

## CHANGES IN LISTING ARRANGEMENTS AT WOOD GREEN CROWN COURT

I am very pleased to be able to inform you that, from now on, all cases being allocated a trial date at Wood Green Crown Court will be given as firm a date for trial as possible – either as a Fixture or as a Fixed Floater. We hope very much that this will enable advocates to commit to cases and reduce the number of last-minute returns.

A lot of work has gone into planning the new system, and we are as confident as it is possible to be that most, if not all cases, will start on the scheduled date or, on a worst case scenario, the next day.

The system depends hugely on the court being given realistic time estimates for trial – excluding jury retirement time – and, if a time estimate changes, the List Office being informed of the change as soon as possible.

In setting a trial date, the following criteria will be applied:

- Custody cases will be given a Fixture within the CTL if the time estimate is 5 days or more, or if there is some other good reason, e.g. expert witness, vulnerable witness or witness from overseas
- Any other custody case (absent special reasons) will be a Fixed Floater within the CTL
- All s.28 cases will be a Fixture within 9 months of the initial PTPH
- Any Priority bail case will be a Fixture (if 5 days or more or if there is some other good reason) or a Fixed Floater within 12 months
- Standard bail cases will be a Fixture (if 5 days or more or if there is some other good reason) or Fixed Floater within 18 months of the initial PTPH.
- Any case which has a time estimate of only one day will be treated as exceptional and given the earliest available fixed floater date.

Recognising that priority in preparation must be given to those cases which are due to be tried soonest, we will be setting stage dates per this table:

	ALL SECTION 28 CASES	(OTHER) CUSTODY CASES	PRIORITY BAIL CASES	STANDARD BAIL CASES
Stage 1	50 days from sending	50 days from sending	70 days from sending	8 weeks from PTPH
Stage 2	28 days later	28 days later	28 days later	8 weeks later
Stage 3	14 days after Stage 2	21 days later	21 days later	4 weeks later
Stage 4	7 days later [Give same date for s.28 questionnaire & questions]	14 days later	21 days later	4 weeks later
GRH	7 days later			
s.28	7 days later			
<b>CoR</b>	28 days before trial	28 days before trial	28 days before trial	28 days before trial

If any stage date cannot be met, the parties must immediately contact the Senior Case Progression Officer Mrs Marie Oliver - by email to [marie.oliver@justice.gov.uk](mailto:marie.oliver@justice.gov.uk) - informing her (i) why the date has not been met and (ii) whether the parties have agreed an alternative date. **NB:** Provided the Stage 4 date remains at least 2 months prior to the trial date, Mrs Oliver will sanction the postponement and will place a 'widely shared comment' on DCS.

If Mrs Oliver is not contacted or no agreement is reached, or for any other reason appearing necessary to Mrs Oliver, the case will be listed for a hearing, the parties to attend via CVP.

In those cases where no agreement has been reached and a stage date has simply not been complied with, the party awaiting compliance must, no later than 7 days after the due date, inform the List Office of the failure and request that the case is listed for a Further Case Management Hearing.

Please note in particular that if a defence statement has not been filed by the due (or extended) date, the defendant and legal representatives will be required to attend court in person.

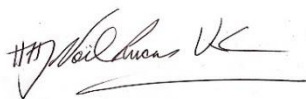
Other hearings requesting to reset stage dates or otherwise addressing issues of compliance will be by CVP. If the prosecution is alleged to be at fault, then, in addition to the instructed advocate, the reviewing lawyer and OIC will be asked to join the hearing. If the defence, then the defence solicitor will be required.

Provided stage dates are met, there will not normally be any further pre-trial hearing unless specifically requested by one of the parties in the case, e.g. if there is to be a change of plea, a 'Goodyear' indication is being sought or a matter of law needs to be argued prior to the start of the trial. The parties should ensure that the principal issues to be determined by a jury have been clearly identified and should consider in every case whether any compromise may avoid the need for a trial.

By 28 days before the trial date, the parties must have liaised with a view to confirming that the trial will be ready or to identify any outstanding issues requiring to be resolved by the court. They must then confirm the position by uploading a Certificate of Readiness (CoR) to Section O on DCS. If no CoR is filed or a CoR raises issues indicating that a case may not be trial ready, the case will be listed for a CVP hearing.

May I stress that any change of time estimate for the trial must be notified to the List Office as soon as it becomes apparent. If, when a case is listed for trial, the judge does not believe that it can be completed within the current time estimate, it is likely to be adjourned. Any new date set will be many months into the future, so it is essential that time estimates are kept under close review.

Kind regards



HHJ Noel Lucas KC  
Honorary Recorder of Haringey  
Resident Judge  
Wood Green Crown Court