures, highlighting the need for strengthened data capture and reporting systems.

Overall, the implementation of SCM has delivered meaningful improvements across the summary justice landscape. While further development is required to address the challenges identified and to embed consistent practice across all courts, the progress achieved to date demonstrates the model's potential to deliver more timely, transparent, and effective management of summary criminal business. Continued collaboration, targeted support, and ongoing refinement of digital tools, guidance and performance monitoring will be critical to sustaining this improvement and ensuring that SCM continues to evolve in line with the needs of Scotland's justice system. Strengthening early, meaningful communication between prosecution and defence – not only within SCM but across the wider criminal justice process – will further support consistency, reinforce shared responsibility for case progression, and embed the cultural changes required for long-term improvement.

6.2 Recommendations

To consolidate progress and ensure the sustainability of SCM, the following recommendations are proposed:

Strengthen Digital Capability and Infrastructure

- Improve Wi-Fi reliability across the court estate, prioritising buildings constrained by layout or structural features.
- Ensure consistent access to appropriate technology for the judiciary, court staff, prosecutors, police and defence practitioners.
- Expand technical training and support for key systems such as DESC, DAS and related digital evidence platforms.
- Continue to develop and enhance digital products to meet business needs.

Enhance Resource Capacity and Workforce Planning

- Provide targeted support for high-volume courts, including enhanced programming and additional administrative capacity.
- Support remote courts where reliance on relief sheriffs and limited specialist coverage increases variability in practice.
- Coordinate future justice initiatives to avoid overlapping periods of operational change and cumulative resource pressure, supported by collaborative court-modelling to optimise system design.

Promote Consistency in Local Practice

- Ensure effective first appearances by meeting Practice Note expectations on early disclosure, early engagement and effective case management.
- Consistently apply the presumption against Intermediate Diets and PIDMs, dispensing with them unless considered necessary in terms of the Practice Note.
- Facilitate cross-court learning and peer support to share effective practice and address common challenges.

Support Effective Engagement Across All Justice Partners

- Continue targeted engagement between prosecution and defence to maintain strong participation in SCM and promote early, meaningful communication within SCM and across the wider criminal justice process.
- Ensure ongoing communication of updates, expectations, and operational changes to all partners.
- Maintain active and well supported LIGs beyond the implementation phase to drive local ownership, collaboration and early problem-solving.

Improve Data Quality, Recording and Analysis

- Standardise data recording practices across courts and partner agencies to improve consistency and reliability.
- Enhance reporting functionality and system integration within COPII and related platforms to reduce administrative burden.
- Review and refine the KPI suite periodically to ensure that measures remain proportionate, relevant and aligned with operational priorities.
- Expand analytical capacity to support early identification of emerging trends and areas requiring intervention.

Maintain a Focus on Continuous Improvement

- Regularly update training, guidance and digital tools based on operational learning and stakeholder feedback.
- Embed SCM training within business-as-usual training programmes for all professional groups, ensuring confidence and consistency as processes evolve.
- Use qualitative insights proactively to inform improvements to process, communication and digital readiness.
- Continue strong governance and monitoring arrangements to sustain alignment with system-wide strategic objectives.

Identify Additional Case Types Suitable for SCM

Targeted inclusion of specific case types – such as the [Shoplifting Initiative](#), which was rolled out nationally in December 2025, following a successful pilot in Dundee, demonstrated that SCM works particularly well for high-volume, low-complexity offences with readily available evidence. As part of continuous improvement, a structured review should identify other suitable case types that could benefit from SCM principles, helping to promote greater consistency and increase early resolution opportunities. In particular, there is an ambition to move towards the routine early availability of decisive video, audio and still image evidence, where it is immediately accessible through DESC, to further support early decision-making, meaningful engagement and swifter case progression.

6.3 Closing Statement

Summary Case Management has laid a strong foundation for long-term reform of Scotland's summary justice system. The model has demonstrated its capacity to deliver earlier, clearer, and more effective case management, benefitting victims, witnesses, accused persons, practitioners and the courts. By addressing the challenges identified and implementing the recommendations outlined in this report, justice partners can build on the progress achieved, embed consistency across all courts, and ensure the system remains resilient, modern, and fit for the future. Sustaining this progress will also depend on carrying forward the collaborative behaviours fostered through SCM into the wider criminal justice process, strengthening coordination and supporting system-wide improvement.

Annexe 1: SCM Rollout Monitoring Report – Measures

Measure	Data Owner	Measure Title
SCM 1	COPFS	Percentage of Key Evidence available before first calling (Pilot KPI 8)
SCM 2	COPFS	Percentage of letters of engagement received within three working days of first calling (Pilot KPI 1)
SCM 3	SCTS	Percentage of cases resolved at first calling (Pilot KPI 1)
SCM 4	COPFS	Percentage of Specified Disclosures provided to the defence at least one week in advance of CWP (KPI 2)
SCM 5	SCTS	Percentage of cases resolved at CWP (KPI 5)
SCM 6	SCTS	Percentage of CWPs continued to further CWP
SCM 7	SCTS	Contest Rate (Ratio of 'Not Guilty' to 'Guilty' pleas expressed as a percentage)
SCM 8	SCTS	Percentage of cases requiring to call at an Intermediate Diet (Pilot KPI 6)
SCM 9	SCTS	Engagement surgery: Conclusion percentage
SCM 10	SCTS	Percentage of cases resolved at notional trial
SCM 11	COPFS	Change in monthly average volume of first police witness citations issued (Pilot KPI 3)
		Change in monthly average volume of recite witness citations issued
		Change in monthly volume of first and recite witness citations issued
SCM 12	COPFS	Change in monthly average volume of first witness citations issued (Pilot KPI 3)
		Change in monthly average volume of recite police witness citations issued
		Change in monthly volume of first and recite police witness citations issued
SCM 13	SCTS	Churn at trial diet – Adjourned to new trial diet
SCM 14	SCTS	Percentage of summary trials at which evidence is led
SCM 15	SCTS	Percentage of trials evidence led and adjourned to further trial diet
SCM 16	SCTS	Average period (weeks) between first callings and evidence led trial where evidence led trial occurred in the period
SCM 17	SCTS	Scheduled trial – percentage change
SCM 18	SCTS	Percentage of cases concluded pre-trial
		Percentage of cases concluded at trial diet
SCM 19	SLAB	SLAB: ABWOR percentage measure
SCM 20	SCTS	Volume of first callings with SCM continuation reason recorded
		First calling SCM reasons as a percentage of 'First Calling CWP)

SCM 21	SCTS	Volume of CWP callings with SCM continuation reason recorded
		CWP SCM reasons as a percentage of CWP 'further continued without plea'
SCM 22	SCTS	Volume of Summary After Warrant callings with SCM continuation reasons recorded at this diet
		SAW SCM reasons as a percentage of SAW 'continued to CWP'