

8. Practice Direction No 1 of 2000 - Criminal trials

With a view to ensuring the orderly and expeditious discharge of the business of the court by increasing the opportunity for judicial management of the preparation for criminal trials, it is directed that:

- . once a trial date has been allocated, the Sheriff will notify the Judge before whom the trial is to take place;
- . the Judge may call the parties together at any time upon reasonable notice and conduct a conference at which the parties attend in person or by telephone or video link, for any purpose connected with the conduct of the trial;
- . the parties shall attend at that conference and the Judge may make such orders as the Judge thinks fit in relation to disposing of applications prior to trial and in the conduct of the trial;
- . "*parties*" means the Director of Public Prosecutions, the legal representative of the accused, or, if unrepresented, the accused.

This Practice Direction applies as well to all cases presently set down for trial.

20 April 2000