

Subject: Request for access to a court record (SC36/56/147).

FOI reference: 202200281939

Date received: 16 February 2022

Date responded: 25 February 2022

Information requested:

Request for access to the records of two bigamy trials held in July 1924.

NRS Response:

National Records of Scotland (NRS) holds the following record likely to contain mention of the interested cases:

- NRS Reference: SC36/56/147 Glasgow Sheriff Court – Record of criminal trials, 15 Apr 1924-3 Jun 1925

The volume mentioned above includes two relevant entries – one for Catherine Doyle and one for John Kirkland – as well as related indictments.

This record was transferred to NRS by the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS), who remain the data controller and make all decisions on access. They have carried out a sensitivity review of the information contained in the entries and have decided that they can be released to you.

We have provided a transcription of the entries in the annex to this letter as the original volume is in a very fragile condition and not fit for reproduction.

Transcriptions from record of criminal trials

The following two pages contain an accurate transcription of two entries in the Glasgow Sheriff Court record of criminal trials, 15 Apr 1924-3 Jun 1925 (NRS ref. SC36/56/147), as well as their associated indictments. Explanatory notes are included in square brackets.

Catherine Doyle

Court of the Sheriffdom of Lanark held at Glasgow on the Fourteenth day of July nineteen hundred and twenty four years by Duncan Stewart Macdiarmid, Esquire, Advocate, Sheriff Substitute of Lanarkshire.

Court lawfully fenced.

Intran. Catherine Doyle or Abraham, prisoner in the Prison of Glasgow, accused, at the instance of His Majesty's Advocate, of Bigamy, conform to Indictment a copy of which is hereto appended and marked no.75, and who was cited under Section 31 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1887.

For Prosn. [prosecution]:
Mr JD Strathern [signature]
P.F. [Procurator Fiscal]

For Panel [accused]:
Mr WP Jones [signature]
Pror.

The panel having been called on to plead to the Indictment pleaded guilty as libelled.
Catherine Doyle or Abraham [signature]
DS Macdiarmid [signature]

The Sheriff sentenced the panel to sixty days imprisonment.
A Sandilands
S.C.D.

[...]

Glasgow, 14th July 1924
INDICTMENT
against
CATHERINE DOYLE OR ABRAHAM.
Bigamy.

No.75.

CATHERINE DOYLE or ABRAHAM, prisoner in the Prison of Glasgow, you are indicted at the instance of The Right Honourable HUGH PATTISON MACMILLAN, His Majesty's Advocate, and the charge against you is that being the lawful wife of Robert Abraham, Royal Air Force, Flowerdown Camp, near Winchester, and he being still alive, you did on 2nd May 1924 at 186 Argyle Street, Glasgow, bigamously marry John Kirkland, 83 High Street, Renfrew, and did cohabit with him as his wife.

By Authority of His Majesty's Advocate,
(Signed) J. Drummond Strathern,
Procurator Fiscal.

John Kirkland

Court of the Sheriffdom of Lanark held at Glasgow on the Seventeenth day of July nineteen hundred and twenty four years by Duncan Stewart Macdiarmid, Esquire, Advocate, Sheriff Substitute of Lanarkshire.

Court lawfully fenced.

[...]

Intran. John Kirkland, prisoner in the Prison of Glasgow, accused, at the instance of His Majesty's Advocate, of Bigamy, conform to Indictment, a copy of which is hereto appended and marked no.79, and who was cited under Section 31 of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1887.

For Prosn. [prosecution]:
Mr JD Strathern [signature]
P.F. [Procurator Fiscal]

For Panel [accused]:
Mr WP Jones [signature]
Pror.

The panel having been called on to plead to the Indictment pleaded guilty as libelled.
John Kirkland [signature]
DS Macdiarmid [signature]

The Sheriff sentenced the panel to Sixty days imprisonment.
A Sandilands
S.C.D.

[...]

Glasgow, 17th July 1924

INDICTMENT

against

JOHN KIRKLAND.

Bigamy.

No.79.

JOHN KIRKLAND, prisoner in the Prison of Glasgow, you are indicted at the instance of The Right Honourable HUGH PATTISON MACMILLAN, His Majesty's Advocate, and the charge against you is that knowing that Catherine Doyle or Abraham, 83 High Street, Renfrew, was the lawful wife of Robert Abraham, Royal Air Force, Flowerdown Camp, near Winchester, and that he was still alive, you did on 2nd May 1924, at 186 Argyle Street, Glasgow, bigamously marry the said Catherine Doyle or Abraham and did cohabit with her as her husband.

By Authority of His Majesty's Advocate,
(Signed) J. Drummond Strathern,
Procurator Fiscal.