

CHAPTER 58A

PROTECTIVE EXPENSES ORDERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS AND JUDICIAL REVIEWS

Application and interpretation of this Chapter

58A.1.—(1) This Chapter applies to applications for protective expenses orders in—

- (a) an appeal under section 56 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002^(a) as modified by regulation 17 of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004^(b);
- (b) relevant proceedings which include a challenge to a decision, act or omission which is subject to, or said to be subject to, the provisions of Article 6 of the Aarhus Convention;
- (c) relevant proceedings which include a challenge to an act or omission on the grounds that it contravenes the law relating to the environment.

(2) In this Chapter—

“the Aarhus Convention” means the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters done at Aarhus, Denmark on 25th June 1998;

“protective expenses order” means an order which regulates the liability for expenses in the proceedings, including as to the future, of all or any of the parties to them;

“the public” and “the public concerned” have the meanings given by Article 2 of the Aarhus Convention;

“relevant proceedings” means—

- (a) applications to the supervisory jurisdiction of the court, including applications under section 45(b) (specific performance of a statutory duty) of the Act of 1988;
- (b) appeals under statute.

(3) Proceedings are to be considered prohibitively expensive for the purpose of this Chapter if the costs and expenses likely to be incurred by the applicant for a protective expenses order—

- (a) exceed the financial means of the applicant; or
- (b) are objectively unreasonable having regard to—
 - (i) the situation of the parties;
 - (ii) whether the applicant has reasonable prospects of success;
 - (iii) the importance of what is at stake for the applicant;
 - (iv) the importance of what is at stake for the environment;
 - (v) the complexity of the relevant law and procedure; and
 - (vi) whether the case is frivolous.

(4) The costs and expenses mentioned in paragraph (3) are—

- (a) the costs incurred by the applicant in conducting the proceedings; and
- (b) the expenses for which the applicant would be liable if the applicant was found liable for the taxed expenses of process, without modification.

Appeals relating to requests for environmental information

58A.2.—(1) This rule applies to an application for a protective expenses order in proceedings mentioned in rule 58A.1(1)(a).

^(a) 2002 asp 13.

^(b) S.S.I. 2004/520.

(2) Where the person who requested the environmental information is a party to the appeal, that person may apply for a protective expenses order.

(3) The application must be made, except on cause shown—

- (a) where the applicant is the appellant, no later than is reasonably practicable after the applicant becomes aware that the appeal is defended;
- (b) where the applicant is the respondent, no later than the expiry of the period allowed for the lodging of answers.

(4) Where the court is satisfied that the proceedings are prohibitively expensive, it must make a protective expenses order.

Public participation in decisions on specific environmental activities

58A.3.—(1) This rule applies to an application for a protective expenses order in proceedings mentioned in rule 58A.1(1)(b).

(2) An application for a protective expenses order may be made by the petitioner or the appellant.

(3) The application must be made, except on cause shown, no later than is reasonably practicable after the applicant becomes aware that the petition or appeal is defended.

(4) The court must make a protective expenses order where it is satisfied that—

- (a) the applicant is a member of the public concerned;
- (b) the applicant has a sufficient interest in the subject matter of the proceedings; and
- (c) the proceedings are prohibitively expensive.

Contravention of the law relating to the environment

58A.4.—(1) This rule applies to an application for a protective expenses order in proceedings mentioned in rule 58A.1(1)(c).

(2) An application for a protective expenses order may be made by the petitioner or the appellant.

(3) The application must be made, except on cause shown, no later than is reasonably practicable after the applicant becomes aware that the petition or appeal is defended.

(4) The court must make a protective expenses order where it is satisfied that—

- (a) the applicant is a member of the public; and
- (b) the proceedings are prohibitively expensive.

Applications for protective expenses orders

58A.5.—(1) A protective expenses order is applied for by motion.

(2) Intimation of the motion and of the documents mentioned in paragraph (3) must be given to every other party not less than 14 days before the date of enrolment.

