

CHAPTER 10

COURT SITTINGS

Session of the court

10.1.— (1) Except in vacation, the court shall be in session throughout the year and, subject to paragraph (2), shall—

- (a) normally sit on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of each week;
- (b) normally sit between 1000 hours and 1600 hours, with an appropriate adjournment for lunch
- (c) not sit—

- (i) on a public holiday;
- (ii) on such other days as the Lord President may, in exceptional circumstances, direct.

(2) The court may sit—

- (a) on a Monday where it is considered desirable to do so;
- (b) on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday where it is desirable to do so to determine a matter of urgency.

(3) For the purposes of these Rules, a “sitting day” is a day on which the court sits under paragraph (1)(a) or a vacation sitting day.

Vacation

10.2.— (1) During vacation, the court—

- (a) shall normally sit on a vacation sitting day;
- (b) may sit, on days other than vacation sitting days, where it is desirable to do so.

(2) The court shall not sit on—

- (a) a public holiday;
- (b) such other days as the Lord President may, in exceptional circumstances, direct.

(3) During vacation, one or more of the judges of the court shall act from time to time as a vacation judge sitting in court or in chambers.

(4) The vacation judge shall deal with the business of the vacation judge under rule 11.1(1) on such days and at such times as it is desirable to do so.

(5) A Division of the Inner House may sit during vacation, whether or not on a vacation sitting day, to determine urgent business which cannot competently be determined by the vacation judge.

Holiday dates, periods and vacation sitting days

10.3. In these Rules— “public holiday” means any of the dates or parts of days in the following table –

Table

<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>
Monday 1st January 2024	Wednesday 1st January 2025	Thursday 1st January 2026
Tuesday 2nd January 2024	Thursday 2nd January 2025	Friday 2nd January 2026
Friday 29th March 2024	Monday 14th April 2025	Friday 3rd April 2026
Monday 1st April 2024	Friday 18th April 2025	Monday 6th April 2026
Monday 15th April 2024	Monday 21st April 2025	Monday 20th April 2026
Monday 6th May 2024	Monday 5th May 2025	Monday 4th May 2026
Monday 20th May 2024	Monday 19th May 2025	Monday 18th May 2026
Monday 16th September 2024	Monday 15th September 2025	Monday 21st September 2026
Monday 2nd December 2024	Monday 1st December 2025	Monday 30th November 2026
The afternoon of Tuesday 24th December 2024	The afternoon of Wednesday 24th December 2025	The afternoon of Thursday 24th December 2026
Wednesday 25th December 2024	Thursday 25th December 2025	Friday 25th December 2026
Thursday 26th December 2024	Friday 26th December 2025	Monday 28th December 2026;

“vacation is any of the periods in the following table beginning with the date in the first column and ending with the date in the corresponding second column –

Table

First column

Second column

Saturday 23rd March 2024	Friday 5th April 2024
Saturday 21st December 2024	Friday 3rd January 2025
Saturday 12th April 2025	Friday 25th April 2025
Saturday 20th December 2025	Monday 5th January 2026
Saturday 28th March 2026	Friday 10th April 2026
Saturday 19th December 2026	Tuesday 5th January 2027;

Table

<i>2024</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2026</i>
Wednesday 3rd January 2024	Wednesday 16th April 2025	Wednesday 1st April 2026
Wednesday 27th March 2024	Wednesday 23rd April 2025	Wednesday 8th April 2026
Wednesday 3rd April 2024	Tuesday 23rd December 2025	Wednesday 23rd December 2026
Wednesday 23rd December 2024	Tuesday 30th December 2025	Wednesday 30th December 2026
Wednesday 30th December		