

**Administrative Court
User Group Meeting
29th October 2024, 9am (via Teams)**

Draft Minutes

Present

Chamberlain J, Geraint Evans, Philip Shearer, Lydia Watton, Monika Patel, Sarah Christou, Olu Adedeji, Jawaid Luqmani, Christina Parkinson, Lee Marsons, Sasha Rozansky, Erin Alcock, Steve Broach, Jamie Beagent, Dean Tolman, David May, Colin Genner, Angela Warwick, John Curtis, Timothy Baldwin, Thomas Belcher, Peter Campbell, Gavin John, Margaret McNally, Celestino Dos-Santos, Toufique Hossain, Darren Lightfoot, Charles Bishop, Ellen McLean, Georgina Surry, Katy Watts, Richard Buxton, Natalie Stevens, Serena Fasso, Shu Shin Luh, Donnchadh Greene, Sabina Kuraishie

Apologies

Jyoti Gill, Elizabeth Mackie, Richard Kimblin KC

1. Welcome

Chamberlain J (**CJ**) welcomed all to his first CUG meeting as Lead Judge for the Administrative Court.

2. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising

The draft minutes of the last meeting were agreed without amendment.

3. Format of Meeting

CJ asked all members of the group if they were content with the current format of the CUG Meetings. For example, should these meetings be more frequent, longer or perhaps in person or a mix of Teams / in person.

Jamie Beagent (**JB**) said he misses the in person meetings as he found there was more flow in the conversation “around the table”.

Christina Parkinson (**CP**) said she would like to receive the agenda earlier.

CJ advised that any suggestions for future CUG meetings should be sent to Monika Patel (**MP**)

4. Court Performance

CJ advised that the targets are not being met for Renewal applications.

The reason for this could be that for Extradition and Judicial Review cases, compliant bundles are not being lodged.

The Court is hoping to resolve this problem by Listing renewal cases. The Judge can then make the decision to progress the case or not.

CP asked about the target for Paper Applications.

CJ advised that this target was not being met mainly due to a resource issue and confirmed that he hopes this matter will be resolved with the recent recruitment of several new ACO lawyers.

Lydia Watton (**LW**) confirmed seven new lawyers are currently being trained and this should make a difference.

CJ asked that that court users bear with the court to get closer to the target for Paper Application decisions.

5. New Contact Arrangements for Extradition Cases

LW confirmed that Extradition cases were dealt with by specialist caseworkers.

There will be a dedicated telephone number for Extradition cases, and she hopes to have an update in the next few weeks regarding this.

CJ confirmed that when this issue has been sorted, the number will be published on the Admin Court website

6. Extensions of Time

CJ stated he wanted this subject as an agenda item and asked for views if this was a problem.

Shu Shin Luh (**SSL**) said that this is a problem if the application comes after the 4pm deadline and leaves claimants in a difficult position when the Defendant does this as the claim cannot progress.

Steve Broach (**SB**) suggested there was a need for distinction for genuinely urgent applications

Sasha Rozansky (**SR**) said it was preferable to have the reasons given for EOT applications

Celestino Dos-Santos (**CDS**) agreed with **SR**

CJ advised that Court lawyers have Delegated Powers and this resource can be used

7. N463 form / dates for submission of form / Phones

SR said that clarification is needed on whether an urgent application should be lodged on an N244 or N463 form as the Court Guide conflicts with the wording on the forms.

CJ said that as he is responsible for drafting this part of the guide, he will take this away and tweak the form if needed.

SR said it is impossible to get through to the List Office by telephone

CJ advised that this issue was a similar situation to the problem with Extradition phone line and will discuss how to improve this.

8. ADR Review

Lee Marsons (**LM**) discussed Public Law Project's paper on ADR and spoke in detail about the advantages of ADR.

Timothy Baldwin (**TB**) said that the Legal Aid Agency doesn't have the funding to support ADR.

(**SR**) said she has had a positive experience with mediation.

Katy Watts (**KW**) said she also had a positive experience with ADR

JC will report back at the next meeting how this is taken forward

9. Q & A

There were no Q & A's

10. AOB / Next Meeting

Jawaid Luqmani (**JL**) stated that, on the CE-Filing platform, there was no opportunity to add a Bundle on the dropdown menu.

Sarah Christou (**SC**) advised that, as the CE-File Service Manager, she welcomed this feedback and requested to be emailed directly with any problems/queries encountered during the pilot period.

CJ asked that **SC** be part of future CUG meetings

Toufique Hossain (**TH**) asked if the Immediates inbox could have an automatic acknowledgment/ receipt the same as the General Inbox

LW advised that this could be arranged

CJ hoped that the next meeting could be later in the Term and in person with hybrid capability.

He would also like to make the meetings more than 1/2 an hour long.

CJ thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting ended 09:52am.

