

Response from the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service

Rape offences - consultation

With thanks to your early engagement and email of 23 July 2024, the SCTS would like to acknowledge the publication of the above noted consultation. This response is made on behalf of the SCTS acting in its role to provide efficient and effective administration to the courts and tribunals and does not include the views of the Judiciary.

Whilst we do not comment on the specific questions posed in the consultation document nor on the policy of the proposed changes, having considered the consultation along with supplementary papers, we would like to make the following observations:-

- We note that the consultation paper makes reference to new s210ZA of the 1995 Act and that the “the sentencing process” guideline may need updated to reflect this in due course.
- With reference to questions 17 and 18 and the information set out in the Draft Impact Assessment the SCTS do not consider there to be any significant effects or costs as a result of the new guidelines.