

# Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



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10 December 2018

Dear Ms McNeill

## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S5W-20258

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice, in his response to the above Parliamentary Question, indicated that the question related to operational matters which were within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service corporate body. I am now writing to you in response to the matters you raised, which are detailed below.

**S5W-20258** asks: *To ask the Scottish Government how many high court trials in each year since 2008 have been subject to an extension of (a) at least 140 days to 12 months and (b) over 12 months due to lack of court accommodation.*

The information requested is set out in the table below

	2009 (Apr- Dec)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (Jan- Oct)
Total Number of Trials Called	323	424	456	545	579	605	594	585	666	617
in which we adjourned due to pressure of business	1	4	10	31	8	29	15	12	1	6
Number of 140 day time limit extensions in which a trial was adjourned due to pressure of business	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	2
Number of 12 month time limit extensions in which a trial was adjourned due to pressure of business	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	4

The first row of the table details the total number of trials scheduled to start for each, or part, year. With the exception of September and October 2018 this information was also provided to you in correspondence dated 12 October 2018, copy attached.

The second row details the total number of trials which called and were adjourned due to pressure of business. Pressure of business means either lack of accommodation or judicial availability caused by trials over-running the estimated duration. We do not hold records in respect of the actual reason for the pressure of business adjournment.

The third and fourth rows detail type of extensions granted in cases in which a trial was adjourned due to pressure of business, as detailed in row two. This information was recorded from 2017 only.

Please note that no electronic records are available prior to April 2009, when our case management system was introduced.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eric McQueen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric McQueen  
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12 October 2018

Dear Ms McNeill

## SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S5W-18670 and S5W-18671

The Cabinet Secretary for Justice, in his response to the above Parliamentary Questions, indicated that the questions related to operational matters which were within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) corporate body.

**S5W-18670** asks: *To ask the Scottish Government how many high court trials in each year since 2008 started no later than the 140-day target date from full committal.*

**S5W-18671** asks: *To ask the Scottish Government how many high court trials in each year since 2008 started in excess of the 140 day target from full committal, broken down by average length of delay.*

The information requested is set out in the table below.

	2009 (Apr- Dec)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (Jan- Aug)
Total Number of Trials Started	323	424	456	545	579	605	594	585	666	492
of which the 140 day time limit was extended	124	157	213	222	168	202	182	191	223	166
of which the 12 month time limit was extended	162	209	194	284	367	378	407	378	428	323
of which no time limit was extended	37	58	49	39	44	25	5	16	15	3
Average period (weeks) between 1 <sup>ST</sup> Preliminary Hearing and Trial commencement	N/A	N/A	18	23	15	14	22	29	22	16

- The first row in the table details the total number of trials scheduled to start for each, or part, year. The total number of trials scheduled to start includes all trials where evidence was led, trials where pleas were tendered and accepted and trials deserted by the Crown, or adjourned.
- The second and third rows detail the number of extensions granted in respect of the 140 day time limit for custody cases and the 12 month time limit for bail cases.
- The fourth row details the number of trials that did not require an extension to either the 140 day or 12 month time limit.
- Please also note that no electronic records are available prior to April 2009, when our case management system was introduced.

Question **S5W-18671** also sought the average length of time from full committal to the trial starting. As this would require significant manual resource to extract this data, I have provided the average period, in weeks, from the first Preliminary hearing to the trial commencement. This reflects the period within the direct control of the court.

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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