



Consumer Contracts Adjudication Scheme

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What will the adjudicator do?

The adjudicator will invite each party, who may be represented by a lawyer or other advisor, to give their views about the dispute and what decision they think the adjudicator should reach. This will usually take the form of brief written statements. The adjudicator may require to inspect the works and to put questions directly to the parties. The adjudicator will consider matters brought to his/her attention by the parties, in writing or verbally, and may also make independent investigations and use personal expertise to ascertain the matters he/she considers necessary for reaching a decision.

How long does it take?

The objective of the adjudication procedure is to resolve the dispute within 28 days from the day an application for the adjudicator is received by the appointing body. Once an application is received by the appointing body, an adjudicator will normally be appointed within 7 days (including weekends but excluding public holidays). Once the adjudicator is appointed he/she will reach a decision within 21 days (including weekends but excluding public holidays). In many cases the adjudicator may be able to make a decision sooner, particularly if the issue in dispute is straightforward.

The adjudicator's decision

The decision of the adjudicator is final and binding unless it is referred for a final decision to the court. The adjudicator will write to both parties informing them of the decision and asking for payment of his/her fee.

The adjudicator's decision will be final and binding and will remain so unless and until it is finally decided in court proceedings. Either party may refer the matter to court at any time.

A copy of the Rules and an application form to appoint an adjudicator are available from:

Royal Institute of British Architects

Disputes Resolution Office
66 Portland Place
London W1B 1AD
Tel: 020 7307 3649
Fax: 020 7307 3793
email: adjudication@inst.riba.org