



**NORTHERN IRELAND
COURT BUSINESS**

Lord Chief Justice's Direction No 07/18

**GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 3(1) OF THE JUSTICE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2015**

**Direction governing the hearing of equity jurisdiction business at Armagh
Courthouse
(County Court 01/18)**

**Issued by the Lord Chief Justice's Office
23 November 2018**

PRACTICE DIRECTION

This **Practice Direction** is made the 23rd November 2018 by the Presiding County Court Judge (Northern Ireland) and shall come into force on the 1st December 2018 and be known as **County Court 01/18**.

1. By the **Lord Chief Justice's Direction 5/16** issued on the 31st October 2016 the Lord Chief Justice set out directions for the distribution of court business in the county court in Northern Ireland.
2. By the **Presiding County Court Judge's Practice Direction 02/17** (LCJ Direction 05/17), issued on the 20th November 2017 the Presiding County Court Judge directed that all ordinary civil bill business should continue to be issued in the administrative court division as is set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 and Annex 2 of the Direction 5/16, however the business which related to the areas set out in Annex 1 to that Direction should be listed for hearing at Armagh Courthouse.
3. It is now intended that the equity jurisdiction should be administered in a similar way to the ordinary civil bill jurisdiction.
4. To this end, and with the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I have directed that all equity civil bill business or business commenced by other process requiring the County Court to exercise its equity jurisdiction shall continue to be issued in the administrative court division as is set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 and Annex 2 of the Direction 5/16, however the business which relates to the areas set out in Annex 1 to this Direction shall be listed for hearing at Armagh Courthouse.
5. For the removal of doubt this Direction does not apply to any business to be listed before a District Judge.
6. This Direction shall apply to all proceedings issued on or after 1st December 2018. Proceedings which would have fallen to be dealt with under this Direction had they not already been issued shall be transferred forthwith (by virtue of this Direction and without further order) to Armagh, unless the judge before whom they are currently listed considers that it is just and expedient for the case to be dealt with in its current court venue.

His Honour Judge McFarland
Presiding County Court Judge (Northern Ireland)

ANNEX 1

All business commenced by ordinary civil bill where the defendant is resident, carries on business, being a body corporate has its registered office, or the cause of action wholly or partly arose, within the following areas -

1. The Local Government District of Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon.

2. In the Local Government District of Newry Mourne and Down in the District Electoral Areas of Slieve Gullion, Newry, Crotlieve and the Wards of Annalong, Binnian, Kilkeel and Lisnacree.
3. In the Local Government District of Mid Ulster in the District Electoral Areas of Cookstown, Torrent, Dungannon, Clogher Valley and the Wards of Lissan and The Loup.