

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ENGLAND AND WALES
AND IN THE COURT OF PROTECTION
AND IN ALL COUNTY COURTS

PRACTICE DIRECTION (COURT DRESS) (NO. 5) AND
AMENDMENT NO. 20 TO THE CONSOLIDATED CRIMINAL
PRACTICE DIRECTION (COURT DRESS)

It is ordered as follows –


1. The following direction in relation to court dress to be worn by the judiciary of England and Wales when sitting in court, whether in public or private, will take effect on 1 October 2008.

Civil Jurisdiction

2. Save where the relevant Head of Division, the Senior Presiding Judge or the President of the Court of Protection agrees for good reason that a gown should not be worn:
 - a. All judges and members of the High Court Masters Group, (other than Circuit Judges) will wear the new civil gown without a wig (or bands, wing collar or collarette).
 - b. Circuit Judges will wear their existing gown and lilac tippet without a wig (or bands, wing collar or collarette).
 - c. Barristers or solicitors sitting in a judicial capacity will wear their practitioners' dress without a wig.
 - d. District Judges retiring after the 1st of October and sitting as Deputy District Judges will wear the new civil gown without a wig (or bands, wing collar or collarette).
3. Tabs at the neck of the new civil gown will indicate the rank of judge as follows –
 - a. Court of Appeal – gold tabs;
 - b. High Court – red tabs;
 - c. Members of the High Court Masters Group – pink tabs; and
 - d. District Judges – blue tabs.
4. Members of the High Court Masters Group include Masters of the Chancery or Queen's Bench Division, District Judges of the Principal Registry of the Family Division, Bankruptcy Registrars and Costs Judges.

Criminal Jurisdiction

5. There will be no change of court dress worn in the exercise of the criminal jurisdiction save that High Court Judges will wear their winter robes in winter and summer alike.
6. This Practice Direction amends the Consolidated Criminal Practice Direction handed down by the Lord Chief Justice on the 8th of July 2002 as amended. A new paragraph I.1.2 shall be inserted after paragraph I.1.1 to state – “High Court Judges hearing criminal cases shall wear the winter criminal robe year-round. Scarlet summer robes are no longer issued or worn.”
7. Amendment Number 20 to the Consolidated Criminal Practice Direction (Court Dress) is added to the end of the list of included Practice Directions in Annex A to the Consolidated Criminal Practice Direction.
8. This Practice Direction is made by the Lord Chief Justice in accordance with the procedure laid down in Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005.



The Right Honourable
Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers
Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales