



SENIOR PRESIDENT  
OF TRIBUNALS

# Practice Statements of the Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal

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## **Part 1**

### **Preliminary**

#### **1. Interpretation, etc.**

1.1. In these Practice Statements:

“the 2007 Act” means the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007;

“the 2008 Order” means the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Composition of Tribunal) Order 2008;

“Chamber President” means the President of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal or of the Upper Tribunal, as the case may be;

“CMR hearing” means a case management review hearing;

“determination” includes any decision of the Tribunal;

“final determination” is a decision carrying a right of appeal under section 13 of the 2007 Act;

“First-tier rule”, followed by a number, means the rule bearing that number in the Tribunal Procedure (First-tier Tribunal) (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Rules 2014;

“First-tier judge” means a judge of the First-tier Tribunal;

“other member” means a person who, immediately before the repeal by the Transfer of Functions Order of section 5(2)(d) of the 2007 Act, was a member of the Upper Tribunal by reason of that enactment;

“Practice Directions” means the Practice Directions – *Immigration and Asylum Chambers of the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal (dated 10 February 2010)*; and “Practice Direction”, followed by a number, means the Direction bearing that number in the Practice Directions;

“Senior President” means the Senior President of Tribunals;

“Transfer of Functions Order” means the Transfer of Functions of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Order 2010 (SI/2010/21);

“The Tribunal” means the Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal or of the Upper Tribunal, as the case may be;

“Upper Tribunal judge” means a judge of the Upper Tribunal;

“UT Rules” means the Tribunal Procedure (Upper Tribunal) Rules 2008; and “UT rule”, followed by a number, means the rule bearing that number in the UT Rules.

- 1.2. Other expressions used in these Practice Statements have the same meanings as in the 2007 Act.
- 1.3. Any reference in these Practice Statements to an enactment is a reference to that enactment as amended by or under any other enactment.
- 1.4. These revised Practice Statements come into force on 11 June 2018 and replace the Practice Statements dated 13 November 2014 with the same title.
- 1.5. These Practice Statements apply, as appropriate, in relation to transitional cases to which Schedule 4 to the Transfer of Functions Order applies; and references to the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal shall be construed accordingly.

## **Part 2**

### **Practice Statements for the Immigration and Asylum**

#### **Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal**

#### **2. *Composition of Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal***

- 2.1. Subject to paragraph 2.2, any decision that falls to be decided by the First-tier Tribunal in respect of any matter specified in the first column below is to be decided by the number and type of members specified in the second column.

(1)	Whether notice of appeal given in time/whether to extend time for appealing (except where First-tier rule 21 applies)/refusal to accept notice of appeal (First-tier rule 22)	One First-tier judge
(2)	Whether to extend time for appealing where First-tier rule 21 applies (special provisions for imminent removal cases)	One First-tier judge, from those approved by the Senior President to make such decisions
(3)	All appeals or other matters which are not specified below	One First-tier judge or a panel of two or three members, at least one of whom must be a First-tier judge and no more than one of whom may be an other

		member
(4)	The giving of any directions (whether or not at case management review or other hearings)	One First-tier judge
(5)	Appeals which are to be determined without a hearing	One First-tier judge
(6)	Applications for bail and other bail matters	One First-tier judge
(7)	Issue of a witness summons	One First-tier judge
(8)	Any determination that an appeal be dismissed as abandoned or finally determined	One First-tier judge
(9)	Setting aside a decision under rule 32	The Chamber President or a Resident Judge
(10)	Applications for permission to appeal to Upper Tribunal	One First-tier judge, from those approved by the Senior President to deal with such applications
(11)	Review under section 9 of the 2007 Act of a decision (consequent on an application for permission to appeal) and any resulting action under that section	One First-tier judge, from those approved by the Senior President to deal with section 9 matters

2.2. Any of the matters specified in paragraph 2.1(4), (6), (7), or (8) may be decided by the members of the Tribunal deciding an appeal or other matter pursuant to paragraph 2.1(3).

