



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
DX 551022

Donald Reid
Dean
The Royal Faculty of Procurators in Glasgow

BY E-MAIL

23 October 2020

Dear Mr Reid

Custodies and Undertakings

We are presently working towards new arrangements for undertakings, which will take effect from the week commencing 16 November 2020. The police are now issuing undertakings for 9 am from Tuesday, 17 November 2020 onwards and we will programme a separate undertaking court commencing at 10 am each day (Tuesday – Friday) to deal with these.

I would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of your members. I would be most grateful for their support in dealing with this business as quickly as possible on the day. I have explained to the Crown that my expectation is that, standing the nature of the appearance, all undertaking cases should be marked and papers available for service upon the accused when they arrive at court.

As matters presently stand, we anticipate that if undertakings have not been dealt with by 12 noon they are likely to be dealt with in the relevant custody court (as was formerly the case).

That brings me to the issue of the start time of our custody courts. At present, we are starting custody courts at 12 noon; 1 pm; and 2 pm. On any view this is not particularly satisfactory.

The 12 noon start is, of course, in relation to the domestic abuse and JP custody court and ties in with the pilot which is ongoing. That start time is under review. It will be discussed again at the next meeting of the virtual custody court working group (on Friday, 30 October 2020), however, it may well be that the start time for that court will move to 1 pm.

The separate (i.e. non-domestic) summary custody court has only sat on Mondays over the past few weeks due to the reduced numbers of custodies. I continue to monitor the position, however, if numbers remain as they presently are, I anticipate moving to there being two summary custody courts on a Monday and only one for the rest of the week.

CDT

The petition court currently starts at 2 pm. I instructed enquiries to be made of Barlinnie as to whether they would be in a position to do full committals from 1 pm. They do not view that as problematic. I do, of course, recognise that the marking of petition cases is more complex and, absent papers for full committals, there may be limited business that can be dealt with between 1 pm and 2 pm.

My current view is that a consistent start time across all our custody courts would be of benefit to all court users. An earlier start to the petition court at least gives rise to the possibility of the court ending earlier than it presently does.

I would appreciate any views you have upon this issue. If you were able to let me have any views within the next week to ten days that would be greatly appreciated.

I would like to be in a position to introduce any new arrangements with effect from the week commencing Monday, 16 November 2020.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely



Sheriff Principal Craig Turnbull
Sheriffdom of Glasgow and Strathkelvin