

SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2014 - 2015



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THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

THE SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA
2014-2015

This report is submitted in accordance with s194H of the *Supreme Court Civil Procedure Act 1932*, pursuant to which the Chief Justice is to provide a report to Parliament. This report is to include details as to the administration of justice in the Court during the current year and any other matters that the Chief Justice considers appropriate.

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THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

Originating Matters	469
Appeals	35
Total matters lodged	504

Finalised First Instance	422
Finalised Appeals	26
Total matters finalised	448

PROBATE

Grants of Probate	2207
Grants of Letters of Administration	170
Elections to Administer	36
Reseals	28
Total Probate matters	2441

CIVIL JURISDICTION

Originating Matters	833
Appeals	94
Total matters lodged	927

Finalised First Instance	864
Finalised Appeals	80
Total matters finalised	944

MEDIATION

Personal Injuries – Motor Vehicle	34
Declaration	10
Personal Injuries – Other	6
Breach of Contract	23
Testators Family Maintenance	15
Professional Negligence	19
Monies Due	10
Other	31
Total Conducted	148
Total settled at mediation	98

More detailed statistical information can be found in Appendix A

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THE JUDICIAL YEAR IN REVIEW



Chief Justice Alan Blow OAM

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Personalia

There were no judicial appointments or retirements during the reporting year.

On 7 July 2014 His Excellency the Honourable Peter Underwood AC, the Governor of Tasmania, died in office. The judges and staff of the Court were deeply saddened by his untimely death.

His Excellency was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court in September 1984, and as Chief Justice in December 2004. He resigned in order to take up the office of Governor in March 2008. He made an enormous contribution to the administration of justice in Tasmania, particularly in relation to the introduction of case management arrangements and mediations in the civil jurisdiction, and in the reform of criminal procedures. Even after his appointment as Governor, he was actively involved in legal education and professional development.

As Chief Justice I exercised the role of Lieutenant Governor until the appointment of Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Kate Warner AM as Governor on 10 December 2014, while also fulfilling the role of Chief Justice.

In November 2014 the Honourable David Harper AM QC was appointed as an Acting Judge to hear the appeal of *Ellis v Cordwell*. On the determination of the appeal his Honour's appointment ended.

Philip Louis Jackson was appointed as Senior Counsel on 25 March 2015, and the ceremonial sitting for his appointment was held on 15 April 2015. The appointments as Senior Counsel of Mr Ayliffe SC and Mr Barker SC were referred to in the 2013-2014 Annual Report. The ceremonial sitting for their appointments was held on 18 August 2014.

There were no significant appointments amongst Court staff, but transcriber Carole Triffitt left the Court to pursue other business interests after more than 30 years as a transcriber.

Criminal Cases

The number of new criminal cases increased by 3% during the reporting year, from 454 to 469. Finalisations of criminal cases also increased from 403 to 422, resulting in a clearance rate of only 90% which was slightly improved on the last reporting year. This resulted in an increase in the number of pending criminal cases as at 30 June from 348 to 388.

These results are largely the result of a double murder trial, *State of Tasmania v Standage*, which occupied the time of one judge for over five months, two of which fell in the reporting year. In the time taken to conduct that trial, almost 60 ordinary cases (trials and pleas of guilty) would usually have been finalised. The flow-on effects of the trial continue to be reflected in the statistics.

Inroads have been made into the older part of the pending caseload. In the 2013-14 year 26% of criminal cases were between 12 and 24 months old, an increase from 15% in 2012-13. This year 19% of cases are between 12 and 24 months old, an improvement attributable to the particular focus the Court has put on finalising cases in that age group. This trajectory is hoped to be continued in the 2015-16 year, bringing the pending caseload back to 2012-13 levels.

In order to deal with the criminal case load, there have been a number of occasions when criminal trials have proceeded simultaneously in both of the Court's courtrooms in Launceston. On a number of occasions, Commonwealth criminal trials have been heard in court 1 in Hobart, while State criminal matters have proceeded in courts 7 and 8. This is an inconvenient arrangement because the jury room in court 1 is designed only for a seven-member civil jury. At one stage in April 2015, for the first time, six criminal trials proceeded simultaneously – three in Hobart, two in Launceston and one in Burnie. To their credit, the transcribers managed to produce six running transcripts.

The Court is reviewing aspects of its criminal case management practices. Consideration is being given to the reform of the remand day system, where a large number of accused people attend court on the same day for a brief review of their cases; and to the remittal of minor matters to the Magistrates Court in appropriate circumstances.

The reduction of scheduled criminal sittings in Burnie from four weeks to three weeks took effect from February 2014. This change was initiated because of a decline in criminal cases in Burnie but the sittings are lengthened or shortened according to demand. If the caseload demands it, two judges rather than one are allocated to hear criminal cases in Launceston, and that helps keep the age of pending cases in that region under control.

Civil Cases

Civil lodgements decreased by 3% during the reporting year, from 859 to 833. The clearance rate in civil cases was 103.7%, meaning that more cases were finalised than were commenced. Access to justice in the civil jurisdiction of the Court has continued to be efficient and timely. The Court engages in active case management processes which focus on ensuring that cases are ready for trial. Once cases are ready for trial there is usually little delay in listing them before a judge. The delay between listing and trial is usually less than three months, but much depends on the availability of counsel, the parties, and their witnesses.

This reporting year there has been a slight decrease in the number of pending civil cases, from 809 to 806. A significant improvement is seen in the number of pending cases aged between 12 and 24 months. Last financial year there were 256 pending cases in this group, this year the number has reduced to 192, a 25% decrease. This is partly offset by a small increase in cases pending over 24 months old – from 73 to 89.

The reported civil clearance rate is affected by a statistical rule known as the "deemed finalised" rule, whereby cases that have apparently been dormant for 12 months are counted as finalised. That rule exists in order to focus attention on matters that are active, and can be progressed by the courts. When cases are deemed finalised, they reduce the pending count and increase the finalisation count. Tasmania has the second highest reported "deemed finalised" percentage in the country. This may reflect the mix of subject-matter of Tasmanian civil proceedings and/or the effectiveness of our case management arrangements.

At present, personal injury matters are exempted from routine case management. One reason for this is that plaintiffs and their solicitors often need to wait until medical conditions stabilise. The Court is concerned to ensure that personal injury matters do not become stale when they should be progressing. Internal analysis has shown that a significant proportion of cases that are deemed finalised because of inaction are subsequently revived and progressed to resolution.

Mediation by Court staff and external mediators continues to be an effective method of dispute resolution in civil cases and it is now fully accepted by the legal profession as an essential step in proceedings. This year's settlement rate of 66% is a drop from last year's 76%.

Appeals

In its appellate jurisdictions, both criminal and civil, the Court is generally keeping pace with its work. 92% of criminal appeals and 89% of civil appeals have been pending for less than 12 months.

There has been an increase in civil appeal lodgements from 89 to 94. Criminal appeal lodgements have increased from 22 to 35 this year. Criminal appeal finalisations are up from 18 to 26, but civil appeal finalisations are down to 80 from 90.

Education and Research

During the year, the Court continued to engage with educational and research institutions in various ways, including the following:

- Sentencing workshops were held in Burnie by Justice Estcourt, Launceston by Justice Pearce, and Hobart by the Chief Justice on Saturday 16 May 2015. The workshops were attended by approximately 150 members of the public who were interested in learning more about the sentencing process. Judges in each location presided over a sentencing hearing, and explained the relevant legislation and considerations to be taken into account. Attendees were then able to discuss the facts of a case scenario they were provided with, and arrive at their own sentences. The judges then handed down and explained their own sentences.
- The Court completed the production of an information film for jurors. The film is played when jurors who have been summoned to court assemble at the beginning of the Court sittings and it is also available on the Court's website. It explains the jury selection process, provides information about what jurors can expect during their time at Court, and sets out their obligations and entitlements.

- In November 2014 the Court participated for the first time in Open House Hobart, an event organised by the Institute of Architects to provide the public with access to architecturally significant buildings in and around Hobart. Two judges led tours, together with the architect of the Court buildings, Peter Partridge.
- The Court has continued to enhance its information and communication resources. Apart from the information video for jurors, projects initiated have included website development for the benefit of self-represented probate applicants, and the establishment of the Court's twitter account.
- The Court provides courtrooms for the University of Tasmania Law School's moots.
- The Court facilitated the Sentencing Advisory Council's research projects concerning suspended sentences and self-defence by providing access to files and data.
- Judges routinely preside over litigation and advocacy exercises for trainees undertaking the Tasmanian Legal Practice Course.
- The Court continues to accept a regular intake of work-experience students from local schools and colleges, providing a training opportunity for students with an interest in business administration and those who are considering a career in the law.
- Judges in criminal trials have facilitated the National Jury Study conducted by Professor Kate Warner AM, now the Governor of Tasmania, and others from the University of Tasmania. That study is funded by the Australian Research Council. It involves the investigation of jurors' views as to sentencing in cases they have tried.

