

Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service



Stuart McMillan, MSP
Convenor
Delegated Powers and Law Reform
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

**From the Executive Director, Tribunals
and Office of the Public Guardian
Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service
George House
126 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4HH**

08 May 2024

Dear Convenor,

JUDICIAL FACTORS (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 2 May 2024, following the evidence session of 30 April 2024 in respect of the above Bill. You requested additional information in respect of the estimated costs associated with the development of the new case management system for the Accountant of Court (AoC), specifically for the development and deployment of a new Online Public Register for Judicial Factory cases.

At the session we explained that SCTS is investing in new systems for the Office of the Public Guardian and the Accountant of Court. The first two phases of this work relate to the Public Guardian's functions regarding Power of Attorney and Guardianships. The third phase, to replace the AoC case management system, is currently scheduled to start in February 2025 with deployment six to nine months later. These plans are, of course, subject to potential alteration and slippage.

If any new requirements arising from the Act as passed can be identified by the time this phase starts in February next year, these can be taken on within the existing programme as part of the planned development. There would likely be additional costs in the region of £80-100K for the additional development resource required for the public register.

If, however, a Royal Assent date later in 2025 meant that we needed to reconfigure an already developed new AoC system to include the development and deployment of all aspects of the Bill, the costs would be higher. These are estimated to be in the region of £350-380K, as we would need to reconvene a full development team.

I would caution that these costings are approximate, as the exact scope of the digital solution cannot be determined until the Bill is approved, and also as the costs resourcing such a project can fluctuate depending on the market conditions at the time.

We will of course be happy to provide any further material that the Committee may request.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Barraclough

Executive Director, Tribunals and Office of the Public Guardian