

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



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Dear Ms Baker

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS: S5W-03419, S5W-03420, S5W-03421, S5W-03422, S5W-03423, S5W-03424

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQs indicated that they related to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service corporate body (SCTS). I am now writing to you in response to the matters raised.

S5W-03419 asks how many jury trials there have been at each court in each of the last five years.

S5W-03420 asks how many criminal trials have been adjourned broken because of (a) a crown motion, (b) a defence motion, (c) a failure to appear by an accused, (d) a failure to appear by a witness, (e) a lack of court time and (f) another reason at each court in each of the last five years.

S5W-03421 asks how many summary procedures without a jury were called but adjourned because of lack of court time at each court in each of the last five years.

S5W-03422 asks how many jury trials were called but adjourned because of a lack of court time at each court in each of the last five years.

S5W-03423 asks how many days each court has sat in each of the last five years.

S5W-03424 asks how many indictments have been registered at each court in each of the last five years.

I have appended Sheriff Court information answering these questions in the tables in Annex A to this letter. I thought it might also be helpful to provide the following general remarks, some of which we have also made in the SCTS's recent response to

the Justice Committee inquiry regarding the role and purpose of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service.

Evidence and Procedure Review

I would first like to mention the ongoing work that the SCTS is leading on, in close collaboration with our justice partners, following the publication of the report *Evidence and Procedure Review – Next Steps*. This work is looking at the treatment of children and vulnerable witnesses, redesigning the summary justice system, and making effective use of technology.

The current inefficiencies and churn of cases within current summary criminal procedure have long been recognised. Despite some changes made over recent years, these inefficiencies still remain - as highlighted by the 2015 Audit Scotland report *Efficiency of Prosecuting Criminal Cases through the Sheriff Courts*. Churn in the system brings costs, with not only the need to repeat hearings, but also in the disruption and inconvenience for witnesses attending court.

The initial *Evidence and Procedure Review* report identified a number of factors that created this churn but also looked at the current system's ability to get the best evidence from witnesses, in particular from children and other vulnerable witnesses. The work now being undertaken in response to *Next Steps* has the potential to be transformational, both in addressing the trauma and distress that children and vulnerable witnesses experience when giving evidence in court and also in the creation of a streamlined, modern digital summary process that means far fewer administrative hearings are required, and far fewer witnesses cited unnecessarily. As far as possible, evidence should be agreed in advance, and trials scheduled only when it is clear they will take place and evidence will be led.

Efficient Provision of Access to Justice

In the meantime, the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service is committed to ensuring the earliest possible date for case hearings and to promoting the most efficient provision of access to justice. This is a challenging exercise: court programming is complex by its nature and we need to constantly predict and readjust based on the numbers of cases likely to proceed to evidence based trials. As business levels have increased the overall adjournment rate for lack of court time has been maintained at 6%. Moreover, the complexity and volume of cases continues to increase. During 2014 - 2015 for example, the reporting and detection of crimes across Scotland, particularly sexual offences¹, rose significantly, adding pressure to the system as a greater proportion of these cases tended to progress through to the point of trial, requiring additional court time.

I thought it would be helpful to also illustrate this general trend on summary case volumes, I have attached the SCTS's data relating to the trials called and evidence led at Annex B. As you will see, the number of trials called went up by 13% nationally since last year's figures, representing a 30% overall increase since 2011/12. The number of evidence led trials went up by 6% nationally since last year, representing an overall 38% increase since 2011/12. In response to this, our workload programme² has achieved a reduced waiting periods for the Sheriff Courts from 20 to 16 weeks.

¹ For example, the number of Sexual crimes recorded by the police in Scotland increased by 7% from 9,557 in 2014-15 to 10,273 in 2015-16.

² Originally agreed between SCTS, Police Scotland, the COPFS and the Scottish Government in 2014.

In respect of solemn cases, the Lord Justice Clerk (now Lord President) issued a Criminal Courts Practice Note on Sheriff Court Solemn Procedure, in December 2015. This recognised that judicial control over the use of court time is an important part of the entitlement to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time and promoted greater efficiency and the better use of available resources. The Practice Note has contributed to improvements in solemn adjournments and in the latest figures show an improvement in the number of cases resolved at earlier stages, for example:

- 3% increase in cases pleading guilty at a section 76 diet;
- 4% increase in cases pleading guilty at First Diet; and a
- 4% increase in cases pleading guilty at continued first diet.

The Lord President has made clear his ambition for a more responsive, effective, efficient and modern justice system, as has the Cabinet Secretary and the Lord Advocate. The *Evidence and Procedure Review* work which I've outlined above aims to help fulfil that ambition, working towards a common objective of better delivery of justice for all.

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

Yours sincerely



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ANNEX A

S5W-03419 asks how many jury trials there have been at each court in each of the last five years.

The information you requested is set out in the following table which includes additional information detailing the number of trials called and the number of trials where evidence has been led.

