
PRESS RELEASE

Monday 30th April 2018

The Bar of Northern Ireland welcomes the UK Supreme Court to Belfast

As part of its commitment to creating opportunities for the public to access and experience their work in a local setting, the UK Supreme Court will sit in the Inns of Court at the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast in Belfast for the first time ever during the week commencing 30th April.

This historical visit, will see Supreme Court President Lady Hale in attendance, joined by Deputy President Lord Mance, former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland Lord Kerr, Lord Hodge and Lady Black, who will sit for three days of hearings.

The Supreme Court is the final court of appeal for the United Kingdom, hearing cases of profound importance to everyone in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Members of the Bar of Northern Ireland will be appearing on behalf of their clients in the cases that will be heard before the Court during their sitting in Belfast. As experts in advocacy, adept at conquering legal complexity, local barristers have also frequently appeared before the Supreme Court in its normal London home.

Speaking ahead of the visit, Liam McCollum QC, Chairman of the Bar of Northern Ireland said: "It is a privilege to welcome the Supreme Court to Belfast and I am delighted as Chairman of the Bar of Northern Ireland that the Inn of Court and the associated facilities of the Bar Library have been selected for this honour. I am confident that hosting the Justices of the Supreme Court will invigorate the public to learn more about their local justice system as history is made with the Court leaving its London home to visit Belfast for the very first time."

The Supreme Court has already demonstrated itself to be one of the most open and accessible courts in the world. All its hearings, including those that will take place in Belfast are live streamed via the Supreme Court website for everyone who cannot get to proceedings in person.

Places are indeed limited and anyone interested in attending is advised that access to the proceedings is being strictly managed in accordance with the UK Supreme Court procedures, details of which can be found via:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/news/access-to-supreme-court-hearings-in-belfast.html>