



01/09

13 February 2009

Consultation begins on the Tribunals Service General Regulatory Chamber

The Tribunal Procedure Committee has today commenced consultation on draft procedure rules for the proposed General Regulatory Chamber (GRC) of the First-tier Tribunal.

The GRC is expected to commence in September 2009, subject to parliamentary approval, and the following tribunal jurisdictions will transfer into it: Charity; Information; Consumer Credit Appeals; Estate Agents Appeals Panel; Gambling Appeals; Claims Management; Immigration Services and some functions of the Transport Tribunal. The transfers are scheduled to take place between September 2009 and January 2010.

Senior President Lord Justice Carnwath said:

“Bringing these individual tribunals under the one GRC umbrella will ensure a consistent approach to hearing appeals on regulatory issues.

“The establishment of the GRC will enable current best practice in the respective tribunals to be shared and continued. Judicial members within the existing tribunals will transfer into the new structure, preserving judicial expertise and ensuring continuity of service.”

The establishment of the GRC is part of a wider programme of tribunal reform that began on 3 November with the launch of the First-tier and Upper Tribunals. The two new tribunals were established as a key part of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 and most tribunal jurisdictions will transfer into them. The aim of the new unified tribunals' structure is to achieve improved and consistent standards for tribunal users.

The consultation for the GRC procedure rules will run for 12 weeks. To access the consultation document, please visit: www.tribunals.gov.uk/Tribunals/Rules/rules.htm

Notes to Editors

1. The First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal commenced on 3 November 2008. The Administrative Appeals Chamber was established in the Upper Tribunal and the following chambers were established in the First-tier Tribunal:
 - Social Entitlement;
 - War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation; and
 - Health, Education and Social Care.

2. A Tax Chamber in the First-tier Tribunal and a Finance and Tax Chamber in the Upper Tribunal are expected to both commence on 1 April 2009.
3. A Lands Chamber is expected to commence on 1 June 2009.
4. The UK Border Agency recently held a consultation on bringing the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal into the unified tribunals structure and the results will be published shortly.
5. The Employment Tribunal and Employment Appeal Tribunal will be separate from the First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal, although there will be close links between them.
6. The Tribunals Service, an executive agency within the Ministry of Justice will continue to provide an integrated administration of the new tribunals system. For more details visit: www.tribunals.gov.uk
7. The Tribunal Procedure Committee was established under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to make procedural rules for the new Tribunals. Each Chamber has its own set of rules, which are supported by Practice Directions and Statements. More information on the Tribunal Procedure Committee is available at:
www.tribunals.gov.uk/Tribunals/Rules/tribunalprocedurecommittee.htm
8. For more details please contact the Tribunals Service Press Office on 020 3334 6510, or the Ministry of Justice Press Office on 020 3334 3536. If you would like information on the judicial aspect of the Tribunal reform or would like to request an interview with a member of the Tribunals judiciary, please contact the Judicial Communications Office on 020 7073 4852.