



UKSC and JCPC User Group Meeting

At 16:30pm on Wednesday 23 July 2025

At: The Supreme Court

In person and remotely via teams

Chaired by Lord Hodge

In attendance from the Court:

Lord Briggs

Laura Angus, Registrar

Celia Cave, Registrar

Vicky Fox, CEO

Daniel Waller, Programme Transition Lead

MINUTES

1. Welcome to the UKSC and JCPC user group and introductions (Lord Hodge)

Lord Hodge welcomed attendees and introduced Lord Briggs as well as Laura, Celia, Vicky and Daniel.

2. Court Update (Laura)

Laura gave a summary of Court updates including:

1. Dame Janice Pereira sitting on JCPC cases in person and remotely.
2. Sir Anthony Smellie will be sitting on JCPC hearings during the Hillary term.
3. The Court has been in discussion with the Home Office and Ministry of Justice regarding visas for JCPC counsel/solicitors. Parties are urged to contact the Court if they require assistance with obtaining visas for

attending a hearing in person. The Court is only able to assist when given enough notice, and enough information regarding the visa application.

3. PTA Refusal reasons (Lord Hodge)

Lord Hodge explained there has been an internal discussion about whether the Justices would continue to give reasons for the refusal of a permission to appeal application. There are two options in discussion currently – either not giving reasons at all, as it can be taken out of context, or to state the full statutory test to avoid the misuse of the statements given in our current system. There followed a discussion as to how useful the reasons given by the Justices for a refusal of permission to appeal.

Lord Hodge asked for any views to be emailed to Registry before a decision is made regarding this matter.

4. Change Programme Update (Daniel)

Daniel highlighted that there are now over 1500 registered users on the new Portal. Currently there are 137 UK Supreme Court cases, 74 Privy Council cases and 23 intervention cases. Permission to Appeal decisions are routinely decided more quickly in the new system. Daniel explained that 90% of June PTAs were referred of Justices for a decision within 10 weeks of being issued, and 60% were referred within 6 weeks of being issued.

Daniel reminded attendees the SFI and written cases will be published in Michaelmas term when the Portal cases are being heard.

Participants gave positive feedback on communication with Registry and that any teething issues with the Portal have been dealt with quickly.

5. Registry Items (Laura and Celia)

Celia and Laura raised the following Registry items.

1. For London agents in JCPC cases, the Registry have been encouraging all parties to put in place a process to arrange for their London agents to be added to the Portal once they have been served with a JCPC Portal case. One way to do this is to make clear to all would-be appellants that they should serve JCPC cases on the relevant London agents and give a JCPC Portal email address that the London agents have access to. The Registry has also been assisting where they can to make the change to the Portal as

smooth as possible – and for example where a client has given a clear instruction that all of their cases should be managed by a particular firm or London agent the Registry is able to assist with setting them up on the Portal. This should not be considered the final solution, however, and parties should set up their robust practices and processes particularly as the Portal becomes more embedded.

2. The Portal does not currently have a section for requesting a stay of execution or for parties to make a costs capping application within the filing of a PTA or Notice of Appeal. This is in works and will be amended over the summer. *[Now done]*
3. Professionals should notify the Court if their case involves a victim, and if they have any needs that should be addressed during the case.
4. An email should be sent to the Judgments clerk if any of the parties want to attend the hand-down, and it should be flagged if it is a victim, and/or in case they need any reasonable adjustments for attending.
5. The Court no longer uses DX.
6. There is detailed and updated electronic guidance for old and new style cases are on the website.
7. For old cases, the old Practice Directions apply. This can be accessed [Non-portal Rules and Practice Directions - UK Supreme Court](#). For new cases the new Practice Directions apply and can be found here [Practice Directions - UK Supreme Court](#).
8. Emails will not be responded to if it is a Portal case – correspondence function must be used to contact Registry
9. Parties are reminded of the Court's new practice to request parties provide a draft order after Judgment hand-down. Parties are reminded it is a matter of professional obligation to reply to the direction sent to provide a draft order within the deadline set out by the Court.
10. If parties request hybrid hearing, they are expected to attend the WEBEX testing, and log-in earlier on the day of the hearing to prevent any issues.

6. AOB

An attendee raised whether there should be a procedure where the appellant can write a response to the respondent's case. Lord Hodge confirmed there is no provision in the rules which point to an appellant making a response to the respondent's case at an appeal hearing.

Another attendee raised that the new practice directions do not have a title and hyperlink for each PD. Daniel acknowledged that he is aware of it, and will hope to correct this in time for the start of Michaelmas Term.

Daniel also highlighted an update on the Portal that when a file was uploaded or correspondence was sent, an alert would be sent to parties saying there's new activity, but this is in the process of change – and it is now being directed to the correspondence where it identifies what was filed.

Vicky used this opportunity to point out that this would be Lord Hodge's last user group meeting before his retirement. Vicky thanked Lord Hodge for the work he has done for the Court, in his long service as a Justice including as Deputy President and Chair of the user group.

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