Technology

During the reporting year, the Court undertook further upgrades and expansion of its video conferencing infrastructure. Voice amplification systems were also upgraded in some courts to ensure that everyone in a courtroom is able to hear the proceedings. Development work on a probate module within the Civil Registry Management System was finalised, and it is ready to be implemented. The enhancement of the Court's Criminal Case Management System is ongoing.

The Court commenced an e-filing pilot project for its civil matters during 2013 and continued that project during the 2014-2015 year. Consideration is now being given to the merits of extending the pilot and the costs of information technology infrastructure that would be required to gain the maximum efficiencies from the system.

Archiving of Statutes

The Supreme Court has been the repository for the originals of all Tasmanian statutes ever since the Executive Council began to enact them in 1833. The oldest statutes were written on velum. The storage conditions have been far from ideal. Following an amendment in 2013 to the *Legislation Publication Act* 1996, custody of these very important documents is being transferred to the State Archivist. A project is underway to conserve and catalogue these historic documents. The fragile nature of some of these documents, and the requirement for special storage folders and boxes, has led to a revision of the expected completion date for the project. It is now expected that the first half of the project, covering the years 1833 to 1900, will be completed in the year commencing 1 July 2016. It is estimated the transfer of the remaining documents should be achieved by the end of 2017.

Probate

The *Probate Rules* 1936 remain in force. They need to be replaced by more modern rules. Consultation on the new draft Probate Rules was completed during the previous reporting year, together with an Issues Paper that was distributed to key stakeholders. Stakeholder comments have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into the draft rules. The revised Probate Rules were approved by the Rule Committee in November 2015 and forwarded to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel for drafting.

Legislative Amendments

As the result of an amendment in March 2014 to the *Evidence (Children and Special Witnesses) Act* 2001 in certain cases the Court may direct that the evidence of children and other special witnesses be pre-recorded and presented in audio visual form, without the need for the child or special witness to attend the trial. The number of cases in which these directions are being made is increasing.



Justice Robert Pearce, Justice Helen Wood, Justice Shan Tennent, Chief Justice Alan Blow OAM, Justice David Porter, Justice Stephen Estcourt, Associate Justice Stephen Holt, Registrar Jim Connolly

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THE SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA IN PROFILE

The Supreme Court of Tasmania (the Court), created by the *Charter of Justice* 1823, forms part of a multi-layered court system, which exercises both Federal and State jurisdictions. The Court is the superior court of the State and, is equal in status to, but independent of, the Legislature and the Executive.

Currently six judges constitute the Court. The Associate Judge, Registrar and approximately 50 administrative staff support them.

Structure of the Court

Court systems throughout Australia are hierarchical with most States adopting three levels of courts:

- Magistrates (or Local) Courts
- District (or County) Courts
- Supreme Courts

In Tasmania, there are only two levels in the court hierarchy, being the Magistrates Court and the Supreme Court.

The Court's work is divided into three broad areas, namely criminal, civil and appeal matters.

Criminal matters are those in which an accused person is charged with an indictable offence. Upon entry of a plea of not guilty, an indictable offence is tried by a judge and a jury of twelve people.

In civil matters, the Court determines disputes involving sums in excess of \$50,000. The trials are usually conducted by a judge sitting alone, although provision does exist for some cases to be tried with a jury of seven.

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Appeals from the decisions of a single judge, or a judge and jury, are heard by a Bench usually of three judges, called a Court of Criminal Appeal when sitting in criminal matters and called the Full Court when sitting in civil matters. There is a provision enabling an appeal to be heard by only two judges.

Jurisdiction of the Court

The Court exercises both original and appellate jurisdictions. Original jurisdiction is when a matter comes before the Court for a decision for the first time. Appellate jurisdiction is when the Court determines appeals from single judges, from the Magistrates Court, or from various tribunals where there exists a right to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Mediation

Only a very small percentage of civil cases require resolution by a hearing in the court. Far more civil cases settle at mediation. The mediators are the Registrar and other court officers as well as selected legal practitioners where necessary. The Court has the power to direct that a case be referred to mediation before it will be listed for trial. Court-annexed mediation is a very popular and successful means of resolving civil disputes. It provides expedition, saves costs and produces a just result. Without it, the Court would not be able to cope with its caseload.

Registries of the Court

The Court operates civil, criminal, probate and district registries.

Civil Registry

The Civil Registry receives and processes all documents lodged in the civil jurisdiction of the Court and is the first point of reference for enquiries from the public and the legal profession. This Registry also receives and processes appeals to the Full Court and single judge appeals. It has responsibility for the management of the Court's records and the listing and case management functions for the Court's civil and appellate jurisdictions.

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Criminal Registry

The Criminal Registry receives and processes documents lodged by the Director of Public Prosecutions (Tasmanian and Commonwealth), which initiate criminal proceedings, and lists criminal trials and other hearings. It receives and processes appeals and applications for leave to appeal and prepares appeal documentation for use by the Court of Criminal Appeal. It also receives and processes applications to review decisions from the Magistrates Court and statutory tribunals.

Probate Registry

The Probate Registry deals with applications for grants of probate, letters of administration and other related matters. It is responsible for determining, on application for a grant of representation, what document or documents constitute the last will of the deceased and/or who is entitled to be the legal personal representative of the deceased.

Most of these applications are decided without a court hearing. If there is a dispute, it is heard and determined by the Court in the same way as all other civil cases are heard and determined. When these determinations have been made, a grant is issued to the legal personal representative of the deceased.

District Registries

The Court maintains district registries in Launceston and Burnie to deal with civil and criminal matters.

THE JUDGES AND THE ASSOCIATE JUDGE

Judges

Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the Governor on the advice of the Executive Council (a Council of State Ministers including the Premier), from the ranks of barristers and solicitors who have at least ten years' standing in their profession.

The Bench of the Supreme Court currently consists of the Chief Justice and five other judges, known as puisne judges. This is an Anglo-French term meaning "subordinate" and pronounced "puny".

The *Supreme Court Act* 1887, section 2, provides that the Court consists of a maximum of seven judges. Six judges presently constitute the Court. Those presently holding office are:

The Chief Justice:

The Honourable Alan Michael Blow OAM

The puisne Judges:

The Honourable Shan Eve Tennent

The Honourable David James Porter

The Honourable Helen Marie Wood

The Honourable Stephen Peter Estcourt

The Honourable Robert William Pearce

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Associate Judge

The Governor appoints the Associate Judge of the Supreme Court in the same manner as a judge. The Associate Judge assists the judges in conducting the civil jurisdiction of the Court. For instance, the Associate Judge deals with interlocutory, that is procedural, applications in civil matters, before they come on for trial.

The Associate Judge can also hear and determine many cases that formerly could only be heard by a judge. This legislative change has assisted the Court with the management of its caseload.

The Associate Judge is:

The Honourable Stephen James Holt.

THE WORK OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA

The jurisdictions exercised by the Court, and the administrative support of the judicial functions of the Court, are numerous and varied. Most people are generally aware of the Court's jurisdictions in criminal and civil cases. However, there are many other aspects of the Court's work.

Office of the Sheriff

The office of the Sheriff can be traced back to medieval England. The office of Sheriff in Tasmania was created by the Charter of Justice published by Letters Patent in 1823 (which also established the Supreme Court). The Sheriff is a statutory officer appointed pursuant to the *Sheriff Act* 1873. The Sheriff also currently holds office as Registrar of the Supreme Court. The Charter of Justice enables the Sheriff to appoint deputies, and the Sheriff is represented at the Principal and District Registries by his deputies.

The functions of the Sheriff are prescribed by statute and include the following:

- administration of the *Juries Act* 2003
- service and execution (enforcement) of court orders and judgments
- court security.

Administration of Juries

Juries are an integral part of the judicial system and by providing "trial by one's peers" they form the link between the community and the criminal justice system.

Jury service is a vital component of civic participation in our democracy and the criminal justice system. For many people it is the most direct contact they will have with this important community responsibility. In Tasmania, juries

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are used almost exclusively in criminal trials of serious indictable offences. Juries are rarely empanelled in civil trials in Tasmania.

