

London Magistrates' Courts

Maintaining Justice – adjusted Court Operations during Covid19

Enhanced safety measures introduced

This paper is issued by HMCTS in consultation with the judiciary.

January 2021

The business of justice is anything but usual in these times. London magistrates' courts are busy places involving a wide range of people and organisations working together to ensure the public is served to the highest possible standards.

Enormous credit is paid to all those participating in court proceedings in coming together to ensure justice can keep going during the pandemic. This collective effort has been vital to maintaining fundamental principles important to all and in helping to protect the most vulnerable people in society. The pandemic continues to cause tragedy across the Capital, but we have together fought against its influence on denying people justice.

Recent statements from the [Lord Chief Justice](#), Lord Chancellor and [Acting Chief Executive of HMCTS](#) all describe the essential nature of justice and how courts can continue to operate safely in serving the public.

Justice is essential but it has been impossible to operate 'business as usual' because we, rightly, have to put safety first. Throughout the pandemic, we have been running courts in London with significant adjustments to listing patterns and workloads with the aim of managing footfall and keeping all court users safe, whilst still delivering justice.

Courts & tribunals across England & Wales, including the London region, remain COVID-secure and Public Health experts have confirmed that the [measures we've taken](#) to protect court users against coronavirus continue to be sufficient against the new variant of the virus.

We follow all Public Health and Government COVID-secure [guidelines](#) and keep this under constant review through our risk assessment process – when Government or Public Health guidance changes, our measures are updated; an approach which is endorsed by Public Health England and Public Health Wales.

This paper sets out in detail the additional measures being introduced from this week across London magistrates' courts in response to the developing situation and the obvious concerns we all have about the increased presence and transmissibility of the virus. We understand the anxieties that the new variants of the virus have caused and the strength of feeling about the current situation. Whilst the arrangements we already have in place continue to meet the strict standards of guidance set by the Government and Public Health, these further measures are taken with the aim of building confidence amongst court users, and providing you with reassurance that it continues to be safe to attend our courts.

Background - London Listing Recovery Plans

London Magistrates' Courts have worked closely alongside criminal justice partners in re-building operations following the lockdown from March 2020. The Recovery plan incrementally re-introduced court lists with priority given to the most serious and important criminal cases. Starting with trials, often involving domestic abuse allegations and other violent offences, the Recovery plan

quickly restored all categories of cases which had been delayed. The importance of justice in society is unquestionable. However, the restoration of operations was, at all times, designed with safety of court users, staff and the Judiciary as the first consideration. All buildings were subject to detailed HMCTS risk assessments to ensure social distancing could be maintained throughout the building and in courtrooms. Caseload levels were adjusted with reduced numbers of cases and staggered appearance times to spread footfall. Additional waiting facilities were provided, with clear signage and barriers to enforce social distancing. Only courtrooms which supported 2m social distancing have been used. Additional cleaning, ventilation and sanitising have been provided with encouragement for those attending courts to wear face coverings throughout the pandemic. Significantly, we rapidly introduced advanced technological changes to enable videolinked hearings, reducing footfall and travel of those appearing in court.

Like many public services and private organisations, HMCTS faces challenges in these unprecedented times. Our policies on the arrangements put in place, as approved by public health experts, are sufficient for dealing with the challenges provided by the new variant of the virus. Public Health England guidelines are closely applied, and we continue to receive validation that our practices meet the required standards to minimise transmission of the virus.

We are working round the clock to remain on top of the significant additional burden on services, adapting at pace to the ever-changing situation, adjusting our listing and plans responsively. With every possible effort made for the highest standards, we accept we cannot get everything right every day. Magistrate court operations are inherently high volume, short-notice and variable. We plan for reduced footfall but there is constant work required to keep ahead of people management.

This operational profile is why we insist on high standards of compliance from those using our services and buildings. We require people to demonstrate their personal responsibilities for rigorous adherence to the measures put in place to protect themselves and others. We acknowledge that these behavioural changes are challenging and that constant vigilance is needed by all, including our staff, contractors and the judiciary.

