

Colleagues

I have been advised by the Sheriff principal that there is more availability for restart applications to be processed. You were asked previously to take a responsible and considered approach and I like you did not consider there were cases that needed to trouble the court whilst they struggled with the backlog and processing of urgent business

You are now actively encouraged to consider using the re-start applications process for any civil business which could be dealt with remotely. The clerks have been asked to contact those agents who had Debates pending before the Court as Debates can generally be managed remotely without difficulty.

In relation to Proofs pending before the Court I have also been asked for you to consider whether there is any prospect of any of those being managed remotely.

It requires some innovation of course however, if there are cases which can be dealt with remotely we are being encouraged to get in touch with the clerks and identify them by using the re-start application process.

The re-start applications process allows the clerk and the sheriff to deal with such applications remotely. At the moment, owing to Government restrictions the courts can only deal with urgent and necessary court hearings. The civil re-start process allows the court to be more creative and to use staff who are confined to being at home.

I trust that you can now use this process more than has been done to date to move on cases that can be dealt with remotely or for cases that have settled in the meantime

Regards

Mark O'Hanlon

Dean