

COMMUNIQUE

COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL LEGAL EDUCATION

Pupillage during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period

Pupil Masters

The attention of pupil masters is drawn to their duties under section 5A(3) of the Law Practitioners' Act which, inter alia, require them to make prospective barristers and attorneys familiar with proceedings in Court, to give them the necessary and appropriate opportunity to interact with clients and to provide the Council with a comprehensive report on the applicant's performance during pupillage.

2. In view of the curfew which remained in force since 23 March to 1 June 2020 (the "Covid-19 period") and the restricted judicial services provided by the courts, as well as the restrictions on movement of members of the public not holding a Work Access Permit, during that period, the Council realises that some pupils may not have served their pupillage as required by law.

3. Accordingly, pupil masters are required, when submitting their reports to the Council regarding pupillage period, if it includes the Covid-19 period, to give detailed particulars, with dates wherever possible, of the duties actually performed by them during the Covid-19 period and the manner in which the prospective barristers and attorneys performed the tasks described in section 5A(3) of the Law Practitioners Act.

4. Unless a pupil master is able to fully substantiate in his report to the Council, that pupillage, especially during the Covid-19 period was served as described above, he should not include that period in the period certified by him as the period of pupillage served by the prospective barrister or attorney attached to him.

Council for Vocational Legal Education

11 June 2020