2.3. Any decision that an appeal or other matter is to be decided by more than one member pursuant to paragraph 2.1(3) is that of the Chamber President; but such a decision may be delegated to another First-tier judge.

### **3. *Where the Tribunal may not accept a notice of appeal***

3.1. First-tier rule 22 (where the Tribunal may not accept a notice of appeal) imposes a duty on the Tribunal not to accept an invalid notice of appeal (in the circumstances described in rule 22(2)) and to serve notice to this effect on the person who gave the notice of appeal and on the respondent.

3.2. The Tribunal will scrutinise a notice of appeal as soon as practicable after it has been given. First-tier rule 22 makes no provision for the issue of validity to be determined by means of a hearing or by reference to any representations of the parties.

3.3. Once the Tribunal has served the notice described in paragraph 3.1, First-tier rule 22 provides that the Tribunal must take no further action in relation to the notice of appeal. The decision under First-tier rule 22 is, accordingly, a procedural or preliminary decision.

- 3.4. The fact that a hearing date may have been given to the parties does not mean that the appeal must be treated as valid. Accordingly, if at a hearing (including a CMR hearing) it transpires that the notice of appeal does not relate to a decision against which there is, in the circumstances, an exercisable right of appeal, the Tribunal must so find; but it will do so in the form of a determination, rather than by means of a notice under First-tier rule 22.

#### **4. *Review of decision of First-tier Tribunal***

- 4.1. On an application to the First-tier Tribunal for permission to appeal under section 11 of the 2007 Act (right to appeal to Upper Tribunal) on a point of law arising from a decision, the First-tier Tribunal may review that decision pursuant to First-tier rule 35, only if it is satisfied that there was an error of law in that decision.
- 4.2. Following such a review, the First-tier Tribunal may (subject to section 9(10)) set the decision aside under section 9(4)(c) and re-decide the matter concerned under section 9(5)(a).

#### **5. *Record of proceedings***

- 5.1. The Tribunal shall keep a record of proceedings of any hearing and attach that record to the Tribunal's case file.

### **Part 3**

#### **Practice Statements for the Immigration and Asylum**

#### **Chamber of the Upper Tribunal**

#### **6. *Composition of Immigration and Asylum Chamber of the Upper Tribunal***

- 6.1. Subject to paragraph 6.2 to 6.5, any matter that falls to be decided by the Upper Tribunal is to be decided by one Upper Tribunal judge.
- 6.2. Where the Senior President or the Chamber President considers that the matter involves a question of law of special difficulty or an important point of principle or practice, or that it is otherwise appropriate, the matter is to be decided by two or three Upper Tribunal judges.
- 6.3. Where the Senior President or the Chamber President considers that it is appropriate, the matter is to be decided by:
  - (a) one Upper Tribunal judge and one other member; or

- (b) two Upper Tribunal judges and one other member.
- 6.4. An application for permission to appeal to the Upper Tribunal is to be decided by one Upper Tribunal judge, from those approved by the Senior President or the Chamber President.
- 6.5. Nothing in paragraph 6.2 to 6.4 prevents any procedural or ancillary matter regarding the case concerned from being decided by any Upper Tribunal judge.
- 6.6. Any decision of the Chamber President pursuant to paragraph 6.2 or 6.3 may be delegated by the Chamber President to another Upper Tribunal judge.

