



HM Courts &
Tribunals Service

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Hodge Jones and Allen
180 North Gower Street
London
NW1 2NB
Our Ref: 1501795141 and others

Date: 28th January 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Case of Ella Gilbert and others, Hearing at Willesden Magistrates Court 24th February 2016

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that the trial listed for the above matter was completed inside the 10 day time scale originally set down.

At previous hearings the court has attempted to allow as many people as possible to observe proceedings but the public gallery is simply not big enough to accommodate the numbers who have attended. At the last hearing of this case the courtroom was seriously overcrowded which created a potential risk to health and safety of court users.

As a result, on 24th February 2016 the court will operate a ticket system to ensure that the public gallery is not over crowded. There will be 26 tickets available (the number of seats in the public gallery) to be split between members of the public. All defendants will be issued with one ticket to give to a supporter or family member with the other 13 available on a first come first served basis. The court asks that you inform your clients of this. On the last occasion there was a great deal of noise in the public concourse which disrupted other courts sitting. To prevent this happening again, access to the concourse of Willesden Magistrates Court will not be permitted to anyone not in possession of a ticket. Card carrying members of the press will be allowed to sit in the well of the court as usual subject to space.

In terms of the sentencing hearing itself, District Judge Wright has indicated that she will hear the mitigation for each individual defendant in turn. But will sentence all defendants together once all the mitigation has been heard. This will mean that the other advocates can take instructions whilst this occurs ensuring a smoother run to the proceedings. District Judge Wright will expect that the case of Miss Ella Gilbert to be ready at 10:00am on 24th February 2016.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Thorn
Legal Team Manager