HMCTS always values the feedback from those using its services. We are a learning organisation. We recognise that with the increased rates of transmission, despite the repeated assurances that our courts are demonstrably safe, public attitudes are shifting and understandably people are anxious about coming to court. We have strong partnership relations with all agencies and value your feedback which enables us to respond to issues promptly. This week, we have announced new [escalation routes for professional users](#), clearly signposting routes to address any concerns about experiences at courts so that prompt action is taken to address agreed concerns.

Enhancing court safety

Our message remains unchanged. Provided people rigorously follow the expected measures for social distancing, sanitising and face covering, (which we will continue to support and enforce) there should be no grounds for concern. We are tightening control of compliance issues as reported to us.

From the evidence amassed via management checks, internal spot checks, external audits and from public health and regulatory visits, we are confident both that our approach to risk assessment is fit for purpose, and that our policies and processes are embedded effectively across our national estate. There are inevitably isolated examples where standards have not been met in a particular location at a particular time and we are very far from complacent. We always act on suggestions for improvements, and regularly and routinely review standards and implementation.

We acknowledge and respect people have a range of emotions and responses to the pandemic. How our court users, staff and judiciary feel about their safety is very important to us.

Therefore, having taken the opportunity to conduct a detail review of responses, in full consultation with the Judiciary, we will be introducing additional measures to respond to the emerging situation.

Listing is a judicial function and responsibility. HMCTS works in close partnership with the judiciary in the provision of court services.

All measures will be kept under close and constant review but, in accordance with the position stated by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Chancellor and our CEO, we are clear that it remains safe to attend court buildings in London which will remain open with the revised listing operations in place designed to protect everyone. This is a reduced and safe service.

London Magistrates' Courts - Additional Measures to guard against Covid19

Professional Court User dialogue

We continue to seek the contributions of key justice partners through our **Magistrates' Court Hearing Working Group**, which provides an important platform for prosecutors, defence, probation, prisons etc to discuss issues directly with the Regional leadership Judiciary and HMCTS Senior management. Over the course of the pandemic the contributions to this group have been instrumental in developing our collective response. We encourage all to continue to use this group and other local engagement forums to discuss issues and provide feedback on our performance. We want to talk about issues regularly so that we can respond quickly and decisively where needed.

Adjusted listing

The **Annex** provides detailed measures we have been and are now taking in response to the pandemic. They describe a framework of consistent approaches across London but recognise that local discretion and judicial decisions will be needed and taken in response to the particular circumstances in court buildings or certain days of the week.

We recognise at this time that many court users are not attending court having contracted the virus or symptoms and as a result the footfall in courts is already reduced as a consequence of non-attendances. However, we are taking positive decisions with the judiciary to reduce listing as needed.

In summary the framework provides that:

- **GAP and NGAP loadings are reduced ensuring safe footfall levels**
- **Trials are single listed in PM sessions and cases reviewed in advance to ensure safe levels of footfall on the hearing date**
- **Lists have staggered arrival times which will be enforced**
- **Saturday bulk lists reduce footfall during the week**
- **Additional remand courts run to spread caseload across the estate**
- **Increased CVP capacity covering ALL GAP, NGAP, Sentencing and remand courts**

Whilst national policy will ensure consistent standards, local decisions will be responsive to local facilities. Court list reductions will be proportionate to the local need. In times of obvious anxiety, evidence-based decisions have been made and will be continually reviewed to address the real needs 'on the ground'. Keeping people confident about their safety with the least intervention to listing essential and priority cases.

Reducing footfall – listing

Decisions will be made to prioritise listing and ensure reduced caseloads comply with the agreed Listing framework, this ensuring reduced footfall in courtrooms and public spaces is actively managed.

Trial court loadings will be reduced so that afternoon lower priority backup trials are vacated and re-listed into future dates. Active and early case management is expected by the Criminal Procedure

Rules and we will continue to monitor trial readiness, adjusting trial listing to ensure cases proceed with safe levels of footfall on the hearing date.

GAP & NGAP court lists will continue to be reduced to levels which allow 2m social distancing across the building.

Inevitably, cases are being adjourned and parties often seek an early date for re-hearing. Where we have found adjourned cases adding additional cases to the agreed listed volumes, surplus cases will be vacated and adjourned to ensure strict compliance with reduced loadings.