(3) The applicant must lodge with the motion—

- (a) a statement setting out—
 - (i) the grounds for seeking the order;
 - (ii) the terms on which the applicant is represented;
 - (iii) an estimate of the expenses that the applicant will incur in relation to the proceedings;
 - (iv) an estimate of the expenses of each other party for which the applicant may be liable in relation to the proceedings; and

(v) in the case of an application for liability in expenses to be limited to an amount lower or, as the case may be, higher than a sum mentioned in rule 58A.7(1), the grounds on which the lower or higher amount is applied for; and

(b) any documents or other materials on which the applicant seeks to rely.

(4) A party opposing an application for a protective expenses order must lodge with the notice of opposition—

(a) a statement setting out the grounds for opposing the application; and

(b) any documents or other materials on which the party seeks to rely.

(5) The motion may request that the court grant an order treating any of the information listed in paragraph (3) as confidential and open only to the court and the parties to the proceedings.

Determination of applications

58A.6.—(1) Unless the Lord Ordinary or, as the case may be, the procedural judge otherwise directs—

(a) an application for a protective expenses order is to be determined in chambers without appearance;

(b) the motion is not to be starred; and

(c) rule 23.4(6) (opposition to motions) is disapplied.

(2) Unless granting an unopposed application, the Lord Ordinary or, as the case may be, the procedural judge must give brief reasons in writing.

(3) Where a motion includes a request for the court to grant an order under rule 58A.5(5), if the motion is starred, the hearing must take place in chambers.

Terms of protective expenses orders

58A.7.—(1) A protective expenses order must—

(a) limit the applicant's liability in expenses to the respondent to the sum of £5,000, or such other sum as may be justified on cause shown; and

(b) limit the respondent's liability in expenses to the applicant to the sum of £30,000, or such other sum as may be justified on cause shown.

(2) Where the applicant is the respondent in proceedings mentioned in rule 58A.1(1)(a)—

(a) paragraph (1)(a) applies as if the reference to the applicant's liability in expenses to the respondent was a reference to the applicant's liability in expenses to the appellant; and

(b) paragraph (1)(b) applies as if the reference to the respondent's liability in expenses to the applicant was a reference to the appellant's liability in expenses to the applicant.

(3) In paragraph (1), "the respondent" means—

(a) all parties that lodge answers in an application to the supervisory jurisdiction of the court; and

(b) all respondents in an appeal under statute.

Expenses protection in reclaiming motions

58A.8.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where—

(a) the court has made a protective expenses order in relation to proceedings in the Outer House; and

(b) a decision of the Lord Ordinary is reclaimed.

(2) Subject to any review of the protective expenses order by the Inner House, the limits on the parties' liability in expenses set by the order include liability for expenses occasioned by the reclaiming motion.

(3) Paragraphs (4) and (5) apply for the purposes of a reclaiming motion from a decision of the Lord Ordinary in proceedings mentioned in rule 58A.1(1)(b) or (c).

(4) A party who would have been entitled to apply for a protective expenses order in the Outer House proceedings (whether or not the party did so apply) may apply for a protective expenses order in relation to the reclaiming motion in which event rule 58A.3(4) or, as the case may be, rule 58A.4(4) applies to the application.

(5) The application must be made, except on cause shown, no later than is reasonably practicable after the reclaiming motion has been marked.

Expenses of application

58A.9.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where, in proceedings in which an application for a protective expenses order has been refused—

- (a) the applicant is found liable for payment of expenses; and
- (b) the expenses for which the applicant has been found liable comprise or include the expenses occasioned by the application.

(2) On the motion of the applicant the court must, other than on exceptional cause shown, limit the applicant's total liability in expenses, in so far as occasioned by the application, to the sum of £500.

Expenses of interveners

58A.10—(1) Expenses are not to be awarded in favour of or against a relevant party, except on cause shown.

(2) If the court decides expenses are to be awarded under paragraph (1), it may impose conditions on the payment of expenses.

(3) In paragraph (1), "a relevant party" means a party who has—

- (a) been granted leave to intervene under rule 58.19(1)(b) or;
- (b) been refused or granted leave after a hearing under rule 58.19(1)(c).