

## **WORKING ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

For the past few years, I have accepted only electronic briefs and have had the systems in place to be able to work remotely. As a result, working from home is the same for me as working in Chambers. Nothing has changed in this respect, and I continue to accept electronic briefs and documents, which can be delivered to me by email, Dropbox, Sharefile or your preferred remote file-sharing platform.

I continue to work both from home and in Chambers, depending upon the particular requirements of the day. Regardless of where I am, telephone calls can continue to be made to me in Chambers, where the Greenway Chambers front of house staff will answer them and, if necessary, transfer them to my mobile telephone.

Because of the public health crisis caused by Covid-19 and associated physical-distancing requirements, face-to-face conferences are not preferred at this time. As an alternative, I can offer telephone conferences or AVL conferencing via Starleaf. Starleaf, unlike other widely-available free videoconferencing platforms, is not only highly reliable, but also secure. You can learn more about Starleaf here: <https://www.starleaf.com/products/starleaf-platform/>. You do not need to subscribe to Starleaf for us to be able to use it. If a face-to-face conference is nonetheless thought to be necessary, this can, of course, be accommodated.

I continue to be guided by Government advice and Court directions in relation to in-person court appearances. Many hearings continue to be conducted virtually, by AVL or telephone link. I have participated in many virtual hearings, where I also received remote instructions from my instructing solicitor. My experience is that these hearings are capable of being run efficiently and effectively. More recently, depending on the requirements of each case and the current level of Government restrictions, some Courts have been reverting to limited in-person appearances.

We will continue to have to adapt to a changing work environment for at least the foreseeable future. I wish you, your firms and your families well during this time and look forward to continuing to work with you.

**J. P. Knackstredt**  
**Greenway Chambers**  
**1 February 2021**