

22 JUNE 2020

COVID 19 STAGE 5 – CONVEYANCING UPDATE

Contracts Court Update

Guernsey's move into Phase 5 of its exit from lockdown has seen many areas of business return to normal. In a positive step for the island's property market, the contracts court will also be functioning much like it did before, but, importantly for islanders to consider, it will still be limited (where possible) to Conveyancers and Advocates.

Clients are still required to consent to a Power of Attorney, where possible, in order for an Advocate or Conveyancing Clerk to deal with the transaction. The court has kept this in place to reduce the footfall and large-scale gatherings in the building to help prevent a second wave of Covid-19.

Further to the changes, Contracts Court will continue to sit with three Jurats on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as usual. Advocates and Conveyancing Clerks acting will still be required to send documentation to the court prior to completion the next day for pre-assessment of document duty and Court fees.

The Strongroom (where the Greffe and other historical records are held in the Royal Court Building) is now open between 9am to 4pm with no requirement to book appointments, so this will hopefully encourage business as usual.

We strongly advise all of our clients, existing, new and potential, who are either looking to buy or sell at this time to please consider and seek up-to-date guidance from the outset, and certainly before signing conditions of sale. Covid-19 has brought about a number of changes and clients will need to be aware of what these are. We will assist your transaction from the outset and ensure everything runs smoothly.

If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be pleased to support you through this process.

Please note the above is only a guide and is subject to change.

Key Contacts

Fleur Carey – Conveyancing Clerk

T: +44 1481 746 126

f.carey@babbelegal.com

Andrew Laws – Managing Partner

+44 1481 746 175

a.laws@babbelegal.com

Amélie Boudra – Associate

+44 1481 746 190

a.boudra@babbelegal.com

Emily Priaux – Conveyancing Clerk

+44 1481 746 101

e.priaux@babbelegal.com

Michael Riddiford – Partner

+44 1481 746 170

m.riddiford@babbelegal.com