



SHERIFFDOM OF TAYSIDE, CENTRAL AND FIFE

**GUIDANCE FOR COURT USERS APPEARANCES  
FROM CUSTODY, REMAND AND BY THOSE SERVING  
CUSTODIAL SENTENCES**

**1. Introduction**

1.1 This local guidance sets out the arrangements for court users appearing from custody, remand and by those serving custodial sentences in the Sheriffdom of Tayside, Central and Fife.

1.2 This guidance is issued in terms of paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the national guidance which makes provision for local guidance to reflect the specific needs, requirements and current practices prevailing in each particular jurisdiction. It is supplementary to the national guidance [custody-court-guidance-sept-2023.pdf \(scotcourts.gov.uk\)](https://www.scotcourts.gov.uk/custody-court-guidance-sept-2023.pdf). Both sets of guidance will take effect from 19 September 2023. This guidance will be subject to ongoing review.

**2. First Diets**

2.1 In terms of paragraph 3.1 of the national guidance, for the Sheriffdom of Tayside, Central and Fife paragraph 3.1 shall not apply to:

- i accused persons requiring a court appointed interpreter;
- ii unrepresented accused persons;
- iii accused persons assessed by the Scottish Prison Service as being unable to participate fully in the proceedings by live television link. For the avoidance of any

doubt, notwithstanding a determination by the Scottish Prison Service that an accused person is suitable to participate fully in the proceedings, it will be open to the solicitor for an accused person to make representations to the sheriff that the appearance should not be conducted by live television link.

All other attendance shall be by video link.

### **3. Diet Courts**

3.1 Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 4.1 of the national guidance, for the Sheriffdom of Tayside, Central and Fife those accused wishing to tender a plea of guilty shall do so by way of video link unless the sheriff directs otherwise.

3.2 Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 4.2 all accused persons other than those who are unrepresented shall appear by video link.

### **4. Intermediate Diet Courts**

4.1 Notwithstanding the terms of paragraph 4.3 of the national guidance, for the Sheriffdom of Tayside, Central and Fife all accused persons other than those who are unrepresented shall appear by video link.

Sheriff Principal Gillian Wade KC

Sheriffdom of Tayside, Central and Fife

Perth, 18 September 2023