



HM Courts & Tribunals Service

Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service
South West Region
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29 September 2015

To all court users

Your Reference:
Our Reference – CM/SB

Dear court user,

Court of Protection Regional Hubs

Court of Protection work is issued in First Avenue House, London, which has long been the single administrative centre for England and Wales. Over the years arrangements have evolved which has led to some of this work being sent to the Regions across England and Wales for case management and hearings.

With a continued rise in Court of Protection work, HMCTS is introducing a standardised process to ensure workload is allocated out to the Regions efficiently. The aim of this is to improve the administration process and turnaround times for Court of Protection work in the Regions.

To achieve this, designated Regional Hubs for Court of Protection work have been appointed. From **Monday 5 October 2015** they will be responsible for:-

- allocating cases that are received from First Avenue House to the relevant local hearing centre within their region, and
- case managing and administering the case until the final hearing.

The Regional Hubs are in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Leeds, Newcastle, Manchester and Reading.

The number of judiciary able to deal with Court of Protection work has increased and a Regional Lead Judge, responsible for the allocation of Court of Protection work, has been appointed in each Region. They will be supported by one or more District Judges experienced in Court of Protection work who will act as gatekeepers.

What do these changes mean for court users?

Overall the aim of these changes is to improve the level of service provided to court users with a more efficient process delivering a quicker turnaround of work and reducing delays in the system.

Court of Protection applications will continue to be issued at First Avenue House, but if suitable will be transferred to the relevant Regional Hub for hearing. As the number of judiciary able to deal with Court of Protection work has increased, this means that there will be more venues available for hearings to take place. To ensure an application is allocated at the correct venue the application form will be changed to include a box where you can state the preferred local hearing venue. In the meantime you can indicate the preferred venue in a covering note.

Once transferred to the Regional Hub, all future queries and documentation should be directed there. Details of the Regional Hub will be provided with the hearing notice.

Cont'd

If you have any questions in respect of the above please contact Jerry Fowler- the Civil Delivery Manager at the above address in relation to the South West Regional HUB which is to be situated in the Bristol Civil and Family Justice Centre.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Boreham', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Sharon Boreham
Cluster Manager
Avon, Somerset and Gloucestershire