

SUPREME COURT OF TASMANIA

CIRCULAR TO PRACTITIONERS

No 2 of 2021

15 February 2021

EXTRA CRIMINAL TRIALS IN 2021

Because of COVID-19 social distancing requirements it is not currently possible for the Supreme Court to conduct more than two jury trials at a time in Hobart or more than one jury trial at a time in Launceston.

Before those restrictions were introduced, it was possible to conduct three jury trials at a time in Hobart, and two at a time in Launceston.

The Court needs to take all reasonable steps to reduce the current backlog of criminal trials. The only way of increasing the number of criminal trials this year is to conduct them in weeks when criminal trials would not ordinarily be conducted – the weeks of appeal terms and court vacations.

Arrangements are in place for criminal trials to be conducted by one judge in Hobart and one judge in Launceston during the week commencing 1 March 2021 (First Term).

Arrangements will also be made for criminal trials to be conducted in Hobart and Launceston during the fortnights commencing 12 April and 24 May 2021 (Second and Third Terms). One acting judge will sit in Hobart, and one in Launceston, to deal with criminal trials during those fortnights.

Jim Connolly
REGISTRAR