

DIRECTION NO. 1 OF 2024
GIVEN UNDER MAGISTRATES' COURTS AND COUNTY COURT APPEALS
(CRIMINAL LEGAL AID) (COSTS) RULES (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2009
REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PILOT TO FAST TRACK SERIOUS
SEXUAL OFFENCE CASES INVOLVING CHILDREN AGED UNDER 16 YEARS IN
ALL COURT DIVISIONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

1. This Direction is issued to the Legal Services Agency Northern Ireland (“the Agency”) under rule 5(1) of the Magistrates’ Courts and County Court Appeals (Criminal Legal Aid) (Costs) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2009 (“the 2009 Rules”).
2. The Direction applies only to claims for costs for cases identified as falling within the pilot to fast track serious sexual offence cases involving children under 16 years in all Court Divisions in Northern Ireland, commencing 29 April 2024. It is without prejudice to and is to have no impact or bearing upon any future or developing remuneration arrangements regarding committal reform and the introduction of direct transfer.
3. It is intended that cases identified as falling within the pilot will be ‘directly transferred’ to the Crown Court using the notice of transfer procedure under Article 4 of the Children’s Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and will therefore bypass committal in the magistrates’ court.
4. For cases falling within the pilot, the Department of Justice intends that work done under a criminal aid certificate under Article 28 of the Legal Aid, Advice and Assistance (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 should be remunerated as per the Committal Fee found in Table 1, following paragraph 9 of Schedule 1 to the 2009 Rules. Paragraph 3(6) of Schedule 1 to the 2009 Rules shall apply with the necessary modifications to the fees payable to cases which were directly transferred to the Crown Court under Article 4 of the Children’s Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. Provision for additional fees under paragraphs 8 and 8B of Schedule 1 to the 2009 Rules shall apply in the normal manner.



Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Mánnystrie O tha Laa

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MINISTER OF JUSTICE
Date: 29 April 2024