



Lewis MacDonald MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Dear Mr MacDonald

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS S4W-13370 and S4W-13371

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-13370 asks: *How many (a) High Court fines, (b) Sheriff Court fines, (c) Justice of the Peace Court fines, (d) District Court fines, (e) Stipendiary Magistrate Court fines and (f) fiscal direct penalties imposed for common assault since 2007 (a) have been paid (i) in full and (ii) in part and (b) are unpaid.*

The Scottish Court Service publishes quarterly statistics on fines which can be viewed using the following link:

<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/about-the-scottish-court-service/reports-data>.

The table shows fines imposed for common assault from 1 January 2007 to 28 February 2013:

Fine Type	(i) Number of fines paid in full (fully paid*)	(ii) Number of fines paid in part (on track*)	(iii) Number of fines unpaid (in arrears*)
(a) High Court	8	0	0
(b) Sheriff Court	17229	1405	2131
(c) Justice of the Peace Court**	3646	674	628
(d) District Court***	N/A	N/A	N/A
(e) Stipendiary Magistrate Court	Included in (c)	Included in (c)	Included in (c)
(f) Fiscal Direct Penalties****	6891	1034	1048

S4W-13371 asks: How many (a) High Court fines, (b) Sheriff Court fines, (c) Justice of the Peace Court fines, (d) District Court fines, (e) Stipendiary Magistrate Court fines and (f) fiscal direct penalties for drugs offences since 2007 (a) have been paid (i) in full and (ii) in part and (b) are unpaid.

The table shows fines imposed for drugs offences from 1 January 2007 to 28 February 2013:

Fine Type	(i) Number of fines paid in full (fully paid*)	(ii) Number of fines paid in part (on track*)	(iii) Number of fines unpaid (in arrears*)
(a) High Court	13	0	0
(b) Sheriff Court	13829	1633	2098
(c) Justice of the Peace Court**	4547	1379	933
(d) District Court***	N/A	N/A	N/A
(e) Stipendiary Magistrate Court	Included in (c)	Included in (c)	Included in (c)
(f) Fiscal Direct Penalties****	26953	11427	6411

Notes to both tables

*Scottish Court Service payment categories as used in Quarterly Fines statistics
<http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/about-the-scottish-court-service/reports-data>.

** Following court unification, the collection of Justice of the Peace Court fines became the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service on the following dates:

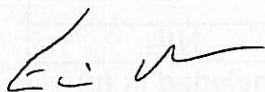
Lothian and Borders	10 March 2008
Grampian, Highland and Islands	- 2 June 2008
Glasgow and Strathkelvin	- 8 December 2008
Tayside, Central and Fife	- 23 February 2009
North Strathclyde	- 14 December 2009
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	22 February 2010

*** District Courts were administered by individual local authorities prior to court unification. Pre-unification fines data is not held by the Scottish Court Service.

****The Scottish Court Service took over the responsibility for collection of fiscal penalties in March 2008 from local authorities.

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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