Carl Poole

Secretary to the Civil Procedure Rule Committee

c/o Access to Justice Policy Division

Ministry of Justice

Post Point 10.24

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

5 September 2022

By email: CPRCRollingConsultations@justice.gov.uk

Dear Mr Poole,

**Consultation on proposed amendments to Part 20 of the Civil Procedure Rules and the supplementing Practice Direction**

We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the CPRC’s consultation on Part 20 of the Civil Procedure Rules and the supplementing Practice Direction. We welcome the proposed amendments overall. We believe that the suggested changes are sensible and reflect the Civil Procedure Rules Committee’s aim to simplify the rules.

Nevertheless, we believe that some amendments to Practice Direction (PD) 20 may lead to further confusion rather than the clarity aimed for. Deleting the introduction on PD 20 might make it harder to navigate for practitioners who are not familiar with this part of the rule. This might be even more relevant when considering litigants in person and junior lawyers. We suggest that, for context purposes, the first, second and last sentences of the introduction should remain in PD 20.

Furthermore, we recommend that the references to other parts of the Civil Procedure Rules that were in the PD should not be deleted. References to other parts or sections are helpful and can save time for those using the rules to look for all the other relevant parts of the CPR that apply. We are concerned that removing all the cross-references could make it more difficult to use the rules.

We also suggest that reminders of other parts should remain in the PD. For example, in PD 20 the section relating to statements of truth was deleted. We believe that having these reminders is important for clarity, in particular for those who are less familiar with the rules.

We hope that our comments prove useful. If you have any queries about our response, please contact Ana Ramos, Legal Affairs Assistant, on the contact information below, in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,



Ana Ramos

Legal Affairs Assistant

APIL

ana.ramos@apil.org.uk

0115 943 5401