

Subject: Worcester and Hereford FC

Date: Friday, 27 March 2020 at 13:34:10 Greenwich Mean Time

From: Plunkett, HHJ Christopher

To: Elizabeth Miles, Mark Cooper

...and that doesn't mean Football Club

Would you please circulate?

This is the third email in my attempt to keep local practitioners abreast of what is happening in Family Justice locally.

You may have seen from recent public announcements - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/priority-courts-to-make-sure-justice-is-served> that the MOJ are moving from Monday to a three-tier system of courts – open, staffed and suspended.

Hereford County and Family courts will be suspended. That means the buildings will not be open for business, and staff will not attend.

Worcester Family Court will be staffed – meaning the building is closed to the public, but staff will be in trying to conduct business.

Hereford and Worcester magistrates' courts will remain open. Please note there will be no hearings at the Magistrates' Courts without the specific direction of a judge.

'Open' in this case primarily means available to receive paper applications in urgent cases if there is no means of submitting the application electronically.

This is designed to cater for litigants in person without means of accessing the internet. It is not a facility for local practitioners.

Please may I reiterate that preparation is even more important for remote hearings than for attended hearings. PD27 preliminary documents and draft orders are vital for all FC hearings.

Thank you all for your assistance in trying to keep the semblance of a family justice system running.

Judge P