



Remote justice? Access to Courts and Tribunals during social distancing

The Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent Government advice on social distancing has led to sudden changes across the Courts and Tribunals system in England and Wales, including a move, in some cases, to remote hearings. PLP launched a questionnaire to capture people's experiences of these changes on 20th March. This event convenes an expert panel to discuss:

- State of play currently in the courts system including an overview of which courts are offering remote hearings, which are suspended
- Issues arising from new guidance on court access and use
- User experiences
- Headline concerns, opportunities and learning

Panel:

Matt Ahluwalia, Public Law Project

Natalie Byrom, The Legal Education Foundation

Jo Hynes, Public Law Project and Exeter University

Prof Celia Kitzinger, Cardiff University and 'support friend'

Emma Marshall, Public Law Project and Exeter University (chair)

Simon Mullings, Edwards Duthie Shamash

Resources from or referenced in the Remote Justice session:

Matt Ahluwalia's paper: <https://publiclawproject.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/200408-remote-justice-MA-presentation.pdf>

From Judith Townend:

<https://www.thejusticegap.com/covid-19-the-uks-coronavirus-act-and-emergency-remote-court-hearings-what-does-it-mean-for-open-justice>

Also from Judith on the need to balance privacy and open justice in the context of court digitisation: <https://www.opengovernment.org.uk/2019/10/10/why-we-need-a-national-commitment-to-open-justice-data/>

Thomas de la Mare QC's blog:

<https://coronavirus.blackstonechambers.com/coronavirus-and-public-civil-hearings/>

More below...

From The Legal Education Foundation (LEF)

Developing the Detail: Evaluating the Impact of Court Reform:

<https://research.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/research-learning/funded->

[research/developing-the-detail-evaluating-the-impact-of-court-reform-in-england-and-wales-on-access-to-justice](#)

Briefing on Coronavirus Bill https://research.thelegaleducationfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Recommendations-for-Coronavirus-Bill_V6.pdf

Digital Justice Report:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/835778/DigitalJusticeFINAL.PDF

President of the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) issues new guidance note on arrangements during the Covid-19 pandemic

<https://www.ein.org.uk/news/president-upper-tribunal-immigration-and-asylum-chamber-issues-new-guidance-note-arrangements>

Joshua Rozenburg in Law Society Gazette

<https://www.lawgazette.co.uk/commentary-and-opinion/on-the-outside-looking-in/5103764.article>

Celia Kitlinger's presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=und737YOcTU>

Transparency survey: <http://www.transparencyproject.org.uk/how-are-remote-family-court-hearings-working-for-families-survey/>