

105th UPDATE – PRACTICE DIRECTION AMENDMENTS

The amendments to Practice Direction 51O – the Electronic Working Pilot Scheme, which supplements the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, are made by the Master of the Rolls under the powers delegated to him by the Lord Chief Justice under Schedule 2, Part 1, paragraph 2(2) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, and are approved by Lucy Frazer QC MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, by the authority of the Lord Chancellor.

The amendments to Practice Direction 51O come into force on the 25 February 2019.

The Right Honourable Sir Terence Etherton
Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice

Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor:

Lucy Frazer QC MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice

Date: 21st February 2019

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51O – ELECTRONIC WORKING PILOT SCHEME

1) In paragraph 1.1, in sub-paragraph (1)—

a) for paragraphs (b) and (c) substitute—

“(b) operate in—

- (i) the Chancery Division of the High Court, the Commercial Court, the Technology and Construction Court, the Circuit Commercial Court, and the Admiralty Court, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Rolls Building, London (together, “the Rolls Building Jurisdictions”);
- (ii) the Central Office of the Queen’s Bench Division at the Royal Courts of Justice; and
- (iii) the B&PCs District Registries (as defined in paragraph 1.2 of Practice Direction 57AA); and

(c) apply—

- (i) to existing proceedings and proceedings started on or after 16 November 2015 in the Rolls Building Jurisdictions;
- (ii) in the Central Office of the Queen’s Bench Division, to proceedings started after 1 January 2019, and will not apply to existing proceedings unless ordered by the court; and
- (iii) in the B&PCs District Registries, to proceedings started on or after 25 February 2019, and will not apply to existing proceedings unless ordered by the court.”.

2) In paragraph 2.2—

- a) after “used to start and/or continue”, insert “(subject to the provisions in paragraph 1.1(1)(c))”;
- b) after “and arbitration claims in the Rolls Buildings Jurisdictions”, insert “, the B&PCs District Registries,”; and
- c) number the paragraph commencing “In the Rolls Building Jurisdictions from 1 October 2017—”, paragraph “2.A2”.

3) After paragraph 2.2A, insert—

2.2B In the B&PCs District Registries from 25 February 2019, for a party who is legally represented, as well as for a party who is not legally represented, Electronic Working may be used by that party to start and/or continue any relevant claims or applications.

2.2C In the B&PCs District Registries from 30 April 2019, for a party who is legally represented, Electronic Working must be used by that party to start and/or continue any relevant claims or applications.”.

- 4) In paragraph 2.4, after “in the Rolls Buildings Jurisdictions”, insert “, the B&PCs District Registries,”.
- 5) In paragraph 3.2, after “may be continued using Electronic Working”, insert “(subject to the provisions in paragraph 1.1(1)(c))”.

- 6) In paragraph 5.5, after “the relevant Rolls Building Jurisdiction”, insert “, B&PC District Registry,”.
- 7) In paragraph 8.2, after “in the Rolls Buildings Jurisdictions”, insert “, the B&PCs District Registries,”.
- 8) In paragraph 9.3, “the Rolls Buildings Jurisdictions”, insert “, or one of the B&PCs District Registries,”.