



Richard Baker MSP
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Dear Mr Baker

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S3W-38031

In his answer to your Parliamentary Question S3W-38031 the Minister indicated that the question related to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service. I am pleased now to reply to your question.

You asked:*what consideration has been given to courts opening on Saturdays; what assessment has been made of the potential cost or savings associated with such a proposal, and when could it be implemented.*

There are no immediate or costed proposals for the opening of Saturday courts, either generally or in specific locations. However, along with other Justice bodies, including the police, Crown, Scottish Legal Aid Board, Scottish Prison Service and Scottish Government, the Scottish Court Service has been taking forward discussions to consider, in collaboration, a range of possible options and actions that might enable us to deliver a more efficient and lower cost Justice system. This work forms part of the Scottish Government's *Making Justice Work* programme. The development of options is still at an early stage and it would not be possible or appropriate to set specific timescales, but the option of Saturday courts will be considered and an assessment made of the likely impact on costs and on the delivery of justice overall.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

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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