



THE ADMINISTRATIVE COURT NORTH

**Combined User Group Meeting**

**Administrative Court (North) Manchester ('ACM') and (North East) Leeds ('ACL')**

**Wednesday 07/12/2022 by MS Teams**

**Minutes**

In attendance:

Mr Justice Fordham (Liaison Judge) [MF]    HHJ Philip Kramer  
HHJ Richard Pearce [RP]

Karen Blackmore (Leeds CC)	Michael Blackwood (CPS)
Dominique Cole (ACL)	Noeleen Connelly (ACL) [NC]
Kathleen Cosgrove	Matthieu Culverhouse
Charlotte Davies (Capsticks)	Natasha Gaffey (ACM) [NG]
Michael Hand (ACM)	Thomas Heginbotham (GMC) [TH]
John Hunter (Kings Chambers) [JH]	William Kenyon (ITN Solicitors)
Martin Lee (ACL) [ML]	Juliet Mban
Lauren Sharkey	Jessica Turner (HMCTS)
Javinder Young (GLD) [JY]	

Apologies received from:

Nigel Brooke (Tyr Law)	Alec Cropper (Walton & Co)
Matthew Hunt (CPS)	Laura McMullan (ACM)
Harriet Quiney (DWF Law)	Tim Ross (Roythornes)

1. Introduction

MF welcomed participants to a combined User Group Meeting (UGM) for both Leeds (ACL) and Manchester (ACM), as something of an experiment to see if shared interests were raised. As with previous meetings, although there was an Agenda, participants are free to raise matters or not, to speak or not and can use the MS Teams meeting resources ['reactions', 'chat'] to participate. The aim is to keep the meetings both regular and short,

hopefully encouraging future attendance. The Minutes are published online so that they are available for all to see.

## 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous UGMs of ACL / ACM.

## 3. Discussion Topics

MF was not aware of any matter raised by email for discussion at the meeting.

## 4. Team Leaders

NG confirmed that Manchester had undergone recent changes in the team and that it was hoped a further member would be added shortly. Training was on-going for all team members

NC confirmed that Leeds had one full-time team member and that recently Chris Brooks had re-joined the team and would work in the office at least one day per week. She also confirmed a recent and successful meeting with Capsticks Solicitors concerning arrangements for handling the Social Work England Interim Order applications processes. A number of matters had been agreed to ensure the listings went smoothly and that both the office and the Solicitors would maintain contact.

## 5. Court Lawyer (ACL)

ML reported that there were no problems he was aware of and that he also welcomed contact with users if there were problems that could be resolved about processes.

## 6. Feedback from Court Users

TH reported that there had been some helpful feedback from HHJ Pearce to GMC which had been shared with the team and greatly welcomed. RP confirmed that the matters were raised to encourage improvements and he was pleased with the response made

JH asked whether there was any update on the provision of more Specialist Planning Judges, as raised previously. MF explained that he was unable to offer any update as to new planning tickets. MF confirmed that a new Deputy HCJ Karen Ridge was due to start sittings in Manchester [27/02/2023] this was a welcome addition, a planning ticketed judge who is a planning practitioner. MF raised the possibility that she might also be available for Leeds cases in the future. JY welcomed this news. MF commented that the Planning Court was a prime example of a thriving self-standing public law community in the North.

## 7. Date for next meeting

MF confirmed that the next meeting would be fixed for the new year and notified to all those attending and invited. MF thanked everyone.

Minutes :ML  
Approved: MF

### ANNEX: Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Matters arising from minutes of meeting
3. Discussion topics
4. AOB
5. Date of next ACN:UGM

### Notes:

- The ACL team is: Martin Lee (Lawyer), Noeleen Conneely (Team Leader), Dominique Cole (Team Members). The ACL email address is: [leeds@administrativecourtoffice.justice.gov.uk](mailto:leeds@administrativecourtoffice.justice.gov.uk)
- The ACM team is: Natasha Gaffey (Team Leader), Laura McMullan (Lawyer), Michael Hand (Team Member), Celestino Dos-Santos (Team Member). The ACM email address is: [manchester@administrativecourtoffice.justice.gov.uk](mailto:manchester@administrativecourtoffice.justice.gov.uk)
- The Judges who regularly sit in the ACL are: HHJ Penelope Belcher; HHJ Malcolm Davis-White QC; HHJ Mark Gosnell; HHJ Siobhan Kelly; HHJ Jonathan Klein; HHJ Philip Kramer; HHJ Claire Jackson; Biographies can be found at: [Judge Biographies](#)
- Judges who regularly sit in the ACM are: HHJ Nigel Bird; HHJ Mark Cawson QC; HHJ Stephen Davies; HHJ Mark Halliwell; HHJ Richard Pearce; UTJ Melanie Plimmer; HHJ Craig Sephton QC; HHJ Graham Wood QC. Biographies can be found at: [Judge Biographies](#)
- The Liaison Judge (Fordham J) is scheduled to be sitting at ACL 11.1.23 - 13.1.23, and is scheduled to be sitting in ACM 6.2.23 – 24.2.23. He is contactable via his clerk: [Jessica.Turner1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.Turner1@justice.gov.uk)
- Materials for information
  - [Admin Court Information for Court Users June 2022](#)
  - [Practice Guidance on remote observation of hearings](#)
  - [Fordham J “practical tips” talk at the NALA relaunch 13.6.22: video](#)
  - Prompt Venue Determination: [Ellis \[2022\] EWHC 1263 §§3-5](#)
  - [Recent Divisional court Judgment: Cook & Snowden \[2022\] EWHC 2963](#)