

146TH UPDATE – PRACTICE DIRECTION AMENDMENTS

The amendments to Practice Direction 51R – The Online Civil Money Claims Pilot, which supplements the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, are made by the Master of the Rolls under the powers delegated to him by the Lord Chief Justice under Schedule 2, Part 1, paragraph 2(2) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, and is approved by James Cartlidge MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice, by the authority of the Lord Chancellor.

The amendments to Practice Direction 51R come into force on 25th May 2022.

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

Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor:

James Cartlidge MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice

Ministry of Justice

Date: 23/05/2022

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51R – THE ONLINE CIVIL MONEY CLAIMS PILOT

1) In paragraph 2.1(3)—

- a) in paragraph (a), for “£10,000 in Sterling” substitute “the amount specified in paragraph 2.1(6)”;

b) for paragraph (d), substitute—

“(d) either—

(i) the claimant will not be getting help with bringing the claim from a “legal representative” (as defined) and the claimant believes that the defendant will not be getting help with defending the claim from a “legal representative”; or

(ii) the claimant and the defendant are each represented by a legal representative;”;

c) for paragraph (f) substitute—

“(f) where—

(i) paragraph 2.1(3)(d)(i) applies, there is only one claimant making the claim, and the claimant informs the court that there is only one defendant; or

(ii) paragraph 2.1(3)(d)(ii) applies, the claim is brought by one claimant against either one or two defendants, or is brought by two claimants against one defendant;”;

d) in paragraph (g), before “the claimant”, insert “if an individual,”; and

e) in paragraph (n)—

i) omit sub-paragraph (i); and

ii) in sub-paragraph (iii) before “is aged 18”, insert “if an individual,”.

2) After paragraph 2.1(5), insert—

“2.1(6) The amount specified is—

(a) £10,000 if paragraph 2.1(3)(d)(i) applies; or

(b) £25,000 if paragraph 2.1(3)(d)(ii) applies.”.

3) In paragraph 5.2—

- a) in sub-paragraph (1), after “This paragraph applies where”, insert “the defendant is not legally represented and”; and
- b) after paragraph 5.2, insert—

“Represented defendant to complete directions questionnaire online

5.3

(1) This paragraph, and paragraph 5.4, only apply where the defendant is legally represented and the defendant wishes to defend the whole of the claim.

(2) The defendant must submit the directions questionnaire by completing the relevant screens, and selecting the “submit response” button, on the OCMC website.

(3) The defendant’s response must include the information required by CPR 16.5.

Initial case management

5.4 Paragraphs 7.1 to 7.4 of Practice Direction 51ZB shall apply, as if references to “the DCP” were references to “the OCMC website”.

Represented defendant indicates that they admit the claim in whole or part or admit part and defend the rest of the claim

5.5 Where the defendant is legally represented and indicates electronically that they wish to admit the whole or part of the claim, or admit part and defend the rest of the claim, the court must—

- (a) notify the claimant; and
- (b) transfer the claim out of OCMC to the CTSC.”.