

## Covid-19 – Prioritising custody cases

This message is being sent to Presiding and Resident Judges and leaders within the legal professions.

The Covid-19 emergency is limiting the ability of the courts to hear as many cases as usual. In order to prioritise cases appropriately, it is important to identify any custody cases awaiting trial in which there is a realistic prospect of a guilty plea, and custody cases awaiting sentence, in particular any in which there is a realistic argument that the offender has been sufficiently punished by the time spent in custody to date. All parties are invited to assist the court in this regard.

**The Rt Hon The Lord Burnett of Maldon**  
**Lord Chief Justice of England & Wales**