Reviews of lists which have the potential for higher footfall e.g. traffic lists, summary non-motoring lists, local authority prosecution and fine enforcement lists, will be shared with relevant agencies and cases adjourned to new dates where necessary.

Where people are unable to attend courts and trials cannot proceed, we will continue to review all court business for the day, making decisions to spread work across the courtrooms, separating people in the available spaces.

We will keep listing arrangements under review and will reduce lists further if that is shown to be necessary.

Reducing footfall – remote appearances

Additional video equipment is being installed in coming weeks in all London Magistrates' courts, extending our capacity to support livelink applications from advocates, witnesses and other participants

Additional and upgraded videolink equipment is being installed in Highbury Corner Magistrates' Court increasing the number of courtrooms able to support livelinks, with better quality audiovisual connections, enabling applications to be made for remote appearances in GAP and NGAP courts in addition to the current custody remand courts.

- Four more courtrooms at Highbury Magistrates' Court will have the Cloud Video Platform (CVP) enabled in the coming weeks, to allow for more remote hearings to take place. A fifth will receive new equipment within the next few months.
- HMCTS is investing over £15m in technical infrastructure to support new ways of working.
- This includes development and roll out of our video service for hearings, which has seen record levels of use for hearings in recent weeks. Over 20,000 hours of hearings were heard in this way at the end of December and over 4,000 participants have been seen to join video hearings at any one time.
- The investment is also used to equip further court and tribunal hearing rooms with video equipment. 280 additional video capable rooms have been provided, with several hundred more scheduled to be delivered over the next few months.
- At Highbury specifically, three of 13 courts been enabled for video remand hearings/CVP (courts 7, 8 & 11), and AV equipment sound quality has been improved in courts 7 and 8.

Following the withdrawal of police to court video remand facilities we are installing additional equipment in the next weeks at Bexley Magistrates' court which has again become an overnight custody remand centre.

Additional telephone lines are being installed into court cell areas to support remote access for defence practitioners to take client instructions.

New processes have been introduced to streamline the handling of livelink applications aimed at faster response times for advance applications.

Early morning administrative teams are being introduced to improve the preparation of court listings of overnight cases enabling earlier progress of court business.

Reducing footfall – public access

Public access to open justice is fundamentally important but public health and safety considerations provide legitimate grounds on which to control the flow of people attending court who are not participants in proceedings. We will introduce appropriate measures to limit attendance of those accompanying defendants in accordance with nationally agreed approaches

We will enforce appointment/attendance times notified to parties in advance to ensure footfall is managed. Additional time is required to conduct essential safety checks and we will do our best to manage queues safely with requests and instructions to all keep socially distant whilst waiting. Where in place, advocates schemes will assist in managing waiting and safety

Reduced footfall – judiciary

Where appropriate, as determined by the Judiciary, we will support the deployment of the magistracy in reduced sized benches enabling courts to sit with reduced pressure on social distancing arrangements. We will explore further remote courts to supplement existing procedures for DVPO, POCA and other types of suitable proceedings.

Additional safety measures

Additional Guidance – HMCTS has published additional guidance to all about coming to court if symptomatic or have a positive test.

Marshalling – from this week we will enhance the visible presence of our staff in public areas to enforce covid-safety measures. An additional 11 Marshalls will be deployed to ensure those attending our buildings comply with social distancing requirements and wear face coverings as required. They will wear ‘hi-viz’ to support a strengthened culture of compliance in public areas. We will actively challenge those where we see non-compliance and expect our court users to be considerate in the protection of others, our staff and themselves.

Wearing face-coverings – these are already **mandatory** in all public parts of our buildings and we will continue to expect rigorous compliance from all court users, providing masks if required. Judges and magistrates understand that it is important court users feel comfortable taking part in proceedings. From now on, judges and magistrates should strongly encourage the wearing of masks/face coverings by everyone in the courtroom except for the judge/ presiding magistrate, the advocate who is speaking and the witness giving evidence. The Judiciary will enforce safety measures in the courtrooms, issuing reminders to those appearing to follow the well-known principles: Hands, Face, Space. Please expect local decisions and guidance on compliance based on risk assessments for the court you attend. You should expect to be asked to wear a face-covering in all parts of the building including within courtrooms. Magistrates and all court staff have been urged to support this and lead by example in wearing masks.

