



## Coronavirus

### Guidance in respect of Criminal Business

#### No. 1 of 2020

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

#### 1. Solemn Business

- No new jury trials will commence, until further notice.
- A court will be programmed each working day to deal with solemn cases that cannot be dealt with administratively in terms of section 75A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (e.g. for pleas; deferred indictments; motions to adjourn)
- 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 diet courts will continue until further notice, a court being programmed to sit each Tuesday to Friday.
- Cases in which not guilty pleas are entered will have trials assigned to a date after 2 August 2020.
- A miscellaneous solemn procedural court will continue to sit on Mondays. Evidential hearings will be adjourned to a date after 2 August 2020. Debates will be heard wherever possible.
- Hearings in relation to the taking of evidence by a commissioner will continue wherever possible.

## **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.
- Depending upon the levels of custodies, consideration will be given to combining the summary custody court and the domestic abuse and JP custody court

### *Diet Courts*

- Diet courts will continue as programmed until further notice.
- Wherever possible, agents are encouraged to tender pleas by letter.
- Cases in which not guilty pleas are tendered will have trials assigned for a date after 2 August 2020.
- If requested, cases will be accelerated where a plea has been agreed subsequent to a trial being fixed.

### *Intermediate Diet Courts*

- Intermediate diet courts will continue as currently programmed until further notice.
- Custody cases in which not guilty pleas are adhered to will be continued to the trial diet previously assigned.
- In relation to non-custody cases in which not guilty pleas are adhered to the trial diet will be discharged; a new trial will be assigned for a date after 2 August 2020; and a new intermediate diet will be assigned (with the accused ordinarily being excused attendance).

### *Remand Courts*

- All remand courts will continue as programmed until further notice

### *Debate Court*

- The summary criminal debate court will continue as programmed (i.e. each Wednesday) until further notice.

### *Trials*

- Part heard trials will continue to their conclusion wherever possible.
- Custody trials will proceed wherever possible.
- All other trials will be adjourned to a date after 2 August 2020 with an intermediate diet being assigned (with the accused ordinarily being excused attendance).

### *Drugs Court / Alcohol Court*

- The drugs and alcohol courts will continue as programmed until further notice.

**Sheriff Principal C.D.Turnbull**

**20 March 2020**