



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

His Honour Judge Moradifar
Designated Family Judge for Berkshire

30 March 2020

Dear all

Update on the court business in the forthcoming weeks.in Berkshire and Oxfordshire

As you may be aware, last week some very difficult decision had to be made about the extent to which courts should remain operational. There are three categories of courts, those that are open to the public, staffed that are not open to public to attend and suspended.

Regrettably, Slough (including the magistrates) has fallen into the last category and for the purposes of the court users it will not be open. Reading and Oxford are in the first category and remain open to the public.

To cater for these changes and the fast-changing landscape, I have devised a series of protocols and documents which broadly seek to achieve the following;

- a. There will be no new cases listed during this week and the next. This is to create enough space for HMCTS and the judiciary to put in place the necessary measures for the medium term. Urgent cases such as applications for EOPs, ICOs, child abduction or injunctive relief will be listed.
- b. Physical attendance at the court building should be avoided unless there is no other way of conducting a fair hearing. Such an attendance may only occur if it is safe to do so. In such an event you will be given a time slot for your attendance., You must arrive on time and wait outside of the main entrance at a safe distance from each other. Security will guide you to a specific room. Similarly, your exit from the building will be conducted by

the court staff. Please do all that you can to help and cooperate with them so that we can all stay as safe as possible.

Rest assured that we are operational and cases will continue to be dealt with. I remain optimistic that over the next two weeks we will identify the best methods and programmes to conduct effective remote hearings.

Please stay safe and help each other to do same.

Best wishes

HHJ Moradifar