Ventilation – concerns have been received about ventilation in courtrooms or other parts of the building which is understandable as some have no external windows. We have issued communications and confirm again that all our courtrooms will continue to have their air handling units set for the fresh air cycle typically replacing the air several times per hour. Fire doors must remain shut but this does not affect the operation of the ventilation systems.

Cleaning – we will continue to focus on touchpoint cleaning and sanitisation in all parts of the building with regular audits and checks to ensure standards are continually improved

Annex - Details of listing adjustments by Courthouse

CENTRAL

Westminster

- GAP courts moved from listing of 25 all at 10am and 5 at 2pm to staggered listing of 5 per hour with a maximum of 15 in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.
- NGAP courts previously taking 12 cases at 10 am and 5 at 2pm moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Creating specific BTP and CITY GAP and NGAP courts in recognition that the generic courts of these types have been over-listed
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Increased capacity for use of CVP in the court rooms
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Running two Saturday courts for traffic disqualification cases and two Saturday courts for fare evasion cases to reduce footfall during the week

City of London

- Breach courts adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour
- Bulk traffic courts which previously listed up to 40 matters at 10 am staggered at 6 per hour and reducing to 4 per hour in cases of adjournments for consideration of disqualification
- DVPO court dealing with all matters remotely
- CVP is being used for prosecutors of bulk miscellaneous courts such as railway fare evasion

Hendon

- Afternoon back-up traffic trials to be removed

SOUTH

Croydon

- GAP courts moved from listing of 20 at 10am and 10 at 2pm to staggered listing of 5 per hour with a maximum of 15 in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.
- NGAP courts listed at Lavender Hill instead of Croydon
- Breach courts, previously listing 30, all at 10 am and running for the morning only, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour and sits all day to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Upper limit of cases bailed to the youth court imposed on police for the first time
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- More court rooms to be video-enabled to allow greater use of CVP
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed

SOUTH EAST

Bromley

- GAP courts moved from listing of 30 all at 10am and 5 at 2pm to staggered listing of 5 per hour with a maximum of 15 in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.
- NGAP courts previously taking 15 cases at 10 am and 5 at 2pm moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Upper limit of cases bailed to the youth court imposed on police for the first time
- Breach courts, previously listing 30, all at 10 am and 15 at 2 pm, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Running two Saturday courts for traffic disqualification cases every fortnight to reduce footfall during the week – all staggered listings at 4 per hour – recently extended to 31st March
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed

Bexley

- Overnight court re-opened at Bexley to accommodate Bexleyheath cases and reduce footfall at Bromley
- Two court rooms to be video-enabled to allow greater use of CVP

SOUTH WEST

Lavender Hill

- Bulk traffic courts which previously listed up to 33 matters in the morning, all at 10 am, and 12 matters in the afternoon, all at 2pm, staggered at 6 per hour.
- CVP capability being extended to second court
- LA prosecutors given the option of having their cases adjourned unless the prosecutor can appear by Teams as the court being used is not CVP enabled
- Prosecutors in traffic courts permitted use of CVP

Wimbledon

- GAP courts moved from listing up to 20 at 10am and 10 at 2pm to staggered listing of 5 per hour with a maximum of 15 in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.
- NGAP courts previously taking 10 cases at 10 am and 5 at 2pm moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Breach courts, previously listing 30, all at 10 am and running for the morning only, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour and sits all day to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Running two Saturday courts for traffic disqualification cases every fortnight to reduce footfall during the week – all staggered listings at 4 per hour– recently extended to 31st March

- CVP made available in multiple courts and GAP court moved to enable its use in that court during lockdown
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Extra remand court introduced on a Monday to ease pressure
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed

EAST

Thames

- GAPs separated from custody cases and moved to staggered listing at 5 per hour with a maximum of 16 in the morning with up to 5 staggered sentencing cases in the afternoon
- NGAP courts previously taking 10 cases at 10 am with 5 in the afternoon moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Breach courts, previously listing 25, all at 10 am and running for the morning only, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour and sits all day to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- GAPs moved into CVP enabled court for duration of new lockdown
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed

