

# **In the High Court of Justice in Northern Ireland**

## **PRACTICE NOTE**

### Adjournments in the Queen's Bench Summons Courts

#### No 1 of 2001

In future the Masters will only permit summonses to be adjourned for a minimum period of four weeks, unless good reason is given justifying adjournment for a shorter period. Examples of good reason justifying shorter adjournments include:-

1. The action has been listed for trial;
2. The summons is being adjourned to fix a date and time for a special hearing;
3. The action is to be reviewed before the Queen's Bench Judge who has specifically directed, or is likely to expect, that interlocutory matters will have been advanced or completed prior to the review date;
4. There is a particular urgency with respect to the relief sought;
5. Counsel requires an opportunity to consider a recent response such as Replies to a Notice for Particulars, Answers to Interrogatories or a replying affidavit before finally disposing of the summons.

Adjournment to identify opposing counsel will not be considered a good reason for a short adjournment, as that matter ought to have been clarified before the hearing date.

J W WILSON

Master (Queen's Bench and Appeals)

C J McCorry

Master (High Court)

20 September 2001