

# Who's who in an immigration and asylum appeal hearing?

## Tribunal Staff

They make sure everyone is ready for the judge and check any internet connection, video or audio links. They are also there to help deal with any problems during the hearing.

## Representative

They act for the appellant or applicant. They suggest to the judge why their client says the Home Office decision is wrong. They may question any witnesses. If the representative and the appellant are not in the same room, they should agree another way of communicating with each other, e.g. email, text or phone.

## Home Office Presenting Officer

They represent the Secretary of State for the Home Department (known also as the Home Office). They defend the Home Office's decision, oppose the application, or seek bail conditions. They may question the appellant/applicant and any witnesses.

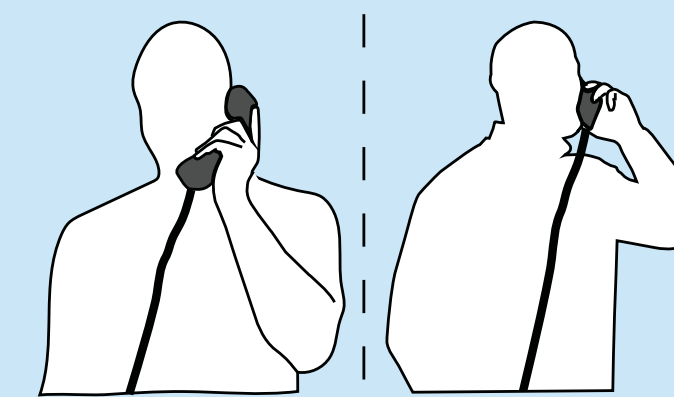
## Witness

They may attend to give evidence about the case.



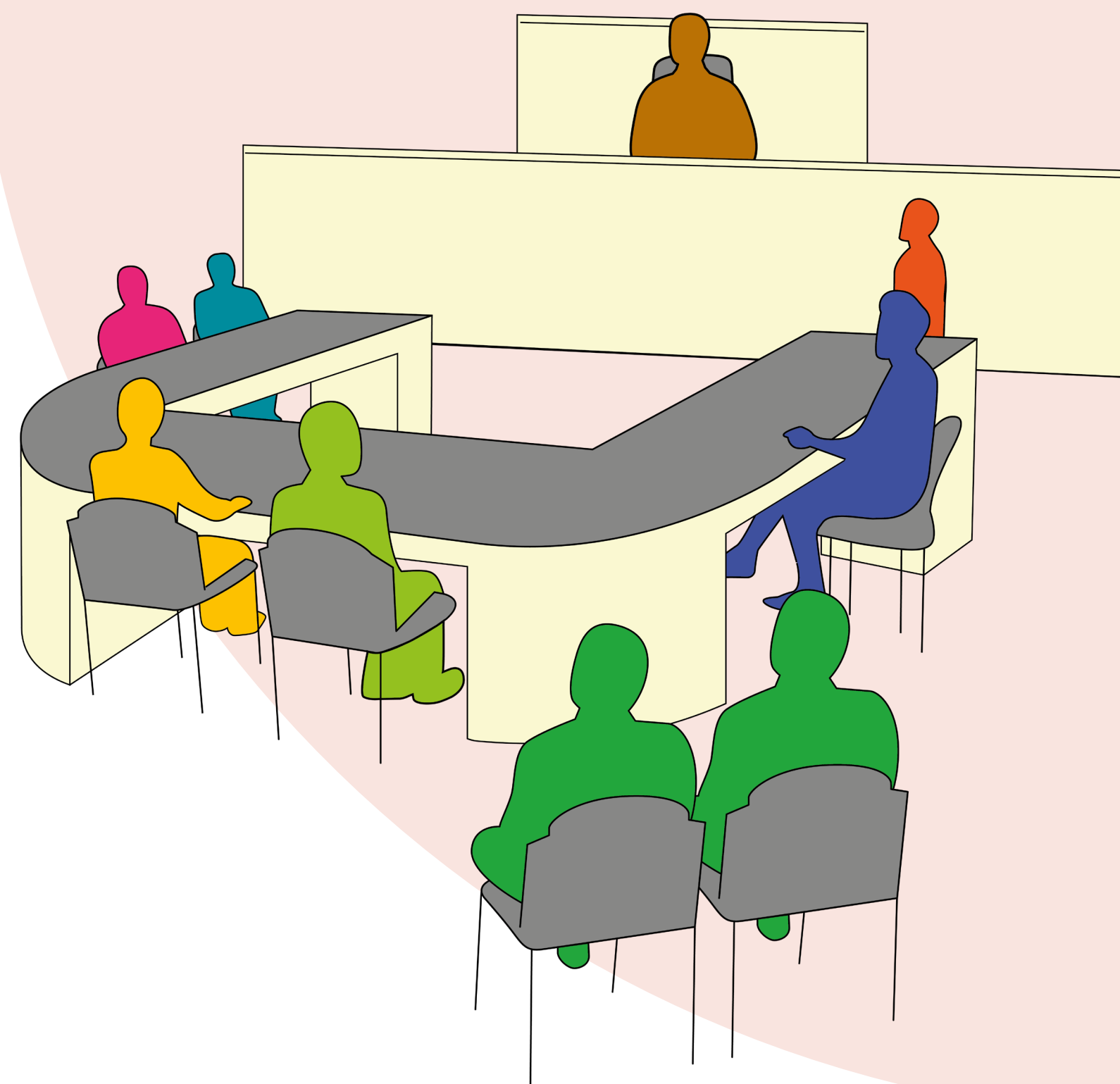
## Remote

Usually a video hearing, in which everyone will have their own area on the screen, although the position may not stay the same. Occasionally they are done by telephone.



