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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2020 No. 759**

**The Criminal Procedure Rules 2020**

**PART 1**

**THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE**

**The overriding objective**

**1.1.**—(1) The overriding objective of this procedural code is that criminal cases be dealt with justly.

(2) Dealing with a criminal case justly includes—

- (a) acquitting the innocent and convicting the guilty;
- (b) dealing with the prosecution and the defence fairly;
- (c) recognising the rights of a defendant, particularly those under Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- (d) respecting the interests of witnesses, victims and jurors and keeping them informed of the progress of the case;
- (e) dealing with the case efficiently and expeditiously;
- (f) ensuring that appropriate information is available to the court when bail and sentence are considered; and
- (g) dealing with the case in ways that take into account—
  - (i) the gravity of the offence alleged,
  - (ii) the complexity of what is in issue,
  - (iii) the severity of the consequences for the defendant and others affected, and
  - (iv) the needs of other cases.