



Sheriff Principal
C. D. Turnbull

Sheriff Principal's Chambers
Sheriff Court of Glasgow and Strathkelvin
1 Carlton Place
Glasgow G5 9DA
Telephone: 0141 429 8888
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Donald Reid
Dean
The Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow

BY E-MAIL

16 July 2020

Dear Mr Reid,

Court Programme – week commencing 10 August 2020 and beyond

Over the past couple of weeks a considerable amount of work has been done by the sheriff clerk's staff in identifying how we can best accommodate the business of the court from the week commencing 10 August 2020 (that being the point at which the first cases to be administratively adjourned will now call).

The sheriff clerk has made the best possible use of the additional court space we have available to us until such time as sheriff and jury business resumes. This, in part, balances out the restrictions we are faced with as a consequence of social distancing measures. We are currently working on the assumption that sheriff and jury business will not resume before October.

Attached is the programme for the four weeks commencing 10 August. This programme will continue to operate until sheriff and jury business resumes. Accordingly, the programme for the week commencing 7 September will be identical to that for the week commencing 10 August (i.e. week two), and so on.

The week of 10 August is week 2 in our programme. In relation to criminal business, the only difference in the programme between each of the weeks is the trial business which will be conducted in court 11. In weeks 2 and 4 of the programme that will be non-domestic summary trials, whereas, in weeks 1 and 3 it will be domestic summary trials. This is the position that pertained at the point in time of lockdown in March.

Our five jury courts are replaced by a single solemn remand court, which will sit every day.

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We have taken the opportunity to reflect upon our requirement for JP courts, against the other demands that exists. We have concluded that a JP "procedural" court sitting three days a week (i.e. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) will suffice. A single JP trials court will sit each day in court 15. This is a reduction from 12 to 8 JP courts each week.

In time, that reduction will be matched by the introduction of a youth court (which will sit Tuesday to Friday inclusive each week at 11.30 am (until lunchtime)). The social work department are presently assessing how soon they will be able to support the operation of that court and once I have further information from them I will be in touch. My intention is to commence the youth court as soon as reasonably practicable.

We have "moved" our summary criminal debate court from Wednesday to Tuesday. Albeit that it is not shown on these programmes, when it returns, the fines enquiry court will be on a Thursday instead of a Friday

You will see that the programme continues to have (each week from Tuesday to Friday) a dedicated undertaking court. The requirement for this will remain under review, in discussion with COPFS. I agreed to "extra" undertaking slots yesterday, on the basis that these would be used by the police in such a way as will allow the court to start earlier than it currently does.

If there are any matters arising from this you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

Yours sincerely



Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull
Sheriffdom of Glasgow & Strathkelvin