

Protocol for 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' in the Crown Court

Introduction

1. This protocol sets out the procedure to be followed for 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' sent to the Crown Court for trial or committal for sentence.

Commencement and amendment

2. The protocol will take effect from 1st July 2012, and may be amended as appropriate by the Lead Presiding Judge of the South East Circuit having consulted with HMCTS.

HMCTS Definition of an 'Olympic Fast Track Case' (as defined for purposes of the Court)

3. An 'Olympic Fast Track Case' is any offence which is:
 - a) committed and charged in the period 1st July to 30th September 2012, and is
 - b) stated by any Court to be directly connected to the 2012 Olympic or Paralympics Games

An offence may be said to be directly related to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games if:

- a) it is committed on any Olympic site or venue, or training facility, or
- b) the complainant or defendant is connected with the Games as a spectator, competitor, official, an employee/worker at an Olympic site, a member of a national Olympic team in any capacity, or is attending the games as an accredited representative of a media organisation.

Designated Court Centres

Committals for Sentence

4. All 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' arising from the East London, North London, North East London, South East London and South London Local Justice Areas, and committed to the Crown Court for sentence from 1st July to 14th October 2012, should be sent to Snaresbrook Crown Court, and listed for sentence within 28 calendar days. The Magistrates Court will notify the Listing Officer at the Crown Court, within 48 hours, if an Interpreter is required and the language and dialect, and second language where known.
5. All 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' arising from the Central London, North West London, West London and South West London Local Justice Areas, and committed to the Crown Court for sentence from the 1st July to 14th October 2012, should be sent to Kingston Crown Court, and listed for sentence within 28 calendar days. The Magistrates Court will notify the Listing Officer at the Crown Court, within 48 hours, if an Interpreter is required and the language and dialect, and second language where known.
6. In the event of a greater number of 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' being committed for sentence than can be dealt with expeditiously at Snaresbrook or Kingston, the Olympic Listing Co-ordinator, with the consent of a Presiding Judge, will arrange for sentence cases to be transferred to other Crown Courts.

Trials

7. All 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' arising from the East London, North London, North East London, South East London and South London Local Justice Areas, and committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial from 1st July to 14th October 2012, should be sent to Snaresbrook Crown Court and listed for preliminary hearing within 8 calendar days. Defendants in custody will appear via video link, unless there is likely to be a guilty plea. The Magistrates Court will notify the Listing Officer at the Crown Court, within 48 hours, if an Interpreter is required and the language and dialect, and second language where known.
8. All 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' arising from the Central London, North West London, West London and South West London Local Justice Areas, and committed or sent to the Crown Court for trial from 1st July to 14th October 2012, should be sent to Kingston Crown Court and listed for preliminary hearing within 8 calendar days (preliminary hearings will not be listed at Kingston Crown Court on 1st August). Defendants in custody will appear via video link, unless there is likely to be a guilty plea. The Magistrates Court will notify the Listing Officer at the Crown Court, within 48 hours, if an Interpreter is required and the language and dialect, and second language where known.
9. If the cases can not be tried and disposed of expeditiously at Snaresbrook or Kingston, the Olympic Listing Co-ordinator will identify another Court for trial on the South East Circuit or, if necessary, any Court on any other Circuit.

Exceptions

10. Any terrorist related offences will be sent to the Central Criminal Court in accordance with the Terrorism Protocol.
11. All Class 1 work in London other than attempted murder cases shall continue to be sent for trial at the Central Criminal Court.
12. Attempted murder cases shall be sent to the Central Criminal Court:
 - a) if the defendant(s) or co-defendant(s) is also charged with murder; or
 - b) if the offence involves a firearm; or
 - c) if the case is being prosecuted by the CPS Homicide Teambut shall otherwise be sent for trial at the Crown Court to which the relevant Magistrates' Court usually sends or commits cases for trial.

Appeals

13. All 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' arising from the East London, North London, North East London, South East London and South London Local Justice Areas, and sent to the Crown Court for Appeal from 1st July to 14th October 2012, should be sent to Snaresbrook Crown Court. The Magistrates Court will notify the Listing Officer at the Crown Court, within 48 hours, if an Interpreter is required and the language and dialect, and second language where known
14. All 'Olympic Fast Track Cases' arising from the Central London, North West London, West London and South West London Local Justice Areas, and sent to the Crown Court for Appeal from the 1st July to 14th October 2012, should be sent to Kingston Crown Court. The Magistrates Court will notify the Listing Officer at the Crown Court, within 48 hours, if an Interpreter is required and the language and dialect, and second language where known.

15. If the Appeal hearing can not be heard expeditiously at Snaresbrook or Kingston, the Olympic Listing Co-ordinator will identify another Court on the South East Circuit.

Procedure in the Crown Court

16. At the preliminary hearing:

- a) The Officer in the case, or a fully briefed substitute, should attend the preliminary hearing.
- b) Indication should be given if there is likely to be a guilty plea.
- c) In the interests of achieving an early trial the CPS should seek to reduce the time that they require to complete primary disclosure and the Court will seek to reduce the time required for each stage of the pre-trial process.
- d) Prosecution and Defence representatives should indicate projected trial date, estimated length of trial, and whether the defendant(s) are foreign nationals.
- e) The Judge will give directions to achieve the earliest possible trial date in line with the objective of dealing with 'Olympic Offences' as expeditiously as possible.
- f) The trial will take place at Snaresbrook or Kingston, unless the Court makes representations to the Olympic Listing Co-ordinator to identify an alternative suitable venue for the trial.

29th June 2012