



14 March 2024

The Clerk  
Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
EH99 1SP

**Act of Sederunt (Fees of Messengers-at-Arms and Sheriff Officers)  
(Amendment) 2024**

I am writing in relation to the above Act of Sederunt that has been laid before Parliament and which the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee is lead Committee for, and subsequent to the 28/2/24 letter to the Committee from Alan McIntosh of Advice Talks.

Citizens Advice Scotland agrees with Mr McIntosh that these fee increases would be damaging at the current time adding further pressures on those in our society struggling to cope financially. These fees will apply mostly to those in council tax debt which is the single biggest type of debt the CAB Service advises on each year for the last decade. We do not wish to see these fees increased to the amounts being proposed.

Therefore, we agree and support the mitigation suggested by Mr McIntosh that:

*“the proposed fee increase could be mitigated by the Lord President laying an Act of Sederunt to amend the Act of Sederunt (Form of charge for payment) 1988 requiring, at the very least, for Charge for Payments to be served using postal diligence. This would allow the Sheriff Officer fee for each charge to be reduced to £48.02 (a saving of £48.25 for everyone who has a Charge served on them).”*

I hope this is helpful to the Committee.

Myles Fitt  
Head of Financial Health, Citizens Advice Scotland