

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



Mr Alexander Burnett MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Chief Executive's Office
Parliament House
Parliament Square
Edinburgh
EH1 1RQ
DX 549306
LP1 Edinburgh 10

19 April 2024

Dear Mr Burnett

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS S6W-246434 and S6W-24635

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 matters raised.

S6W-24634 asks: *in each of the last five years, how many domestic abuse case trials that went ahead had been delayed by (a) between one and two years, (b) between two and three years and (c) three years or longer.*

Period between first trial diet and trial diet where evidence was led	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1-2 Years	12	42	151	126	84
2-3 Years	1	0	16	27	10
Over 3 Years	0	0	0	3	3

In 2023-24 97 domestic abuse trials have been delayed by more than one year, which equates to 4% of all domestic abuse trials. The reduction in delayed trials reflects the impact of the court recovery programme in addressing backlogs and reducing delays. Of the 97 delayed trials, 43 related to cases where a non-appearance warrant for the accused has been issued by the court.

S6W-24635 asks: *how many domestic abuse cases have gone to trial in each of the last five years.*

Domestic Abuse - Evidence Led Trials

Financial Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Evidence Led Trials	2,801	1,310	2,694	2,625	2,427

The reduction in evidence led trials in 2023-24 reflects the impact of the court recovery programme, judicial case management and the summary case management pilot which aims to conclude cases at the earliest possible stage.

The table above contains details of all Sheriff summary, Sheriff solemn and High Court solemn domestic abuse cases.

The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service uses a live operational case management system for the processing of court business. The information held on the system is structured for these operational needs, rather than for statistical reporting or research purposes. Data is provided at case level. Where there are multiple accused persons in the same case they will only be counted as one

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



Eric McQueen
Chief Executive
0131 444 3301
emcqueen@scotcourts.gov.uk