Sheriff Court	Sheriff Court Solemn Trials - Trials called / Evidence Led						Trials Called	Evidence Led						
	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14									
	Trials Called	Evidence Led	Trials Called	Evidence Led	Trials Called	Evidence Led	Trials Called	Evidence Led	Trials Called	Evidence Led	Trials Called	Evidence Led	Trials Called	Evidence Led
ABERDEEN	210	75	197	72	120	65	180	95	223	102				
AIRDRIE	132	52	155	59	140	47	159	43	149	54				
ALLOA	44	19	55	16	42	16	32	11	54	16				
ARBROATH	19	11	12	5	14	7	4	2						
AYR	97	29	99	33	122	41	183	56	163	46				
BANFF	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	0				
CAMPBELTOWN	1	1	4	1	2	2	4	3	10	4				
CUPAR	10	6	16	7	31	12	1	1						
DINGWALL	2	1	2	2	11	5	8	5						
DORNOCHE	0	0	0	0	0	0								
DUMBARTON	35	11	68	35	72	29	73	37	65	26				
DUMFRIES	91	45	76	36	66	38	52	24	74	36				
DUNDEE	194	78	165	66	192	78	242	93	246	95				
DUNFERMLINE	23	12	37	12	40	12	123	35	133	39				
DUNOON	8	4	10	7	15	9	8	6	11	5				
DUNS	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0						
EDINBURGH	407	108	587	134	628	174	705	140	739	135				
ELGIN	17	10	20	6	62	17	37	16	40	19				
FALKIRK	64	34	62	27	58	31	84	38	106	35				
FORFAR	5	3	5	3	9	5	45	11	58	23				
FORT WILLIAM	6	4	6	3	5	2	5	3	8	5				

	1058	220	1303	234	1,343	293	1,532	290	1794	296
GLASGOW	120	26	97	32	78	34	84	27	99	29
GREENOCK	9	3	17	8	23	11	8	5		
HADDINGTON	337	120	367	119	285	114	303	97	373	124
HAMILTON	10	7	9	7	53	23	71	28	55	21
INVERNESS	15	9	22	6	5	2	10	5	10	3
JEDBURGH	126	55	165	64	173	70	245	90	284	94
KILMARNOCK	66	31	73	23	80	33	110	37	131	45
KIRKCALDY	7	6	1	1	0	0				
KIRKCUDBRIGHT	2	2	2	2	3	1	7	2	14	5
KIRKWALL	7	5	14	8	15	8	12	8	18	9
LANARK	0	0	3	0	2	1	4	1	5	2
LERWICK	42	23	59	28	98	31	69	24	66	16
LIVINGSTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LOCHMADDY	6	2	2	2	6	4	9	7	13	4
OBAN	145	35	178	59	222	67	390	87	336	96
PAISLEY	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0		
PEEBLES	52	20	24	11	78	38	80	37	114	45
PERTH	26	12	38	18	40	20	33	21	43	28
PETERHEAD	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1
PORTREE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
ROTHESAY	12	5	18	8	24	6	12	7	10	3
SELKIRK	60	24	49	19	40	13	51	20	63	20
STIRLING	8	4	17	11	5	5	0	0		
STONEHAVEN	4	2	4	3	3	1	3	2	15	3
STORNOWAY	14	6	13	8	10	6	15	11	8	5
STRANRAER	5	5	1	5	2	0	0	1	0	0
TAIN	4	2	3	2	4	3	7	5	22	8
WICK	3502	1128	4063	1200	4230	1379	5000	1430	5560	1497

S5W-03420 asks how many criminal trials have been adjourned broken because of (a) a crown motion, (b) a defence motion, (c) a failure to appear by an accused, (d) a failure to appear by a witness, (e) a lack of court time and (f) another reason at each court in each of the last five years.

Sheriff Court Summary Trial Adjournments By Originator Of The Motion						
Sheriff Court	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14	
	(a) Crown motion	(b) Defence motion	(a) Crown motion	(b) Defence motion	(a) Crown motion	(b) Defence motion
ABERDEEN	420	204	431	210	281	165
AIRDRIE	306	385	356	385	245	268
ALLOA	78	37	106	61	127	44
ARBROATH	67	43	68	37	47	39
AYR	145	107	116	79	132	98
BANFF	28	25	19	27	16	11
CAMPBELTOWN	10	8	7	0	5	5
CUPAR	39	13	32	17	28	12
DINGWALL	6	5	5	8	4	12
DORNNOCH	6	2	3	6	3	0
DUMBARTON	179	104	201	106	160	118
DUMFRIES	44	18	56	16	55	35
DUNDEE	269	116	247	122	204	86
DUNFERMLINE	88	52	66	37	81	34
DUNOON	9	12	12	16	28	15
DUNS	7	10	1	19	9	8
EDINBURGH	619	336	543	335	730	328
ELGIN	41	45	54	50	69	48
FALKIRK	255	93	205	119	186	84
FORFAR	8	3	20	11	11	5
FORT WILLIAM	9	10	19	17	7	12
GLASGOW	1543	1211	1356	930	1373	969

