



JUDICIARY OF
ENGLAND AND WALES

MR JUSTICE MOSTYN
HIS HONOUR JUDGE HESS

18 November 2020

Hearings: By Telephone or Video?

The reality of life for the foreseeable future is that the majority of our hearings are going to have to be conducted remotely. We are aware that there are different practices around the country, and we have received a number of complaints from practitioners unhappy about having financial remedies hearings conducted by telephone. We take the view that for financial remedies cases a hearing conducted via a video platform (whether it is on Microsoft Teams, CVP, Zoom or otherwise) is in almost all circumstances likely to be more effective and more fair than a hearing conducted via a telephone platform (BT MeetMe or otherwise).

Our guidance is that if you are remotely conducting a financial remedies case, whether it is a First Appointment, a FDR or a final hearing, the starting point is that a video platform should be used and that a telephone platform should be a last resort, to be used only where there really is no way that a video hearing can take place.

This guidance has been approved by the President.