



Senior Courts Act 1981

1981 CHAPTER 54

PART III

PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE

THE HIGH COURT

Sittings and vacations

71 Sittings and vacations.

- (1) Sittings of the High Court may be held, and any other business of the High Court may be conducted, at any place in England or Wales.
- (2) Subject to rules of court—
 - (a) the places at which the High Court sits outside the Royal Courts of Justice; and
 - (b) the days and times when the High Court sits at any place outside the Royal Courts of Justice,shall be determined in accordance with directions given by the Lord Chancellor [^{F1}after consulting the Lord Chief Justice].
- (3) Rules of court may make provision for regulating the vacations to be observed by the High Court and in the offices of that court.
- (4) Rules of court—
 - (a) may provide for securing such sittings of any Division of the High Court during vacation as the senior judge of that Division may with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor determine; and
 - (b) without prejudice to paragraph (a), shall provide for the transaction during vacation by judges of the High Court of all such business in the High Court as may require to be immediately or promptly transacted.
- (5) Different provision may be made in pursuance of subsection (3) for different parts of the country.

Changes to legislation: Senior Courts Act 1981, Cross Heading: Sittings and vacations is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 14 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

[^{F2}(6) The Lord Chief Justice may nominate a judicial office holder (as defined in section 109(4) of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005) to exercise his functions under this section.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 71(2) inserted (3.4.2006) by Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4), ss. 15, 148, **Sch. 4 para. 132(2)**; S.I. 2006/1014, **art. 2(a)**, Sch. 1 para. 11(p)
- F2** S. 71(6) inserted (3.4.2006) by Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (c. 4), ss. 15, 148, **Sch. 4 para. 132(3)**; S.I. 2006/1014, **art. 2(a)**, Sch. 1 para. 11(p)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(a) word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3)(b) and word inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(1\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)
- s. 31(3A)(3B) inserted by [2015 c. 2 s. 85\(2\)](#)