CHANGES TO THE SITTING DAY ALLOCATION WITHIN

THE LONDON FINANCIAL REMEDIES COURT

1. In order to bring the London Financial Remedies sitting day allocation into line with the level requested by the Ministry of Justice, there will be a reduction in Financial Remedies sitting during the second half of the current sitting year, i.e. the period October 2025 to March 2026.

2. The London FRC will implement a number of changes; we thank you for your understanding and for your support whilst we undertake this work and apologise for any inconvenience or delay this may cause.

3. From October 2025 to March 2026 there will be a reduced number of London FRC lists in the Central Family Court and the other London Family Courts.

4. The Central Family Court London FRC overflow courts in the Royal Courts of Justice will not operate during this period.

5. As far as is possible, cases which have already been listed for a hearing in this period will remain listed on the dates already given, but this will be subject to the following:-

   (i) It may be necessary to move short hearings to a different day and/or to a different court within London. As much notice as possible of these changes will be given, and we apologise in advance for any inconvenience caused and kindly request your cooperation when these changes occur.

   (ii) It will be necessary to double list all or most longer hearings, so that trials (‘the primary trial’) also have a back-up trial (‘the back-up trial’) of similar length. Court staff will be approaching the parties / legal representatives of all trials, in particular the primary trials, approximately two weeks in advance of their commencement, to ascertain whether the trial remains effective and we request prompt and accurate responses to these enquiries so that proper plans can be made. If the primary trial remains effective, then we will inform the back-up trial as far as possible in advance that their trial dates will have to be moved.

   (iii) Court staff will use their best endeavours to inform participants in the back-up trial at least three working days before the start of the trial and in such circumstances the court would not accept any responsibility for fees incurred for that trial. Where a back-up trial has to be moved then we will use our best endeavours to identify a replacement trial date (where the back-up trial would become the primary trial) within three months of the cancelled date, though this timescale cannot be guaranteed.

6. There may also be changes to the way cases are listed. However, as a general guide as to listing times for the London FRC (but for which there can be no guarantees, and which will be kept under review):-

(i) We will use our best endeavours to list First Appointments within the statutory 16-week period from issue.

(ii) An FDR should take place within six months of the First Appointment. Parties deciding to attend private FDRs may be able to secure an earlier date.

(iii) A Final Hearing should be listed within 8 to 9 months of the FDR or post private FDR directions hearing. Parties opting for an arbitration may be able to secure an earlier date.

(iv) An MPS/LASPO application will be heard within two months of issue and will be listed for a minimum of 2 hours if there is one of them in issue or 3 hours if both are pursued.

HHJ Edward Hess
Lead Judge, London FRC
15 September 2025