

Judiciary
of Scotland



Protocol on Recording in Scottish Court Buildings

Judicial Control

Any recording within the Supreme Courts is under the control of the Lord President, or in his absence, the Lord Justice Clerk. Any recording within the sheriff or justice of the peace courts is under the control of the sheriff principal. The relevant senior judicial office holder may rule that, in any given circumstance, recording or broadcast would not be in the interests of the courts or the justice system.

Recording & Broadcast

A recording taken within the courts, or court precincts, and any subsequent broadcast must not be used for the purposes of a political, or party political, statement; or for advertisement or promotion¹. It must not be politically biased and it must not bring into disrepute the Scottish courts; the justice system; or the people working within the justice system.

It must not threaten the safety of the court users or of the court buildings.

People

No recognisable image of any individual may be broadcast without their express written/email consent. Should consent be declined, individuals may still feature in a broadcast provided that they are disguised in such a manner as to be unidentifiable.

¹ except where such advertisement or promotion relates to a report or presentation that includes the broadcast

Data Protection

Use of the final broadcast must be only for the purpose stated in the application, and must take into account the relevant legislation in relation to data protection. For any further use of the court footage, there must be reapplication.

Empty Courtroom

If recording is to take place in an empty courtroom, no sensitive or confidential documents etc. may be filmed.

Fees

A fee is chargeable. Fees may be reduced if the event is by, or for, a registered charity or other non-profit purpose. A hire agreement will be issued by the courts.

Application Process

Any party wishing to record within a Scottish court is required to submit an application to [Judicial Communications](#) well in advance. This will be shared with communications@scotcourts.gov.uk. A decision to either grant or refuse the application will be taken by the relevant senior judicial office holder. Approval will permit recording and broadcast in accordance with the Protocol and any additional conditions specified.

At any stage the relevant senior judicial office holder may withdraw permission if the Protocol, or any conditions, are breached; or if unforeseen circumstances render it advisable.