The Sheriff is responsible for administration of juries in accordance with the *Juries Act* 2003. This involves maintenance of the roll of potential jurors; determining each registry's jury districts from which jurors are drawn; issuing juror summonses; determining applications for exemption or deferral; instructing jurors on their role within the justice system; administering juror expense claims; and handling general enquiries.

The Court's jury list is sourced from the electoral Roll maintained by the Tasmanian Electoral Commission, with jurors being selected at random by computer. Juror summonses are issued which require jurors to attend Court unless they are exempted or have their jury service deferred.

Registry	No. Jurors Summoned	No. Attended	No. Empanelled	No. of Trials
Hobart	4,344	1,132	454	37
Launceston	5,092	1,055	348	29
Burnie	2,546	548	198	20
TOTAL	11,982	2,735	1,000	86

There were no civil jury trials conducted in the reporting year.

Payment to jurors for loss of income, attendance and expenses in 2014-2015 totalled approximately \$589,823.

Enforcement of Court Orders

Writs to enforce judgments and orders of the Court are received by the Sheriff for immediate execution.

Execution of court orders outside the immediate precincts of the Hobart, Launceston and Burnie registries is usually entrusted to bailiffs – who are often officers of Tasmania Police – by virtue of rule 903 of the Supreme Court Rules 2000. If circumstances require, the Sheriff or any of his officers may execute any Writ within the State.

The number of writs of execution filed with the Court has dropped slightly this year. In 2014-2015, Sheriff's officers executed 65 writs of execution, of which 47 were writs of possession and 18 were writs of *feri facias* or writs of delivery.

Applications for orders for possession of premises pursuant to section 146 of the *Land Titles Act* 1980 decreased to 200 in comparison with 257 in the previous reporting period.

Court Security

Court security officers continue to provide support to the Court to ensure the safety and security of all those who attend court. Security monitoring devices include walk-through metal detectors, hand-held metal detectors and CCTV surveillance equipment. Security personnel are appointed as authorised officers pursuant to section 1B of the *Admissions to Court Act* 1916. Authorised officers have powers which include the following:

- power to require persons entering the court to be identified; and
- power to require persons entering the court to deposit with an authorised officer any placard, instrument, device or thing that is liable to engender violence or create a breach of the peace; and
- power to require a person to leave, or not enter, a court or remove a person from the court.

Probate

The Probate Registry issues grants which signify legal personal representatives have been appointed to administer the estates of deceased persons. The Probate Registry is located at the Hobart Registry of the Court.

The most common grants are for:

- probate (where an executor applies to prove a will);
- letters of administration with the will annexed (where there is no executor to prove the will and a person with a financial interest in the estate under the terms of the will applies); and

- letters of administration (where there is no will and a person entitled to benefit under intestate succession law applies).

This reporting year the Probate Registry issued 2441 grants of which 2134 were grants of probate, 170 were grants of letters of administration, 36 were elections to administer low value estates, there were also 73 caveats and other miscellaneous applications, and 28 reseals of grants from other jurisdictions.

These grants are made in response to non-contentious applications. Once filed these applications are reviewed by Probate staff to ensure all necessary documentary evidence (providing details about the deceased, the will if any, the assets and liabilities of the estate, the executors or administrators, and beneficiaries) has been submitted to ensure that the authority to administer the deceased person's estate is granted to the person legally entitled to the grant.

The number of applications in person to the Probate Registry has continued to increase. Additional resources have been allocated to reduce delay in issuing grants. Of concern is the likelihood that at least some applicants in person do not fully comprehend the task of administering estates. The Court has now improved the information resources available to applicants-in-person, as part of its project to modernise the Probate Rules applicable to this jurisdiction.

Information Technology

The Court relies increasingly on information technology to perform its functions. During 2014–15 the Court continued to invest in the areas of in-court technology, and data collection and management. The Court has continued to improve in-Court recording and audio systems with the installation of voice enhancement microphones, and improved video-conferencing facilities statewide.

The Probate records are being relocated to the Civil Registry Management System (CRMS), to provide improved data management and reporting, as well as an improved platform.

Judges' Library

The judges' library is essential to the efficient performance of the judicial function and the writing of judgments. The main library collection is located in Judges' Chambers in Hobart, and comprises law reports from most common law jurisdictions, textbooks, periodicals, serials, journals, and legislation. The judges' library also subscribes to a variety of on-line legal resources, law reports, and texts from the various legal publishers.

The library also contains copies of earlier unreported judgments of previous judges of the Supreme Court. Publication of the Court's judgments on the internet, plus management of the Court's external and internal websites is undertaken by library and chambers staff.

The library also provides library services to judges when sitting in Launceston and Burnie, which have limited hard copy collections. The Supreme Court librarian manages the availability of on-line and hard copy legal resources, and provides training in legal information research skills.

Transcribing Services

The Supreme Court has an experienced transcribing service to produce transcripts of selected court proceedings for judges, counsel and parties to litigation. Transcripts are prepared without charge to the parties in most criminal trials, and at cost in those civil proceedings where the parties have requested a transcript.

Digital audio-recording technology now enables high-quality audio-visual recording of the proceedings in the courtroom to be transmitted in real time to transcribing typists based at the local Court location, or if assistance is required, to any of the other transcribing typists based in the other Court locations in the State. The Court employs a pool of approximately 16 transcription typists on either a full-time or part-time basis. Transcript can be provided as a daily transcript if required during a trial, or at a later stage if required for appeals or other purposes.

COURT ADMINISTRATION – PERFORMANCE

The work of the Court is divided into two major jurisdictional areas – crime and civil. Unlike many other Supreme Courts, the Court is not divided into divisions. All judges hear matters at first instance and on appeal, in both jurisdictions. In addition, the Court sits in three regions within the State: Hobart, Launceston and Burnie.

The workload of the Court is subject to fluctuations that are beyond the ability of the Court to control. The nature of the legal process requires it to hear any matter falling within the jurisdiction of the Court that is brought before it. As the jurisdiction of the Court expands and contracts with statutory changes and social conditions, so does its workload.

The overall objectives for Court administration for the reporting year were:

- To be open and accessible;
- To process matters in an expeditious and timely manner;
- To provide due process and equal protection before the law;
- To be independent yet accountable to Parliament for performance.

A national framework of performance indicators adopted by the Court supports the objectives of the Court. The two principal indicators are summarised below.

Backlog Indicator

The backlog indicator is a measure of timeliness and delay. This indicator specifically measures the Court's pending caseload against national timeliness standards. The national time standards targets are that no more than 10% of lodgments pending completion should be more than 12 months old; and no lodgments pending completion should be more than 24 months old.

Backlog Indicator - Supreme Court (Criminal) - First Instance

	2012-13	%	2013-14	%	2014-15	%
Total Pending Caseload	315	100	348	100	388	100
Pending < 12mths	237	75	235	68	281	72
Pending >12mths and <24mths	46	15	92	26	73	19
Pending >24mths	32	10	21	6	34	9

Backlog Indicator - Supreme Court (Criminal) - Appeal

	2012-13	%	2013-14	%	2014-15	%
Total Pending Caseload	14	100	17	100	26	100
Pending < 12mths	14	100	16	94	24	92
Pending >12mths and <24mths	0	0	1	6	1	4
Pending >24mths	0	0	0	0	1	4

Backlog Indicator - Supreme Court (Civil) - First Instance

	2012-13	%	2013-14	%	2014-15	%
Total Pending Caseload	898	100	809	100	806	100
Pending < 12mths	571	64	480	59	525	65
Pending >12mths and <24mths	253	28	256	32	192	24
Pending >24mths	74	8	73	9	89	11

Backlog Indicator - Supreme Court (Civil) - Appeal

	2012-13	%	2013-14	%	2014-15	%
Total Pending Caseload	56	100	50	100	62	100
Pending < 12mths	48	86	38	76	55	89
Pending >12mths and <24mths	6	11	9	18	6	10
Pending >24mths	2	3	3	6	1	1