	153	64	95	44	82	42	157	71	139	79	
GREENOCK	20	14	46	14	60	17	24	22			
HADDINGTON	431	264	395	269	581	320	570	382	608	422	
HAMILTON	114	72	129	98	139	90	101	73	148	100	
INVERNESS	35	25	21	35	14	33	41	30	49	23	
JEDBURGH	205	123	252	89	257	73	240	81	330	104	
KILMARNOCK	279	95	252	104	283	83	477	214	389	162	
KIRKCALDY	10	7	5	3	5	1					
KIRKCUDBRIGHT	0	1	4	6	2	4	7	7		8	
KIRKWALL	15	47	7	21	17	31	57	39	58	66	
LANARK	1	5	15	7	4	8	2	3	8	10	
LERWICK	113	52	188	132	126	110	137	80	274	153	
LIVINGSTON	0	2	1	6	0	2	2	6	1	3	
LOCHMADDY	18	27	12	12	11	18	14	17	6	20	
OBAN	430	225	377	223	343	208	399	207	568	311	
PAISLEY	1	6	4	10	3	10	0	2			
PEEBLES	98	80	145	75	121	46	152	121	154	149	
PERTH	29	14	39	26	38	18	64	33	68	49	
PETERHEAD	5	3	4	9	6	3	6	3	10	4	
PORTREE	21	11	14	6	2	1					
ROTHESAY	20	11	18	17	26	24	29	27	33	24	
SELKIRK	126	62	91	71	98	49	139	66	124	59	
STONEHAVEN	4	6	4	4	2	4	2	6	7	19	
STORNOWAY	24	16	33	15	32	30	42	15	48	19	
STRANRAER	22	11	24	26	15	13	4	6	12	8	
TAIN	2	4	0	3	5	14	11	7	3	3	
WICK	NATIONAL	6367	4103	6104	3938	6078	3664	7408	4311	8387	5245

Sheriff Court Solemn Trial Adjournments By Originator Of The Motion								
Sheriff Court	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15	2015/16
	(a) Crown motion	(b) Defence motion						
ABERDEEN	48	23	53	24	12	9	25	14
AIRDRIE	23	23	39	16	7	13	6	20
ALLOA	3	3	3	1	6	2	1	15
ARBROATH	5	2	0	0	2	1	2	0
AYR	27	16	16	9	45	11	50	10
BANFF	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
CAMPBELTOWN	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
CUPAR	1	0	5	0	15	1	1	0
DINGWALL	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
DORNNOCH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
DUMBARTON	10	1	5	3	6	11	7	8
DUMFRIES	19	1	7	8	3	0	4	3
DUNDEE	74	11	46	10	66 (54) #	12	76	17
DUNFERMLINE	5	1	8	3	3	2	29	2
DUNOON	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	3
DUNS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
EDINBURGH	101	25	153	30	130	34	133	35
ELGIN	2	1	0	0	4	6	4	4
FALKIRK	4	7	0	1	5	1	12	2
FORFAR	0	0	0	0	1	1	16	5
FORT WILLIAM	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GLASGOW	220	130	266	178	315	168	429	197
GREENOCK	25	12	15	3	18	4	25	6
HADDINGTON	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	0
HAMILTON	98	31	127	27	67	19	66	25

INVERNESS	2	1	0	0	5	2	7	3	7	2
JEDBURGH	0	0	1	4	0	0	1	1	1	2
KILMARNOCK	20	4	36	6	48	9	79	8	97	15
KIRKCALDY	2	10	11	13	25(24)#+	3	10	8	33	14
KIRKCUDBRIGHT	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
KIRKWALL	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
LANARK	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
LERWICK	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
LIVINGSTON	20	5	11	6	19	9	7	3	14	11
LOCHMADDY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OBAN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
PAISLEY	19	14	30	21	81	9	176	34	138	17
PEEBLES	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PERTH	13	4	5	2	16	7	11	8	35	14
PETERHEAD	4	0	8	7	0	3	8	2	1	1
PORTREE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ROTHESAY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SELKIRK	2	0	5	2	6	1	1	0	0	0
STIRLING	6	3	5	1	6	1	10	0	21	4
STONEHAVEN	3	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
STORNOWAY	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
STRANRAER	3	0	0	0	4	5	3	3	0	0
TAIN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WICK	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
NATIONAL	762	334	865	381	932	344	1208	410	1572	501

Sheriff Court Summary Trial Adjournments By Reason							
Sheriff Court	2011-12			2012-13			
	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time
Aberdeen	5	122	146	18	10	178	154
Airdrie	3	203	62	80	12	313	164
Alloa	3	61	45	19	5	100	88
Arbroath	3	51	24	3	1	56	40
Ayr	2	130	91	54	3	115	61
Banff	0	28	12	5	0	27	19
Campbeltown	1	9	0	3	0	5	0
Cupar	0	33	16	2	2	16	35
Dingwall	1	6	5	4	1	4	0
Dornoch	1	4	2	0	0	3	6
Dumbarton	3	162	34	51	11	186	31
Dumfries	1	34	10	5	5	45	5
Dundee	14	209	78	40	7	203	111
Dunfermline	6	70	18	29	4	53	21
Dunoon	1	13	10	3	2	16	8
Duns	0	5	11	2	0	6	2
Edinburgh	29	572	178	178	20	536	102
Elgin	9	45	39	14	3	47	28
Falkirk	3	204	37	50	10	176	41
Forfar	0	5	2	0	1	18	5
Fort William	0	7	4	1	2	15	17
Glasgow	58	917	279	259	50	888	446
Greenock	16	107	49	24	0	91	8
Haddington	1	18	1	3	0	21	8

