

JPC

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR COMPLYING WITH PROCEDURAL TIME LIMITS: New Practice Direction in force from 2nd April 2020

The Master of the Rolls and the Lord Chancellor have signed a new Practice Direction 51ZA, which can be found here: -

<https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil/rules/practice-direction-51za-extension-of-time-limits-and-clarification-of-practice-direction-51y-coronavirus>

The Practice Direction is in force from 2nd April 2020 and will last until **30 October 2020**.

The main impact is that it allows parties to agree an extension of time for complying with procedural time limits in the CPR, Practice Directions and court orders of up to **56 days** (rather than the current 28 days), so long as a hearing date is not put at risk.

Any extension of time beyond 56 days must be agreed by the Court. When considering such an application for permission, as well as applications for adjournments or relief from sanctions, the Court is required to consider the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

If you require any advice or assistance in dealing with the issues we have outlined above please contact Catherine Burgess by email cburgess@jpclaw.co.uk or telephone on 020 7644 7283.