STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1993 No. 290

The Council Tax (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) Regulations 1993

PART III

Appeals

Conduct of the hearing

25.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a valuation tribunal's functions of hearing or determining an appeal shall be discharged by three members of the tribunal, who shall include at least one chairman(1); and a chairman shall preside.

(2) Where all parties to an appeal who appear so agree, the appeal may be decided by two members of a tribunal, and notwithstanding the absence of a chairman.

(3) The hearing shall take place in public, unless the tribunal otherwise orders on the application of a party, and on being satisfied that the interests of that party would be prejudicially affected.

(4) If at the hearing of an appeal every party other than the listing officer fails to appear, the tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

(5) If at the hearing of an appeal any party does not appear, the tribunal may hear and determine the appeal in his absence.

(6) The tribunal may require any witness to give evidence by oath or affirmation, and shall have power for that purpose to administer an oath or affirmation in due form.

(7) Unless the tribunal determines otherwise, on the hearing of an appeal under regulation 8, or arising from an alteration of a list by the listing officer, the listing officer shall begin the hearing; and in any other case parties at the hearing may be heard in such order as the tribunal may determine.

(8) Parties at the hearing may examine any witness before the tribunal and call witnesses.

(9) A hearing may be adjourned for such time, to such place and on such terms (if any) as the tribunal thinks fit; and reasonable notice of the time and place to which the hearing has been adjourned shall be given to every party.

(10) If it thinks fit a tribunal may after notice to the parties inviting them to be present inspect any dwelling which is the subject of the appeal.

(11) Where on the hearing of an appeal under regulation 13—

- (a) the listing officer contends that the proposal was not validly made, and
- (b) the tribunal does not uphold his contention,

the tribunal shall not immediately proceed to determine the appeal unless every party so agrees.

(12) Subject to any provision of this Part, the tribunal-

⁽¹⁾ See the definition in regulation 2(1) of the Valuation and Community Charge Tribunals Regulations 1989.

- (a) shall conduct the hearing in such manner as it considers most suitable to the clarification of the issues before it, and generally to the just handling of the proceedings;
- (b) shall, so far as appears to it appropriate, seek to avoid formality in its proceedings; and
- (c) shall not be bound by any enactment or rule of law relating to the admissibility of evidence before courts of law.