

Resumption of Court Proceedings at Lands Tribunal

Details of the resumption of court proceedings at Lands Tribunal (“LandsT”) starting from 4 May 2020 are set out below.

2. In line with usual practice, parties will be separately notified of any change in the date and other arrangement of the hearing of their cases, regardless of whether the hearing has been affected by the General Adjourned Period (“GAP”).

3. Civil proceedings in the Lands Tribunal (“LandsT”)

(a) Proceedings listed for hearing in the LandsT in the month of May 2020

- (i) Unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer/member of the LandsT (“JJO”), the court will give 7-day lead time to hearings involve interlocutory and substantive applications (not involving oral evidence) and 14-day lead time to trials listed in the above periods;
- (ii) The above lead time policy does not apply to cases that are ready to proceed and the presiding JJO has given direction for the hearing to proceed as scheduled;
- (iii) If, notwithstanding the above lead time policy, a party is not ready to proceed with the hearing of the case, he/she should apply as soon as practicable to the presiding JJO for an adjournment. Unless otherwise directed, the application will be processed on the papers; and

- (iv) Notwithstanding the gradual re-opening of the court registries starting from 6 May 2020, JJOs may continue to give special directions on the filing and lodging of documents for cases listed to be heard in this period.

(b) For proceedings, including trials, listed for hearing in the LandsT in June 2020

- (i) They will proceed as scheduled unless directed otherwise; and
- (ii) Any party who is not ready to proceed with the hearing of the case shall apply as soon as practicable to the presiding JJO for an adjournment. Unless otherwise directed, the application will be processed on the papers.

(c) Alternative modes of hearing

In view of the need to reduce oral hearings in court buildings due to public health considerations, in appropriate cases, JJOs may give directions for the case to be determined on the papers, or heard by the use of VCF. Directions for alternative mode of hearing will be communicated to the parties in good time. In the absence of such directions, oral hearings will take place with the parties or their legal representatives present in court.

(d) Lodging of documents through dedicated email accounts and e-Lodgement Platform

- (i) Parties and legal representatives may lodge written submissions, authorities, hearing bundles and other documents as directed by JJOs to the LandsT through the e-Lodgement Platform; and

- (ii) Documents to facilitate paper disposal in the LandsT may as directed by the presiding JJO be sent to the dedicated one-way "no-reply" email account, which will be open until further notice : ltr@judiciary.hk.

Judiciary Administration
29 April 2020