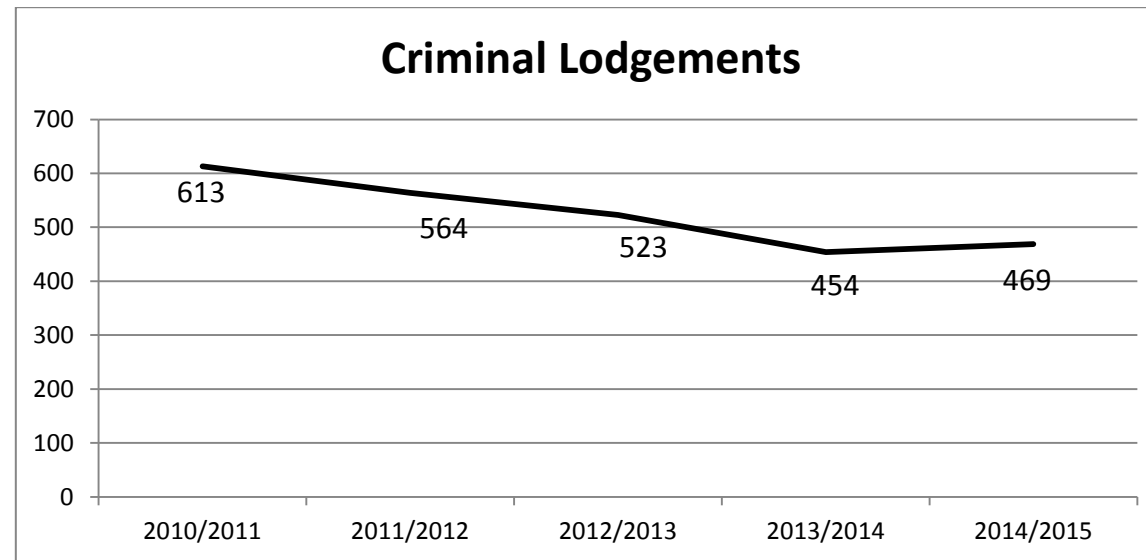
Clearance Rate

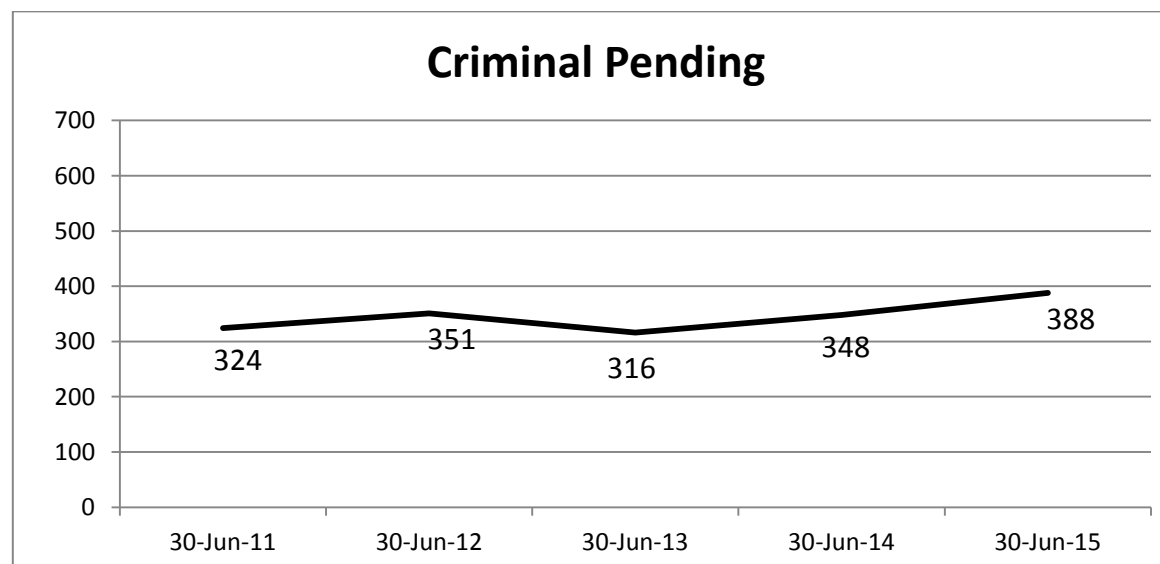
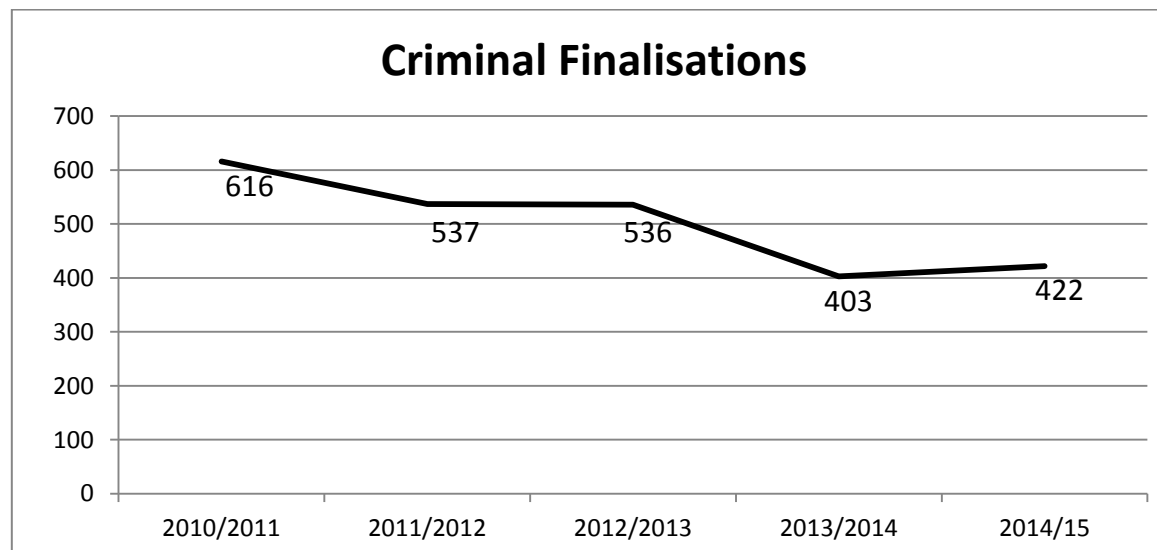
The Clearance Rate indicator is a measure that shows whether the Court is keeping up with its workload. The indicator denotes the number of finalisations in the reporting period expressed as a percentage of the number of lodgments for the same period. A result of 100% indicates the Court is finalising as many matters as it receives. A result greater than 100% indicates the Court is reducing its pending caseload.

Supreme Court clearance rate (First instance)

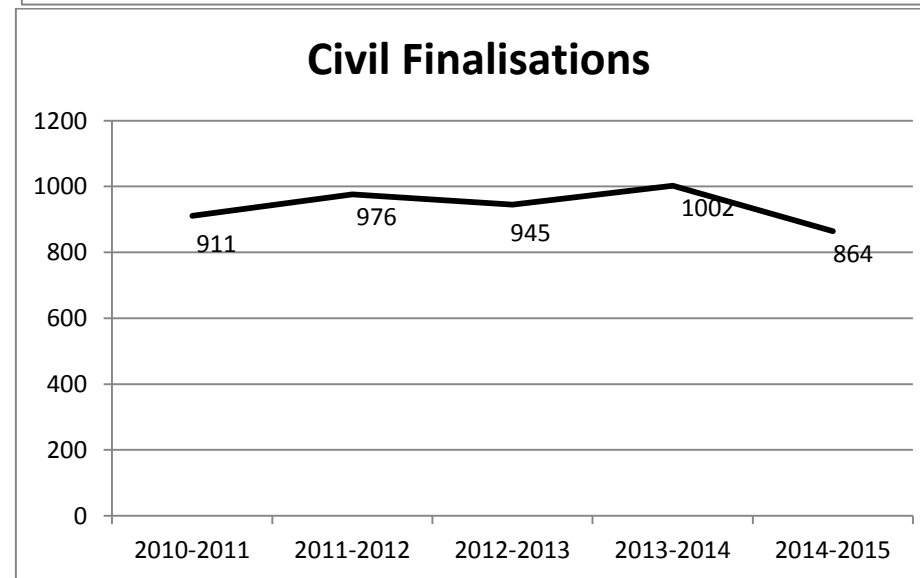
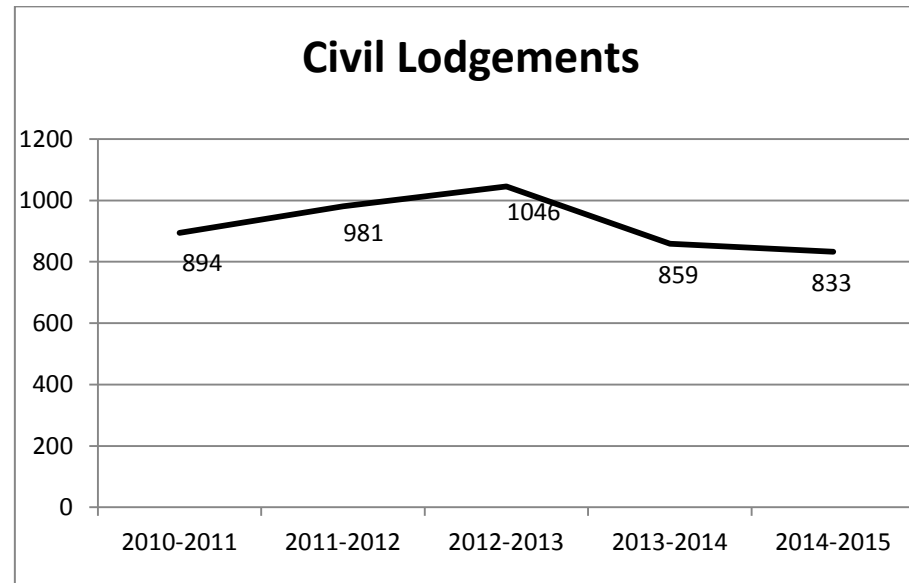
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Criminal Jurisdiction	101.5%	88.8%	90.0%
Civil Jurisdiction	90.3%	116.5%	103.7%

