



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

COMMERCIAL COURT & ADMIRALTY COURT

PRACTICE NOTE: TRIAL LISTING

From January 2022, the practice in the Commercial Court and the Admiralty Court of listing trials with a first sitting day at the beginning of a working week and allocated pre-reading time in the previous working week(s), will be discontinued. Trials will be fixed on the basis of a single estimate inclusive of reading time (X days/weeks, including reading time), typically commencing at the beginning of a working week.

It will be a matter for PTRs, or pre-trial correspondence if there is no PTR, to consider how the trial, including reading time, is organised. If the decision at that stage is for there to be initial reading time prior to any first sitting day, that initial reading time will be taken on (or start from) the listed first day of trial, not before.

Therefore, at CMCs from January 2022, generally the court will discuss with the parties and direct a single trial estimate, inclusive of reading time, rather than specifying separately an estimate for the trial and an estimate for pre-reading.

As will be reflected in the 11th Edition of the Commercial Court Guide when it is issued in January 2022, the start of a trial (for the purposes of the timing of various final pre-trial steps) will be either (a) the listed first day of trial for trials listed under the new practice described above, or (b) the (first) day of allocated pre-reading time for trials listed under the previous practice.

Mrs Justice Cockerill, DBE
Judge in Charge of the Commercial Court

Mr Justice Andrew Baker
The Admiralty Judge

16 December 2021