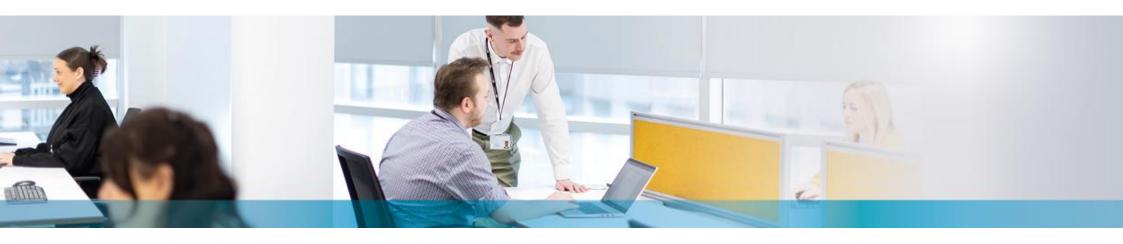
CIVIL ONLINE - COURT OF SESSION



LEGAL PROFESSIONALS GUIDANCE



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Overview

Court of Session users of Civil Online can now submit non-initiating documents directly through Civil Online. This guidance will explain the document submission process and how to use the existing case tracking feature.

At present, initiating documents (such as summons, petitions, defences, answers etc.) and motions cannot be submitted to the Court of Session via Civil Online. Current practices should continue when lodging these documents. Future development will allow users to raise and respond to actions directly via Civil Online, as well as enrolling motions on the platform. Full details on these features will be communicated in due course.

To submit documents that attract a fee, the solicitor or legal professional's office must have an SCTS credit account, or the client must be fee exempt, as payment by card is not available.

Benefits of using Civil Online include:

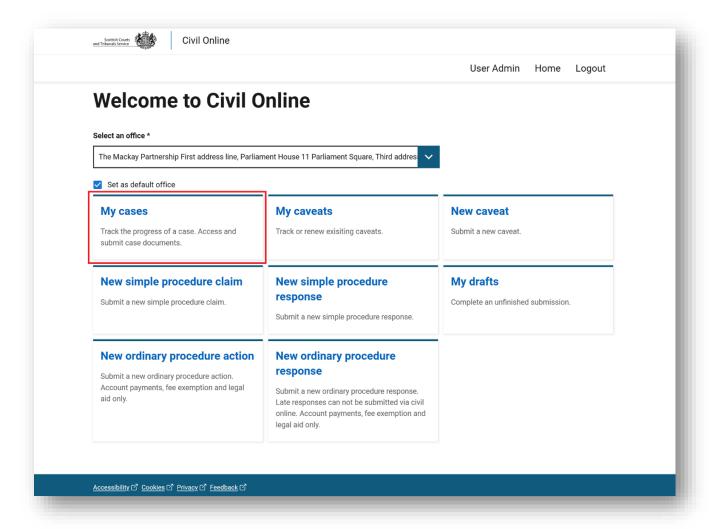
- Increased security when submitting documents, ensuring sensitive information is handled safely.
- Reduced manual uploading, streamlining the process for both solicitors and court staff.
- Less reliance on email correspondence, making the process more efficient, traceable, and reliable.



TRACKING COURT OF SESSION CASES ON CIVIL ONLINE

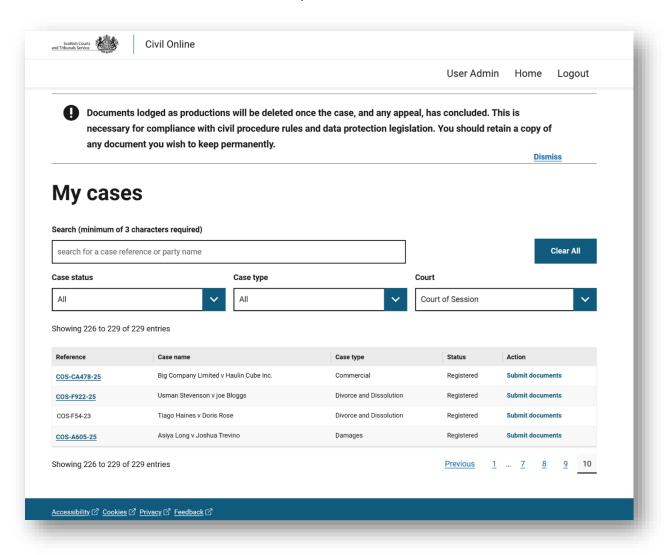
Welcome to Civil Online

After logging into Civil Online, click on the 'My cases' panel.

