

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS ENGLAND AND WALES
INSOLVENCY AND COMPANIES COURT, LONDON

GUIDANCE FOR THE TEMPORARY INSOLVENCY PRACTICE DIRECTION ISSUES ON 2 OCTOBER 2020

1. This guidance note concerns the conduct of insolvency and company law proceedings in the Rolls Building, London and is a supplement to the Temporary Insolvency Practice Direction issued on 1 October 2020 (the “TIPD”).
2. The variations and guidance herein replace the guidance produced by the Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge on 7 April 2020 which expired on 1 October 2020. They shall have immediate effect unless and until superseded by further variations or guidance, or the TIPD itself ceases to have effect; and are subject to any specific orders and directions given by the Court in any particular case.
3. Court users must take the initiative in liaising with other parties (including litigants in person) and providing contact details to the Court for the purposes of Remote Hearings and Hybrid Hearings at the earliest opportunity. Court resources may be limited during the continuing pandemic and the Court will not be responsible for chasing parties who fail to supply their contact details for hearings. In all cases, the Court may make an order in the absence of a party who does not provide their contact details to the Court.

Winding-up and bankruptcy petitions

4. Unless ordered otherwise, all winding up and bankruptcy petitions will be conducted remotely by way of Skype for Business, Microsoft Teams or such other technology as the court orders in advance of the hearing.
5. Hearings of winding up petitions will be allocated time slots for groups of 2 or more petitions. Each time slot will be given a designated meeting link.
6. All hearings are governed by CPR 39. Accordingly, the hearing of a winding up petition is open to the public unless ordered otherwise. The daily cause list will provide a video

conferencing or telephone link or an address to obtain such a link for access. The onus is on the parties to ensure they can use the link provided.

Other hearings

7. Unless the court directs otherwise electronic bundles will be required for all hearings (In-person, Hybrid or Remote). Court users are asked to follow the guidance for electronic bundles published on the judicial website at <https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GENERAL-GUIDANCE-ON-PDF-BUNDLES-f-1.pdf>. Where there is a failure to provide an electronic bundle in accordance with the guidance the court may adjourn the hearing and make any order as to costs it sees fit.
8. Where an In-person hearing is directed the parties are required in advance of the hearing to equip themselves with current knowledge of any and all Covid-19 safety measures imposed at the Rolls Building.

Chief Insolvency and Companies Court Judge Briggs

1 October 2020