



## COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

### **PRACTICE DIRECTION 1/2026:**

#### **Bundles for hearings**

#### **Introduction and scope**

1. This Practice Direction sets out mandatory requirements for all bundles filed in the Competition Appeal Tribunal. It supersedes and replaces Practice Direction 1/2025 and paragraphs 7.91–7.93 of the Tribunal’s Guide to Proceedings 2015.
2. Nothing in this Practice Direction is intended to prevent the preparation, hosting or delivery of electronic trial bundles via a third-party trial services provider. In such cases the Tribunal will expect to see and agree proposals for the organisation and presentation of documents, which should (so far as relevant) comply with the requirements of this Practice Direction as to content and format. Responsibility for compliance with this Practice Direction remains with the legal representatives on the record.

#### **General requirements**

3. The Tribunal emphasises that the preparation of bundles requires a high level of cooperation between the parties and their legal representatives. Parties should work collaboratively to ensure that bundles are proportionate, avoid unnecessary duplication, and contain only those documents and authorities reasonably required for the particular hearing or trial.
4. At least 2 weeks before any hearing, and 3 weeks before any trial, the parties should contact the Registry to ascertain to what extent (if any) the Tribunal requires any bundles to be provided in hard copy. Where a matter is urgent and a hearing has been listed at short notice, the parties should contact the Registry as soon as possible in advance of that hearing to ascertain the Tribunal’s requirements as regards bundles. Unless otherwise directed by the Tribunal, all bundles for hearings (including authorities bundles) should be provided solely in electronic format.
5. Whether the bundles are in hard copy or electronic form, the bundles should be organised as follows:
  - a. A core bundle of key documents, which should include any essential pre-reading for the hearing. This does not need to include skeleton arguments, but should include materials such as the agenda for the hearing and/or list of issues, case summary, chronology, *dramatis personae*, key statements of case, applications for determination at the hearing, and witness statements and expert reports (without

exhibits). The core bundle must be limited to 700 pages, unless the Tribunal permits a longer bundle.

- b. A bundle or bundles of other relevant documents. These should not duplicate any documents that are in the core bundle.
  - c. A bundle containing inter-solicitor correspondence in chronological order (where required). This should not be an exhaustive copy of all the correspondence between the parties, but should be limited to correspondence that is likely to be referred to at the hearing, or that is reasonably necessary to provide context for the matters in issue.
  - d. A bundle or bundles of authorities (where required), separating the contents between legislation, UK cases, EU cases and other materials. A .pdf copy of the original report with headnote should be used for reported decisions: see Practice Direction (Citation of Authorities) [2012] 1 WLR 780 on the correct source to use.
6. If a bundle contains confidential material:
- a. The bundle labelling (if hard copy) or file name (if electronic) and index must clearly indicate that the bundle contains confidential material.
  - b. Individual documents that contain confidential material must be clearly marked as such. If the whole document is confidential, this must be made clear. If the confidential material is limited to specific parts of the document, this must be indicated by colour shading.
  - c. Any colour shading must use colours that leave the underlying text of the documents clearly legible.

### **Format of electronic bundles**

7. Electronic bundles should be in .pdf form, and no individual .pdf bundle should contain more than 1500 pages, unless the Tribunal permits a longer bundle. Where a document is provided in native electronic format (e.g. an excel spreadsheet), that can be sent separately.
8. If further documents are added after the electronic bundles have been sent to the Tribunal, the additional documents should be collated in a supplemental bundle or bundles, unless permission has been sought and obtained from the Tribunal to replace the existing bundles with updated versions.
9. Each bundle should be given a concise title identifying its contents by type (e.g. Core bundle, Pleadings, Witness statements, Correspondence). The .pdf file name should comprise the number/letter of the bundle, and a short-form descriptor of the title, e.g. Bundle A – Correspondence.
10. An index or table of contents must be prepared for each bundle and should appear at the start of the bundle. Where possible, index entries should be hyperlinked to the relevant pages of the bundle. The table of contents should (in general) be in chronological order and provide a brief description of each document. Large bundles may be divided into

sections each in chronological order and shown accordingly in the index or table of contents.

11. All significant documents and all sections in bundles must be bookmarked for ease of navigation, with an appropriate concise description and page number as the bookmark. The parties should not attempt to replicate hard-copy “tabs” in electronic bundles: the bundle should instead be structured and navigated using the index, bookmarks and (where possible) hyperlinks.
12. All pages in a bundle must be numbered consecutively with whole numbers only (no subdivision of pages with letters, decimal points or other) and if possible, by computer generated numbering or at least in typed form in the bottom right-hand corner of each page. The page number must be in large enough format that it is easy to read, and should preferably be in red type.
13. The pagination of the bundle and the page numbers shown in the index must correspond to the pages of the .pdf file, with the first page of each bundle (whether this is an index or title page) numbered as page 1. Roman numerals should not be used for pagination for any part of the bundle.

#### **Format of documents in electronic bundles**

14. All documents must be clearly legible. Unless it is impractical to do so, the bundles should be the subject of optical character recognition (OCR), to ensure that the document is word-searchable.
15. Documents in manuscript or not fully legible should be transcribed, with the transcription placed behind the document transcribed.
16. Unless the bundle contains only landscape-format documents, all documents (including any individual landscape pages) should appear in the bundle in portrait orientation, so that the bundle can be read without rotating the view. Any outsize documents should follow the same orientation used for the rest of the bundle, and must remain clearly legible when viewed using the “zoom” function.
17. The default view for all pages in the bundle should be set as 100%.

#### **Format of hard copy bundles**

18. Where hard copy bundles are provided, paragraph 9.56 of the Guide to Proceedings contains requirements which should be complied with. In particular:
  - a. Each bundle should have the bundle number and summary title, in large bold lettering on the spine, and on a label at the top left of the inside front cover, so as to be visible when the bundle is open.
  - b. All pages within each tab should be copied double-sided, except where they comprise a spreadsheet or table for which two or more pages need to be viewed together.

19. The content and pagination of any hard copy bundle must correspond exactly to that of the corresponding electronic bundle, save that there is no requirement for pagination to be in red type for hard copy bundles.

**Non-compliance with this Practice Direction**

20. Failure to observe the above requirements may result in them being rejected (electronic) or returned to the relevant party to be corrected (hard copy). There may also be consequences with regard to costs.
21. Unsolicited bundles sent to the Tribunal without any prior explanation will normally be rejected (electronic) or returned (hard copy): see paragraph 7.94 of the Guide to Proceedings.

The Hon Mrs Justice Bacon  
President

**11 May 2026**