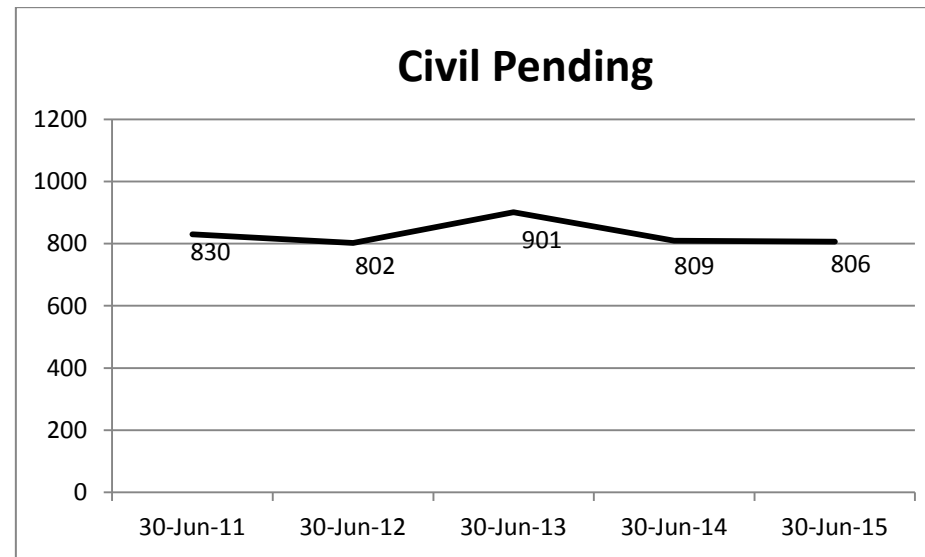
Statistical Information Original Jurisdiction



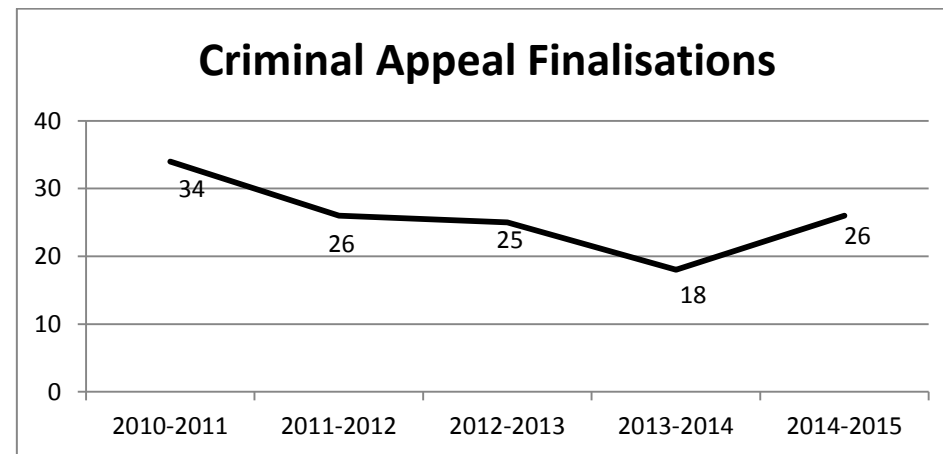
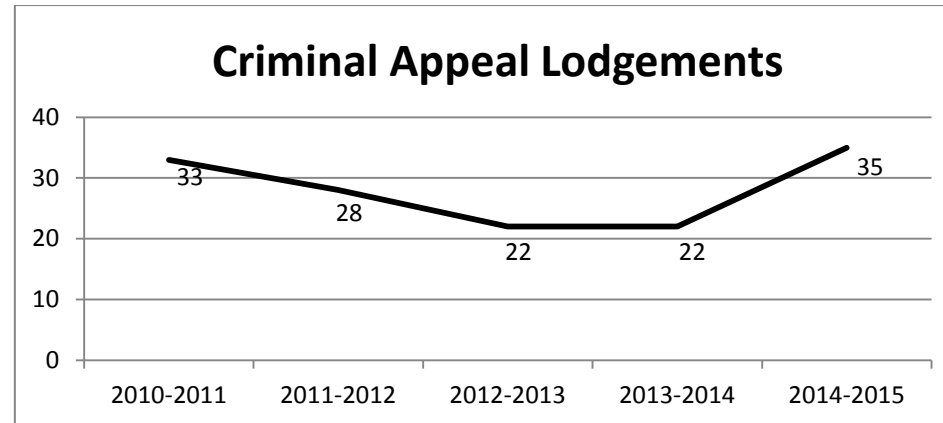


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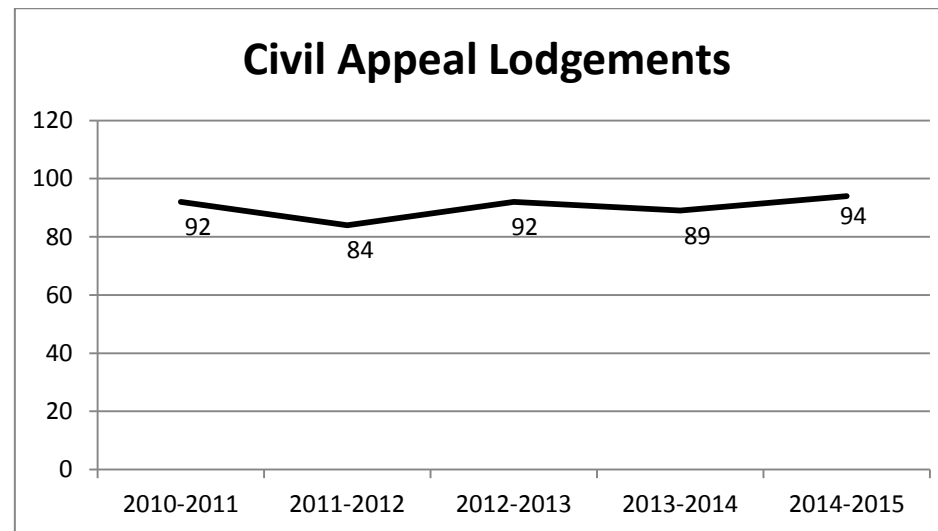
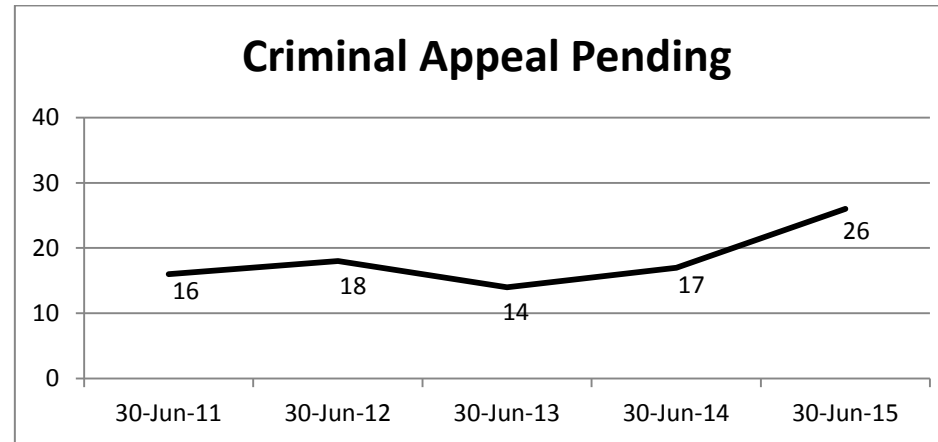




