



The Royal Professional Organisation of Judicial Officers (*Koninklijke Beroepsorganisatie van Gerechtsdeurwaarders*).
Prinses Margrietplantsoen 49
2595 BR THE HAGUE
Netherlands

27 November 2020

Dear Sir or Madam,

Requests under EU Regulations 1393/2007 on the Service of Documents and 2006/2001 on the Taking of Evidence in Civil and Commercial Matters

I refer to my letter dated 29 January 2020 informing you of the procedure that will be adopted in England and Wales the end of the transition period following the UK's exit from the European Union on 31 December 2020.

I confirm that all requests under the above Regulations sent by member states up to and including 31 December 2020 will be accepted and processed by the Central Body for such Regulations. Requests received after that date (or any extension) will be returned to the Requesting Authority.

England & Wales will also continue to submit requests to EU member states under the Regulations until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, or any agreed extension of that date.

Procedure to be adopted following the end of the Transition Period

Requests for service of documents and for taking of evidence following the 31 December 2010 (or any extension of that date) should be made under the Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters of 1965 and the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters of 1970. **Requests should be made using the recommended Hague model forms for each Convention.**

For those member states who are not parties to the Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial Matters, requests for taking of evidence should be made either in accordance with any existing civil procedure tray or by letter of request from the competent judicial authority.

I confirm that requests to take evidence by videoconferencing will be continue to be processed as previously, namely on a voluntary basis for the witness. The contact point for queries will continue to be foreignprocess@justice.gov.uk.

Although there are no time limits imposed by the Hague Conventions our intention is to meet the same time limits as those which apply in the Regulations. We hope that EU member states who are members of these Hague Conventions will adopt the same approach with regard to the UK.

We very much wish to continue the close cooperation with EU member states which has been possible under the Regulations.

Yours faithfully

Barbara Fontaine
Senior Master of The Queen's Bench Division

Central Body/Authority for England and Wales for
Regulation 1393/2007 on the Service of Documents
Hague Convention on the Service Abroad of Judicial and Extrajudicial
Documents in Civil or Commercial Matters
Hague Convention on the Taking of Evidence Abroad in Civil or Commercial
Matters