



## High Court Practice Note — Draft Timetable for Trial

1. This Practice Note addresses the requirement under r 7.5B(1)(a)(iii) of the High Court Rules 2016<sup>1</sup> that, no later than 10 working days before the Judicial Issues Conference (JIC), the plaintiff is to file and serve various materials, including a draft timetable for trial. The time required for trial is an agenda item for the JIC (r 7.5A(l)(i)).
2. Some parties and their lawyers will be familiar with preparing a draft timetable for trial, which has commonly been referred to as a trial “roadmap”. However, some may be unfamiliar with what is required.
3. To assist parties and their lawyers when preparing and discussing a draft timetable for trial, a template example of a timetable can be found here: [General-High-Court-Civil-Proceedings-Practice-Note-Draft-Timeline-for-Trial.pdf](#). It shows the level of detail which is expected in a trial timetable, and that it should include judicial reading time for any witness statements which the parties propose will be taken as read.
4. Rule 7.5B(4) requires the plaintiff to seek input from the defendant when preparing the draft timetable for trial. In doing so, parties and their lawyers should use the attached template as a starting point. For the avoidance of doubt, the structure and timeframes in the template are *examples only*, and are not to be taken as any indication of or guideline on the timeframes required (or expected) for matters such as the parties’ opening addresses, reading time, time for witness evidence, the parties’ closing addresses, or the grouping of expert witnesses.

**Hon Justice Sally Fitzgerald**  
**Chief High Court Judge – Te Kaiwhakawā Matua**  
23 April 2026

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<sup>1</sup> In proceedings commenced on or after 1 January 2026.