Stratford

- Upper limit of cases bailed to the youth court imposed on police for the first time
- Running two Saturday courts for traffic disqualification cases every fortnight to reduce footfall during the week – all staggered listings at 4 per hour– recently extended to 31st March
- Opened overnight court for Forest Gate Police Station custodies on Mondays and Fridays to ease pressure on overnight courts and space at Thames (replaced a trial court)
- Closed trial court 5 Tues, weds & Thurs for 5 weeks
- Removed all traffic back up trials for 5 weeks Monday through to Friday
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed
- CVP agreed for Marlowe House prosecutors
- Decision taken to defer TV licence cases until May

NORTH

Highbury

- GAPs separated from custody cases and moved to staggered listing at 5 per hour with a maximum of 16 in the morning with up to 5 staggered sentencing cases in the afternoon
- NGAP courts previously taking 14 cases at 10 am with 5 in the afternoon moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Breach courts, previously listing 25, all at 10 am and 10 in the afternoon all at 2pm, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour and sits all day to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Upper limit of cases bailed to the youth court imposed on police for the first time
- GAPs and NGAPs moved into CVP enabled courts for duration of new lockdown
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- More court rooms to be video-enabled to allow greater use of CVP
- Removed all back up trials in the afternoon – am has 1 HP trial and 1 LP trial in each trial court (back up trial retained because of number of trials collapsing)
- Lodging means court – converted to remote (DJ & LA)
- Means court matters requiring attendance adj to a later month
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed
- CVP agreed for DVLA prosecutor

NORTH EAST

Romford (Trial centre with only 3 courts running per day)

- remains listed as is, given the number of back-up trials that collapse in the normal course of events
- CVP agreed for Marlowe House prosecutors

Barkingside

- GAPs separated from custody cases and moved to staggered listing at 5 per hour with a maximum of 16 in the morning with up to 5 staggered sentencing cases in the afternoon
- NGAP courts previously taking 10 cases at 10 am with sentencing in the afternoon moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Breach courts, previously listing 20, all at 10 am and running for the morning only, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour and sits all day to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Upper limit of cases bailed to the youth court imposed on police for the first time
- Lodging means court – converted to remote (DJ & LA)
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded

NORTH WEST

Willesden

- GAP courts moved from listing of 20 all at 10am and 10 at 2pm to staggered listing of 5 per hour with a maximum of 15 in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.
- NGAP courts previously taking 10 cases at 10 am and 5 at 2pm moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Upper limit of cases bailed to the youth court imposed on police for the first time
- Breach courts, previously listing 30, all at 10 am and 15 at 2 pm, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Running two Saturday courts for traffic disqualification cases every fortnight to reduce footfall during the week – all staggered listings at 4 per hour– recently extended to 31st March
- More court rooms to be video-enabled to allow greater use of CVP
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- Closed means court
- Moved youth court 9 into court 10 CVP enabled court
- Potentially using court 8 & 9 as public waiting areas
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed

WEST

Uxbridge/Ealing

- GAP courts moved from listing up to 18 at 10am and 10 at 2pm to staggered listing of 5 per hour with a maximum of 15 in the morning and 12 in the afternoon.
- NGAP courts previously taking 10 cases at 10 am and 8 at 2pm moved to staggered listing of 3 per hour with a maximum of 9 in the morning and 6 in the afternoon
- Undertaking regular reviews of actual listing in both GAP and NGAP courts to ensure maximum numbers not exceeded and adjourning out where necessary
- Breach courts, previously listing 25, all at 10 am and running for the morning only, adopted staggered listing of 5 per hour and sits all day to hear up to a maximum of 28 cases
- Regularly review loadings and adjust with police where necessary
- Running two Saturday courts for traffic disqualification cases every fortnight to reduce footfall during the week – all staggered listings at 4 per hour
- CVP made available in multiple courts
- Extra remand court introduced on a Friday to ease pressure
- Additional CVP hosts trained to support CVP enabled courts
- Simplified process for court users to apply to appear by CVP to be introduced
- Agreed use of CVP for all prisoners with Covid symptoms or testing positive
- Reviewing custody numbers on a daily basis and moving between courthouses where maximum cell capacity exceeded
- Checking Libra diaries against listing profile to ensure configured as agreed