**7. *Disposal of appeals in Upper Tribunal***

- 7.1. Where under section 12(1) of the 2007 Act (proceedings on appeal to the Upper Tribunal) the Upper Tribunal finds that the making of the decision concerned involved the making of an error on a point of law, the Upper Tribunal may set aside the decision and, if it does so, must either remit the case to the First-tier Tribunal under section 12(2)(b)(i) or proceed (in accordance with relevant Practice Directions) to re-make the decision under section 12(2)(b)(ii).
- 7.2. The Upper Tribunal is likely on each such occasion to proceed to remake the decision, instead of remitting the case to the First-tier Tribunal, unless the Upper Tribunal is satisfied that:
  - (a) the effect of the error has been to deprive a party before the First-tier Tribunal of a fair hearing or other opportunity for that party's case to be put to and considered by the First-tier Tribunal; or
  - (b) the nature or extent of any judicial fact finding which is necessary in order for the decision in the appeal to be re-made is such that, having regard to the overriding objective in rule 2, it is appropriate to remit the case to the First-tier Tribunal.
- 7.3. Remaking rather than remitting will nevertheless constitute the normal approach to determining appeals where an error of law is found, even if some further fact finding is necessary.

**Part 4**

**Practice Statements for the Immigration and Asylum**

**Chambers of the First-tier Tribunal and the Upper Tribunal**

## **8. Presiding member**

8.1. Where more than one member of the Tribunal is to decide a matter, the presiding member for the purposes of article 7 of the 2008 Order and this Practice Statement is:

- (a) the judge; or
- (b) the senior judge, where the Tribunal contains more than one judge.

## **9. Transfer of proceedings**

9.1. Where:

- (a) the Tribunal (“the original Tribunal”) has started to hear an appeal but has not completed the hearing or given its determination; and
- (b) the Chamber President decides that it is not practicable for the original Tribunal to complete the hearing or give its determination without undue delay, the Chamber President may direct the appeal to be heard by a differently constituted Tribunal (“the new Tribunal”).

9.2. Where an appeal has been transferred under paragraph 9.1:

- (a) any documents sent to or given by the original Tribunal shall be deemed to have been sent to or given by the new Tribunal; and
- (b) the new Tribunal will deal with the appeal as if it had been commenced before it.

9.3. Without prejudice to paragraph 9.1, the Chamber President may transfer proceedings in the circumstances described in Practice Direction 3 (procedure on appeal); and paragraph 9.2(a) shall apply in the case of such a transfer as it applies in the case of a transfer under paragraph 9.1.

## **10. Format etc of determinations**

10.1. In order to ensure consistency in the formatting of determinations, every determination of the Tribunal must:

- (a) state in the heading whether the appeal is being determined following a hearing or without a hearing;
- (b) be laid out in sequentially numbered paragraphs; and
- (c) be signed and dated at its end or employ such electronic or other methods as the Senior President or the Chamber President may approve for signifying that the determination is finalised.

- 10.2. Since Article 8 of the 2008 Order provides that the decision of the majority is the decision of the Tribunal (and that the presiding member has a casting vote), where the jurisdiction of the Tribunal is exercised by more than one member the resulting determination or other decision will not express any dissenting view or indicate that it is that of a majority.
- 10.3. In this Practice Statement, a reference to a determination includes a reference to a statement of reasons provided by the First-tier Tribunal pursuant to First-tier rule 29 (decisions and notice of decisions).

## **11. *Reporting of determinations***

- 11.1. This Practice Statement is to be read in conjunction with Practice Direction 11 (citation of unreported determinations) and Practice Statement – Form of decisions and neutral citation First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal on or after 3 November 2008 (31 October 2008).
- 11.2. The decision whether to report a determination is that of the Tribunal and it is not perceived to be an issue in which the parties to the appeal have an interest.
- 11.3. A determination is reportable only if it follows a hearing or other consideration where the jurisdiction of the Tribunal was exercised by the Senior President, the Chamber President or an Upper Tribunal judge who is not a Deputy judge (whether or not sitting alone and, in the case of an Upper Tribunal judge, whether sitting as such or as a First-tier judge).
- 11.4. A final determination which is not reported will be anonymised (where appropriate), treated as an unreported determination for the purposes of the Tribunal’s website and entered as such on that website.
- 11.5. The Tribunal’s website is the only official source of the determinations of the Tribunal.

**The Rt. Hon. Sir Ernest Ryder**  
Senior President of Tribunals  
11 June 2018