

# English Courts Give Guidance on Plans to Address COVID-19 Challenges

March 18, 2020

The Lord Chief Justice has announced that English courts are planning to continue with court hearings. He noted that "we must make every effort to maintain a functioning court system in support of the administration of justice and rule of law."

The court manager of the Rolls Building, where the Commercial Court is based, has recently announced plans to help keep the court running.

Plans are underway to ensure court filings continue to be processed in a timely fashion in the event of the partial closure of the Rolls Building. Staff will be able to work from home using laptops that will allow them to process electronic filings received through "Ce-file." There will also be a core level of staff in the Rolls Building to process hard copy filings and deal with queries. Anyone with an urgent filing should contact the relevant team to ensure it is prioritised.

It is not yet known how hearings will be conducted if access to the Rolls Building is restricted or staff levels fall below acceptable levels. Any changes to hearings will be communicated directly to parties via email or phone. However, delays are inevitable given the likely impact of self-isolation on witnesses, parties, lawyers, judges and court officers.

Judicial advice regarding other case management issues caused by COVID-19, including difficulties complying with the requirements of the CPR and meeting procedural deadlines, is awaited.

Court and tribunal users have been asked not to contact the courts for advice but to refer to [a government website](#) for the most up to date general information.

## Coronavirus resource hub

This content is provided for general informational purposes only, and your access or use of the content does not create an attorney-client relationship between you or your organization and Cooley LLP, Cooley (UK) LLP, or any other affiliated practice or entity (collectively referred to as "Cooley"). By accessing this content, you agree that the information provided does not constitute legal or other professional advice. This content is not a substitute for obtaining legal advice from a qualified attorney licensed in your jurisdiction, and you should not act or refrain from acting based on this content. This content may be changed without notice. It is not guaranteed to be complete, correct or up to date, and it may not reflect the most current legal developments. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Do not send any confidential information to Cooley, as we do not have any duty to keep any information you provide to us confidential. When advising companies, our attorney-client relationship is with the company, not with any individual. This content may have been generated with the assistance of artificial intelligence (AI) in accordance with our AI Principles, may be considered Attorney Advertising and is subject to our [legal notices](#).

## Key Contacts

<b>Ann Bevitt</b> London	<b>abevitt@cooley.com</b> <b>+44 (0) 20 7556 4264</b>
-----------------------------	--

This information is a general description of the law; it is not intended to provide specific legal advice nor is it

intended to create an attorney-client relationship with Cooley LLP. Before taking any action on this information you should seek professional counsel.

Copyright © 2023 Cooley LLP, 3175 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, CA 94304; Cooley (UK) LLP, 22 Bishopsgate, London, UK EC2N 4BQ. Permission is granted to make and redistribute, without charge, copies of this entire document provided that such copies are complete and unaltered and identify Cooley LLP as the author. All other rights reserved.