



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

HIS HONOUR JUDGE BARRY COTTER Q.C.

23rd March 2020

Dear All

Possession hearings

Please forgive the impersonal nature of this letter and also its brevity. As you can imagine management judges and court staff are under huge strain at present.

I have given instructions that the following steps be taken in relation to possession hearings as an interim measure to allow sufficient time for consideration of the medium and long term.

For the next two weeks;

1. Where a consent order has been agreed then an email with a copy should be sent to the Court, with no attendance of any person at court
2. All contested possession claims listed within the next two weeks are to be adjourned to the first available date after 28 days with liberty to apply in cases of urgency, any such application to be heard by telephone.

I would urge you to make every attempt to agree an order in any case listed for early this week as we have not been able to get orders out in time to prevent attendance.

Also could you please let me know as a matter of urgency if the course of action above gives rise to issues you think should be drawn to my attention

Regards

HHJ Cotter Q.C.
Designated Civil Judge for Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire