

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



David Linden MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Chief Executive's Office
Parliament House
Parliament Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1RQ

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DX 549306
LP1 Edinburgh 10

Dear Mr Linden

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION S7W-03604 and S7W-03605

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQ indicated that it related to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service corporate body. I am now writing in response to the matter raised.

S7W-03604 asks: *further to HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland's report published on 19 January 2026, Inspection of Court Custody Provision Glasgow Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court, what assessment it has made of the statement on page six that it would not be possible for a disabled individual in custody to defecate without intimate assistance from Court Custody Unit (CCU) staff, due to inadequate toilet facilities.*

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) has considered the findings contained within HM Inspectorate of Prisons for Scotland's inspection report regarding accessible toilet provision within the Court Custody Unit at Glasgow Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court.

The assessment identified that the current arrangements do not fully meet the needs of some disabled individuals in custody and that improvements are required. Work is therefore underway to develop a dedicated accessible toilet facility within the custody unit which will provide a more suitable environment for individuals with disabilities, while also meeting the specific safety and security requirements of a custodial setting.

In the interim, custody staff continue to assess and support individual needs on a case-by-case basis, providing reasonable adjustments where it is safe and practicable to do so.

S7W-03605 asks: *how many accused persons in custody appeared by video link, rather than in person, at Glasgow Sheriff Court and Justice of the Peace Court in each month since 1 January 2024.*

SCTS use an operational case management system for the processing of court business. It is structured for these operational needs rather than for statistical reporting purposes. There is no specific category on the system which delineates whether an accused person appeared via video link, rather than in person whilst in custody.

I regret the system is not able to produce the specific statistics sought without significant development work with the system developers. This can include substantial costs for the development of tailored programming scripts to extract the data sought.

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 read 'Malcolm Graham', with a horizontal line underneath.

Malcolm Graham
Chief Executive