



Alex Johnstone MSP
The Scottish Parliament
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Dear Mr Johnstone

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S4W-10705, S4W-10707, S4W-10708, S4W-10711, S4W-10713, S4W-10714, S4W-10716, S4W-10717

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.

For ease of reference I have grouped the response for similar questions.

S4W-10705 asks how many summary criminal trials at (a) Aberdeen and (b) Stonehaven Sheriff Court were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011.

S4W-10708 asks how many solemn criminal trials at (a) Aberdeen and (b) Stonehaven Sheriff Court were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011.

S4W-10707 asks how many (a) summary and (b) solemn criminal trials at sheriff courts were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011

		Trials Called	Adjourned Due to lack of court time	<i>% trials adjourned due to lack of court time</i>
Summary	Aberdeen	1,876	113	6%
	Stonehaven	107	8	7%
	National	57,773	2,365	4%
Solemn	Aberdeen	223	23	10%
	Stonehaven	7	0	0%
	National	3,125	217	7%

S4W-10711 asks how many civil proofs, including ordinary, family, summary cause or small claim, at (a) Aberdeen and (b) Stonehaven Sheriff Court were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011.

S4W-10713 asks how many civil proofs, including ordinary, family, summary cause and small claim, at sheriff courts were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011.

	Proofs Called	Adjourned due to lack of court time	% proofs adjourned due to lack of court time
Aberdeen	454	27	6%
Ordinary	210	9	4%
Summary Cause	82	4	5%
Small Claims	162	14	9%
Stonehaven	45	1	2%
Ordinary	26	0	0%
Summary Cause	4	0	0%
Small Claims	15	1	7%
National	8,288	275	3%
Ordinary	3,745	95	3%
Summary Cause	2,191	49	2%
Small Claims	2,352	131	6%

S4W-10714 asks how many civil debates at (a) Aberdeen and (b) Stonehaven Sheriff Court were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011

S4W-10716 asks how many civil debates at sheriff courts were called but adjourned for lack of court time in 2011.

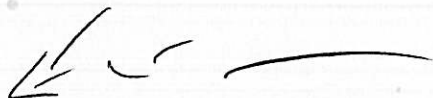
	Debates Called	Adjourned due to lack of court time	% proofs adjourned due to lack of court time
Aberdeen	29	1	3%
Stonehaven	5	0	0%
National	610	19	3%

S4W-10717 asks how many solemn criminal trials are expected to be transferred from Aberdeen Sheriff Court to Stonehaven Sheriff Court in 2013.

The Sheriff Principal has set in place a recovery plan to tackle a backlog in solemn business at Aberdeen that will see the number of Sheriff and Jury Sittings programmed at Stonehaven during 2013 increase from 4 to 12. The number of cases assigned to each Sheriff and Jury sitting will be capped at 5 and will include business originating in Stonehaven. It is estimated that approximately 40 solemn criminal trials that would normally call in Aberdeen will call in Stonehaven during 2013.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Court Service website.

Yours sincerely

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

Eric McQueen
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A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Court Services website

Yours sincerely



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