

High Court of Justiciary and Sheriff Court Criminal Appeals

Guidance Note for Practitioners

25th March 2020

COVID -19

Lodging of electronic documents

1. This guidance has effect from 25th March 2020 and will cease to have effect from 18 April 2020 unless extended. The guidance will be subject to ongoing review.
2. The general purpose of this guidance is to facilitate the continued efficient disposal of appeal court business during the Covid-19 emergency.
3. With effect from today any documents lodged in respect of both High Court and Sheriff criminal appeal court business can be submitted by email to the email addresses set out in paragraph 11 of this. Such documents are to be lodged timeously.
4. Where a document requires to be signed, a scanned signature will be acceptable.
5. Principal copies of any document requiring a wet signature will require to be lodged on a later date.
6. In respect of any productions, only the inventory of productions should be lodged by email. Principal productions should be lodged as soon as it is safe and secure to do so.
7. Lists of authorities should not have attached copies of the authorities referred to.

Hearings

8. All procedural and full appeal hearings fixed up to and including 17th April 2020 will automatically be reassigned.
9. Interim Liberation Hearings will continue to be considered. In the current climate full written submissions should be made in support of application for bail and copied to crown office. The matter will be considered without the need for personal appearance.
10. During the period up to and including 17th April 2020 where the appellant and crown agree, a hearing may proceed on the basis of written submissions before the court.

E-Mail addresses

11. Only the undernoted e-mail addresses will be supervised. A receipt e-mail will be generated for each item lodged.

Summary Appeals – summaryappeals@scotcourts.gov.uk

Solemn Appeals – solemnappeals@scotcourts.gov.uk