

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**  
**THE CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES 1998 (AMENDMENT) (EU EXIT)**  
**REGULATIONS 2019**

**2019 No. [XXXX]**

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Ministry of Justice and is laid before Parliament by Act.
- 1.2 This memorandum contains information for the Sifting Committees.

**2. Purpose of the instrument**

- 2.1 This instrument is made using powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (the Withdrawal Act). It makes amendments to the Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (the CPR) that are consequential upon the Withdrawal Act and upon statutory instruments made under powers conferred by that Act, which form part of the implementation of the Government’s strategy for ensuring an orderly statute book in the event of Exit without a withdrawal agreement. The amendments remove provision in the CPR which relates to powers, processes and orders under EU instruments or treaties which will no longer be applicable or available when those instruments or treaties are revoked by the Withdrawal Act or the statutory instruments made under it, or in some cases amend such provision where such instruments are retained in an amended form.
- 2.2 This instrument does not itself revoke or amend any direct EU legislation or other retained EU law, other than the CPR themselves to the extent that they relate to retained EU law, and does not give effect to any substantive policy decision in relation to retained EU law. Rather, it simply ensures that the CPR are aligned with changes to retained EU law made by the instruments listed at 7.1.

***Explanations***

*What did any relevant EU law do before exit day?*

- 2.3 The CPR make provision governing practice and procedure in the County Court, the High Court and the Civil Division of the Court of Appeal in England and Wales (with some exceptions, the most significant of which are family proceedings in the High Court, for which practice and procedure are governed by the Family Procedure Rules 2010 and insolvency proceedings, for which practice and procedure are governed by the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016). This includes provision governing practice and procedure for proceedings under or pursuant to (for example, for an application for the court to exercise powers conferred by) a variety of EU instruments, treaty provisions and international agreements between the EU and third countries. These include:
- Regulation (EU) No 1215/2012 (known as “Brussels Ia”)
  - Regulation (EC) No 44/2001 (Brussels I)
  - Regulation (EU) 606/2013 (the Protection Measures Regulation)
  - Regulation (EC) No. 805/2004 (the EEO Regulation)

- Regulation (EC) No. 1896/2006 (EOP Regulation)
- Regulation (EC) No. 861/2007 (ESCP Regulation)
- the Convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, between the European Community and the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Swiss Confederation and the Kingdom of Denmark (the 2007 Lugano Convention), and its predecessor, the 1988 Lugano Convention
- the Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, signed at Brussels on 27 September 1968 (the 1968 Brussels Convention)
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1393/2007 (the Service Regulation)
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 1206/2001 (the Taking of Evidence Regulation)
- Directive 2008/52/EC (the Mediation Directive)
- Council Directive (EC) No. 2004/48 (Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights Directive)
- Regulation (EC) No. 1610/96 (SPC Regulation for plant protection products)
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 207/2009 (Community trade mark)
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 6/2002 (Community designs)
- Council Regulation (EC) No. 2100/94 (Community plant variety rights)
- Articles 101 and 102 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (competition rules) and the Regulations implementing them.

Why is it being changed?

- 2.4 Upon the UK's exit from the EU and the EEA, provision in the Withdrawal Act, or in other statutory instruments made under powers conferred by that Act, will revoke, or retain with amendment, the EU instruments, treaty provisions or international agreements referred to in paragraph 2.3 and repeal or amend associated domestic legislation. Provision governing practice and procedure for proceedings under such instruments will (subject to transitional provision) be rendered superfluous where, as a result of revocation of the instrument, such proceedings will no longer be possible; and so rather than such superfluous provision being left in place, it is removed. Where, however, an EU instrument or associated domestic legislation is retained in an amended form, proceedings under it will still be possible, and that case the provision governing practice and procedure for such proceedings is not superfluous and is amended rather than removed.

What will it now do?

- 2.5 As amended by this instrument, the CPR will no longer make provision governing the practice and procedure to be followed in proceedings under EU instruments which are revoked by other SIs or by the Withdrawal Act. This is to reflect the fact that proceedings under those revoked instruments will no longer be possible. Where such an instrument (or associated domestic legislation) is being retained in an amended form, the CPR as amended will continue to make provision – amended as appropriate – governing practice and procedure to be followed in proceedings under the

instrument or associated legislation as amended. There will also be transitional and saving provisions for proceedings which have commenced but not been concluded under those instruments, conventions and provisions before exit day, so that they can be concluded under the same procedure as before Exit.

