

The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for Northern Ireland

PRACTICE DIRECTION No. 1/2026

This Practice Direction amends Practice Direction No. 1 of 2019 made on 24 September 2019.

In exercise of the Tribunal's powers under Article 43(7) of the Solicitors (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (as amended) the Tribunal has issued the following Practice Direction for regulating its procedures:

1. It will be no longer necessary for six copies of any notice, application and evidence (by letter or affidavit) to be submitted to the Secretary.
2. The original of any notice, application and evidence (by letter or affidavit) shall be submitted to the Secretary together with a legible electronic copy which shall be submitted to the Secretary by email.
3. All exhibits to affidavits must be properly indexed and paginated with sequential numbering at the bottom right of each page.
4. If an exhibit to an affidavit exceeds ten pages, the party submitting the affidavit may provide an electronic copy of the exhibit to the Secretary in lieu of a hard copy. In such cases, a front page of the exhibit must be filed with the affidavit. This front page must include a suitable signed declaration that the electronic copy of the exhibit has been produced to and verified by the deponent, is identified by a signed declaration of the person before whom the affidavit is sworn and is marked with the exhibit number or mark referred to in the affidavit.
5. All expert reports submitted to the Tribunal as evidence shall contain the expert's declaration as set out in Practice Direction 7 of 2014 of the Court of Judicature of Northern Ireland (substituting the word 'Tribunal' for the word 'Court' in paragraph 11). Provided the report incorporating the declaration is signed by the author it is not necessary for the report to be submitted in affidavit form, unless directed by the Tribunal.
6. The requirement in Rule 37 of the 1990 Rules to cause a note of proceedings to be taken in substitution for a shorthand note shall not apply provided the

Tribunal causes a digital recording to be made of the hearing and the provisions of Rule 37 as to inspection and taking of copies shall apply to such recording accordingly.

7. This Practice Direction shall be known as the “Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for Northern Ireland No. 1/2026” and shall apply on and after 23 March 2026.

Dated this 23 day of March 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack K. McFarland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Signed

The Honorable Sir David McFarland
President of the Tribunal