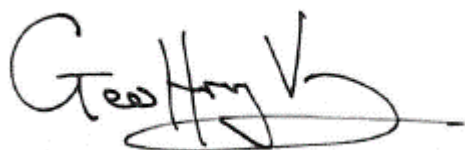


195th UPDATE – PRACTICE DIRECTION AMENDMENTS

The amendments to Practice Direction 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 Direction come into force on 27 May 2026 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: 21 May 2026

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51ZB – THE DAMAGES CLAIMS PILOT

1. In paragraph 1.1 –
 - a. after the definition of “early adopter court” insert –

““interim remedy” means an interim remedy which is contained in the list of interim remedies at CPR rule 25.1(1);” and
 - b. at the end of the definition of “notification longstop date”, for a full stop substitute “.”; and
 - c. after the definition of “notification longstop date” insert –

“Other Remedy” means a claim for an injunction, a declaration or rescission.”.
2. After paragraph 1.4, insert –

“1.4A Where a claim is started under this Practice Direction, Practice Direction 49C is disapplied if it falls within paragraph 3.1(5) (debtor’s or surety’s application for an order relating to an unfair relationship) of that Practice Direction.”.
3. In paragraph 1.6 –
 - a. in sub-paragraph (3) –
 - i. for paragraph (a) substitute –

“(a) the claim is a claim for damages only or a claim for damages together with an Other Remedy;” and
 - ii. after paragraph (bb) insert –

“(bc) an application for an interim remedy is not made either before or at the same time the claim is issued;

(bd) if the claim is for damages together with an Other Remedy, it is not one which is the type of specialist work undertaken by the Business and Property Courts in accordance with paragraph 4.2 of Practice Direction 57AA of the Civil Procedure Rules;”; and

iii. for paragraph (c) substitute –

“(c) the claim is not made under one of the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act 1974 other than a claim pursuant to s140B(2)(a) of the Consumer Credit Act 1974;”.

4. In paragraph 6.6, after sub-paragraph (4), before paragraph (a), insert –

“(aa) the claim includes an Other Remedy and the Claimant does not abandon that claim when requesting judgment; or”.

5. In paragraph 7A.1(10) –

a. at the end of paragraph (d) for a full stop substitute “;”; and

b. after paragraph (d) insert –

“(e) any application for an interim remedy made before the claimant has complied with paragraph 7.1.”.

6. In paragraph 7A.2 –

a. for sub-paragraph (2) substitute –

“(2) Any application made under subparagraph (1) is to be made –

(a) subject to paragraph (b) to the CNBC or, where the parties have received an order from a judge 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; or

(b) to a County Court hearing centre, where the application is for an interim remedy under paragraph 7A.1(10)(e).”; and

b. in sub-paragraph (4) –

i. at the end of paragraph (a) omit “or”; and

ii. in paragraph (b), for “,” substitute “; or”;

c. after paragraph (4)(b) insert –

“(c) an interim remedy under paragraph 7A.1 (10) (e),”.