


## 184th UPDATE – PRACTICE DIRECTION AMENDMENTS

The amendments to PD 51R – Online Civil Money Claims Pilot and PD 51ZB – The Damages Claims Pilot, which supplement the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, are made by the Master of the Rolls under the powers delegated to him by the Lady Chief Justice under Schedule 2, Part 1, paragraph 2(2) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, and are approved by Sarah Sackman KC, Minister of State (Ministry of Justice), by the authority of the Lord Chancellor.

The amendments to the Practice Directions come into force on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Vos', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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The Right Honourable  
Sir Geoffrey Vos  
Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Sackman', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

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Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor:

Sarah Sackman KC

Minister of State

Ministry of Justice

Date: 12 June 2025

## **PRACTICE DIRECTION 51R – ONLINE CIVIL MONEY CLAIMS PILOT**

- 1) In the table of contents, in the entry for section 10A, first column, after “settled” insert “and discontinuance”.

- 2) After paragraph 6.2(8), insert—

“ (Section 10A contains provisions about informing the court of settlement and discontinuance.)”.

- 3) After paragraph 6A.5(4), insert—

“ (Section 10A contains provisions about informing the court of settlement and discontinuance.)”.

- 4) For paragraph 10A.1(1), substitute—

“If the claim has been settled then, subject to sub-paragraph 10A.1(5) below, the claimant must use the OCMC website to tell the court that the claim has been settled, whereupon the proceedings must be stayed. The court must notify the defendant and tell them that they may contact the court, on time, to object.”.

- 5) For paragraph 10A.1(3), substitute—

“If the defendant objects on time, the court must transfer the claim out of Online Civil Money Claims to the “CNBC” (as defined) or where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, to that hearing centre.”.

- 6) After paragraph 10A.1(3) insert—

“(4) A claimant must only notify the court of settlement under this Section if all matters in dispute are settled including who must pay the court fee and who must pay the costs of the proceedings. If there remains a dispute over the amount of costs then an application for an order can be made following the settlement to lift the stay and for the court to make an order to give effect to the settlement so far as it relates to costs.

(Section 16B contains provisions about making applications.)

(5) If a party requires the terms of settlement to be incorporated into an order then (notwithstanding any notification in accordance with sub-paragraph 10A.1 (1) above) the claimant must make an application including the agreed form of order.

(Section 16B contains provisions about making applications.)

### **Discontinuance**

10A.2-(1) Unless sub-paragraph 10A.2(3) below applies then to file notice of discontinuance, the claimant complies with CPR 38.3(1)(a) by filing the notice of discontinuance required by that rule—

- (a) at the CNBC; or
- (b) where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, that hearing centre.

(2) If the claimant files a notice of discontinuance, the claim must be transferred out of Online Civil Money Claims to continue in the CNBC, or where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, to continue in that hearing centre as if it had been started under CPR Part 7.

(3) If—

- (a) all the claimants are discontinuing their claim in full against all defendants; and
- (b) the claimant is legally represented,

the claimant must discontinue their claim by completing the relevant screens on the OCMC website.

(4) A legally represented claimant complies with CPR 38.3 (1) (a) and (b) and (2) and (3) and (5) by completing the relevant screens on the OCMC website.

(5) If the claim is discontinued in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) above, the effective date for the purposes of CPR 38.5 (1) is the date the notification is sent by the court to the defendant in accordance with paragraph 3.1(3) that the claimant has completed the relevant screens in accordance with subparagraph (4) above.

(6) If following discontinuance of the claim either party makes an application then the claim is to be transferred out of Online Civil Money Claims to continue in the CNBC or where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, to continue in that hearing centre as if it had been started under CPR Part 7.”.

#### **PRACTICE DIRECTION 51ZB – THE DAMAGES CLAIMS PILOT**

7) In the table of contents, after the entry for Section 6 insert—

“

SECTION 6A – Informing the court that the claim has been settled and discontinuance	Paragraph 6A.1
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8) After paragraph 6.7(2), insert—

#### **“SECTION 6A – INFORMING THE COURT THAT THE CLAIM HAS BEEN SETTLED AND DISCONTINUANCE**

##### **Informing the court that the claim has been settled**

6A.1-(1) If the claim has been settled then, subject to sub-paragraph 6A.1(5) below, the claimant must use the DCP to tell the court that the claim has been settled, whereupon the proceedings must be stayed. The court must notify the defendant and tell them they may contact the court, on time, to object.

(2) The defendant contacts the court on time if they contact the court within 19 days after notification by the court.

(3) If the defendant objects on time, the court must transfer the claim out of the DCP to the CNBC or where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, to that hearing centre.

(4) A claimant must only notify the court of settlement under this Section if all matters in dispute are settled including who must pay the court fee and who must pay the costs of the proceedings. If there remains a dispute over the amount of costs then an application for an order can be made following the settlement to lift the stay and for the court to make an order to give effect to the settlement so far as it relates to costs.

(5) If a party requires the terms of settlement to be incorporated into an order then (notwithstanding any notification in accordance with sub-paragraph 6A.1 (1) above) the claimant must make an application including the agreed form of order.

### **Discontinuance**

6A.2-(1) Unless sub-paragraph 6A.2(3) applies then to file notice of discontinuance, the claimant complies with CPR 38.3(1)(a) by filing the notice of discontinuance required by that rule—

(a) at the CNBC; or

(b) where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, at that hearing centre.

(2) If the claimant files a notice of discontinuance, the claim must be transferred out of the DCP to continue in the CNBC or where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, to continue in that hearing centre as if it had been started under CPR Part 7.

- (3) If all the claimants are discontinuing their claim in full against all defendants, the claimant must discontinue their claim by completing the relevant screens on the DCP.
- (4) A legally represented claimant complies with CPR 38.3 (1) (a) and (b) and (2) and (3) and (5) by completing the relevant screens on the DCP.
- (5) If the claim is discontinued in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) above, the effective date for the purposes of CPR 38.5 (1) is to be calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph 1.8A(3).
- (6) If following discontinuance of the claim either party makes an application then the claim is to be transferred out of the DCP to continue in the CNBC or where the parties have received an order from a judge or legal adviser at a County Court hearing centre, or have been informed that the claim is to be managed at a County Court hearing centre, to continue in that hearing centre as if it had been started under CPR Part 7.”.