

GUILDHALL CHAMBERS: COVID-19 POSITION

BUSINESS AS USUAL

This is an unsettling and difficult time for everyone. First and foremost, we want to send our very best wishes to all of our valued clients and friends, and their families.

We also wanted to explain what we are doing in Chambers in order to keep working and sustaining high levels of professional service. We are following the guidance issued by the Government, the NHS, and Public Health England, and we are also keeping the situation and our position under review.

We have made arrangements for home working for members of chambers and staff in order to reduce infection risk. All of our clerks can be contacted in the usual way, either by telephone or email. We will have a small staff team in Chambers each day to deal with any issues that can only be tackled in person.

Each member has easy remote access to a comprehensive digital library and diary, email, and telephone conferencing facilities. We are happy to host telephone conferences or dial into any telephone conference which you might arrange. We would be grateful for your assistance in keeping members and clients out of chambers so far as possible, but we recognise that some matters can only be dealt with by a meeting in person; in those cases please would you contact us to discuss the position and to work out how we can best help. Please contact us if we can help with video conferencing facilities.

We appreciate that some of your teams may be hard hit with staff having to self-isolate or being ill or caring for others. If we can help support your work in ways which you wouldn't usually need to contemplate, then please don't hesitate to contact the clerks to discuss what we can do to help.

It would be of significant assistance to us if as many instructions as possible are sent electronically to Chambers. Similarly, we will ask for BACs payments to individual members where possible to reduce the need for members to collect and pay-in cheques; information will be provided on invoices.

We will keep you informed as to the changing picture around Court hearings as announcements are made. We will work hard to support you, your clients, and one another in managing the new arrangements involved.

You will probably have already seen that we have postponed any planned events (such as seminars or breakfast bites) until the end of May when we will review the situation again. The events page of our website carries further details of this.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

With best wishes to everyone,

Anna Vigars QC
Guildhall Chambers