

## Immigration Hearing

### YOU COULD TICK OFF AFTER EACH THING HAS FINISHED

The **Intermediary/ME** will sit next to you. The Intermediary is the person who helps you with communication and keeping calm.

The **Judge** will sit not far away/same level so you can see them. It will be a bit like sitting round a big table.

**Your barrister**, xxxxx, will sit near you too.

The Home Office representative called a Home Office Presenting Officer (HOPO) (sometimes they are a barrister) will be there too.



The Intermediary, has a meeting with the Judges and Barrister and Home Office Presenting Officer (HOPO). It is called a **Ground Rules Hearing**.

This will be on xxxxxxxx .This is about what helps you best. The Tribunal will tell you if you have to attend this meeting (sometimes you will to see the court but you would not usually be expected to speak at this hearing)

## **Substantive Hearing --- Appeal hearing.**

**First there may be some legal things to sort out . There may be some discussion about the paperwork.**

Sometimes there is nothing to sort out.

**1. Before the hearing begins you will be able to go through your statement –memory refresher in a small room near the court.**

**The Judge should introduce themselves at the start.**

**2. When the hearing gets started, the first person to speak will be your barrister. They will get you to accept your witness statement - to say it's what you want to say. Your barrister may have some questions for you but there should not be too many . Normally you will have set out your story in your witness statement at the conferences with your solicitor, barrister and intermediary.**

**The next person to speak will be xxxxx from the Home Office. He/She is like a barrister called a Presenting Officer (they may be a barrister or they may be a Home Office employee)**

**They will ask you questions. ...You will be able to tell your side of the story.**

At the end of these questions, your barrister may ask you questions to clarify things.

**The judge might ask some questions.**

**3. Then your witnesses will go through the same process**

**4. Submissions... You can leave the room if you want . The Home Office Presenting Officer (HOPO) will argue / say what the reasons are that they want to send you to xxxxxx.**

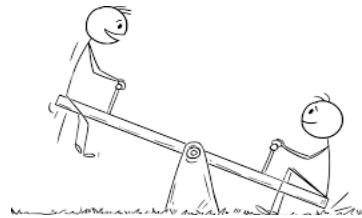
The Home Office Presenting Officer (HOPO) **will explain the reasons they want you to leave UK.**

The Home Office will give reasons/ evidence to show that they are right/correct and that you are wrong.

This can be a difficult time. It can be upsetting to hear all these things about you.

Think of a see-saw, first it tips towards the other side when the Home office is speaking.

Later when your barrister is looking after you and speaking from your side of the story, the see saw tips the other way.



**5. xxxxxx (your Barrister) will say your side of the story.**

**Your barrister, xxxxx, will argue/say that the Home office is wrong . xxxxx will give reasons to say you should not be sent to xxxx.**

**The judge/s will make a decision in a few weeks after the hearing**

The Intermediary (me) will be with you at the hearing . **You must tell me if you don't understand/ hear voices or need a break.**

**The Judges said you can have breaks.**



**6. The determination will take a few weeks – and it is written in a letter or email.**

The determination. Is the word for when the judge is thinking and reading all the papers and then makes a decision. The judge/judges may need time to think about it all and send you the written determination.

Catherine O'Neill