

Jury Summons (Remote)

You have been selected for Remote Jury Service. Please read this letter carefully, so you understand your responsibilities and avoid risking a fine.

The Coronavirus crisis led to a number of temporary changes to how the justice system operates in the United Kingdom. With government resources given over to combatting the virus, and public support for remote juries rising, you now have the privilege of being part of a lean and innovative new system that ensures justice is effectively served.

Under the newly-passed Justice Act 2021 (the “**Act**”), in criminal cases with multiple suspects, a jury will be appointed to analyse evidence before choosing **one** suspect to indict. Note that in this specific instance, the Defendants have waived their right to legal representation, in exchange for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) doing the same, under section 13(1) of the Act. As such, the jury will be allowed to consider evidence and personally question the Defendants.

During the trial, you can expect to spend:

- Approximately **ten minutes** reviewing the evidence before some of your group speaks to the First Defendant.
- **Five minutes** speaking to each of the Defendants, with **five to ten minute** breaks between each session for the jury to consider the evidence and arguments heard.
- A second round of **five minutes** for each Defendant, with **five to ten minute** breaks between each session for discussion.
- **Ten minutes** to review all the evidence and to come to a verdict. The jury will vote on the verdict, which will be passed by simple majority (at least 50%)

See the table below for a sample (approximate) flow of events:

Time	Duration	What
1500h – 1510h	10 mins	Initial review of evidence
1510h – 1515h	5 mins	Questioning of Defendant 1
1515h – 1520h	5 Mins	Group deliberation
1520h – 1525h	5 Mins	Questioning of Defendant 2

1525h – 1530h	5 Mins	Group deliberation
1530h – 1535h	5 Mins	Questioning of Defendant 3
1535h – 1540h	5 Mins	Group deliberation
1540h – 1545h	5 mins	Questioning of Defendant 1
1545h – 1550h	5 Mins	Group deliberation
1550h – 1555h	5 Mins	Questioning of Defendant 2
1555h – 1600h	5 Mins	Group deliberation
1600h – 1605h	5 Mins	Questioning of Defendant 3
1605h – 1620h	15 Mins	Final group deliberation and verdict

In such a limited time window, you will need to share the responsibilities amongst yourselves; working well as a team is vital. Note that the decision of the jury is **final**, with sentencing decided by the Court.

Best wishes,



Jack Nicholas
Administrator
Ministry of Justice