		6	306	60	56	11	288	62	47
Hamilton		2	96	46	41	7	117	49	56
Inverness		2	24	9	8	3	18	8	10
Jedburgh		16	164	154	43	12	172	183	20
Kilmarnock		8	251	94	25	6	229	105	27
Kirkcaldy		0	12	1	4	0	1	1	2
Kirkcudbright		0	0	2	2	1	3	8	1
Kirkwall		2	15	9	11	1	6	4	4
Lanark		0	0	0	3	0	1	5	1
Lerwick		1	98	100	11	9	156	232	21
Livingston		0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
Lochmaddy		1	10	28	17	1	9	6	8
Oban		16	318	81	59	12	284	107	59
Paisley		0	1	0	2	0	5	1	5
Peebles		6	83	64	11	9	106	174	13
Perth		1	27	3	4	1	25	25	4
Peterhead		0	2	5	2	0	3	7	1
Portree		2	14	2	5	1	10	0	7
Rothesay		0	11	6	4	3	12	17	3
Selkirk		2	84	52	10	4	82	74	17
Stirling		2	8	12	6	0	8	9	3
Stonehaven		1	17	8	1	0	12	5	0
Stornoway		0	16	14	3	0	19	35	9
Stranraer		0	1	1	0	0	2	2	2
Tain		229	4577	1908	1175	230	4693	2533	1108
NATIONAL									

Sheriff Court Summary Trial Adjournments By Reason									
Sheriff Court	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16		
	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason	(c) failure to appear by an accused
Aberdeen	5	93	91	19	7	141	86	31	5
Airdrie	8	173	78	70	13	269	54	86	5
Alloa	4	90	52	4	2	83	51	11	1
Arbroath	0	48	19	8	0	10	1	1	
Ayr	2	121	77	40	1	127	92	39	4
Banff	0	10	15	5	0	21	17	3	0
Campbeltown	1	8	3	5	1	3	2	3	1
Cupar	1	26	28	2	0	4	4	0	
Dingwall	0	7	3	3	0	2	2	3	
Dornoch	0	2	1	0					
Dumbarton	7	168	52	71	9	143	75	43	3
Dumfries	2	39	10	15	1	85	27	20	7
Dundee	4	171	58	46	6	279	95	52	24
Dunfermline	3	74	43 (44)#	14	8	99	75 (72)##	29	3
Dunoon	1	17	19	4	1	25	6	11	0
Duns	0	6	6	3	0	5	3	3	
Edinburgh	21	679	181	155	17	811	237	222	26
Elgin	8	66	54	30	9	59	56	18	1
Falkirk	4	157	61	26	5	161	46	44	7
Forfar	0	7	3	2	3	63	43	12	10
Fort William	0	5	10	6	0	9	5	1	3
Glasgow	51	885	695	177	37	990	618	172	41
Greenock	4	73	22	16	1	124	31	10	1
Haddington	0	27	19	6	0	9	19	2	

	26	448	130	108	17	413	121	130	18	421	82	112
Hamilton	7	112	76	58	6	89	54	60	10	128	61	73
Inverness	1	20	11	7	1	31	22	3	2	32	13	9
Jedburgh	6	178	175	10	8	189	129	22	11	262	152	25
Kilmarnock	9	259	86	27	8	416	191	77	7	264	128	61
Kirkcaldy	0	3	2	0								
Kirkcudbright	1	3	11	2	1	3	13	1	0	4	14	3
Kirkwall	2	19	20	11	3	43	21	7	3	42	22	27
Lanark	0	3	2	2	0	3	2	1	0	2	7	1
Lerwick	2	104	149	16	6	111	56	30	5	220	157	71
Livingston	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	0
Lochmaddy	2	9	4	10	1	12	6	7	0	6	2	2
Oban	9	277	370	58	12	368	289	63	15	489	289	108
Paisley	1	7	0	6	0	0	1	0				
Peebles	2	97	42	11	5	125	95	40	6	104	71	52
Perth	0	36	59	5	6	51	46	3	1	60	102	5
Peterhead	0	5	9	1	0	5	5	0	0	6	7	2
Portree	0	1	0	0								
Rothesay	0	32	9	12	2	13	13	13	1	20	17	11
Selkirk	2	55	41	12	4	110	93	14	7	85	66	15
Stirling	0	8	2	4	0	1	0	0				
Stonehaven	0	2	9	0	0	3	7	0	0	10	3	1
Stornoway	1	18	10	1	2	21	13	4	0	19	23	2
Stranraer	1	10	4	3	0	6	22	1	0	4	11	0
Tain	1	5	4	3	0	7	3	5	0	10	1	10
Wick	200	4663	2837	1100	203	5544	2847	1299	228	5867	3218	1695

Sheriff Court Solemn Trial Adjournments By Reason							
Sheriff Court	2011-12			2012-13			
	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time
Aberdeen	0	4	31	6	1	5	26
Airdrie	0	15	10	8	1	13	10
Alloa	0	1	1	1	0	1	8
Arbroath	0	4	1	0	0	1	0
Ayr	1	6	15	6	5	7	3
Banff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbeltown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cupar	0	1	0	0	0	3	1
Dingwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dornoch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dumbarton	0	11	2	1	0	4	0
Dumfries	0	1	0	1	0	3	5
Dundee	3	7	12	1	0	5	11
Dunfermline	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Dunoon	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Duns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh	36	68	21	2	29	166	23
Elgin	0	5	0	2	0	0	0
Falkirk	0	1	1	1	0	0	0
Forfar	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Fort William	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Glasgow	5	150	18	64	2	152	22
Greenock	0	23	17	7	0	7	3

