

Magistrates Courts

Practice Direction No. 3 of 2015(amended)

Issued: 18 December 2015
Amended: 1 February 2023
Amended: 1 August 2024

Proceedings using video link facilities and audio link facilities

1. The purpose of this Practice Direction is to provide, in accordance with section 15A of the *Bail Act 1980* (Bail Act) and sections 23EC and 178C of the *Justices Act 1886* (JA), for alternative courts to hear proceedings by video link facilities or audio link facilities.
2. In this Practice Direction “original court” and “alternative court” have the same meaning as in section 15A of the Bail Act and section 23EC JA.
3. This Practice Direction authorises proceedings that would ordinarily be heard by an original court in a district or division set out in [Schedule 1 of the Justices Regulation 2014](#) to be heard by a magistrate constituting an alternative court at any location in a district or division set out in [Schedule 1 of the Justices Regulation 2014](#) that has video link or audio link facilities.
4. The alternative court may conduct the proceedings by using video link facilities or audio link facilities if the circumstances in section 178C of the JA apply.
5. In the absence of local arrangements as advised by the court, any proceedings should be directed during court sitting times to the closest available alternative court to the original court. A prior enquiry should be made to confirm the availability of a sitting magistrate at the proposed location.
6. This Practice Direction repeals Practice Direction No. 6 of 2014.



Judge Janelle Brassington
Chief Magistrate
1 August 2024