



Coronavirus

Guidance in respect of Criminal Business

No. 15 of 2020

This guidance sets out the arrangements for the management of criminal business in the Sheriffdom of Glasgow & Strathkelvin with immediate effect.

It supersedes "*Coronavirus – Guidance in respect of Criminal Business No. 11 of 2020*" of 7 April 2020.

1. Solemn Business

Jurors

- Jurors who have already been cited should not attend court.
- The position in relation to the citation of jurors will be continually reviewed. At this time, it is not expected that the citation of jurors will recommence before June 2020.

First Diets and Jury Trials

- First diets (including continued first diets) and solemn trials (excepting, in each case, those where the accused is in custody in relation to the matter for which he or she is scheduled to appear) have been administratively discharged and new diets fixed in accordance with "*Coronavirus - Order in respect of Solemn Criminal*

Business – Refixing Diets No. 10 of 2020” dated 7 April 2020 (hereinafter referred to as “Order No. 10”) and “*Coronavirus - Order in respect of Solemn Criminal Business – Refixing Diets No. 14 of 2020*” dated 21 May 2020 (hereinafter referred to as “Order No. 14”).

- A court will be programmed for each working day to deal with solemn cases that cannot be dealt with administratively.
- No new jury trials will commence until further notice.

Evidential Hearings and Debates

- All previously assigned evidential hearings and debates will be adjourned to a date after 2 August 2020.

Pleas of Guilty in Solemn Cases

- In proceedings on indictment in which a diet has been discharged by virtue of Order No.10 and / or Order No. 14; and in which the solicitor for the accused and the prosecutor have agreed a plea of guilty and the facts on which that plea proceeds, the following applies:
- Parties should liaise with the Sheriff Clerk’s Solemn Criminal Office and agree a suitable date for a diet at which the said plea could be tendered.
- Once a suitable date has been identified, an application should be made in terms of section 75A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 to discharge the existing diet and to fix a new diet for the agreed date at which the agreed plea of guilty will be tendered.
- The accused must attend personally on the agreed date.

2. Sheriff Court Summary and Justice of the Peace Court Business

Custody Courts

- Subject to the possibility of combining courts on the basis of numbers, the existing arrangements in relation to custody courts will continue until further notice.

Diet Courts

- All diet courts will be dealt with in the manner set out in “*Coronavirus - Order in respect of Summary Criminal Business – Refixing Diets*” No. 7 of 2020” of 25 March 2020 (hereinafter referred to as “Order No. 7”) and “*Coronavirus - Order in respect of Summary Criminal Business – Refixing Diets*” No. 12 of 2020” of 14 May 2020 (hereinafter referred to as “Order No. 12”).

Intermediate Diet Courts

- Save for custody cases, all intermediate diet courts will be dealt with in the manner set out in Order No. 7 and Order No. 12.
- Custody cases in which not guilty pleas are adhered to at the intermediate diet will be continued to the trial diet previously assigned.

Remand Courts

- In all remand court cases, sentence will be deferred for a period of 8 weeks until further notice. Accused persons on bail or ordained to appear need not attend.

Debate Court

- All summary criminal debates will be dealt with in the manner set out in Order No. 7 and Order No. 12.

Trials

- Custody trials will proceed wherever possible.
- All other trials will be dealt with in the manner set out in Order No. 7 and Order No. 12.

Drugs Court / Alcohol Court

- All summary cases calling in the drugs and alcohol courts will be dealt with in the manner set out in Order No. 7 and Order No. 12.
- All solemn cases calling in the drugs and alcohol courts will be discharged administratively to dates suitable to the court.

Sheriff Principal C.D.Turnbull

22 May 2020