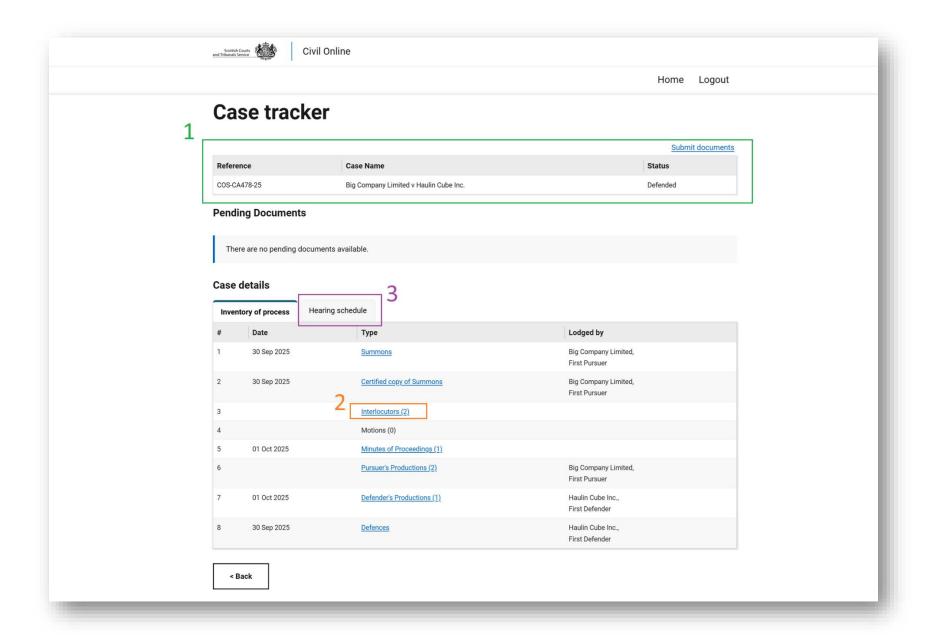


My cases

On the 'My cases' page, use the filters and search bar to locate the case you'd like to track.



Case tracking functionality is not available for cases registered before 1st August 2024. Cases which can be tracked will have a hyperlinked case reference. Clicking this link will take you to the relevant case tracker page.



The table at the top of the page (highlighted as 1) provides details of the case that you are tracking such as the court reference, case name and status. Above this there is a button to "Submit Documents" for this case. That functionality is covered later in this guidance

Inventory of process (IoP)

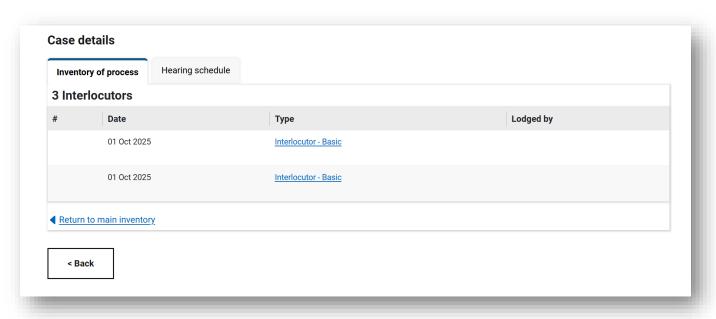
The Inventory of Process is designed as a replica of the digital inventory of process on ICMS (which is the case management system used by court staff and judges). This digital inventory of process follows the same numbering system that was used for paper processes within the Court of Session.

Items 1-7 are set documents and parts of process. If a document is lodged or issued that falls into one of these set document categories it will show in the appropriate section. For example Interlocutors will be number 3 of process, Motions as number 4 and Productions are set as 6 for the pursuer and 7 for the defender. Any documents that don't fall into the pre-set categories are given the next number of process and will be hyperlinked in order to click and view.

If a document type is hyperlinked, users can click the hyperlink to view the document which will open in a new tab where users can print or save the document should they wish. There may be occasions where there is no hyperlink to view the document and instead the document appears in plain black text. This is expected behaviour when no document has been uploaded to ICMS or a document has been hidden by court staff.

Multiple document view

Numbers 1 -7 of process are capable of having multiple documents contained therein. If there is more than one document within a document type, then the number of documents will be indicated in brackets (highlighted as 2). When there are multiple documents and a user clicks on the document type this will open a sub -level view, where users can see all the documents of that type (see image below).

