



Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland

What type of hearing would I prefer?

MHTS wants to encourage patients to choose the type of hearing they have when an application is made or review of an order is requested. We will hold that type of hearing if we possibly can.

To help patients choose, this leaflet contains a brief summary of each hearing type, including some of the pros and cons of each.



In Person



Telephone



Video (WebEx)

Visual Hearings



IN-PERSON

This hearing will take place at a venue either in a hospital or in the community. All the people invited to the hearing, including the tribunal members, will be asked to attend the venue.

PROS	CONS
You will be able to see everyone at the hearing and they will be able to see you. This may mean you feel more involved and able to participate better.	You may require to travel to the venue.
Any last minute issues at the hearing can be dealt with more easily; for example, documents being produced late.	Some people may choose to take part in the hearing by telephone instead of attending it.
The tribunal members will be together, which may make the hearing run more smoothly.	You will be in the same room as people who may say things that you find upsetting.
There is also the option to take part by telephone instead of attending it, should you decide closer to the hearing date that you would prefer to do this.	

Visual Hearings



VIDEO-CONFERENCE (using WebEx)

Usually video hearings take place with the tribunal members in one place and others attending from different locations. Those attending a video hearing need access to a laptop and a good internet connection.

PROS	CONS
You will be able to see on screen the tribunal members and those who attend the hearing by video.	You need access to a computer/laptop and good wifi. Testing of this equipment may be required before the hearing. Or you may be able to join the hearing with an advocacy worker, solicitor, RMO or MHO and use their computer.
You may be able to attend the hearing from where you are.	You will not be in the same room as the tribunal members or some of the other people.
The tribunal members will be together, which may make the hearing run more smoothly.	There may be some technical issues; for example, some people may have difficulties accessing the hearing.
There is also the option to take part by telephone only, should you decide you would prefer to do this.	

Telephone hearings



TELEPHONE HEARINGS

These hearings are held by telephone conference. All those attending, including the tribunal members, are sent a telephone number which allows them to join the conference call from separate locations.

PROS	CONS
You can telephone into the hearing from wherever you are in the UK, with no charge.	You are unable to see anyone else who attends the hearing from a different location. This may mean that you feel less involved in the hearing.
It may feel less formal/intimidating.	These hearings are unsuitable for those who have communication difficulties or who require the use of an interpreter.
There are likely to be fewer technical issues than in a video-conference hearing.	Usually, the tribunal members are not together when making their decision, which may make the hearing run less smoothly.
You may be able to join in the company of someone you can relax with, such as a family member, advocacy worker or solicitor.	It is likely to be more difficult to deal with any last minute issues; for example, documents being produced late.
	Occasionally there are technical issues, such as someone having a poor signal or becoming disconnected from the call.

More information

For more information on venues and hearing types, please visit our website - [MHTS - Welcome to the Mental Health Tribunal](#)

