



Immigration and Protection Tribunal
Rōpū Take Manene, Take Whakamaru

**A MESSAGE TO THE BAR FROM JUDGE SPILLER,
CHAIR OF THE IMMIGRATION AND PROTECTION TRIBUNAL**

Dear colleagues,

We are in unprecedented circumstances and it is appropriate that I let you know how the COVID-19 Level 4 'lockdown' will affect the Tribunal and its work for at least the next four weeks.

Filing appeals

First, please understand that the Tribunal cannot change or ignore the requirements of the Immigration Act 2009, in terms of time limits for lodging appeals. However, we are still able to accept appeals by email or fax. All we need are the appeal form (available on the Ministry's website) and the filing fee (credit card details are fine). The hard copy of the appeal form and any submissions and evidence can follow later.

If you have recently filed an appeal and have received the Tribunal's standard form letter advising you of time limits for lodging submissions and evidence (or if there are timetabling orders for submissions and evidence), please regard the time for compliance as deferred for at least four weeks. We will write again when we know more about how long the lockdown will last.

Hearings

The Tribunal will not hold any hearings in the next four weeks, unless it is considered urgent. If we do hold an urgent hearing for you or one of your clients, we will contact you to let you know and to discuss arrangements. If you do not hear from us about a hearing scheduled between now and the end of April, you can assume that it will not proceed and that we will contact you later to reschedule it. Again, we will let you know about May hearings when we know more about the duration of the lockdown.

Decisions

Unless it is considered urgent for some reason, the Tribunal will not issue decisions over the next four weeks. If urgency dictates that a decision should issue before then, please let us know by email, so that we can consider the request.

Tribunal premises

The Tribunal's premises are not open. There may be a few staff from time to time, but the telephone is unlikely to be answered. Please communicate with us by email to ipt@justice.govt.nz. Emails are checked daily. We are happy to respond to urgent matters

but please understand that non-urgent matters should wait, and may not receive a prompt response in any event.

Please look after yourselves and your families and friends until we are through this difficult time.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Spiller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Judge Peter Spiller