

# Statement from the Lord Chancellor on the resumption of jury trials

A well-functioning justice system with the Rule of Law at its heart is one of the hallmarks of a healthy democracy like ours. Throughout the coronavirus outbreak court staff and the judiciary have worked incredibly hard to uphold the delivery of justice. This is not least to ensure the safety of those who most need our courts – among others the vulnerable women and men protected by Domestic Abuse Protection Orders and children removed from dangerous situations through Child Protection Orders.

Keeping these vital services running has necessarily meant huge changes to ways of working right across the wider courts and tribunals system, including a significant increase in the take-up of remote technology.

Despite the considerable challenges, many thousands of hearings across all jurisdictions were heard over the last month.

Around 90% of those hearings utilised audio and video equipment by the end of April and 159 priority courts and tribunals have remained open for physical hearings. This was achieved at locations from Tyneside to Truro and Cardiff to Kent by following strict public safety advice, but to date has not included jury trials.

I am pleased that the courts are now in a position, with approval from Public Health England and Public Health Wales, to take some first steps towards the resumption of jury trials. A limited number of trials will take place, conducted safely and observing social distancing rules, at courts including the Old Bailey in London and at Cardiff Crown Court. These will also help us to understand how it might be possible to conduct trials more widely as the situation with coronavirus develops.

Any person who plays a part in a criminal trial – including victims, witnesses, jurors, and legal professionals – is making a huge contribution to society that is rightly recognised as an essential reason to leave their home. They have our gratitude and they deserve our protection – and measures are being put in place to support everyone who comes to court, in whatever capacity, to do so without putting themselves at unnecessary risk.

I am extremely grateful to the Lord Chief Justice, the wider judiciary, legal professions, court staff and colleagues from across the Criminal Justice System for their determination and resolve in the discussions to get us to this point. Coming together in that spirit of collaboration will ensure that justice can continue to be done in a way that is safe for all court users.

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# Matthew Salter is the new UK trade attaché to Israel

World news story

Mr Matthew Salter has been appointed UK's trade attaché to Israel in succession to Mr Barry Grossman OBE, who has recently retired. Mr Salter took up his appointment in February 2020.



Matthew began his career as an economist at the UK Finance Ministry (HM Treasury) in London, working in the European policy and trade teams, before being seconded to the European Commission in Brussels. On moving to Israel in 2003, Matthew worked for the Bank of Israel in Jerusalem where he was head of Dollar investments and also served as the Bank's Chief Representative in New York for 2 years.

Before joining the British Embassy, Matthew had spent the previous 8 years working in an independent global consulting and training role at the world's leading investment banks (Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, etc), hedge funds and private equity companies.

Matthew holds an MSc. in Economics from UCL, London and is President of CFA Society Israel.

On his appointment, Mr Salter has said:

I am excited to be taking up this position at a time when UK-Israel trade is on an all-time high, and keen to keep raising the bar even higher, strengthening our ties.

The UK will continue to be Israel's number 1 trade partner in Europe, and I am positive the bilateral trade and overall relations will keep growing deeper and stronger as the UK reshapes its trade relations worldwide.

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## [Residentiary Canonry of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Oxford: 11 May 2020](#)

Press release

Queen approves appointment of The Reverend Richard Charles Peers to a Residentiary Canonry of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Oxford.



The Queen has approved The Reverend Richard Charles Peers, Director of Education in the Liverpool Diocese, be appointed to a Residentiary Canonry of the Cathedral Church of Christ, Oxford, in succession to the Reverend Canon

Doctor Edmund James Newey following his appointment as Rector of Rugby.

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## Issues with some of our services

News story

We are investigating as a matter of urgency.



We are currently experiencing issues with some of our services. They are:

- Business e-services portal
- Business Gateway
- MapSearch
- Local Land Charges (search function on e-services)
- Find a property
- Property Alert

Login pages for the services may remain available. However, any further activity beyond this may be unsuccessful.

These issues are being investigated as a matter of urgency.

We apologise for any inconvenience and would like to assure you that we are doing everything possible to get the services running as soon as possible.

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