



Coronavirus

Guidance in respect of Criminal Business

No. 8 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. 4 of 2020*" of 24 March 2020 and comes in to effect on 25 March 2020.

1. Solemn Business

- No new jury trials will commence, until further notice.
- Wherever possible, the courts expects parties to utilise the provisions of section 75A of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 ("the 1995 Act") to adjourn diets already fixed in proceedings on indictment.
- 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 1995 Act (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.

- All first diets will be continued for 8 weeks until further notice.
- Evidential hearings and debates will be adjourned to a date after 2 August 2020.

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

- 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.

Intermediate Diet Courts

- Save for custody cases, all intermediate 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.
- 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 “*Coronavirus Order in respect of Summary Criminal Business – Refixing Diets*” No. 7 of 2020” of 25 March 2020.

Trials

- Custody trials will proceed wherever possible.
- All other trials 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.

Drugs Court / Alcohol Court

- All cases calling in the drugs and alcohol 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.

Sheriff Principal C.D.Turnbull

25 March 2020