### **3. Matters of special interest to Parliament**

#### *Matters of special interest to the Sifting Committees*

3.1 None

3.2 This instrument is being laid for sifting by the Sifting Committees.

#### *Matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83P and 83T of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business (English Votes for English Laws)*

3.3 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure there are no matters relevant to Standing Orders Nos. 83P and 83T of the Standing Orders of the House of Commons relating to Public Business at this stage.

### **4. Extent and Territorial Application**

4.1 The territorial extent of this instrument is England and Wales.

4.2 The territorial application of this instrument is England and Wales.

### **5. European Convention on Human Rights**

5.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

### **6. Legislative Context**

6.1 The CPR were made by the Civil Procedure Rule Committee in exercise of the powers conferred by the Civil Procedure Act 1997 and various other Acts that provide power to make rules governing the practice and procedure to be followed in civil proceedings. They came into force on 26 April 1999. Save for very limited exceptions for the first exercise of powers to make rules governing the use of “closed material procedure” (none of the rules governing “closed material procedure” are amended by this instrument), the CPR, and amendments to them, are made in statutory instruments subject to negative resolution procedure.

6.2 The provisions of the CPR that make provision governing practice and procedure in proceedings under, or otherwise support the operation of, the EU instruments, international conventions and special service rules for EEA and EU Member States referred to in paragraph 23 of this explanatory memorandum, are “retained EU law” within the meaning of the Withdrawal Act.

6.3 Section 8(1) of the Withdrawal Act empowers a Minister of the Crown to make regulations to prevent, remedy or mitigate any failure of retained EU law to operate effectively, arising from EU exit. Section 8(2) provides that deficiencies which may be remedied include where the Minister considers that the retained EU law makes provision for, or in connection with, reciprocal arrangements between the UK or any part of it or a public authority in the UK and a Member State, or a public authority in a Member State, which no longer exist or are no longer appropriate. Regulations made

under section 8(1) may make any provision that could be made by an Act of Parliament, including repeal of relevant retained EU law.

## **7. Policy background**

### *What is being done and why?*

- 7.1 The Government’s legislative strategy for managing a “no deal” EU exit in the area of civil and commercial law and other matters which may be the subject of proceedings for which the CPR govern practice and procedure, and the EU instruments and international conventions referred to in paragraph 2.3, is given effect in a variety of instruments made under the powers conferred by section 8(1) of the Withdrawal Act:
- The Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The Cross-Border Mediation (EU Directive) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The Service of Documents and the Taking of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters (Revocation and Saving Provision) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
  - The Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures in Civil Matters (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The European Enforcement Order, European Order for Payment and European Small Claims Procedure (Amendment Etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
  - The Services of Lawyers and Lawyer’s Practice (Revocation etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The Competition (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The Trade Marks (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018
  - The Plant Breeders’ Rights (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The Designs and International Trade Marks (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019
  - The Patents (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018.
- 7.2 The effect of these instruments on relevant EU instruments, international conventions and associated domestic legislation is (as indicated in paragraph 2.3 of this explanatory memorandum) to revoke, or retain with amendments, the EU instruments, international conventions and associated domestic legislation in question. Further detail about these instruments is provided in the explanatory memoranda published with them.
- 7.3 The amendments in this instrument are exclusively consequential upon the provision made by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the instruments listed in paragraph 7.1 of this explanatory memorandum. They remove from the CPR rules governing practice and procedure for proceedings under the EU instruments and international conventions and related domestic legislation referred to in paragraph 2.3 where those proceedings will no longer be possible due to revocation of the instruments, conventions or legislation, and retain such provision with amendments where such proceedings will still be possible because the instruments, conventions or legislation are retained with amendments.

- 7.4 For example, since it will no longer be possible to submit a request for service of documents under the Service Regulation (since that Regulation is revoked by the Service of Documents and Taking of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters (Revocation and Saving Provisions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018, the provision governing practice and procedure to be followed for such a request is removed (with transitional and saving provision for cases where proceedings were begun before exit day). Conversely, the recognition and enforcement provisions of the Protection Measures Regulation are being retained, with amendments, by the Mutual Recognition of Protection Measures in Civil Matters (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, and so the provision governing practice and procedure to be followed in such recognition and enforcement proceedings is retained, with corresponding amendments.
- 7.5 The amendments also ensure there are appropriate transitional and saving provisions for proceedings commenced but not concluded under those instruments, conventions and provisions before exit day. The approach to transitional and saving provision is to follow the provision for these matters made in the statutory instruments listed in paragraph 7.1 (which can be summarised as allowing for proceedings started in a court in England and Wales before exit day to be concluded after exit day under the rules as they stood immediately before exit day), and in some cases to enable an “outgoing” request which will not be completed (for example a request for service of a document in an EU Member State under the Service Regulation) to be treated as a request which will be completed (for example a request for service of that document in that State under the Hague Convention on Service of Documents).

