

**First-tier Tribunal (Property Chamber)**  
**Case Management During the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Briefing note for Leasehold Knowledge Partnership**

Thank you to LKP for this opportunity to explain how the Property Chamber plans to deal with case management during the Covid-19 Pandemic. In order to comply with the Government advice on social distancing, we took the decision last week to postpone all face to face hearings and mediations listed for at least the next four weeks and in some cases further into the future. We now plan to regroup and to explore new ways of dealing with our caseload. We have drafted a guidance note for users which will be put on our gov.uk site within the next couple of days.

There are a couple of general points: firstly, we will not be able to deal with correspondence or case management quickly as we simply do not have the resource to do so; secondly, we are asking parties only to correspond with the Tribunal if absolutely necessary. If offices are closed then post will not be opened. Therefore, we are inviting correspondence and new applications to be made to the generic email addresses provided on the guidance note. However, it will not be possible to deal with emails immediately. We have made provision for urgent applications and correspondence. By urgent we mean that anyone's health or safety might be endangered if the matter is not dealt with promptly. As to new ways of working, we will spend time considering the options for video and telephone hearings and we will put together guidance and processes for enabling these to take place. We hope that users will understand the reasons for delays in dealing with cases and that they will feel able to help us by avoiding unnecessary correspondence as this will make case management easier for everyone.

Judge Siobhan McGrath

President, First Tier Tribunal (Property Chamber), Courts and Tribunals Judiciary

25/03/2020