

# **BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS IN BRISTOL**

## **PRACTICE NOTE**

### **INTERIM APPLICATIONS LIST**

1. This Practice Note is issued by His Honour Judge Paul Matthews, the Chancery Specialist Circuit Judge for the Western Circuit, with the approval of the Chancellor of the High Court, Sir Julian Flaux, the Supervising Judge for the Midlands, South West and Wales areas Mr Justice Zacaroli, the Judge in charge of the Commercial List, Mr Justice Foxton, and the Judge in charge of the Technology and Construction Court, Mrs Justice O'Farrell.
2. Following the successful establishment of the Business and Property Courts of England & Wales on 2 October 2017 and in order to assist parties and court users with urgent interim applications, with effect from Thursday, 12 January 2023 a specialist BPC Judge will sit in the Business and Property Courts in Bristol at 10.30am each Thursday during the legal term as an Interim Applications Judge, to hear urgent applications in accordance with the Chancery Guide 2022, the Circuit Commercial Guide 2022, and the Technology and Construction Court Guide 2022, as appropriate.
3. The Interim Applications Judge will deal with applications which require an urgent hearing before a Judge, including in particular:
  - 3.1. freezing injunctions;
  - 3.2. search orders;
  - 3.3. appointment of receivers;
  - 3.4. interim injunctions;
  - 3.5. return dates for injunctions;
  - 3.6. administration applications;
  - 3.7. urgent insolvency applications;
  - 3.8. applications to restrain presentation or advertisement of winding up petitions;
  - 3.9. extended civil restraint orders (if urgent);
  - 3.10. applications to vacate a trial date listed before a BPC Judge;
  - 3.11. applications which relate to a trial listed before a BPC Judge which is due to come on shortly (within 3 months).
4. The practice and procedure for applications to be listed before the Interim Applications Judge as set out in the Chancery Guide, the Circuit Commercial Court or the Technology and Construction Court Guide (as appropriate) should be followed, with such modifications as are noted below.
5. An application to be listed before the Interim Applications Judge should be marked to be heard by the Interim Applications Judge and the applicant must certify on the application

notice when issuing it as follows: “I hereby certify that this is urgent business and appropriate to be heard by the Interim Applications Judge, because [specify reasons]. [signed][dated]”. If appropriate, the reasons for urgency may be set out in a covering letter attached to the application notice.

6. Parties and court users should please note the following points concerning applications to be listed before the Interim Applications Judge:
  - 6.1. a party wishing to make an application to the Interim Application Judge should complete a Judge’s Application Information Form, which should be filed with the court with the application to be issued;
  - 6.2. an application should not be listed before the Interim Applications Judge unless the overall time required to deal with the application is 2 hours or less. The 2 hour maximum includes the judge’s pre-reading time, the hearing of the application, delivery of judgment and time for dealing with costs;
  - 6.3. if the overall time required to deal with an application is likely to exceed 2 hours the application should be heard as an interim application by order. If an application is listed before the Interim Applications Judge and it becomes apparent (either on the day of the hearing or beforehand) that the overall time required to deal with it is likely to exceed 2 hours, the Specialist Team (or, in appropriate cases, the clerk to the Interim Applications Judge) must be notified immediately;
  - 6.4. every skeleton argument must begin with an estimate of the time required for pre-reading and an estimate of the time required in court (including time for judgment and costs). It is essential that these time estimates are realistic, and take into account of the fact that the judge will usually have no prior acquaintance with the case.

7. Contact details:

The Business and Property Courts in Bristol  
Bristol Civil and Family Justice Centre  
2 Redcliff Street  
Bristol BS1 6GR

Document Exchange:  
DX 95903 Bristol 3

Telephone numbers:

Main switchboard: 011 7366 4800  
Specialist Team: 011 7366 4860  
Fees Team: 011 7366 4840

For urgent out of hours applications *in the county court* parties should use the following contact number: 07795 302944; out of hours High Court BPC matters need to be referred to the Royal Courts of Justice in London: 0207 9476000.

Email addresses:

For *all* BPC matters: [BristolSpecialist@justice.gov.uk](mailto:BristolSpecialist@justice.gov.uk)

For Circuit Commercial matters only: [BristolCircuitComm@justice.gov.uk](mailto:BristolCircuitComm@justice.gov.uk)

For TCC matters only: [bristolteclisting@justice.gov.uk](mailto:bristolteclisting@justice.gov.uk)

HHJ Paul Matthews

14 December 2022