## **8. European Union (Withdrawal) Act/Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union**

- 8.1 This instrument is being made using the power in section 8 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 in order to address failures of retained EU law to operate effectively or other deficiencies arising from the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. In accordance with the requirements of that Act the Minister has made the relevant statements as detailed in Part 2 of the Annex to this Explanatory Memorandum.

## **9. Consolidation**

- 9.1 The CPR provide a consolidated unified set of rules for all types of civil proceedings. This instrument amends the CPR. There are currently no plans to undertake a consolidation exercise. The CPR as amended will be published on the Civil Procedure Rules website at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil>.

## **10. Consultation outcome**

- 10.1 There has been no formal consultation on this instrument.
- 10.2 The amendments to the CPR in this instrument have been drafted in consultation with, and with the assistance of, the Civil Procedure Rule Committee and of a sub-committee of that Committee. Both the sub-committee and the full Committee provided valuable technical input into the drafting of the instrument. The Civil Procedure Rule Committee was set up under the Civil Procedure Act 1997 to make rules of court, as described in paragraph 2.3 above. Its members are the Master of the Rolls, the Deputy Head of Civil Justice, representatives of each tier of the judiciary in

the courts covered by the CPR, members appointed from the legal professions, and members with particular experience in or knowledge of consumer affairs or the lay advice sector. The Committee is an advisory non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

- 10.3 The amendments to the CPR in this instrument are exclusively consequential upon the provision made by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and the instruments listed in paragraph 7.1 of this explanatory memorandum which give effect to the Government's legislative strategy in the event of a "no deal" EU exit. The Government discussed its proposed legislative strategy with key legal and business stakeholders, including with the Law Society, Bar Council, through the Brexit Law Committee and others. This included discussions specifically on the policy options in respect of civil and commercial law in a 'no deal' situation. The Government considered that for this technical area of law it was appropriate to discuss with specialist stakeholders and practitioners.

## **11. Guidance**

- 11.1 The Government plans to issue guidance on how civil cases involving the EU would be affected in the event of a 'no deal' Exit, although specific guidance on the amendments to the Rules is not currently planned.

## **12. Impact**

- 12.1 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.
- 12.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on the public sector.
- 12.3 An Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because the amendments to the CPR have no or no significant impact on business, charities, voluntary bodies or the public sector of themselves. They are wholly consequential upon the instruments referred to in paragraph 7.1 of this explanatory memorandum and remove redundant rules and references that relate to the EU instruments and international conventions and provisions referred to in paragraphs 2.3 of this explanatory memorandum.

## **13. Regulating small business**

- 13.1 The legislation applies to activities that are undertaken by small businesses, namely barristers and solicitors practising in the area of EU cross-border civil and commercial law.
- 13.2 To minimise the impact of the requirements on small businesses (employing up to 50 people), the approach taken is to ensure that there are appropriate transitional and saving provisions in the CPR for proceedings commenced but not concluded under the instruments, conventions and provisions referred to in paragraphs 2.3 of this explanatory memorandum before exit day.

## **14. Monitoring & review**

- 14.1 As this instrument is made under the EU Withdrawal Act 2018, no review clause is required.

## **15. Contact**

- 15.1 Andrew Thompson at the Ministry of Justice Telephone: 07761 346579 or email: [andrew.thompson@justice.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.thompson@justice.gov.uk) can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.
- 15.2 Kristen Tiley, Deputy Director for Europe Division, at the Ministry of Justice can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.
- 15.3 Lucy Frazer QC MP at the Ministry of Justice can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

***(ANNEX TO BE DELETED IF NOT NEEDED)***

# **Annex**

## **Statements under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018**

### **Part 1**

#### **Table of Statements under the 2018 Act**

This table sets out the statements that may be required under the 2018 Act.

