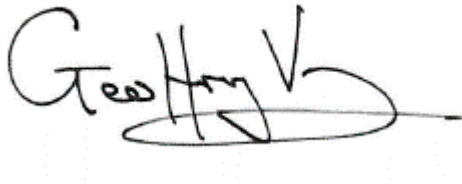


190th UPDATE – PRACTICE DIRECTION AMENDMENTS

The amendments to Practice Direction 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 16 September 2025 at 11.00 am.



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



Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor:

Sarah Sackman KC

Minister of State

Ministry of Justice

Date: 11/09/2025

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51R – ONLINE CIVIL MONEY CLAIMS PILOT

- 1) In paragraph 1.1, omit the definition of “early adopter court”.
- 2) In paragraph 2.1(1), in the closing words, for “1st October 2025” substitute “1st October 2026”.
- 3) In paragraph 6C.1—
 - a. in subparagraph (b)—
 - i. after paragraph (i), insert “and”;
 - ii. omit paragraphs (ii) and (iii);
 - b. in subparagraph (c)—
 - i. in paragraph (ii), omit “otherwise”;
 - ii. after paragraph (ii), insert “and”;
 - iii. omit paragraphs (iii) and (iv).
- 4) For paragraph 10A.2, substitute—

“10A.2(1) In a claim not falling within subparagraph (3), if a claimant wishes to discontinue all or part of their claim, 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 pursuant to subparagraph (1), 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) A claim falls within this subparagraph if—

(a) there are two parties and the claimant wishing to discontinue all or part of their claim is legally represented; or

(b) there are more than two parties, and—

(i) where there are two claimants, each wishes to discontinue their claim against the defendant to the same extent as the other; or

(ii) where there is one claimant, they wish to discontinue their claim against both defendants to the same extent.

(4) Where the claim falls within subparagraph (3)—

(a) the claimant (or each claimant, if there are two) must discontinue all or part of their claim by completing the relevant screens on the OCMC website in order to comply with CPR 38.3(1)(a) and (b), (2), (3) and (5);

(b) the effective date for the purposes of CPR 38.5(1) is the date the notification is sent via the OCMC website to the defendant (or defendants, if there are two) in accordance with paragraph 3.1(3) that the claimant has (or claimants have, if there are two)

completed the relevant screens in accordance with paragraph (a) above.

(5) If the claimant (or both claimants) discontinue all or part of their claim pursuant to subparagraph (4)(a), the claim will continue to remain within the OCMC system until a step can no longer be supported at which point it will be transferred out of the OCMC 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.”.

5) In paragraph 14.4(1)(b), omit the words after “all parties are unrepresented or one of the parties is represented by a legal representative”.

6) For paragraph 18.2 substitute:

“18.2(1) Where a claim has not already been transferred out of Online Civil Money Claims but the court, at any stage, concludes that the claim is not suitable for Online Civil Money Claims, or is no longer suitable for it, or is otherwise not appropriate for it –

(a) the court must transfer the claim out of Online Civil Money Claims, if the reason that the claim is not, or is no longer, suitable or appropriate for the pilot is that a party wishes to take a step in proceedings not catered for by the pilot; or

(b) a judge must transfer the claim out.

(2) When the court transfers a claim out of Online Civil Money Claims under paragraph (1)(a), the court must transfer the claim to the CNBC unless the claim had already been transferred to a County Court hearing centre, in which case the court must transfer the claim out of the pilot to that hearing centre.”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51ZB – THE DAMAGES CLAIMS PILOT

7) For paragraph 6A.2, substitute—

“6A.2(1) In a claim not falling within subparagraph (3), if a claimant wishes to discontinue all or part of their claim, 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 pursuant to subparagraph (1), 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) A claim falls within this subparagraph if—

(a) there are two parties; or

(b) there are more than two parties, and—

(i) where there are two claimants, each wishes to discontinue their claim against the defendant to the same extent as the other; or

(ii) where there is one claimant, they wish to discontinue their claim against both defendants to the same extent.

(4) Where the claim falls within subparagraph (3)—

(a) the claimant (or each claimant, if there are two) must discontinue all or part of their claim by completing the relevant screens on the DCP in order to comply with CPR 38.3(1)(a) and (b), (2), (3) and (5);

(b) the effective date for the purposes of CPR 38.5(1) is the date the notification is sent via the DCP to the defendant (or defendants, if there are two) in accordance with paragraph 1.8A(3) that the claimant has (or claimants have, if there are two) completed the relevant screens in accordance with paragraph (a) above.

(5) If the claimant (or both claimants) discontinue all or part of their claim pursuant to subparagraph (4)(a), the claim will continue to remain within the DCP until a step can no longer be supported at which point it will 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.”.