



TRIBUNALS  
JUDICIARY

## Urgent Cases

### Information Note

1. Of course every case the Tribunal hears is important and it is natural for each individual to want their case to be decided as soon as possible. The urgent cases procedure exists for those exceptional circumstances where, because of the risk of serious loss or harm it is reasonable to ask for an appeal to jump the queue or that an application should be heard very quickly.
2. An example of an urgent application might be a request to suspend the effect of the decision which you are appealing. Some but not all decisions are suspended automatically. Please check the information concerning your appeal and the legislation to find out whether you need to take urgent action. Except in claims management cases, you will probably need to lodge an appeal before the Tribunal can consider an application.
3. Rule 2 of the GRC Rules **requires** parties to help the Tribunal to deal with cases fairly and justly and to **cooperate** with the Tribunal generally.
4. The key to dealing properly with urgent cases is cooperation between the parties – usually the appellant and the regulator.
5. Sometimes, perhaps during a consultation period, it becomes obvious that the Tribunal may be asked to take an urgent decision even before the Regulator’s decision is issued. The parties should plan accordingly and give the Tribunal advanced warning.
6. Parties should always ask themselves how much can be agreed.
7. A regulator may be content to suspend the decision under appeal. A suspension is not granted automatically. Appellants must make a case for it. On the other hand regulators have to be realistic if the effect of not granting a stay is in practice to take away the right of appeal then there will be powerful arguments for granting one; the same may be true in cases where the decision under appeal creates a criminal offence.
8. If the parties cannot agree on a general suspension there may still be scope for an interim consent order, limiting the suspension in time and/or attaching conditions.

9. The parties should also try to agree a bundle of evidence and suitable possible hearing dates for any urgent appeal or application.
10. The GRC does not provide a 24 hour service but staff will work quickly to place before a judge for directions applications in an urgent case.
11. Applications should be in writing (by email if possible) and should state:-
  - (a) What you are asking for
  - (b) What efforts have been made to agree this with the other side and what common ground exists
  - (c) The reasons for urgency

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