Haddington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	2	43	8	2	2	24	77	77	77	77	4
Inverness	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jedburgh	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilmarnock	0	2	6	2	0	0	10	13	13	13	4
Kirkcaldy	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4
Kirkcudbright	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirkwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lanark	2	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Lerwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Livingston	0	12	10	1	0	4	11	11	11	11	2
Lochmaddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oban	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paisley	0	19	8	4	3	8	2	2	2	2	5
Peebles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perth	0	1	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Peterhead	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Portree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rothesay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Selkirk	0	1	1	0	0	2	8	8	8	8	0
Stirling	0	3	1	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	0
Stonehaven	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Stormont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stranraer	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0
Tain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NATIONAL	13	348	233	134	17	283	395	395	395	395	164

Sheriff Court Solemn Trial Adjournments By Reason							2015-16					
Sheriff Court	2013-14			2014-15			2015-16					
	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason	(c) failure to appear by an accused	(d) failure to appear by a witness	(e) lack of court time	(f) any other reason
Aberdeen	1	6	6	6	0	9	12	3	0	2	18	8
Airdrie	1	2	4	2	0	2	1	1	0	6	8	1
Alloa	1	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	2	8	7	1
Abroath	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		
Ayr	1	8	15	4	0	7	13	9	1	9	17	9
Banff	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Campbeltown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1
Cupar	0	12	2	3	0	1	0	0	0			
Dingwall	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Dornoch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Dumbarton	0	5	0	6	0	3	2	3	0	3	1	5
Dumfries	0	0	3	1	0	7	0	3	0	3	8	1
Dundee	0	5	9	2	3	14	54	3	0	18	47	12
Dunfermline	0	0	1	3	0	10	30	3	1	7	38	0
Dunoon	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Duns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Edinburgh	4	43	93	22	1	43	72	17	2	53	63	30
Elgin	0	0	7	4	0	2	3	0	0	2	1	3
Falkirk	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	1	6	6	2
Forfar	0	0	0	0	0	7	3	0	1	4	11	2
Fort William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glasgow	3	153	21	67	5	207	62	78	4	216	20	46

Greenock	0	9	5	0	3	13	5	3	1	20	9	5
Haddington	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamilton	0	9	3	6	1	9	10	7	4	33	5	6
Inverness	1	0	5	1	0	5	1	1	0	4	3	1
Jedburgh	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilmarnock	0	14	25	0	0	9	43	3	0	5	14	4
Kirkcaldy	0	5	4	1	0	4	10	2	0	9	20	3
Kirkcudbright	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirkwall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lanark	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lerwick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingston	1	9	13	0	0	10	1	1	2	7	0	7
Lochmaddy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oban	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paisley	2	17	11	1	1	25	2	2	2	15	22	2
Peebles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perth	1	0	6	1	1	7	13	4	0	9	9	4
Peterhead	0	0	1	6	0	1	3	0	0	4	2	2
Portree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rothesay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Selkirk	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Stirling	1	3	6	0	0	4	9	2	0	7	7	0
Stonehaven	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stornoway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stranraer	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tain	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wick	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0
NATIONAL	17	311	254	139	15	406	353	145	21	456	342	155

S5W-03421 asks how many summary procedures without a jury were called but adjourned because of lack of court time at each court in each of the last five years

Sheriff Court	2011/12				2012/13				2013/14				2014/15				2015/16			
	Sheriff Court Summary Trials adjourned lack of court time ¹																			
Aberdeen	146	7%	154	8%	91	5%	86	4%	125	4%	75	3%	75	3%	75	3%	75	3%	75	3%
Airdrie	62	3%	164	7%	78	4%	54	3%	90	4%	44	4%	44	4%	44	4%	44	4%	44	4%
Alloa	45	10%	88	14%	52	9%	51	9%	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Arbroath	24	5%	40	9%	19	5%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%	1	0%
Ayr	91	8%	61	6%	77	8%	92	8%	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44
Banff	12	8%	19	12%	15	10%	17	10%	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
Campbeltown	0	0%	0	0%	3	3%	2	3%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cupar	16	9%	35	17%	28	12%	4	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Dingwall	5	7%	0	0%	3	3%	2	3%	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dornoch	2	8%	6	13%	1	4%	75	7%	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
Dumbarton	34	3%	31	3%	52	5%	75	7%	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Dumfries	10	3%	5	1%	10	2%	27	4%	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48
Dundee	78	5%	111	7%	58	5%	95	5%	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
Dunfermline	18	3%	21	4%	43 (44)†	6%	75 (72)†	8%	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51	51
Dunoon	10	4%	8	3%	19	8%	6	2%	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
Duns	11	13%	2	3%	6	11%	3	5%	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56	56
Edinburgh	178	4%	102	3%	181	4%	237	4%	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475	475
Elgin	39	10%	28	6%	54	11%	56	11%	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
Falkirk	37	3%	41	3%	61	5%	46	4%	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
Forfar	2	2%	5	3%	3	3%	43	8%	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93	93
Fort William	4	4%	17	14%	10	9%	5	5%	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Glasgow	279	3%	446	6%	695	8%	618	6%	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628
Greenock	49	6%	8	1%	22	3%	31	4%	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38	38
Haddington	1	1%	8	3%	19	4%	19	4%	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82	82
Hamilton	60	2%	62	2%	130	4%	121	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Inverness	46	6%	49	5%	76	6%	54	5%	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61

