

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COURTS

HIGH COURT AND CROWN COURT BAIL APPLICATIONS

ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL 27 APRIL 2020

Updated 3 April 2020

Legal representatives should provide through their motion or separate skeleton arguments the full basis for their application. This should be served by the legal representatives on the Court Office who will notify the PPS of the application and when a response is due. Applications should be made using Form BAIL1: <https://judiciaryni.uk/sites/judiciary/files/media-files/Form%20BAIL1%20-%20Crown%20Court%20Bail%20Application%20Variation%20Form%20Issued%2027%20Mar%202020.DOC>.

The PPS will have 24 hours to provide a written response to the Court Office, which they should copy to the applicant's legal representatives before the hearing. The PPS response should suggest potential bail conditions and the parties if possible should liaise to seek agreement. A judge may deal with the case on the papers or direct a hearing.

Where a judge decides to refuse an application on the papers the attendance of the defendant through a live link is required to set out the reasons for the refusal. Where a hearing is required the parties will be notified accordingly and arrangements made as to the nature of that hearing.

Generally hearings will be listed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the High Court. However should the need arise for additional courts they will be arranged as appropriate. Furthermore, emergency courts both during working and non-working hours, for example for compassionate bail, will be facilitated. Where a request is to be made out of hours legal contact should be made through the normal out of hours court arrangements.

Legal aid arrangements including certification will apply as usual.