

# **SHERIFFDOM OF LoTHIAN AND BORDERS**

## **Practice Note**

### **Jury Trial Sittings at Edinburgh Sheriff Court**

With a view to reducing delays in commencing trials on the first day of a jury trial sitting at Edinburgh Sheriff Court, and in order to reduce, so far as possible, inconvenience to potential jurors, the following arrangements will come into force with effect from Monday, 15 May 2000.

1. As at present all witnesses will be cited to attend court at 9.45 a.m.
2. On the first day of a sitting jurors will be cited to attend at 10.30 a.m.
3. A main trial and, where appropriate, a back-up trial will both be indicted for the first day of the sitting.
4. The court will sit at 10 a.m. sharp, and counsel, solicitors, accused and the procurator fiscal must be in court at that time.
5. Any pleas and/or motions will be dealt with by the sheriff at 10 a.m., and some time will be allowed thereafter for the procurator fiscal and defence counsel or solicitors to engage in such discussions as may be appropriate regarding the day's business.
6. Every effort will be made to ensure that the first trial which is to proceed will be ready to do so at 11 a.m. If for any reason a trial is not ready to proceed at that time the sheriff will nonetheless sit then, and he or she will expect an explanation in open court as to why a trial is not ready to proceed.

**Edinburgh, 13 March 2000**

*Gordon Nicholson*

**Sheriff Principal,  
Lothian and Borders**