
















Liveline or Attendance Framework for London & South East Magistrates' Courts (Crime)
































Notes:

(1) This document is not guidance. It reflects the usual practice in Magistrates' Courts in London and the South East in July 2020. It is intended to assist in guiding expectations about how different types of hearings in the Magistrates' Court may be conducted.

(2) Whether to make a live link direction ("LL") in any case is always a matter for the DJ(MC) or lay bench hearing the case, applying statutory criteria.

Key	
	Attendance is the default. The court will normally expect attendance in person at the court hearing. Any application for live links should be made in advance of the hearing and be based on statutory criteria. The noted exceptions apply.
	Attendance is welcomed, as this often supports swift conclusion of cases on the day, but live link is the default expectation and parties may make an application at the hearing. The noted conditions and exceptions apply.

Hearing Type	Prosecutor	Defence Representative	Defendant	NPS
GAP	  If IDPC served in advance following National Standards/Crim PRs.	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty Solicitor • If language, learning or mental health needs • complex case • not fully instructed • real prospect of immediate custody  If fully instructed, contact arrangements are in place and any basis of plea is submitted in advance.		
Overnight Remand & PCVL	  if PCVL cases listed (pending HMPPS solution)	 Assists those called in at short notice and often covering several courts. IDPC provided digitally in advance.  Where deft is vulnerable/has learning/mental health disabilities	  Where deft is vulnerable/has learning/mental health disabilities	 Where defendants appear virtually NPS/YOS can appear virtually for interviews and court.

NGAP	  If IDPC and Disclosure served in advance following National Standards/ Crim PRs.	  If fully instructed and contact arrangements in place and any basis of plea / PET forms / BCM submitted in advance.		 For any ad hoc requests.
Trials				 For any ad hoc requests.
Youth				 Except where otherwise indicated above
Urgent applications (Search Warrants, POCA, DVPO, Closure etc)	  If complex and/or contested (e.g. on notice/contested POCA/account freezing apps/ variations)	  If complex and/or contested (e.g. on notice/contested POCA/account freezing apps/ variations)	  If complex and/or contested (e.g. on notice/contested POCA/account freezing apps/ variations)	
Breach	  If contested/ real prospect of immediate custodial sentence	  If contested/ real prospect of immediate custodial sentence		
Road Traffic lists				
Non-CPS prosecution lists	 Unless issue is complex /high fines cases	 Unless issue is complex /high fines cases	 Unless issue is complex /high fines cases	