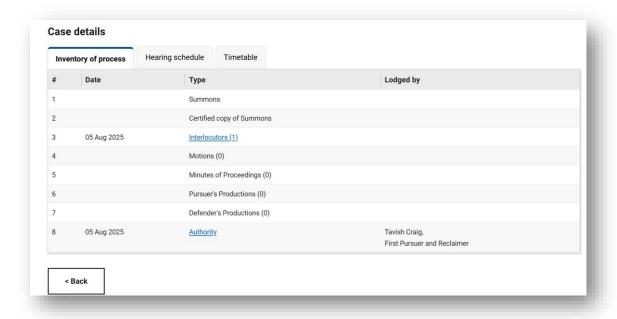


Hearing Schedule

This tab (highlighted as 3) is populated with any hearings that are scheduled or taken place. If there are no hearings a message stating "No hearings to display" will show

Timetable

This tab will only display for personal injury actions (see image below). The timetable is created when an allocated proof hearing is assigned. If a timetable has not yet been created the following message will be shown "Timetable has not been created in this case. It will be created when Allocated proof hearing is scheduled". Timetables in an action can be updated by court staff to enter the date events have been completed or amend the dates accordingly. A user can opt to print the timetable. The timetable therefore has a message advising users that the information displayed is correct as of the time and date the page is loaded.

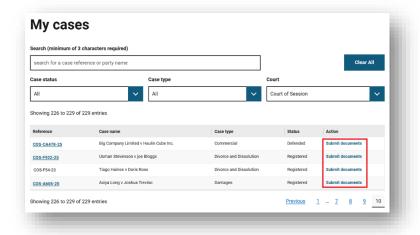


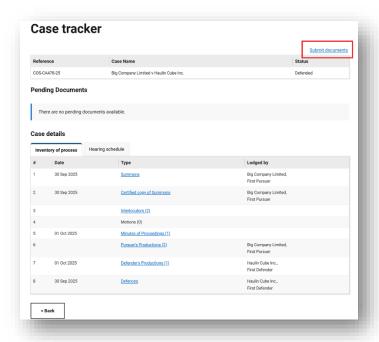
Pending Documents

This functionality will be explained later in this guidance, within the 'Submitting Documents' section.

SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS

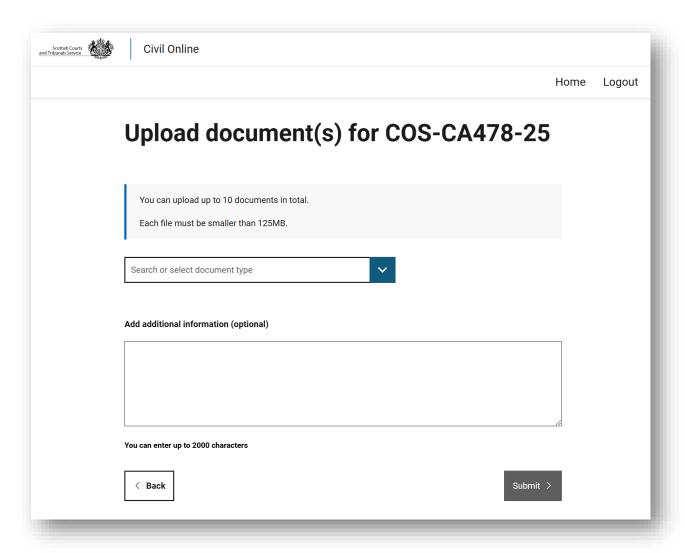
Documents can be submitted by clicking one of the 'Submit documents' links. These links can be found on the 'My cases' list, and on the 'Case tracker' page.





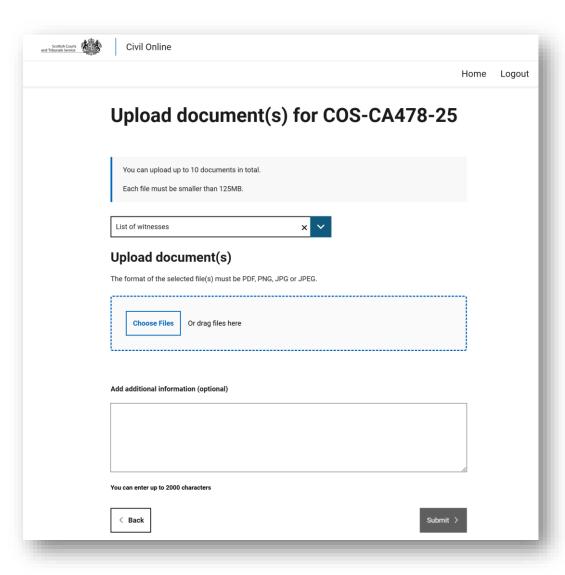
Upload Documents

Choose the document type you are submitting by either clicking on the drop down arrow, or by searching the list by typing the name of the document into the field labelled 'Search or select document type'

