

Covid-19 Policy

10 King's Bench Walk Chambers is committed to providing the very best services to our clients, at all times, including during the Covid-19 crisis.

Chambers remain open for instructions and are able to assist with all hearings (by telephone, video link and in person where absolutely necessary), drafting and advisory work, whether in writing or by telephone/video conference.

We have put arrangements in place so we can continue to meet our clients' needs.

Members of Chambers are following Government Guidance on social distancing and will be guided by the Lord Chief Justice's announcements on trials and hearings, and, in relation to Civil hearings and trials, the Civil Judiciary's protocol "Civil Justice in England & Wales Protocol Regarding Remote Hearings" as up-dated from time to time (for the most recent guidance, see www.judiciary.uk).

In line with Government Guidance, members of Chambers, clerks and administrative staff are working away from Chambers. All email and telephones are working as normal. If, for any reason, you cannot get through to Chambers by telephone on 0207 353 7742, please email clerks@10kbw.co.uk and one of the clerks will telephone you by return.

This means that conferences and meetings will be conducted "virtually", i.e. by video-or audio-technology and our practice management team are able to arrange such conferences to suit you, the client, as you request.

Chambers can conduct conferences and meetings through various means including Skype, Zooms, Teams and other similar communications software.

All clerks, staff and barristers can be contacted remotely and from home, with minimal disruption to our clients, on our chambers telephone number 0207 353 7742, or any other telephone numbers provided by the clerks. The usual Chambers' telephone system will re-direct you to the clerks' mobile telephone numbers, where they may be located remotely.

We kindly ask that all instructions and papers be sent by email or by electronic file sharing, rather than by hard copy, as DX and post will not be as promptly received or reviewed, whilst Chambers is operating remotely.

We also kindly ask that the payment of fees be made by bank transfer rather than by cheque. Bank details are shown at the foot of each fee note, and the clerks can also provide bank details for making bank transfers. Please telephone Chambers for any further information required.

Webinars, training and seminars will also be conducted through virtual means, via our mailing list, website and other dissemination. Should you wish to join, please email Steve Clarke, Marketing Clerk, on Steve.Clarke@10kbw.co.uk.

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As you will know, Coronavirus (CoVid-19), can cause symptoms including fever, cough, fatigue and shortness of breath.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Public Health England (PHE) advises that the following groups should stay indoors and avoid contact with other people:

Those who have travelled in the last 14 days from Iran, Hubei Province in China, lockdown areas in Northern Italy, special care zones in South Korea – even if you do not have symptoms.

Those who have travelled in the last 14 days from any other high-risk areas and have a cough, high temperature or shortness of breath even if your symptoms are mild.

Those who have come into contact with a coronavirus patient in the last 14 days.

PHE currently consider the following areas to be high risk:

- Mainland China outside of Hubei Province
- Italy outside the lockdown areas
- South Korea outside of the special care zones
- Cambodia
- Hong Kong
- Japan
- Laos
- Macau
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Singapore
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

Chambers has taken steps to restrict all non-essential visitors to our site unless absolutely unavoidable.

If a visit to Chambers is absolutely essential, it must be arranged in advance with the clerks. We ask all visitors about their travel history beforehand. This is for your safety and the safety of others. If you are within the groups listed above we will respectfully ask that you follow the advice given and do not attend our the premises.

Thank you for your understanding at this time. On behalf of Chambers we wish you and your families good health and best wishes.