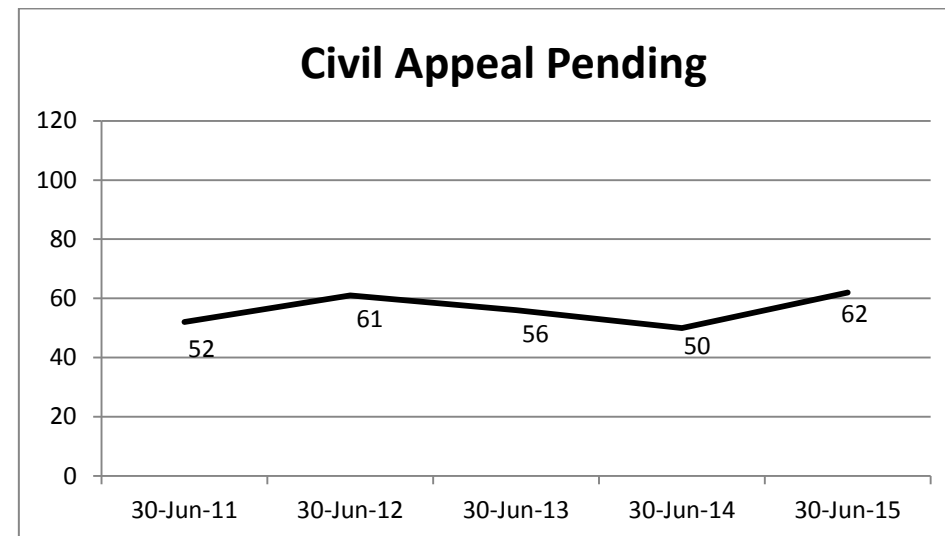
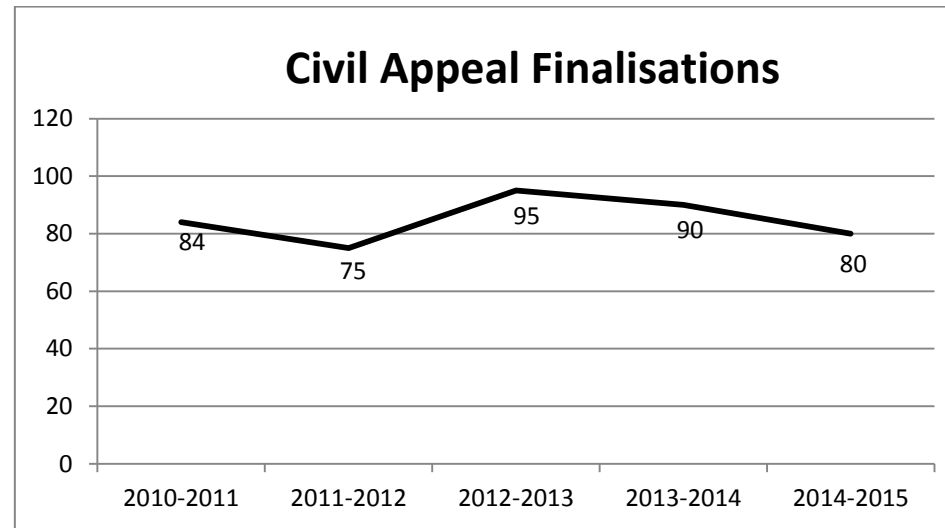
Appellate Jurisdiction



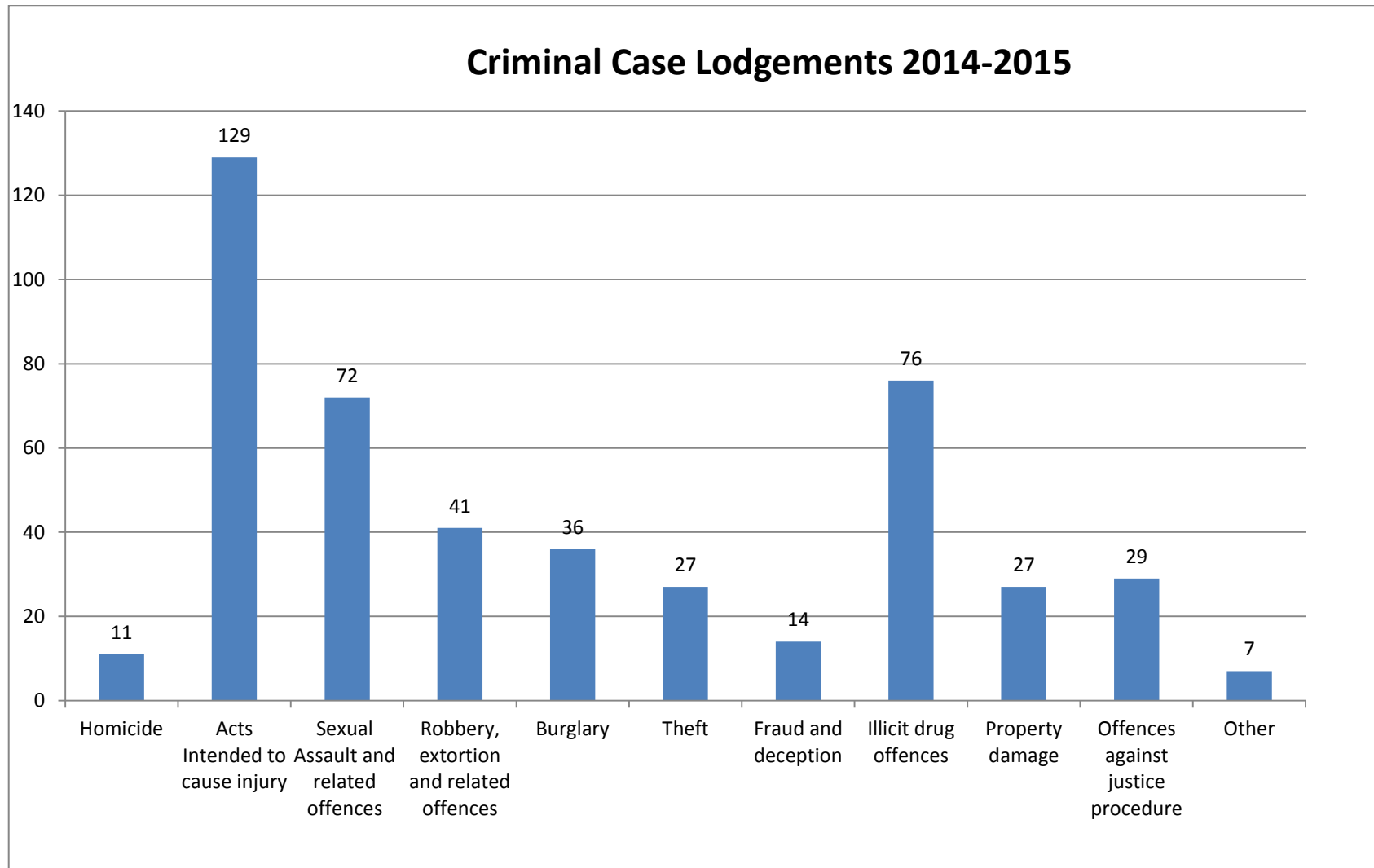
www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au