	9	4%	8	5%	11	6%	22	9%	13	4%
Jedburgh	9	4%	8	5%	11	6%	22	9%	13	4%
Kilmarnock	154	9%	183	10%	175	10%	129	7%	152	7%
Kirkcaldy	94	8%	105	8%	86	6%	191	8%	128	6%
Kirkcudbright	1	1%	1	1%	2	3%				
Kirkwall	2	6%	8	14%	11	15%	13	17%	14	20%
Lanark	9	3%	4	2%	20	7%	21	6%	22	4%
Lerwick	0	0%	5	7%	2	1%	2	3%	7	5%
Livingston	100	13%	232	20%	149	14%	56	5%	157	10%
Lochmaddy	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
Oban	28	15%	6	4%	4	3%	6	6%	2	2%
Paisley	81	4%	107	5%	370	17%	289	12%	289	9%
Peebles	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%	1	2%		
Perth	64	7%	174	14%	42	5%	95	7%	71	6%
Peterhead	3	1%	25	12%	59	20%	46	12%	102	21%
Portree	5	13%	7	13%	9	21%	5	8%	7	10%
Rothesay	2	2%	0	0%	0	0%				
Selkirk	6	4%	17	11%	9	4%	13	5%	17	5%
Stirling	52	7%	74	10%	41	7%	93	12%	66	9%
Stonehaven	12	10%	9	10%	2	2%	0	0%		
Stornoway	4	6%	14	18%	9	11%	7	6%	3	2%
Stranraer	8	4%	5	3%	10	5%	13	5%	23	7%
Tain	14	8%	35	19%	16	6%	3	1%	1	1%
Wick	1	2%	2	3%	4	5%	22	14%	11	15%
NATIONAL	1908	5%	2533	6%	2837	6%	2847	6%	3218	6%

S5W-03422 asks how many jury trials were called but adjourned because of a lack of court time at each court in each of the last five years.

Sheriff Court	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16	
	Trials adjourned	lack of court time ¹	Trials adjourned	lack of court time ¹	Trials adjourned	lack of court time ¹	Trials adjourned	lack of court time ¹	Trials adjourned	lack of court time ¹
Aberdeen	31	15%	26	13%	6	5%	12	7%	18	8%
Airdrie	10	8%	10	6%	4	3%	1	1%	8	5%
Alloa	1	2%	8	15%	6	14%	2	6%	7	13%
Arbroath	1	5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%		
Ayr	15	15%	3	3%	15	12%	13	7%	17	10%
Banff	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Campbeltown	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	10%
Cupar	0	0%	1	6%	2	6%	0	0%		
Dingwall	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%	0	0%		
Dornoch	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%				
Dumbarton	2	6%	0	0%	0	0%	2	3%	1	2%
Dumfries	0	0%	5	7%	3	5%	0	0%	8	11%
Dundee	12	6%	11	7%	9	5%	54	22%	47	19%
Dunfermline	0	0%	3	8%	1	3%	30	24%	38	29%
Dunoon	0	0%	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	1	9%
Duns	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%		
Edinburgh	68	17%	166	28%	93	15%	72	10%	63	9%
Elgin	0	0%	0	0%	7	11%	3	8%	1	3%
Falkirk	1	2%	0	0%	1	2%	0	0%	6	6%
Forfar	0	0%	1	20%	0	0%	3	7%	11	19%
Fort William	1	17%	1	17%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Glasgow	18	2%	22	2%	21	2%	62	4%	20	1%
Greenock	17	14%	7	7%	5	6%	5	6%	9	9%
Haddington	0	0%	0	0%	2	9%	0	0%		
Hamilton	8	2%	77	21%	3	1%	10	3%	5	1%
Inverness	0	0%	0	0%	5	9%	1	1%	3	5%

Jedburgh	3	20%	7	32%	2	40%	0	0%	0	0%
Kilmarnock	6	5%	13	8%	25	14%	43	18%	14	5%
Kirkcaldy	1	2%	2	3%	4	5%	10	9%	20	15%
Kirkcudbright	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%				
Kirkwall	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Lanark	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Lerwick	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Livingston	10	24%	11	19%	13	13%	1	1%	0	0%
Lochmaddy	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Oban	0	0%	0	0%	1	17%	0	0%	0	0%
Paisley	8	6%	2	1%	11	5%	2	1%	22	7%
Peebles	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%		
Perth	13	25%	0	0%	6	8%	13	16%	9	8%
Peterhead	0	0%	0	0%	1	3%	3	9%	2	5%
Portree	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Rothesay	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%				
Selkirk	1	8%	8	44%	1	4%	2	17%	0	0%
Stirling	1	2%	8	16%	6	15%	9	18%	7	11%
Stonehaven	0	0%	1	6%	0	0%	0	0%		
Stornoway	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Stranraer	5	36%	1	8%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Tain	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Wick	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	18%
NATIONAL	233	7%	395	10%	254	6%	353	7%	342	6%

