



TRIBUNALS
JUDICIARY

WAR PENSIONS & ARMED FORCES COMPENSATION CHAMBER (FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL)

HELP FOR USERS

1. WPAFCC suspended operations in March as a result of the pandemic. The Chamber's offices at Fox Court in London were closed and remain so. The Chamber has no digital capability and so requires access to papers in order to operate.
2. As a result all hearings from 23 March onwards were postponed and no hearings are being listed at present and for the foreseeable future. No case management work is being undertaken.
3. The email inbox is being monitored but at present, because there is no access to the case files, the Chamber is not able to respond to most correspondence relating to specific cases. If there is an urgent matter, every effort will be made to respond but what can be done is likely to be very limited without access to the file. The Chamber is not able to access post.
4. The Chamber is working with HMCTS in order to find a solution to this situation. The aim is, in due course, to resume interlocutory work and make case management directions on cases that require them.
5. Once the Chamber has sufficient administrative resources and is able to function to a sufficient degree from Fox Court, the intention is to list cases for hearing. The priority for listing (subject to exceptional considerations) will be to re-list those hearings which have been postponed. As far as possible the date order of the postponed hearings will be respected, but this will be subject to other factors such as availability of parties, representatives, panels, etc. After that, we hope to list other cases for hearing. Hearings are likely to be carried out remotely (by telephone, skype or other similar technology). Further guidance will be issued regarding the conduct of hearings, when the Chamber is able to resume operations.
6. At this stage, it is not possible to say when any of the above will be commence. Moreover, when operations resume it is likely that initially it will be with significantly reduced resources and so things are likely to take longer than usual.

7. The work of Veterans UK and Royal British Legion is also significantly disrupted by the pandemic. It is not yet known how this will impact on the work of the Chamber.
8. The Chamber is using this period to update resources and to prepare online training for judicial office holders, in anticipation of resumption of service in due course.

For further guidance see the [Corona Pandemic guidance for WPAFCC](#) on the Judiciary and Tribunals website.

15 April 2020