

## Victims of crime and sentencing

Victims of crime and the relatives of deceased victims have the right to receive certain information about cases in which the victims have been involved. This includes the right to request the disclosure of any reasons given for the sentence that the judge has imposed.

### Requesting reasons for sentences given

Victims and the relatives of deceased victims can request this information by completing this [form](#) and sending it (along with the identification called for in the form) to the court in which the case was heard.

Contact details for courts can be found on the Scottish Courts and Tribunals (SCTS) [website home page](#). For all cases heard at the High Court, the contact details for the [supreme courts](#) ([supreme.courts@scotcourts.gov.uk](mailto:supreme.courts@scotcourts.gov.uk)) should be used.

If the case is [appealed](#), victims and the relatives of deceased victims can ask for the disclosure of any reasons why the appeal was either allowed or not allowed. The [form](#) should be sent to the [supreme courts](#).

The SCTS will aim to respond as soon as possible, and, in any event, no later than 40 days from receipt of a request.

If you want to know what other information victims of crime have a right to request, see the [SCTS website](#). Read more about the [law](#).

### Victim statements

When imposing a sentence, judges and sheriffs take into account the effect of a crime on a victim. For many offences, victims can write a statement for the court explaining how they have been affected by the crime. This can be how it affected them physically, emotionally and financially. [Read more](#) about victim statements or see the [law](#).

### Useful contacts

[Victim Support Scotland](#) (VSS)

VSS is an independent, voluntary organisation that provides emotional and practical support to people affected by crime.

[Victim Information and Advice Office](#) (VIA)

The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) Victim Information and Advice (VIA) service provides information proactively to victims and prosecution witnesses in certain

categories of case. In all other cases, information can be provided to victims and witnesses on request. If you are eligible for the VIA service in relation to a case, VIA will contact you automatically. If you are not contacted by VIA and you would like information about a case, please contact the COPFS Enquiry Point on 0300 020 3000 or by e-mail at [EnquiryPoint@copfs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EnquiryPoint@copfs.gsi.gov.uk).