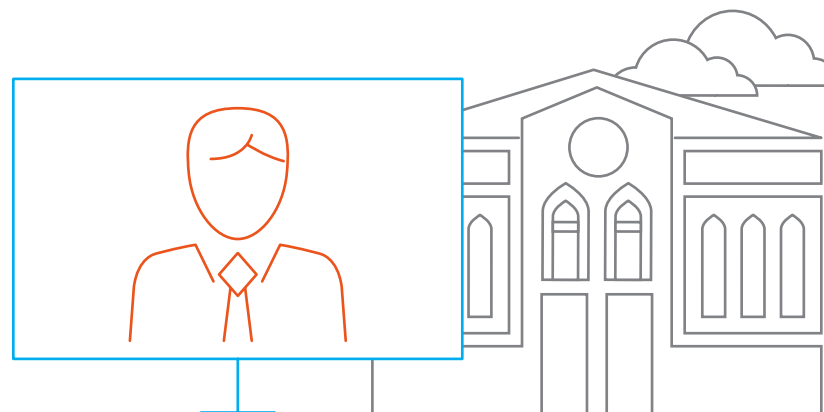




HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

Defendants' Guide to Video Remand Hearings



You will be appearing in court by a video link.

This guide explains how you should behave during the hearing and what you will see.

It is not your choice whether your hearing is by video link, but if you believe a video hearing is not suitable for you then tell the police and explain why.

If the request is refused, you may ask the judge or magistrates to consider it again at the start of the hearing and they will decide.

Once you enter the video booth you are in court.

The hearing is the same as if you were in the courtroom. This means:

- you must **behave in the same way as you would if physically present**
- any **inappropriate behaviour or language may be treated as a contempt of court** and punished

Unless asked to stand you should remain seated upright and look at the camera during the hearing.

If at any stage during the hearing you cannot see or hear properly, tell the Detention Officer and they will deal with that for you.

At the start of the hearing the people on the screen will be introduced. This will usually include:

- **Magistrates or a District Judge** - they listen to what is said and decide what will happen.
- **A Legal Adviser** - sits in front of the Magistrates to advise on law & procedure.
- **A Prosecutor** - to present the prosecution case.
- **Your Defence solicitor** (unless at the police station with you) - to present your case

Someone from the Probation Service may also be present to give the court information that will help them to decide what will happen.

There may be people in the public gallery who can see and hear you, but you won't be able to see or hear them.

The court will check with you, or the person representing you, whether you wish to say anything about whether the hearing should go ahead by video link or whether you should be physically present in court.