



IN THE SUPREME COURT OF ENGLAND AND WALES

AND IN ALL COUNTY COURTS

AND IN MAGISTRATES' COURTS

PRACTICE DIRECTION (COURT DRESS) (NO. 4)

Following consultation carried out by the Department for Constitutional Affairs and consultation with the Heads of Division the Lord Chief Justice has concluded that it is no longer appropriate for solicitors and other advocates authorised under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 to be precluded from wearing wigs when appearing in court. The Lord Chief Justice has therefore concluded that they be given the option to wear wigs in circumstances where they would be worn by members of the Bar.

It is therefore ordered as follows:

1. With effect from 02 January 2008 this Practice Direction applies throughout the Supreme Court of England and Wales, including the Crown Court, in county courts and in magistrates' courts.
2. Practice Direction (Court Dress) [1994] 1 W.L.R. 1056 of 19 July 1994, Practice Direction (Court Dress) (No. 2) [1995] 1 W.L.R. 648 of 11 April 1995 and Practice Direction (Court Dress) (No. 3) [1998] 1 W.L.R. 1764 of 25 November 1998 are hereby revoked.
3. In magistrates' courts, advocates appear without robes or wigs. Dress requirements for advocates appearing in the Supreme Court and in county courts are as follows: Queen's Counsel wears a short wig and a silk (or stuff) gown over a court coat. Junior Counsel wear a short wig and stuff gown with bands. Solicitors and other advocates authorised under the Courts and Legal Services Act



1990 wear a black solicitor's gown with bands; they may wear short wigs in circumstances where they would be worn by Queen's or Junior Counsel.

4. The text of paragraph I.1.1 of Practice Direction (Criminal Proceedings: Consolidation) [2002] 1 W.L.R. 2870 of 08 July 2002 (as amended) is varied so as to read as follows: In magistrates' courts, advocates appear without robes or wigs. In all other courts, Queen's Counsel wear a short wig and a silk (or stuff) gown over a court coat with bands, junior counsel wear a short wig and stuff gown with bands. Solicitors and other advocates authorised under the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 wear a black solicitor's gown with bands; they may wear short wigs in circumstances where they would be worn by Queen's or Junior Counsel.
5. Annex A of Practice Direction (Criminal Proceedings: Consolidation) [2002] 1 W.L.R. 2870 of 08 July 2002 (as amended) is amended so as to add Practice Direction (Court Dress) (No. 4) at the end of the list of included Practice Directions. The references to Practice Direction (Court Dress) [1994] 1 W.L.R. 1056, Practice Direction (Court Dress) (No. 2) [1995] 1 W.L.R. 648 and Practice Direction (Court Dress) (No. 3) [1998] 1 W.L.R. 1764 therein are deleted.
6. This 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Phillips', written in a cursive style.

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