



INTERIM PRACTICE DIRECTION

05/2012

SOLICITORS' COURT DRESS

An issue has arisen about the proper court dress to be worn by solicitors appearing in the Crown Court. I have invited the views of the Bar and the Law Society. The Law Society has referred the matter to the Council of the Law Society and it may be a few weeks before a view is reached. I am also awaiting the views of the Bar.

This Practice Direction is therefore issued on an interim basis in the interests of ensuring uniformity of practice. I anticipate that the outcome of my consultations with the Bar and the Law Society will result in a mode of dress which all solicitors appearing in the Crown Court should adopt.

In this interim period solicitors appearing in the Crown Court should be dressed in normal business attire and may additionally wear only the usual solicitors' robes worn for many years by some practitioners.

This Direction is not indicative of any outcome on the issue of solicitors' court dress and is intended only to preserve the status quo until such time as the matter has been fully considered.

This Direction will come into force on 18 October 2012.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Declan Morgan".

The Rt Hon Sir Declan Morgan
Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland