

EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Allocation/reallocation - As now, a case is allocated to one of the available procedural tracks, which will now be: small claims track, fast track, intermediate track and multi-track.

Assignment/reassignment - When a case is allocated to the fast track or intermediate track, it will be assigned to one of four complexity bands.

Complexity band - The fast track and intermediate tracks each contain four unique bands, to which a claim is assigned by the court based on its complexity. FRC vary depending on which band a claim is in.

Fast track - The pre-existing track for cases with a value above the small claims track limit, up to £25,000 and where a trial should last no longer than one day.

Intermediate track - The new track for cases with a value above £25,000, up to £100,000 and where the trial should last no longer than three days.

Multi-track - The pre-existing track for cases of greater complexity or worth more than £100,000.

Small claims limit - £10,000, unless:

The value of any injury claim arising from an RTA is more than £5,000*;

The value of other injury claims is more than £1,500;

The value of any housing disrepair claims is more than £1,000.

* The RTA injury limit is more than £1,000 for certain types of claimant; and exceptions exist which mean the claim will be allocated to fast track, even if the value is below this limit.

Vulnerability - Rule 1.6 requires the court to consider Practice Direction 1A when giving effect to the overriding objective: 'A person should be considered as vulnerable when a factor - which could be personal or situational, permanent or temporary - may adversely affect their participation in proceedings or the giving of evidence.' The court will consider a claim for an amount of costs greater than FRC where:

- A party or witness is vulnerable;
- That vulnerability has required additional work; and
- The claim is for an amount at least 20% greater than FRC because of that additional work.

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