



TRIBUNALS  
JUDICIARY

## **HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE CHAMBER (FIRST-TIER TRIBUNAL)**

- **Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND)**
- **Care Standards (CS)**
- **Primary Health Lists (PHL)**

### **HELP FOR USERS**

In accordance with the [Chamber President and Deputy Chamber President's guidance](#) of 19 March 2020, all of our jurisdictions have moved to fully digital working and every hearing will proceed as already listed but without physical face to face hearings.

Every case will be listed for a Kinly CVP video hearing with backup arrangements for parties and witnesses to participate by telephone, if necessary. In a small number of cases, there will be good reason why the hearing cannot proceed by video or telephone and those, together with appeals which are not ready to be heard, will be stayed, initially for 12 weeks. Parties will be granted permission to request that the stay be lifted on five days' notice to the other party.

Appeals will continue to be heard by panels of two or three judicial office holders chaired by a judge.

Any member of the public or media representative who wishes to view a video hearing in the First-tier Tribunals Care Standards and Primary Health Lists will be provided with contact information in order to do so subject only to availability where there is a demand. Details are included on the daily hearing lists which are published [on the GOV.UK website](#).

The First-tier Tribunal Special Education Needs and Disability does not normally list during school holidays but we are able to take advantage of the lockdown and can offer additional hearings for appeals which have been previously postponed due to pressure of work and the availability of resources. Parties may ask for hearings which are ready to be heard to be relisted at short notice during the two weeks commencing 6 April 2020.

The SEND administration is issuing updates to our users as the situation develops. If you wish to join the users' mailing list, then please contact the administration by emailing your details to [send@justice.gov.uk](mailto:send@justice.gov.uk).

In accordance with the [Senior President of Tribunals Practice Directions](#) the following additional measures will be considered during the pandemic. The composition of the tribunal panel may be changed if that is necessary in individual cases or types of cases in Care Standards and Primary Health Lists to facilitate the disposal of cases. In all SEND, CS and PHL jurisdictions, making a decision on the papers will be canvassed with the parties where that is in accordance with the interests of justice and proportionality. Consideration will also be given in some types of SEND appeals to utilising Early Neutral Evaluation (ie a provisional indication by a judge or a judge and specialist member about the merits of an appeal).

**15 April 2020**