| <b>Statement</b> | <b>Where the requirement sits</b>                       | <b>To whom it applies</b>  | <b>What it requires</b>  |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| Sifting          | Paragraphs 3(3), 3(7) and 17(3) and 17(7) of Schedule 7 | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) to make a Negative SI   | Explain why the instrument should be subject to the negative procedure and, if applicable, why they disagree with the recommendation(s) of the SLSC/Sifting Committees   |
| Appropriateness  | Sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7           | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2  | A statement that the SI does no more than is appropriate.  |
| Good Reasons     | Sub-paragraph (3) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7           | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2  | Explain the good reasons for making the instrument and that what is being done is a reasonable course of action.   |
| Equalities       | Sub-paragraphs (4) and (5) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7  | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2  | Explain what, if any, amendment, repeals or revocations are being made to the Equalities Acts 2006 and 2010 and legislation made under them.<br><br>State that the Minister has had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010. |
| Explanations     | Sub-paragraph (6) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7           | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9 and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2<br>In addition to the statutory obligation the Government has made a political commitment to include these statements alongside all EUWA SIs | Explain the instrument, identify the relevant law before exit day, explain the instrument's effect on retained EU law and give information about the purpose of the instrument, e.g., whether minor or technical changes only are intended to the EU retained law.                               |

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Criminal offences   | Sub-paragraphs (3) and (7) of paragraph 28, Schedule 7 | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 8(1), 9, and 23(1) or jointly exercising powers in Schedule 2 to create a criminal offence   | Set out the ‘good reasons’ for creating a criminal offence, and the penalty attached.  |
| Sub-delegation  | Paragraph 30, Schedule 7                               | Ministers of the Crown exercising sections 10(1), 12 and part 1 of Schedule 4 to create a legislative power exercisable not by a Minister of the Crown or a Devolved Authority by Statutory Instrument. | State why it is appropriate to create such a sub-delegated power.  |
| Urgency   | Paragraph 34, Schedule 7                               | Ministers of the Crown using the urgent procedure in paragraphs 4 or 14, Schedule 7.  | Statement of the reasons for the Minister’s opinion that the SI is urgent.   |
| Explanations where amending regulations under 2(2) ECA 1972       | Paragraph 13, Schedule 8                               | Anybody making an SI after exit day under powers outside the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 which modifies subordinate legislation made under s. 2(2) ECA   | Statement explaining the good reasons for modifying the instrument made under s. 2(2) ECA, identifying the relevant law before exit day, and explaining the instrument’s effect on retained EU law.  |
| Scrutiny statement where amending regulations under 2(2) ECA 1972 | Paragraph 16, Schedule 8                               | Anybody making an SI after exit day under powers outside the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 which modifies subordinate legislation made under s. 2(2) ECA   | Statement setting out:<br>a) the steps which the relevant authority has taken to make the draft instrument published in accordance with paragraph 16(2), Schedule 8 available to each House of Parliament,<br>b) containing information about the relevant authority’s response to—<br>(i) any recommendations made by a committee of either House of Parliament about the published draft instrument, and<br>(ii) any other representations made to the relevant authority about the published draft instrument, and,<br>c) containing any other information that the relevant authority considers appropriate in relation to the scrutiny of the instrument or draft instrument which is to be laid. |

## Part 2

### Statements required when using enabling powers under the European Union (Withdrawal) 2018 Act

#### 1. Sifting statement(s)

- 1.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer QC MP, has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view the Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 should be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament (i.e. the negative procedure)”.

- 1.2 This is the case because: the instrument does not fall into the category of regulations identified in Schedule 7, Part 1, paragraph 1(2) of the Withdrawal Act as requiring approval in draft by resolution of both Houses of Parliament. Amendments to the CPR would normally be made by an instrument subject to the negative procedure, and the amendments to those Rules made by this instrument are wholly consequential upon the provisions of the Withdrawal Act and of the instruments made under the Withdrawal Act referred to in paragraph 7.1 of this explanatory memorandum.

#### 2. Appropriateness statement

- 2.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer QC MP, has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view the Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 do no more than is appropriate”.

- 2.2 This is the case because: the instrument does no more than amend the CPR to remove redundant rules and references, or make amendments to mirror amendments made by other instruments, as described in paragraph 7.3 of this explanatory memorandum.

#### 3. Good reasons

- 3.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer QC MP has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In my view there are good reasons for the provisions in this instrument, and I have concluded they are a reasonable course of action”.

- 3.2 These are: they remove from the CPR provisions which are relevant to EU instruments, international conventions and domestic provisions that will no longer apply in domestic UK law post Exit and which will accordingly become superfluous on Exit. They also ensure there are appropriate transitional and saving provisions in the CPR for proceedings commenced but not concluded under those instruments, conventions and provisions before exit day.

#### **4. Equalities**

4.1 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer QC MP has made the following statement:

“The Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 do not amend, repeal or revoke a provision or provisions in the Equality Act 2006 or the Equality Act 2010 or subordinate legislation made under those Acts.”

4.2 The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, Lucy Frazer QC MP has made the following statement regarding use of legislative powers in the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018:

“In relation to the instrument, I, Lucy Frazer QC MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Justice, have had due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010.”