

Announcement by Mr Justice Keehan on changes to the organisation of the Financial Remedies Court in London

1. A consultation paper, *A Review of the Operation of the London Financial Remedies Court*, led by HHJ Edward Hess (as Lead Judge of the London FRC) but with input from myself (as FDLJ for London) and HHJ Lynn Roberts (as DFJ for the Central Family Court) was published and circulated widely in February 2022 and a number of responses were received from interested parties. The necessity for the review is fully explained in that paper.
2. I have carefully considered those responses and reached the conclusion that the organisational changes proposed by this paper should proceed.
3. I recognise that the implementation will need to proceed in a way which engages discussion and cooperation with other interested parties, including the FRC judges themselves and those responsible for civil and family children work in the courts to which these proposals relate.
4. With this in mind I have asked HHJ Edward Hess and Rachel Jones (Cluster Manager for London, Civil and Family) to draw up a detailed implementation plan from both the judicial perspective and the HMCTS perspective. The arrangements are likely to be implemented later in 2022 on a date to be identified.
5. The key features of this reorganisation are that:-
 - (i) The HMCTS administration of the London FRC, including arrangements for listing of FRC cases, needs to be centralised at the zone hub, i.e. at the Central Family Court. A review of HMCTS staff deployment will be needed in the context of this change;
 - (ii) Salaried FRC judges in the satellite courts (together with some ‘nested’ DDJs) should continue to do FRC work in the satellite courts, but this should be listed and administered from the hub court. Discussions will need to take place with these FRC judges as to how FRC work will be distributed for this purpose;
 - (iii) HMCTS will execute a plan for four new FRC courts to be created and administered from the CFC, with the plan that these courts would be utilised by Recorders and DDJs dealing with London FRC work;
 - (iv) Robust data will be collected on the adverse impact, if any, on other family cases and/or civil matters; and

- (v) There will be regular reviews at 3 months, 6 months and 12 months of the implementation and impact of these reforms in order that any necessary adjustments to the reorganisation can be made speedily.

Mr. Justice Keehan
11th May 2022