S5W-03423 asks how many days each court has sat in each of the last five years

Sheriff Court	Sheriff Court Sitting Days				
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Aberdeen	1693	1424	1483	1562	1589
Airdrie	1100	1102	1023	991	1098
Alloa	312	460	404	448	422
Arbroath	318	424	395	66	
Ayr	837	680	736	783	781
Banff	117	93	87	71	72
Campbeltown	120	79	105	77	75
Cupar	257	253	273	46	
Dingwall	156	126	133	111	
Dornoch	45	47	35		
Dumbarton	696	657	652	782	766
Dumfries	479	386	328	430	517
Dundee	1175	1093	1052	1310	1286
Dunfermline	522	531	608	755	706
Dunoon	223	150	145	158	158
Edinburgh	2848	3137	3288	3215	3518
Elgin	273	278	266	268	335
Falkirk	717	791	735	739	727
Forfar	245	233	216	458	541
Fort William	167	110	112	126	132
Glasgow	5384	5069	4703	4865	4850
Greenock	580	419	425	529	574
Haddington	312	292	358	298	
Hamilton	1913	1984	1741	1774	1700
Inverness	501	400	548	561	574
Jedburgh /Duns	230	285	295	265	187
Kilmarnock	997	952	1250	1295	1104
Kirkcaldy	903	953	934	1015	1018
Kirkcudbright	108	46	35		
Kirkwall	155	100	109	109	116
Lanark	268	198	231	269	291
Lerwick	153	87	76	81	108
Livingston	933	1088	1088	1026	1010
Oban	183	148	175	158	132
Paisley	1730	1318	1238	1400	1553
Peebles	29	55	53	44	
Perth	726	759	941	953	1044
Peterhead	253	258	282	317	321
Portree/Lochmaddy	75	62	63	62	66
Rothesay	44	62	46		
Selkirk	191	221	194	236	207
Stirling	569	671	598	663	623

Stonehaven2	199	167	101	17	
Stornoway	147	85	69	89	96
Stranraer	234	162	250	249	237
Tain	118	130	143	132	125
Wick	235	154	143	147	160
NATIONAL	29470	28179	28160	28950	28819

S5W-03424 asks how many indictments have been registered at each court in each of the last five years.

Sheriff Court	Sheriff Court Indictments Registered				
	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Aberdeen	389	309	400	483	456
Airdrie	162	167	160	172	176
Alloa	90	77	54	67	60
Arbroath	36	34	36	1	
Ayr	134	151	144	168	184
Banff	5	1	4	0	0
Campbeltown	8	6	3	9	5
Cupar	31	40	51	6	
Dingwall	12	8	17	5	
Dornoch	1	1	0	0	
Dumbarton	147	163	130	151	135
Dumfries	151	132	121	131	112
Dundee	223	230	241	347 (317)##	320
Dunfermline	91	97	115	178 (153)	153
Dunoon	12	16	18	21	11
Duns	1	5	0	0	
Edinburgh	641	850	851	900	968
Elgin	69	68	90	56	91
Falkirk	139	116	111	147	118
Forfar	16	20	17	78	85
Fort William	5	5	11	8	6
Glasgow	1484	1540	1543	1,781	1482
Greenock	117	92	97	109	82
Haddington	32	50	33	18	
Hamilton	423	464	403	421	436
Inverness	48	40	69	141	143
Jedburgh	14	36	15	9	15
Kilmarnock	264	265	264	363	337
Kirkcaldy	178	208	153	192 (187)##	180
Kirkcudbright	6	0	0	0	
Kirkwall	5	6	9	10	12
Lanark	32	35	36	27	31
Lerwick	22	11	7	13	23
Livingston	158	151	144	161	95
Lochmaddy	0	0	0	1	0
Oban	19	8	14	14	16
Paisley	291	216	297	301	284
Peebles	0	1	0	0	
Perth	81	70	121	159	129
Peterhead	72	69	80	84	109
Portree	6	2	1	4	13

Rothesay	2	1	0	0	
Selkirk	24	38	27	19	9
Stirling	80	87	71	86	87
Stonehaven	16	24	17	0	
Stornoway	7	8	5	4	22
Stranraer	49	48	37	48	41
Tain	11	17	5	4	7
Wick	11	15	11	23	27
NATIONAL	5815	5998	6033	6920	6460

As part of Shaping Scotland's Court Services work, a number of courts closed with relevant live business transferring to receiving courts:

Closed Court	Receiving Court
<i>End of November 2013</i>	
Dornoch Sheriff Court	Tain Sheriff Court
Kirkcudbright Sheriff Court	Dumfries Sheriff Court
Rothesay Sheriff Court	Greenock Sheriff Court
<i>End of May 2014</i>	
Arbroath Sheriff Court	Forfar Sheriff Court
Cupar Sheriff Court	Dundee Sheriff Court
Stonehaven Sheriff Court	Aberdeen Sheriff Court
<i>End of January 2015</i>	
Dingwall Sheriff Court	Inverness Sheriff Court
Duns Sheriff Court	Jedburgh Sheriff Court
Haddington Sheriff Court	Edinburgh Sheriff Court
Peebles Sheriff Court	Selkirk Sheriff Court

