



**SUPPLEMENT TO
PRACTICE STATEMENT: NON-DOMESTIC RATES (RATING LIST 2010): DISCLOSURE
AND EXCHANGE**

Irrelevant material in Statements of Case; 5pm deadline

1. Some Statements of Case and written submissions prepared by professional representatives are compliant but contain appreciable amounts of irrelevant or extraneous material, sometimes two or three times as much material that is in no sense germane to the matter in dispute. This is placing an intolerable burden on the VTS and its staff and on panel members.
2. I am in the process of discussing amendments to Practice Statement A7: *Disclosure and Exchange* in the Valuation Tribunal Users' Group, but a revised Practice Statement is unlikely to become effective until 1 January 2012.
3. The problem identified in paragraph 1 above demands more urgent resolution and I am therefore giving notice that, **as from 1 October 2011**, any Statement of Case or written submission containing appreciable amounts of irrelevant or extraneous material will be deemed non-compliant. Staff will therefore refer such documents to a Senior Member in the same way as one appearing to be non-compliant on other grounds (i.e. deficient in content) with a view to the appeal being struck out, party barred or document excluded in its entirety, as appropriate.
4. In due course, this Supplement to the Practice Statement will be superseded by the amended Practice Statement A7 which will incorporate the above.
5. Your attention is also drawn to the 5pm deadline prescribed in the Procedure Regulations (reg. 14 (1)). This is not mentioned in Practice Statement A7 or the related Standard Directions with the result that many Statements of Case have been received after the 5pm deadline and have been automatically struck out by the IT system.
6. Some applications for reinstatement where the 5pm deadline was missed have been successful, but this is unlikely to be the case in the future now that the strict statutory deadline is being widely publicised. Again, this will be included in the revised Practice Statement.

10 August 2011

President