



COMPETITION APPEAL TRIBUNAL

PRACTICE DIRECTION 1/2020: Covid-19 - Filing and Hearing Arrangements

1. This Direction is issued in response to the current situation concerning Covid-19. Since the situation is changing rapidly, amendment to this Direction may become necessary at short notice.

Filing or service of documents

2. The Tribunal Registry remains open. However, it is directed that in place of the requirement to file a signed original accompanied by a specified number of copies in rules 9(7), 15(6), 30(6), 35(4) and 75(6) of the Competition Appeal Tribunal Rules 2015 (“the Rules”) the relevant document should be filed electronically by email to registry@catribunal.org.uk. The time for filing of a specified number of copies as set out in those Rules is extended generally, to be subject to further direction on a case-by-case basis. The parties are encouraged to file all other documents electronically and any party wishing to file or serve hard copy documents at the Tribunal should contact the Registry in advance.

Time limits

3. The Tribunal has general power to extend any time limits set by the Rules: rules 19(2)(l) and 53(2)(j), subject to the requirement that for certain time limits under Parts 2 and 3 of the Rules, concerning decisions of public authorities, this may be done only where the Tribunal is satisfied that the circumstances are exceptional.
4. No general extension of time is granted but the Tribunal recognises that the constraints resulting from the current situation are exceptional. Any party should endeavour to give advance notice to the Tribunal as soon as it anticipates that it may need to request an extension to a time limit as a result of, or to take account of, particular circumstances related to Covid-19. Such notice should also be given to all other parties or intended parties to the proceedings. The parties and intended parties are encouraged to reach agreement as to the terms of any extension to be requested from the Tribunal.



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5. Any resulting requests for extensions of time in this context will then be considered on a case-by-case basis.
6. The Tribunal has power to permit amendments to a notice of appeal or an application for review: rules 12 and 26. Parties should seek to file their notice of appeal or application in as final form as possible. However if circumstances related to Covid-19 make that difficult to achieve, the Tribunal will be sympathetic to a subsequent application to amend as soon as practicable, provided that any delay is kept to a minimum and that this is consistent with the interests of justice.

Hearing arrangements

7. It may be expected that anticipated timescales in cases pending before the Tribunal may be disrupted or lengthened. Accordingly, any hearings listed by the Tribunal will be subject to confirmation closer to the time. The Tribunal is currently considering how routine case management conferences and hearings with relatively few parties can be held by videolink and telephone. Pursuant to rule 4(7), the parties should cooperate with the Tribunal in this regard.

The Hon. Mr Justice Roth
President

20 March 2020