



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  
UPDATED JULY 2020**

Following the [Chamber President and Deputy Chamber President's guidance](#) of 19 March 2020, the above jurisdictions have moved to fully digital working after the onset of the coronavirus, with every hearing proceeding as listed, but without physical face to face hearings.

Cases are listed using the Kinly Cloud Video Platform (Kinly CVP) for a video hearing to take place, with backup arrangements for parties and witnesses to participate by telephone. The hearing letter and accompanying documents will give you all the information required to help you join the hearing.

In a small number of cases, where there is good reason why the hearing cannot proceed by video or telephone, the appeal will be stayed (temporarily paused). If this happens in your case you and any other party will be able to ask for the stay to be lifted, provided you have given five days' notice to the other party. Every case halted in this way is being kept under review.

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

**Public and private hearings**

Some of our hearings are held in public (but not Special Educational Needs and Disability, which are private hearings). Any member of the public or media representative who wishes to view a video hearing in the First-tier Tribunal Care Standards or Primary Health Lists will be provided with details of how to access the video hearings on request to HM Courts and Tribunals Service (by emailing their request to [cst@justice.gov.uk](mailto:cst@justice.gov.uk) or [PrimaryHealthLists@justice.gov.uk](mailto:PrimaryHealthLists@justice.gov.uk)). Details of cases are included on the daily hearing lists published here: [CS hearing list](#) and [PHL hearing list](#).

## **School summer holidays**

Special Education Needs and Disability cases are not normally listed during the school holidays because witnesses are often away, but in 2020 we are able to offer some additional hearings during August. For appeals listed in September, which are ready to go, parties may request that the case be relisted in August 2020. Parties wishing to take advantage of this opportunity should agree between themselves a date in August that is convenient for all those attending the hearing and notify the Tribunal via email *no later than 1 August 2020* at [send@justice.gov.uk](mailto:send@justice.gov.uk) giving the agreed hearing date, which should be at least two weeks after the date of the email.

The Special Education Needs and Disability 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)

## **Future planning**

In accordance with the [Senior President of Tribunals Practice Directions](#) the following additional measures are being kept under active consideration as the pandemic situation develops: 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 help with the listing and hearing of cases. In all the above jurisdictions, making a decision on the papers will also be canvassed with the parties if it is considered both proportionate and in the interests of justice to deal with the case that way.

**14 July 2020**