

1 December 2020

The Hon Peter Quinlan
Chief Justice of Western Australia
Chief Justice's Chambers
Supreme Court of Western Australia
Level 14, David Malcolm Justice Centre
28 Barrack Street
PERTH WA 6000

By email: chief.justice.chambers@justice.wa.gov.au

Dear Chief Justice

CONTINUING COVID-19 PROCEDURES

There has been some discussion in the profession as to whether any of the procedures adopted by necessity during the COVID-19 shutdowns would be of value in the longer term.

The Law Society of Western Australia's view in relation to civil matters is that remote hearing procedures, whether by telephone or video, are of value in routine directions hearings or listing conferences where there will be no substantive argument and where all parties consent to appear remotely.

The Society did not reach consensus on whether remote hearings were desirable where a hearing would involve substantive argument, or if one party objected to a remote hearing.

One reason for this was continuing connection issues experienced in the Supreme and District Courts. It was suggested that Microsoft Teams may improve some of these issues.

The Law Society would be grateful if the Court's policy on remote hearings could be set out in a practice direction.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss the above further, please contact Mary Woodford, General Manager Advocacy on 9324 8646 or mwoodford@lawsocietywa.asn.au

Yours sincerely



Nicholas van Hattem
President