

Criminal Procedure Rules and Criminal Practice Directions

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On this page, you can –

- read online, or download and save, the latest versions of the Criminal Procedure Rules and Criminal Practice Directions
- read or download the complete Rules and Practice Directions or read or download separate Parts of the Rules and separate divisions of the Practice Directions. (The complete edition includes content bookmarks and can be searched.)

On the promulgation of the Criminal Procedure Rules on the CBA website, Sir Brian Leveson, President of the Queen’s Bench Division and Head of Criminal Justice said:

“There is no doubt that the criminal bar is full of advocates who are committed to the effective delivery of justice. Your commitment, passion and drive to support some of the most vulnerable in the system in the most trying circumstances does not go unrecognised by the judiciary. As my 2015 Review in Efficiency made clear, “getting it right first time” is crucial and will save precious time, energy and resources across the system. Following the Criminal Procedure Rules and Criminal Practice Directions should not be an additional burden; rather their application should help you get it right first time, to enable the busy practitioner to maximise good use of their time and minimise unnecessary delay.”

Lord Thomas CJ in March 2015 when issuing an update to the Criminal Practice Direction said:

“As this court will make clear in a series of judgments, no advocate in the criminal courts should consider himself/herself competent to practise unless they have with them, both in this court and in the courts below, a copy of the Criminal Procedure Rules and Practice Directions, which are printed together. This court will not hesitate to take the toughest line with those who fail to have either in this court or in the Crown Court the Criminal Procedure Rules at their fingertips. No practitioner would wander into the civil courts without a knowledge of the White Book. The same is to be expected of the criminal courts.”