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Subject: (Defendant Voice Engagement Panel) HMCTS Internal Guidance - COVID 19

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Good afternoon everyone,

I hope you are keeping safe and warm – there has been some sleet in Hertfordshire today!

I am getting in touch to share with you the internal guidance written by HMCTS on the use of video hearings in response to COVID-19 and how Tribunals are responding to the pandemic.

As you will be aware, the use of video hearings has risen exponentially in the last few weeks due to the need for users, staff and Judiciary to self isolate and now because of the lockdown. This internal guidance aims to provide information to staff on how to best utilise video hearings. Tribunals, and other jurisdictions, will be using this mechanism to continue with cases as well as making other changes to the way they operate. We are aiming to have guidance from all the jurisdictions in due course, myself or a colleague will post a message to say when we have received more documents.

We are sharing this guidance with you for two reasons. Firstly, we hope that they will prove informative and help you shape your services in response to the rise in video hearings and the changes in operations. We would also like to ask you to provide feedback to help us make them as helpful and correct as possible.

This guidance is likely to change frequently, so please do keep checking back to see the latest updates.

Please find the documents for video hearings
here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=13dtmt1q-lhBJlgBfXbevgafghJa1E7f>

Please find the documents for Tribunals
here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=1oue7_Vkxca_T40X8EgQ_u1ATaUfjDMti

If you would like to give feedback, you can respond directly to this message in Basecamp or email me at Katrina.Hollis2@justice.gov.uk.