Thank you for giving Police Scotland the opportunity to comment on the proposed legislation above.

Having considered the contents of the bill, we recognise that its primary focus is on Civil Courts, understandably, with the intention of implementing the recommendations contained within the Report of the Scottish Civil Courts Review (2009) led by Lord Gill.

Notwithstanding, there are certain elements which more directly impact upon criminal matters; such as the introduction of summary sheriffs, judicial specialisation, appeals procedures / bodies and a general flexibility and streamlining of judicial appointments within and across sheriffdoms.

These proposals are all to be welcomed and, if resourced adequately, will deliver an enhanced and proportionate service that can only lead to appropriate and speedier justice within the criminal sphere.

We have nothing further to add at this time and I trust you will find our comments helpful.

Police Scotland
18 March 2014