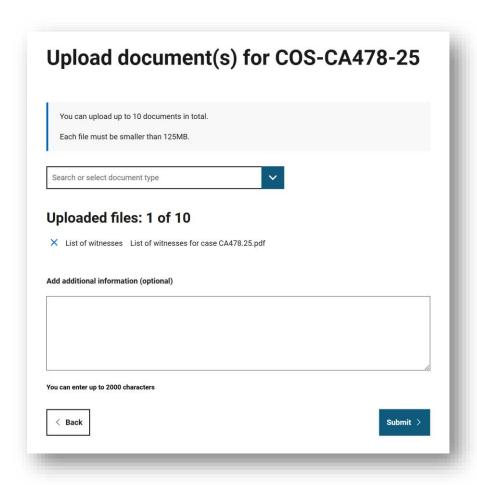


After selecting the document type you are submitting, you should now upload the document itself. You can either click on the 'Choose Files' button to manually select a file, or you can drag and drop the file into the designated area.

Up to 10 documents, for the same case, can be uploaded at once. Each file must be smaller than 125MB and the format of the file(s) must be PDF, PNG, JPG or JPEG.



After uploading, the name of the document and the file name will be displayed. To remove the file, click the blue 'X' to the left of the document name.



Any additional information you think court staff require in relation to the document(s) you are submitting should be entered into the 'Add additional information' textbox. This information will be shown to the member of court staff when they are processing your submitted document.

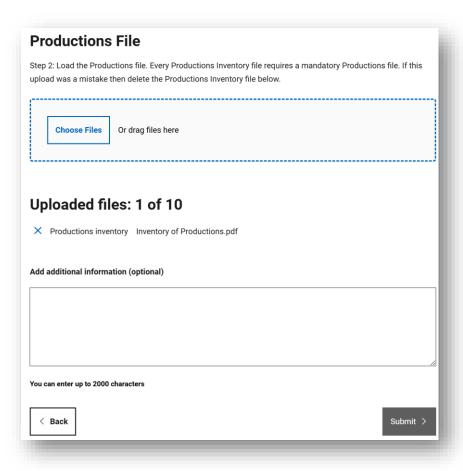
Click 'Submit' to continue.

Lodging productions

The process for lodging productions is slightly different. As separate PDFs are lodged for the inventory of productions and the productions themselves, both of these files must be uploaded in Civil Online in order to proceed.

You are reminded on this screen that productions will be deleted once the case, and any appeal, has concluded. This is necessary for compliance with civil procedure rules and data protection legislation. You should retain a copy of any document you wish to keep permanently.

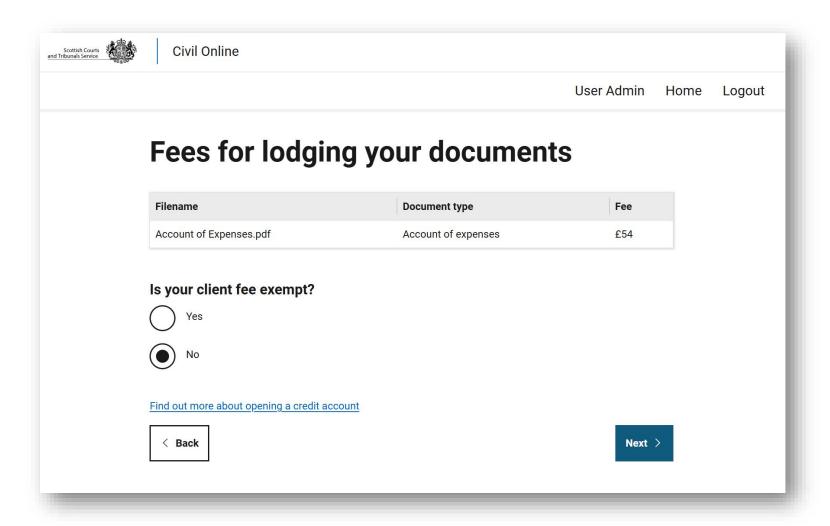
The screenshot below captures the moment after the inventory of productions has been uploaded, prior to the productions being uploaded.



Documents with fees

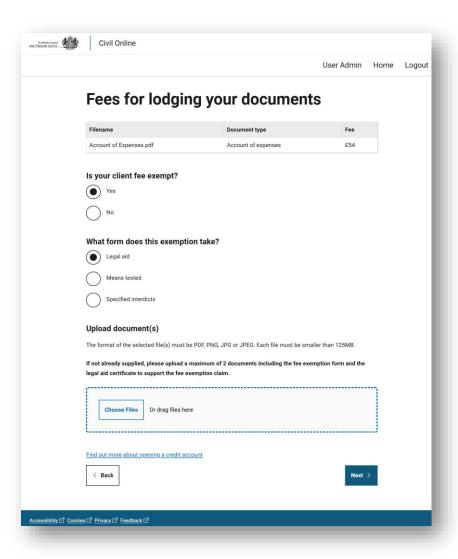
If any of the documents you are submitting attract a fee, the next page you land on will be titled 'Fees for lodging your documents'.

