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**RYA GUIDANCE**

**INFORMATION FOR OBSERVERS AT HEARINGS**

(TO BE POSTED ON THE OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD & ALL OBSERVERS TO CONFIRM THEY HAVE READ PRIOR TO HEARING COMMENCEMENT)

**Observers**

1. Observers' attendance is, at all times, at the discretion of the PC/Jury Chairman.
2. A party may object to an observer attending the hearing, and the PC/Jury Chairman shall determine whether it is appropriate for their attendance.
3. Depending on the space and number of people who wish to be observers the PC/Jury Chairman may operate a priority system to allocate the available spaces.
4. No observers are permitted to enter after the Hearing has commenced.

**Conduct for Observers**

1. No cellular telephones, cameras or any other electronic recording or transmitting device or alcoholic drinks are permitted in the PC/Jury room and the PC/Jury room is a designated No Smoking area.
2. No communication is permitted between parties and observers in the PC/Jury room.
3. No communication is permitted between parties and observers outside the PC room during an adjournment of the hearing, or whilst the PC/Jury is deliberating prior to giving a decision.
4. Observers may not appear as witnesses or translators.
5. Observers shall remain seated and silent during the Hearing and not be within visual contact with a party or witness to the protest and shall not leave the PC/Jury room unless requested to do so.
6. The PC/Jury Chairman may revoke the invitation of one or more observers to attend the hearing at any time during the hearing and is not required to provide a reason for their decision.

**Media Representatives**

1. Any accredited media representative may apply to the PC/Jury Chairman to be included on a list of approved media representatives that may attend PC/Jury hearings as observers.

2. One representative from the approved list of media representatives may be permitted to attend a hearing.
3. Any such representative may make a request to the PC/Jury Chairman to be an observer at a particular hearing.
4. The media representative shall report to the PC/Jury Secretary.

**Conduct for the Media Representative**

1. A media representative must comply with all the requirements listed above for observers.
2. By accepting the position of approved media representative for the hearing, the representative agrees to report relevant information arising from the hearing to other media representatives.
3. The approved media representative must comply with any reasonable request for information about the hearing from other accredited media representatives.