



**Central London County Court  
User Group Meeting**

**2 May 2018**

This is just to report back on the Chancery User Group meeting at Central London on 2 May 2018.

Waiting times for hearings in front of Chancery Judges

As at 2 May 2018, these were reported to be:

DJ – application of 2 hours or less: from 9 May

DJ – trial up to 2 days: from 18 June

CJ – application of 1 hour or less: from mid-July

CJ – application of 2 hours or less: from mid-August

CJ – 1 day hearing: from end-August

CJ – hearing of 2 days or more: from November

Appointments and staffing

A competition to appoint a specialist Chancery CJ is expected to open on 22 May 2018.

The (chronic) problems with high turnover of Court staff remain, but the Court is in the process of appointing a large number of new members of staff. Court service staff apparently receive lower salaries than civil servants of equal grade in other departments, which contributes to the high turnover. Other than lobbying the government for reforms / more funds, it is not clear what users can do about this.

Waiting times in relation to orders and correspondence

There are still problems with these.

Court users are urged to bring genuinely arguable matters (e.g. orders on urgent injunctions, etc.) to the attention of Judges/ Judges' clerks directly.

ADR etc.

The Judges were keen to publicise:

(1) Central London's on-site mediation pilot. It costs £900; details are given on orders handed down by Central London CC.

(2) Early neutral evaluation. DJ Lightman and DJ Langley both offer this service in Chancery cases. It has apparently been particularly effective in inheritance and TOLATA claims. The DJs are also encouraging early site visits in boundary disputes.

Richard Fowler  
ChBA Rep  
11 May 2018