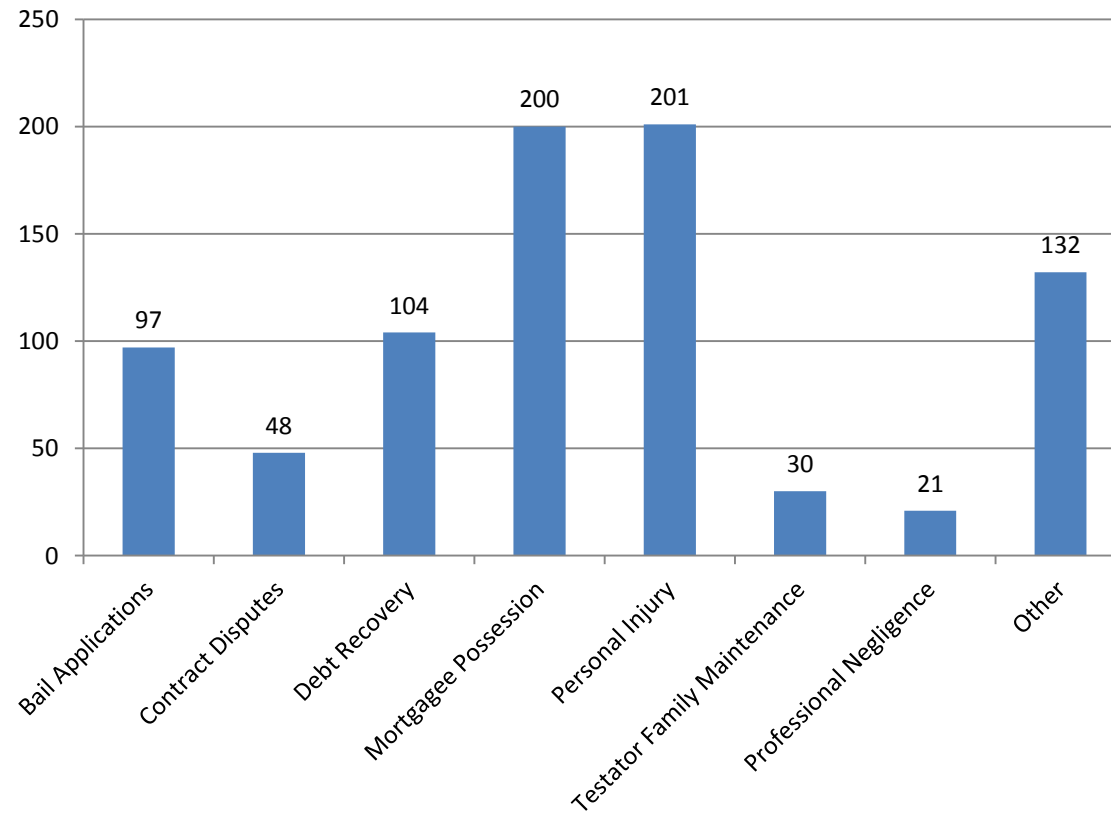
www.supremecourt.tas.gov.au



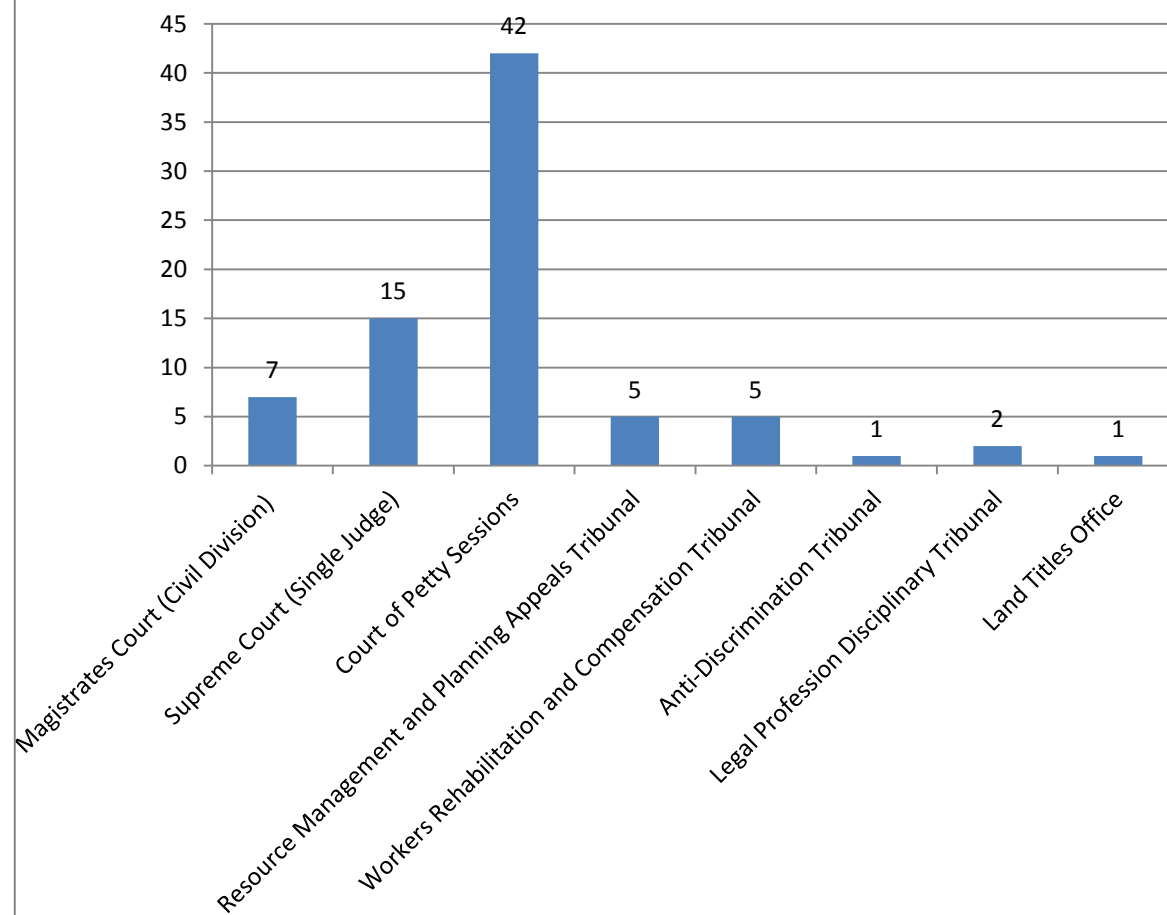
Miscellaneous

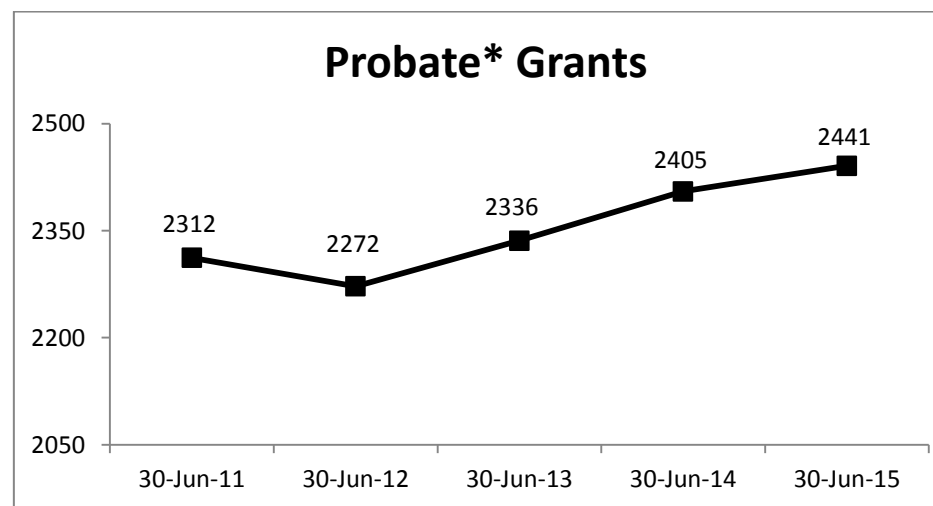
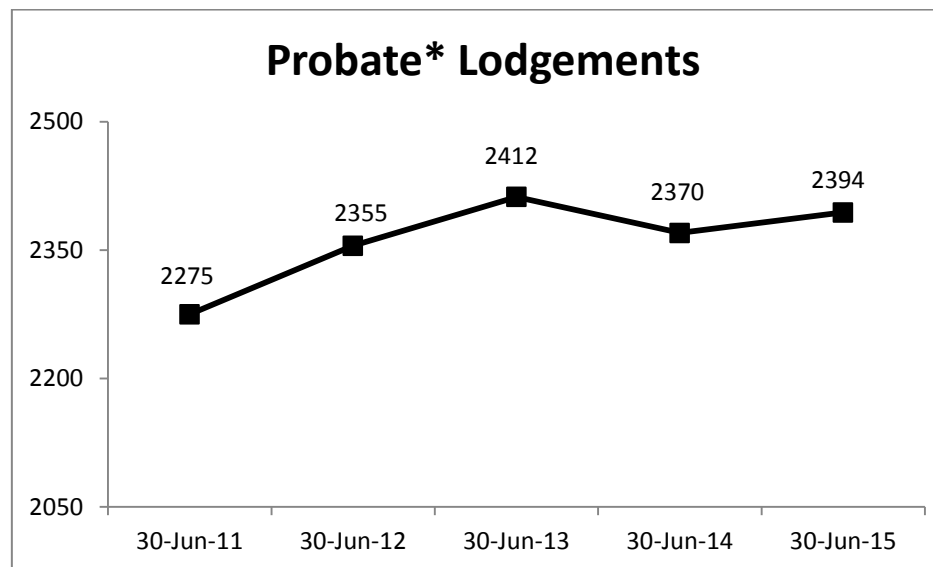


