



# HM Courts & Tribunals Service

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**Dear Sir / Madam**

## **Re: Contested Financial Remedy Applications**

We are writing to inform you of some updates to the Contested Financial Remedy service on MyHMCTS.

### **Expansion of the digital scheme**

You can now issue and manage your application online if the applicant's local court falls under one of the following Financial Remedy Centre (FRC) areas:

- East Midlands (Nottingham)
- London (Central Family Court)
- Cheshire & Merseyside (Liverpool)
- Greater Manchester (Manchester)
- Kent, Surrey & Sussex (Medway)
- Thames Valley (Oxford)
- Norfolk, Essex, Sussex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire (NES/BCH – Peterborough)
- Humber & South Yorkshire (Sheffield)
- North & West Yorkshire (Leeds)
- Cleveland, Durham & Northumbria (Newcastle)
- Mid & West Wales (Swansea)
- South & East Wales (Newport)
- North Wales (Wrexham)
- West Midlands (Birmingham)
- Bristol & North Somerset (Bristol)
- Devon & Cornwall (Plymouth)

From 21 June 2021, you will be able to issue applications at

- Lancashire & Cumbria (Preston)
- Dorset & Hampshire (Bournemouth)



## Scope of the scheme

Applications issued online must meet the scope of the pilot which means they must:

- be in relation to divorce proceedings
- not include an element of maintenance pending suit, or a request for a freezing order / injunction
- not require personal service on the respondent
- not require translation into the Welsh Language

The issue fee must be paid online via Payment by Account (PBA) or with a valid Help with Fees (HWF) application.

The application must be lodged at the FRC closest to the applicant's home court (regardless of where the divorce petition was issued).

Once your application has been issued, you will be able to share it with colleagues in your organisation. You will receive automated notifications as the case progresses, meaning you no longer need to contact the courts for updates. Orders made on the case will be accessible online.

When you have lodged your application, it will be managed online from start to end. This means that solicitors for the applicant and the respondent (if they are signed up to MyHMCTS) should lodge evidence in support of the case directly onto the portal (including Form Es and trial bundles). Evidence can be shared or hidden from the other represented party. MyHMCTS also allows you to upload draft orders following hearings, create general applications, and lodge consent orders to settle the case. Please note that old cases will not be retrospectively added to MyHMCTS for contested Financial Remedy applications.

If the respondent solicitor has not signed up to MyHMCTS the relevant papers will be sent to them by the court.

## Guidance

We strongly encourage all solicitor firms to sign up to MyHMCTS so that cases can be progressed online. To sign up to MyHMCTS and submit cases online firms should:

- check they do not already have an account on MyHMCTS (for example through a probate team)
- follow the guidance to [set up a Payment by Account](#)
- follow the [guidance to set up an account on MyHMCTS](#)



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- read the [guidance for applicant solicitors](#) or [respondent solicitors](#) for help to submit cases
- check the [list of FRCs at regional family courts](#) to confirm the closest centre to the applicants home court.

We thank you for your support and co-operation. Any feedback regarding these changes is welcomed and can be provided via email to the Financial Remedy Team at: [HMCTSFinancialRemedy@Justice.gov.uk](mailto:HMCTSFinancialRemedy@Justice.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely

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