

COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR COURTS

BAIL APPLICATIONS - HIGH COURT

15 November 2021

This guidance replaces the guidance published on 16 November 2020

KEY CHANGES

With effect from Monday 15 November 2021 all High Court Bail applications will be listed to commence at the same time unless a Judge directs that an application should be listed at an appointed time. This reflects a return to the pre-covid High Court bail application listing arrangements.

HIGH COURT

High Court Bail applications will continue to be dealt with via remote hearings (Sightlink).

Legal representatives should send the [Application for High Court Bail](#) by email to HC.BailOffice@courtsni.gov.uk. It is essential that the application is fully completed and includes sufficient details; otherwise, the application may be delayed or returned for amendment.

The office will forward a copy of the application to the PPS and issue notification of the hearing date and time. However, as court lists are subject to change, parties must check the [Daily Law List](#) to confirm the start time and Sightlink Number..

The High Court will deal with bail applications on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. The following timelines for filing applications apply:

- Monday - application to be lodged by 12 noon on Thursday;
- Wednesday - application to be lodged by 12 noon on Monday;
- Friday - application to be lodged by 12 noon on Wednesday.

All High Court Bail applications will be listed to commence at the same time unless a Judge directs that an application should be listed at an appointed time. Legal representatives should ensure that they join Sightlink and are present at the commencement time.

The maximum number of bail applications which will be listed each day is 14. When that limit is reached, any further applications will be listed for the next available bail day (not later than 7 days from the date on which notice of the application was received). Where a legal representative requires an earlier hearing

date, they must provide reasons in writing demonstrating the need for urgency for consideration by the judiciary.

Emergency courts, both during working and non-working hours, for example for compassionate bail, will be facilitated. Where a request is to be made out of hours, legal contact should be made through the normal out of hours court arrangements.

Legal aid arrangements, including certification, will apply as usual.