



## SHERIFF COURT RULES COUNCIL

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21 June 2006

Dear Consultee

### **The Sheriff Court and Alternative Dispute Resolution**

The Mediation Committee of the Sheriff Court Rules Council ("the Council") has carried out a review as to what the function of the sheriff court should be in relation to the use by parties to an action of alternative dispute resolution and has made a number of recommendations to the Council. One recommendation made was:

"that a wide consultation process should be conducted among court users as a preliminary to drawing up an Act of Sederunt for the approval of the Lord President of the Court of Session"

The Council accepted this recommendation and decided to continue its consideration of the other recommendations made until after such consultation had been carried out.

The enclosed consultation paper sets out these recommendations, along with a draft rule and draft form of notice, and the Council would welcome your views on these, and in particular your response to the specific questions set out in the questionnaire.

The arrangements for the consultation process are set out on page 1. From this you will see that any views and comments should be submitted by 27 September 2006. The enclosed Respondent Information Form should be completed and returned with your response to ensure that we deal with your response appropriately. All responses will be made available to the public on the Scottish Court Service website in due course unless confidentiality is requested. All responses not marked confidential will be checked for any potentially defamatory material before being placed on the website. An electronic version of the form and further copies of the consultation paper can be downloaded from:

[http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/sheriff/rules\\_council/consultation/index.asp](http://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/sheriff/rules_council/consultation/index.asp)

If you have any queries about the consultation please contact Alistair Hackett on 0131 244 4844

We look forward to receiving your views.

Yours sincerely

**ANN OXLEY**

Assistant Secretary to the Sheriff Court Rules Council