



TRIBUNALS
JUDICIARY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
TRIBUNAL JUDGES

19 August 2020

To: Representatives
Midlands Region

Dear Colleague

RESUMPTION OF FACE-TO-FACE HEARINGS

I apologise for not communicating with you sooner but as you will be aware HMCTS are now in a position to reinstate face-to-face hearings at a limited number of venues. There was some very limited face-to-face listing in August but it will increase in September and the allocated venues are Birmingham, Wolverhampton, North Staffordshire Justice Centre, Nottingham, Chesterfield, Lincoln, Coventry, Nuneaton, Hereford, Kidderminster, Wellingborough and Derby. All venues have been risk assessed by HMCTS and will be applying appropriate social distancing rules. As there will be limits on numbers both in venues overall, and in certain hearing rooms where numbers will be limited due to size, we are asking appellants to confirm either by email or telephone whether or not they will be bringing additional people with them. This may be family members, representatives or both. Generally, we do not foresee any problem about accommodating appellants, representatives, interpreters and possibly an accompanying adult, but in cases where an appellant may wish to bring all of these this may present difficulties but HMCTS will advise if this is the case.

It may be that some representative groups are not yet able to attend face-to-face hearings and for hearings which they have listed on a face-to-face basis there remains the option of either a party or representative attending by telephone if that is preferred.

It is possible that further face-to-face venues will reopen in due course although there are no current plans and in my view, it is likely that these listing arrangements will continue in about current form for the rest of this year.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

MR N P SELLAR
District Tribunal Judge
Deputy Regional Tribunal Judge
Midlands Region