



COSTS CONFERENCE

13 July 2022

Mary Ward House, 5-7 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SN

9:40-9:55am	ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION
10:00-10:15am	WELCOME AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS Lord Justice Colin Birss, Deputy Head of Civil Justice Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls
10:15-11:10am	PRE-ACTION COSTS AND DIGITISATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What are the implications for costs associated with civil justice of the digitisation of dispute resolution?</i>• <i>What is the impact on costs of pre-action protocols and portals?</i>• <i>Is there a need to reform the processes of assessing costs when a claim settles before issue, including both solicitor own client costs, and party and party costs?</i>• <i>What purpose(s) does the current distinction between contentious business and non-contentious business serve? Should it be retained?</i> Chair: His Honour Judge Nigel Bird, Designated Civil Judge for Manchester
11:10-11:25am	Break
11:30am-12:25pm	COSTS BUDGETING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Is costs budgeting useful?</i>• <i>What if any changes should be made to the existing costs budgeting regime?</i>• <i>Should costs budgeting be abandoned?</i>• <i>If costs budgeting is retained, should it be on a "default on" or "default off" basis?</i>• <i>For cases that continue within the costs budgeting regime, are there any high-level changes to the procedural requirements or general approach that should be made?</i> Chair: Master Francesca Kaye, Chancery Master
12:25-1:05pm	Lunch

1:10-2:05pm	<p>GUIDELINE HOURLY RATES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is or should be the purpose of GHRs?</i> • <i>Do or should GHRs have a broader role than their current role as a starting point in costs assessments?</i> • <i>What would be the wider impact of abandoning GHRs?</i> • <i>Should GHRs be adjusted over time and if so how?</i> • <i>Are there alternatives to the current GHR methodology?</i> <p>Chairs: Senior Costs Judge Andrew Gordon-Saker & District Judge Judy Gibson</p>
2:05-2:20pm	Break
2:25-2:55pm	<p>CONSEQUENCES OF THE EXTENSION OF FIXED RECOVERABLE COSTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To the extent you have not already commented on this point, what impact do the changes to fixed recoverable costs have on the issues raised above?</i> • <i>Are there any other costs issues arising from the extension of fixed recoverable costs, including any other areas in which some form of fixed costs or cost capping scheme may be worthy of consideration?</i> • <i>Should an extended form of costs capping arrangement be introduced for particular specialist areas (such as patent cases or the Shorter Trials Scheme more generally)?</i> <p>Chair: Master Amanda Stevens, Queen's Bench Master</p>
3:00-3:30pm	<p>IMPACT OF CIVIL COSTS CHANGES TO OTHER PARTS OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM</p> <p>Chair: Lord Justice Colin Birss</p>
3:35-4:00pm	WRAP UP AND CLOSING REMARKS