

185th 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 18 July 2025.



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: 16/07/2025

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51R – ONLINE CIVIL MONEY CLAIMS PILOT

- 1) In the table of contents, after the entry for “Payment of court fees” and before the entry for “SECTION 3 – Court to keep the parties updated on the progress of the proceedings”, insert—

“

SECTION 2B – Fixed Costs	Paragraph 2B.1
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”

- 2) In paragraph 1.1, in the definition of “early adopter court”, for “HCMTS Reform Civil Fact Sheet which can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/hmcts-reform-civil-fact-sheets” substitute “MyHMCTS Civil Money Claims user guidance which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/myhmcts-how-to-issue-and-manage-a-money-claim-online/manage-an-online-money-claim-as-a-legal-professional#early-adopter-courts>”.
- 3) In paragraph 2.1(1), for “1st October 2025” substitute “1st October 2026”.
- 4) After section 2A, insert—

“SECTION 2B – Fixed Costs

2B.1 (1) References in this Section to –

- (a) “fixed commencement costs” means the commencement costs calculated by reference to the amount of the claim in accordance with Table 2 of CPR Practice Direction 45;
- (b) judgment on an admission means judgment entered under paragraphs 7.4, 7.7, 7.40 and 7.41B;
- (c) judgment in default means judgment entered pursuant to Section 11;
- (d) a “Table” means a table in CPR Practice Direction 45.

(2) This Section applies where –

- (a) judgment is entered in default or on an admission;
- (b) the value of the claim exceeds £25; and
- (c) the claim form includes a claim for fixed commencement costs.

(3) Unless the court orders otherwise, the only costs allowed for the claimant's legal representative's charges and included in the judgment are the fixed commencement costs and—

- (a) where judgment in default is entered, the relevant amount shown in Table 3 in the circumstances specified where judgment is entered in default of an acknowledgment of service under Civil Procedure Rule 12.4 (1); or
- (b) where judgment on an admission is entered, the relevant amount shown in Table 3 in the circumstances specified where judgment is entered under Civil Procedure Rule 14.2 (5) (judgment on an admission of the whole or part of a claim for a specified sum) where the claimant accepts the defendant's proposal as to the manner of payment.

2B.2 Where the defendant pays the money claimed within 28 days from the date of issue of the claim together with the court fee and, where the claimant is legally represented, fixed commencement costs included in the claim form, the defendant is not liable for any further costs unless the court orders otherwise.”.

5) In paragraph 7.4(6)—

- a. in sub-paragraph (c) for “fixed costs where the claimant is represented by a legal representative” substitute “any fixed costs that the claimant is entitled to in accordance with Section 2B”;
- b. in the closing words contained within brackets, after “court fees” insert “and fixed costs”.

6) In paragraph 7.7(3)—

- a. in sub-paragraph (c) for “fixed costs where the claimant is represented by a legal representative” substitute “any fixed costs that the claimant is entitled to in accordance with Section 2B”;
- b. in the closing words contained within brackets, after “court fees” insert “or fixed costs”.

7) In paragraph 7.40(8)—

- a. in sub-paragraph (c) for “fixed costs where the claimant is represented by a legal representative” substitute “any fixed costs that the claimant is entitled to in accordance with Section 2B”;
- b. in the closing words contained within brackets, after “court fees” insert “or fixed costs”.

8) In paragraph 7.41B(3)—

- a. in sub-paragraph (c) for “fixed costs where the claimant is represented by a legal representative” substitute “any fixed costs that the claimant is entitled to in accordance with Section 2B”;
- b. in the closing words contained within brackets, after “court fees” insert “or fixed costs”.

9) In paragraph 11.1(7)—

- a. in sub-paragraph (c) after “court fees” insert “and any fixed costs that the claimant is entitled to in accordance with Section 2B”;
- b. in the closing words contained within brackets, after “court fees” insert “or fixed costs”.

10) In paragraph 11.1A(1), for “paid the amount owed in full (including any claim for court fees and interest)” substitute “satisfied the whole claim including any claim for costs”.

11) In paragraph 11.1B(7) in sub-paragraph (c) for “or any other costs” substitute “and any fixed costs that the claimant is entitled to in accordance with Section 2B”.

12) After paragraph 11.1B(7) but before paragraph 11.1B(8), insert—

“

(If a claimant wants to claim any costs other than court fees or fixed costs, for example the costs of paying for expert evidence, the claimant would have to make an application. Section 16B contains provisions about making applications.)”.

13) In paragraph 16B.1(10), after sub-paragraph (b), insert—

“(ba) any application for the determination of the amount of costs or disbursements under Civil Procedure Rule 45.64 (determination where all parties agree on all issues except costs);”.

14) In paragraph 16B.2(2)—

- a. after “handled”, for “, which” substitute “. The directions”;
- b. after “may include”, insert “a direction”;
- c. after “Online Civil Money Claims”, insert “, unless the application is an application for the determination of costs or disbursements under Civil Procedure Rule 45.64, in which the case the directions must include that the claim be sent out of Online Civil Money Claims”.

PRACTICE DIRECTION 51ZB – THE DAMAGES CLAIMS PILOT

15) In paragraph 1.3, for “1st October 2025” substitute “1st October 2026”.