Civil Case Lodgements 2014 - 2015



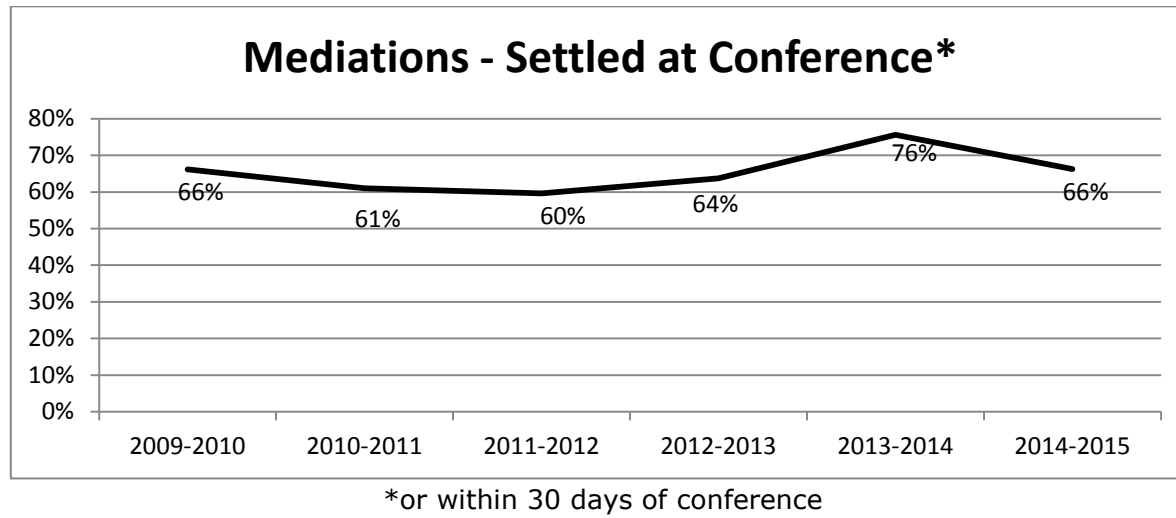
Civil Appeal Lodgements by Origin 2014 - 2015





*includes Letters of Administration

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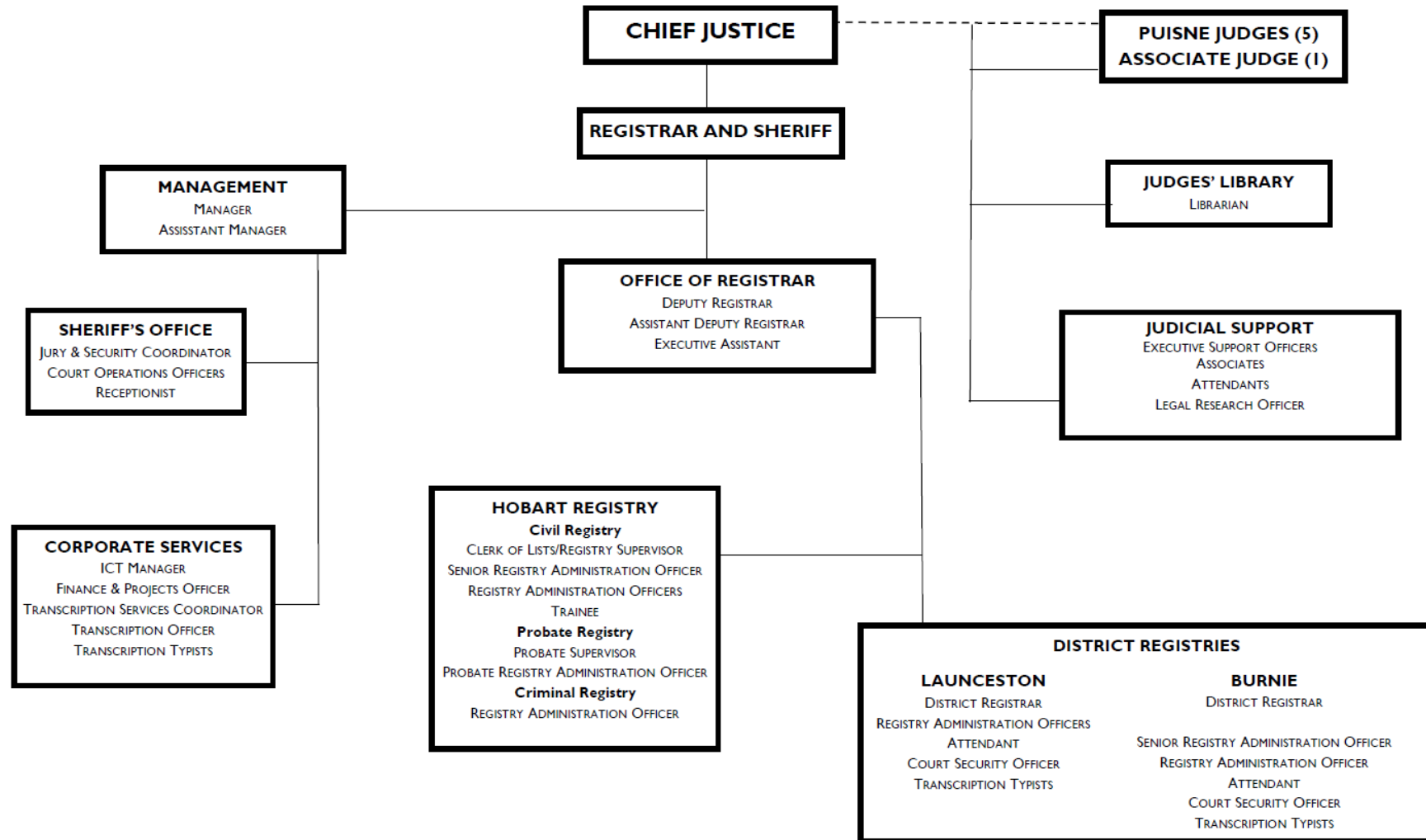


Staffing Information

Numbers of Judges and Staff (FTEs)

	2013-2014	2014-15
Judges and Associate Judge	7.0	7.0
Judicial Support	13.8	13.8
Civil Registry	8.0	8.2
Criminal Registry	6.4	4.6
Probate	2.0	3.1
Court Security and Sheriffs	3.8	4.9
Court Reporting	7.7	8.5
Library	0.9	1.0
Information Technology	1.0	1.0
Mediators	0.0	0.5
First Line Support Staff	3.0	3.0
Total	53.6	55.6

SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA



Financial Statements

Operating Account

Year ended 30 June 2015

Supreme Court Annual Report

	FY 13-14	FY 14-15
RECEIPTS		
Recurrent appropriation	4,624,689	4,970,985
Registry fees	666,594	573,422
Provision of transcript	53,743	69,708
Probate fees & charges	1,275,862	1,318,157
Mediation fees	61,251	65,928
Sheriff's fees	20,121	12,153
Court reporting	6,787	38,660
Video conferencing	7,455	2,900
Other receipts	314,467	424,309
TOTAL RECEIPTS	7,030,968	7,476,222
EMPLOYEE-RELATED EXPENDITURE		
Salaries & wages	3,101,010	3,166,285
Fringe Benefits Tax	47,990	52,716
Payroll tax	0	0
Superannuation	363,025	381,753
Workers compensation insurance	55,359	71,000
Training	8,509	4,384
Other employee related expenses	50,626	55,527
TOTAL EMPLOYEE-RELATED EXPENDITURE	3,626,519	3,731,663

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ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER EXPENDITURE

Fuel, light & power	221,341	204,856
Advertising & recruitment	3,036	219
Rental	2,715	14,654
Communications	69,458	72,221
Travel	97,353	97,206
Consultancies	44,616	36,890
Printing & stationery	61,350	61,873
Rates	163,445	148,797
Repairs & maintenance	345,343	193,033
Minor equipment	38,878	22,592
Library materials	82,133	97,660
Computers & IT	242,370	275,360
Expenses of witnesses	128,717	78,540
Expenses of Jurors	576,982	589,823
Other administrative expenses	1,271,846	1,247,402
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE & OTHER EXPENDITURE	3,349,584	3,141,126

RESERVED BY LAW

Salaries & other entitlements of Judges	3,221,508	3,258,195
Salaries & other entitlements of the Associate Judge	439,511	436,909
TOTAL RESERVED BY LAW EXPENDITURE	3,661,020	3,695,104

OVERHEAD CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1,458,845	1,609,013
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