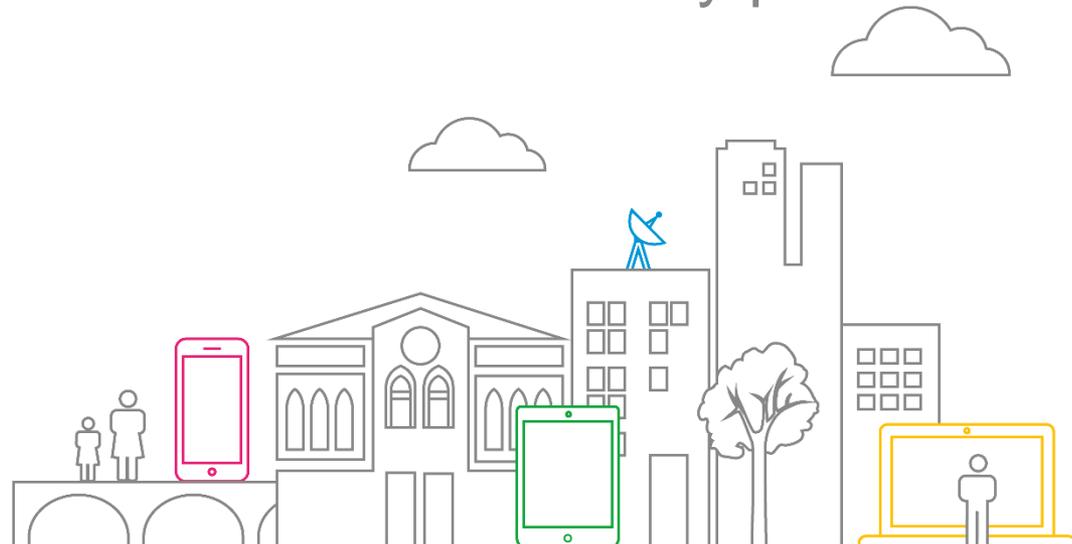




HM Courts & Tribunals Service

COVID-19 Operating Hours Crown Court jury trial pilot

Part of our courts and tribunals recovery plan



COVID-19 Operating Hours: Crown Court pilot

As part of the ongoing work to recover the criminal jurisdiction, the working group looking at this for Crime has agreed to pilot an approach in the Crown Court in Liverpool from 17 August 2020, and a small number of other courts (to be confirmed).

The approach which will be piloted involves a minimum of two court rooms operating jury trials in the same court centre.

In one court room, two lists will operate: one in the morning and a second list in the afternoon, Monday to Friday.

The morning session will run from 9am to 1pm, and the afternoon session will run from 2pm to 6pm.

No one individual will be expected to participate in both the morning and afternoon sessions.

Alongside this, a standard hours court will operate. This will ensure that, if for any reason a case is unsuitable for the earlier or later session court, it can still be listed in the usual way.

This approach will be piloted in August 2020, and is expected to last a minimum of one month, and be evaluated thereafter.

COVID-19 Operating Hours: Pilot model for Crown Court

AM & PM shift court

9am to 1pm

Group A of staff, judge, advocates and jurors

Listing is a judicial decision. It is suggested that **custody and bail** cases will be listed in the am session.

s.28 cases could be listed in either am or pm session

**1pm to 2pm
HANDOVER**
Close of 1st session

Court staff to clear as they would overnight / lunchtime

Cleaning of Courtroom

Changeover of Judge and Jurors

2pm to 6pm

Group B of staff, judge, advocates and jurors

Listing is a judicial decision. It is suggested that **only bail cases** will be listed in the pm session.

s.28 cases could be listed in either am or pm session

Standard hours court

Standard court hours

This is a blended solution where we have one courtroom running the am/pm session courts, and another running a standard 5-hour trial day.

It would ensure trials that could not be heard in the am/pm session courts can still proceed, and would also mitigate against the diversity challenges of practitioners with caring or other responsibilities being unable to attend the earlier morning or later afternoon session.



Notes:

- Available sitting time: 8 hours – dependant on length of break
- Trials continuing from the am session go into the am session the following day; trials continuing from the pm session go into the pm session the following day.
- Custody trials involving a female or young defendant will not be listed in an am/pm session court.
- A trial with a vulnerable witness (where s28 has not been utilised) is unlikely to be suitable for a shift court.
- A trial with a large number of witnesses is unlikely to be suitable for a shift court.

Notes:

- Available sitting time: 5 hours
- This solution would require a minimum of two courtrooms being available for jury trials in the same courthouse