If you are submitting both chargeable and non-chargeable documents only the chargeable documents are shown on this list. These will be charged to your credit account once they have been checked by court staff. If you do not have a credit account, you can only submit non-chargeable documents. If you have no chargeable documents, you will be directed straight to the submission confirmation screen.



Fee exemption

If your client is fee exempt, click the 'Yes' radio button under the header 'Is your client fee exempt', and additional fields will be displayed. Complete the form and upload any relevant fee exemption documentation to proceed. Click 'Next' to continue.

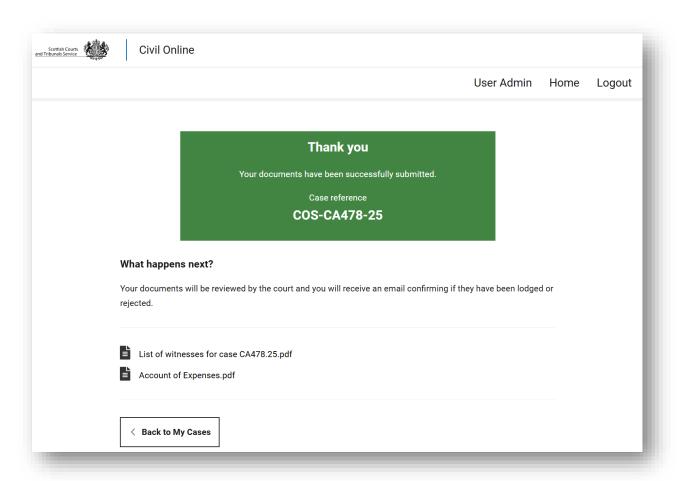


Confirmation of your submission

Your documents have now been submitted to the court. The documents which have been submitted are listed on the confirmation page. The documents will then appear on the internal court case management system, where court staff will check their competency. Any documents you have submitted which have not yet been checked by court staff will be visible in the 'Pending Documents' section. Further information on that is provided on the next page.

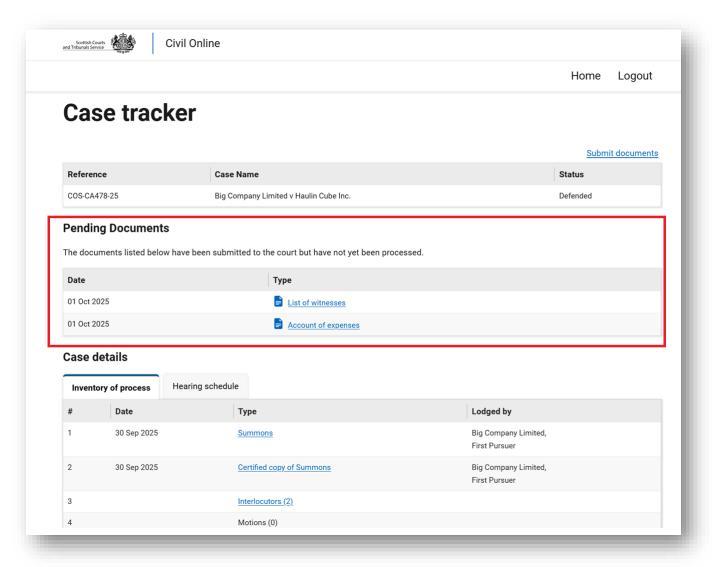
If the document is accepted by court staff you will receive email confirmation that the document has been lodged. Any applicable fees will be charged at this point.

If the document is rejected by court staff you will receive email confirmation that the document has not been accepted and with the reasons why.



Pending documents

Documents you have submitted to the court which have not yet been accepted or rejected by court staff will appear in the 'Pending Documents' section on the 'Case tracker' page. Here you can view the date the document was submitted, as well as view the document by clicking the name of the document or the document icon.



As mentioned in the overview at the start of this guidance, please note that initiating documents (such as summons, petitions, defences, answers etc.) and motions cannot be submitted to the Court of Session via Civil Online. Current practices should continue when lodging these documents. Future development will allow users to raise and respond to actions directly via Civil Online, as well as enrolling motions on the platform. Full details on these features will be communicated in due course.

No documents of any kind can be submitted for cases relating to Adoptions, Permanence Orders or Human Fertilisation and Embryology.