



Gordon MacDonald MSP  
The Scottish Parliament  
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23 July 2012

Chief Executive's Office  
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Dear Mr MacDonald

**SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S4W-08366  
FAMILY LAW (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006**

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQ indicated that it relates to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service corporate body. I am now writing to you in response to the matter you have raised.

**S4W-08366** asks *how many court cases to resolve family contact disputes there have been under the Family Law (Scotland) Act 2006?*

While the 2006 Act amended certain provisions, the principal authority as regards parental rights including those related to Contact remains the Children (Scotland) Act 1995.

Figures relating to cases where Contact has been the principal order craved of the court are published in the annual Scottish Government report on Civil Judicial Statistics: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/civil-judicial-statistics/>

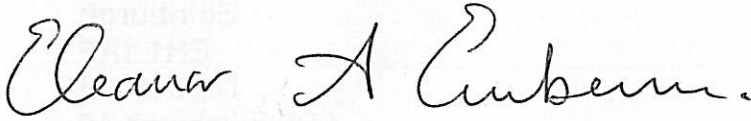
Figures for cases where Contact is the principal crave and those where Contact has been ancillary to the principal crave are provided in the table below:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Sheriff Court	1601	1921	1899	1451
Court of Session	3	1	2	4

NB. The Scottish Court Service uses a live operational case management system for the processing of court business. The information held on the system is structured for these operational needs, rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes. The information provided is based on the best information available from the case management system as at 11 July 2012.

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

Yours sincerely



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