



Veterans' Review Board

Practice Direction No 1 of 2015 Access to the Board - Use of Telephone and Video Links

Effective: 5 February 2015

1. The purpose of this practice direction is to clearly set out the Board's procedure in relation to the use of telephone and video links at a hearing.
2. Pursuant to section 142(2) of the VEA, the Principal Member may, give directions as to the procedure and operations of the VRB generally and the conduct of reviews by the VRB.
3. The Board's normal practice at hearings is to require the applicant and their representative to attend to give oral evidence. However, the Board recognises that there may be circumstances where this is either not possible or not necessary.
4. A party wishing to use telephone or video links should make a request in writing to the Board. This should occur as soon as possible and the request must explain the nature of the difficulty which makes it impractical for an applicant, representative or witness to attend. If the request concerns a video-link, it must also set out what alternative arrangements are in place, should the video-link fail. eg conference telephone and relevant contact number.
5. As noted in the Board's General Practice Direction, once a request is made for a video hearing it will be considered at the discretion of the presiding member hearing the application, once the application has been listed for hearing.
6. The Principal Member directs that a telephone or video link hearing will be provided if it will enable a hearing to be listed at an earlier date than might otherwise occur.
7. The Board may also consider telephone or video links of its own motion, where appropriate.
8. Please note the Board pays for the cost of video hearings.
9. It is important that staff of the Registry are provided with relevant telephone numbers for video-link or telephone hearings. Representative must advise any witnesses (including the applicant) of the date, time and estimated duration if they are to give evidence by telephone or video.

Doug Humphreys
Principal Member