

# THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS AND THE FAIR EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL

## PRESIDENTIAL GUIDANCE ISSUED UNDER RULE 8 OF SCHEDULE 1 OF THE INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS AND FAIR EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL (CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2020

Having regard to the need to limit the scope of any risks to health during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and the need to maintain the administration of justice, the President issues the following guidance.

1. Preliminary Hearings to make case management orders to ensure that cases are fully prepared for hearing, will continue to take place. They will all be conducted by telephone conference.
2. All Final Hearings and Preliminary Hearings to determine matters such as jurisdictional issues or whether a deposit order should be made, which have already been listed up *to 1 May 2020*, will be postponed. The relisting of those hearings will be subject to further direction.
3. No Final Hearings or further Preliminary Hearings to determine matters such as jurisdictional issues or whether a deposit order should be made, will be listed *before 1 May 2020*.
4. All Final Hearings and Preliminary Hearings to determine matters such as jurisdictional issues or whether a deposit order should be made which have already been listed *from 1 May 2020* onwards will be subject to further direction.
5. Where possible, claim forms and response forms and other correspondence should be submitted to the Tribunal Office electronically.
6. The Tribunal Office will remain open and the Industrial and Fair Employment Tribunals will continue to function.
7. All the above guidance is subject to a continuing review in light of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.



**President: Eileen McBride CBE**

**20 March 2020**