



MASTER OF  
THE ROLLS

**THE RT HON SIR TERENCE ETHERTON**

21 August 2020

Dear Colleagues

Yesterday the Lord Chancellor wrote to me, in my capacity as the Head of Civil Justice and Chair of the Civil Procedure Rule Committee (CPRC). He thinks it expedient for the Civil Procedure Rules to include provision that would extend the stay imposed by rule 55.29 for a period of four weeks, to 20 September. Pursuant to 3A of the CPA 1997 he directed the CPRC to make rules to achieve that purpose.

The CPRC met earlier today. It considered the extremely unusual nature and timing of the letter of direction from the Lord Chancellor but by majority considered that it was bound to follow the direction. Consequently, the CPRC also considered the draft rules necessary to meet this objective. I understand that these rules will shortly be put forward to Parliament.

This 4-week extension to the stay relating to housing possession cases, will allow for further work to be done to prepare for the stay to be lifted which in many respects can be welcomed.

I would like to repeat my extreme gratitude for the work of the group led by Mr Justice Knowles to prepare for the end of the stay which we anticipated on would be Sunday. I would also like to thank the DCJ's and many of you who will have helped with that work. That work will not be redundant because, whenever the stay comes to an end, the work that has been done will be available to be put into effect.

Best Wishes

Terence Etherton, MR

**Royal Courts of Justice** Room E214, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL  
Website [www.judiciary.uk](http://www.judiciary.uk)