Data notes:

A small number of discrepancies have been identified in Sheriff Court figures previously provided. Where that is the case, the figures have been highlighted with a “#” and the figure that was previously issued has been included and bracketed next to the now updated figure. The Scottish Courts and Tribunals 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

1. ‘Lack of Court Time’ refers to cases that are continued to another sitting day due to the sitting day having ended. I would add that court programming is complex by its very nature with a need to constantly predict and readjust the number of cases likely to proceed on the day of a trial. For the headings marked (f), ‘Any other reason’ includes the following reasons for an adjournment:

- Allow Accused to get legal advice
- Inadequate time to prepare (Crown)
- Inadequate time to prepare (Defence)
- Legal aid not granted
- No disclosure
- Accused not brought from custody
- Completion of evidence

‘Sitting days’ data presents data collected by two different methods. It was collected by a manual process up until 1 April 2012 after which an electronic data collection process commenced.

All the statistical information provided is based on the best information available from the case management system as at **10/10/2016**. Data produced by the SCTS Management Information Analysis Team.

Further data on other courts is contained at the following link in the SCTS Annual Report:

<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/docs/default-source/aboutscs/reports-and-data/reports-data/scts-annual-report-accounts---2015-16-final.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Sheriff Court Summary Trials - Trials called / Evidence Led

Sheriff Court	Trials called	Evidence Led											
	2011/12			2012-13			2013-14			2014-15		2015/16	
ABERDEEN	2054	418	2018	360	1877	468	2172	607	2782	644			
AIRDRIE	2416	289	2457	318	1732	322	2001	346	2198	420			
ALLOA	452	97	638	129	587	124	600	139	675	130			
ARBROATH	463	92	447	98	406	112	69	16					
AYR	1177	266	956	262	951	245	1105	306	1004	264			
BANFF	161	34	160	30	110	29	161	49	181	53			
CAMPBELTOWN	82	16	80	21	102	24	66	23	58	17			
CUPAR	189	53	203	53	212	79	29	11					
DINGWALL	69	20	79	17	90	26	83	17					
DORNNOCH	25	6	45	10	25	7							
DUMBARTON	1006	131	1197	184	1113	165	1128	200	1415	248			
DUMFRIES	361	111	431	109	488	89	697	186	778	207			
DUNDEE	1697	439	1575	408	1246	335	1734	422	2492	515			
DUNFERMLINE	566	97	468	76	695	159	919	163	822	128			
DUNOON	234	75	242	73	220	75	220	72	233	75			
DUNS	82	14	62	11	63	12	66	12					
EDINBURGH	4222	538	3737	400	4587	505	5717	633	7619	848			
ELGIN	375	59	447	64	479	77	501	92	564	121			
FALKIRK	1223	247	1410	253	1225	277	1295	257	1190	190			
FORFAR	111	30	180	33	133	40	519	90	837	128			
FORT WILLIAM	102	30	122	26	122	32	88	30	165	50			
GLASGOW	8918	1169	7693	1111	8274	1286	9702	1619	10029	1608			
GREENOCK	863	111	729	89	717	135	826	145	868	170			
HADDINGTON	216	55	278	40	405	74	355	68					
HAMILTON	2738	597	2572	603	3122	610	3261	607	3595	729			

		825	75	932	126	1114	172	988	202	1318	230
JEDBURGH	204	33	172	27	208	44	230	43	319	319	33
KILMARNOCK	1768	390	1827	411	1754	433	1671	376	2093	2093	484
KIRKCALDY	1130	217	1292	287	1438	345	2355	440	1929	1929	361
KIRKCUDBRIGHT	88	22	70	21	39	10					
KIRKWALL	36	24	59	37	62	37	86	31	86	86	28
LANARK	315	45	182	40	279	44	384	58	514	514	77
LERWICK	60	6	73	10	63	4	59	9	102	102	19
LIVINGSTON	782	111	1155	169	1084	217	1048	126	1603	1603	183
LOCHMADDY	17	7	18	4	19	7	24	9	23	23	6
OBAN	193	45	171	43	143	37	145	33	119	119	37
PAISLEY	2201	282	2035	344	2167	446	2539	577	3207	3207	568
PEEBLES	38	7	41	6	49	2	24	7			
PERTH	983	172	1213	276	869	273	1233	329	1201	1201	377
PETERHEAD	208	47	206	57	299	79	417	132	494	494	115
PORTREE	38	7	54	12	47	9	44	11	53	53	14
ROTHESAY	102	11	77	13	44	6					
SELKIRK	147	31	161	37	202	46	275	48	332	332	48
STIRLING	755	161	776	197	589	167	783	195	760	760	164
STONEHAVEN	124	29	89	30	79	29	13	8			
STORNOWAY	64	23	76	35	66	27	95	47	110	110	26
STRANRAER	180	60	172	42	248	58	309	62	350	350	67
TAIN	172	27	180	28	205	45	170	23	151	151	25
WICK	66	20	63	11	89	22	146	36	97	97	18
National Sheriff Court Summary	40298	6846	39320	7041	40137	7866	46352	8912	52366	9425	

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals 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 1/11/2016. Data produced by the SCTS Management Information Analysis Team.