

## PRACTICE DIRECTION 3: REMOTE AND HYBRID HEARINGS

1. The following Practice Direction sets out the procedure that the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (“the Tribunal”) will operate in respect of remote and hybrid hearings. This Practice Direction applies to hearings in relation to matters governed by the Solicitors (Disciplinary Procedure) Rules 2007 (“SDPR 2007”), the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (Appeals and Amendment) Rules 2011 (“Appeal Rules”) and the Solicitors (Disciplinary Procedure) Rules 2019 (“SDPR 2019”).
2. It is not intended to replace or vary the SDPR 2007 (for those matters certified as showing a case to answer on or before 24 November 2019), the Appeal Rules or the SDPR 2019 and is made by the Tribunal’s Policy Committee under Rule 6 (3) SDPR 2019, and promulgated under the authority of the President under Rule 6 (4) SDPR 2019. It applies to all cases before the Tribunal and is subject to review by the Tribunal from time to time.
3. This Practice Direction replaces the Practice Direction: Remote Hearings dated 28 August 2020.
4. The method by which all hearings, including remote and hybrid hearings, are conducted is a matter for the Tribunal operating in accordance with its Rules, Practice Directions and guidance.
5. In addition to fully attended hearings the Tribunal will be listing hearings for remote or hybrid hearings in appropriate cases and in accordance with its listing strategy. For these purposes a hybrid hearing is one at which some participants attend in person and some attend via a video platform.
6. The Tribunal will publish a daily cause list on its website for any hearing taking place that day, whether the hearing takes place remotely, is a hybrid hearing or is an in person hearing.
7. Unless the Tribunal has directed that a matter should be heard in private (either in whole or part) Tribunal hearings are heard in public, and the press and public can attend any public hearing being held remotely or being conducted as a hybrid hearing. Any member of the public or press wishing to attend a hearing should check the cause list for that hearing for remote access details. If there are any queries about remote access these should be emailed to [enquiries@solicitorsdt.com](mailto:enquiries@solicitorsdt.com) and the case management team will assist with arranging access to public hearings.
8. All hearings will be recorded, and the audio recording will be provided on request unless the Tribunal directs otherwise or the hearing was held in private. Parties, witnesses, and observers are not permitted to record hearings without the Tribunal’s permission.

9. This Practice Direction will be supplemented by a User Guide prepared by the Tribunal to assist parties, witnesses and observers with the practical aspects of remote and hybrid hearings.

Signed on behalf of the Tribunal

Alison Kellett

President of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Reviewed: January 2025