



L A W G R O U P  
PARADIGMA

## What is the impact of Coronavirus on the life of legal practitioners in the UK?



On 27 March 2020 the British Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service announced that work of courts and tribunals will be consolidated into fewer buildings for public safety reasons.

There are 157 priority court and tribunal buildings open for essential face-to-face hearings. This represents 42% of the 371 courts and tribunals across England and Wales.

In addition, another 124 court and tribunal buildings will be closed to the public, but open to court personnel, the judiciary and other necessary posts.

### Priority courts during coronavirus outbreak work as follows:

- The courts will support video and telephone hearings;
- The courts will conduct cases without hearings and ensure continued access to justice;
- A small number of urgent court cases will continue, taking into account all measures for minimizing risks to life and health (currently it has been permitted to continue only urgent cases);
- A lawyer must not attend a court unless otherwise specified. In those rare cases when the personal presence of a lawyer is required, the lawyer will be contacted directly.

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The UK government has clarified that some legal practitioners are **key workers** and are **essential** to the running of the justice system in the country. **These include:**

- Advocates required to appear before a court or tribunal (remotely or in person), including prosecutors;
- Other legal practitioners required to support the administration of justice including duty solicitors (police station and court), legal executives, paralegals and others who work on imminent or ongoing court or tribunal hearings;
- Solicitors acting in connection with the execution of wills; and
- Solicitors and barristers advising people living in institutions or deprived of their liberty.

**Important:** a small number of legal practitioners may periodically fall into this category, depending on whether there is a need to advise or attend a hearing on an urgent matter, such as protecting children or vulnerable older people, or public safety.

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You can contact PARADIGMA lawyers for advice and any personal recommendations on doing business in a pandemic by telephone +7 495 649-41-41. Alternatively, you may send a request by [e-mail](#).

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