## Giving evidence from abroad – information for hearing participants





Fitness to practise fact sheet

## Background

We take a flexible approach to hearings and can accommodate witnesses and registrants attending virtually from a compatible device if they are either not required to attend in person or have not made a request to attend in person to the Scheduling team.

If you are attending a hearing virtually and connecting from a location outside of the UK, we may need to ensure that permission to give evidence under oath has been granted from the state or country that you will be in, as there is a risk of diplomatic relations with the UK being damaged if enquiries are not made in advance.

It is important to note that permission is not required for written evidence or oral submissions.

## The process

When we first contact you about a hearing, we will inform you of a listing window and ask you of any unavoidable commitments you may have in that period. If you are available but will be located outside of the UK within that window, please let your Scheduling or Listings Officer know the country you will be based in, and whether you are a citizen or resident of that country.

We may then make enquiries with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) on your behalf. The Taking of Evidence (ToE) Unit within the FCDO will make enquires with the relevant state, which can take several weeks. It is therefore important that you notify us as soon as possible if you are based outside of the UK or believe that you might be abroad when the hearing is due to take place.

If your circumstances change through the scheduling process and you think there is a chance that you might need to attend remotely from another country, please keep us updated. You can make the enquiry with the FCDO yourself, but this may come at a cost to you. Failure to notify us in good time may result in us being unable to assist you with obtaining permission to give evidence. This could result in your evidence being considered as inadmissible by the panel, or arguments may arise as to the weight which can be placed upon it, leading to a risk of judicial review and/or appeal.

## Registrant witnesses

If you are a HCPC registrant and wish to call a witness to give evidence on your behalf, the same procedure will apply for them if they are attending remotely from overseas. If you would like to discuss your options, please contact the HCPTS at **hearings@hcpts-uk.org**.