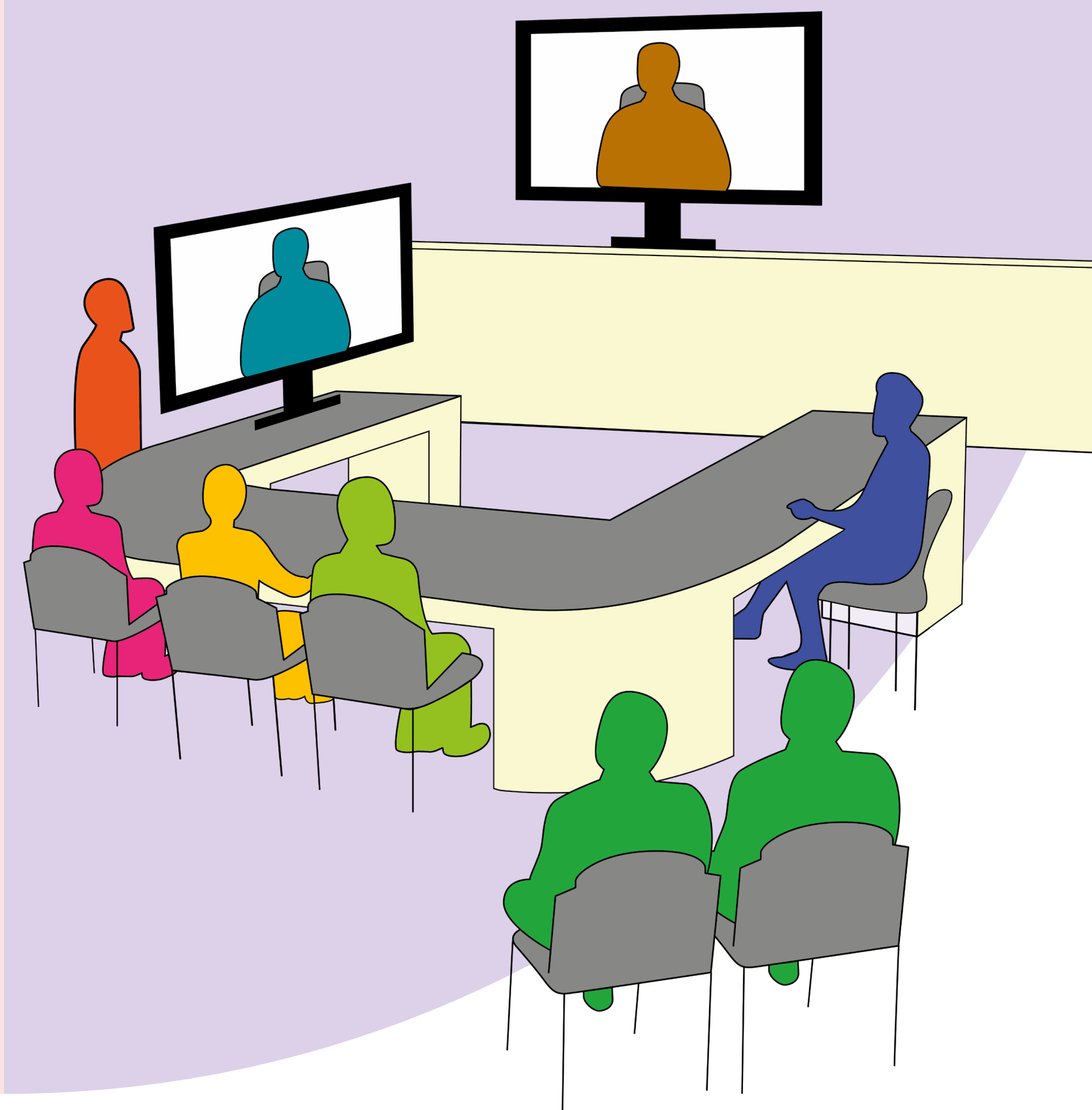
## Face to Face

In a tribunal building, although the layout of different rooms may vary.



## Hybrid

Some people may appear remotely whilst others are in the tribunal building. The number of people attending remotely, and who they are, will vary.



## Appellant/Applicant

They disagree with the Home Office decision or want immigration bail. They will be first to give evidence.

## The judge

They are independent and decide the case. You should call them "Sir" or "Madam". They listen to both sides and read any written evidence. They usually need time to consider their decision. If so, it will be provided on another day in writing.

## Tribunal Interpreter

They interpret what is said into English for the tribunal. They are independent. If there are problems with the interpretation, let the judge know immediately.

## Public and/or Press

Hearings are open to the public. However, if you are worried about a particular person attending, tell the judge who will consider whether they can stay. In these circumstances, the press can usually stay, but they may not be allowed to report everything.

