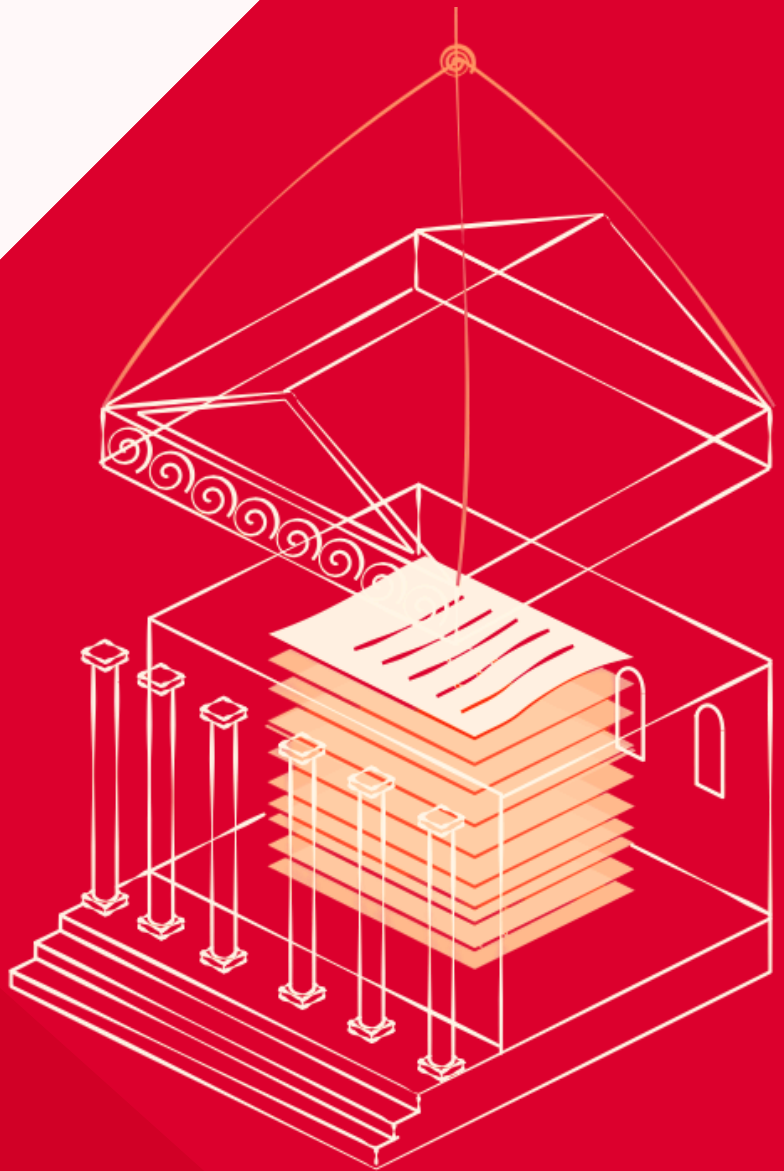


The Judicial Transparency Toolkit



The Judicial Transparency Toolkit

This is an independent, non-commissioned piece of work by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, an independent think-tank doing legal research to help make better laws.

August 2026

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Introduction

The Justice, Access and Lowering Delays in India (JALDI) Initiative at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy published a report, titled "*The Judicial Transparency Index: Assessing Disclosure of Information by the Supreme Court and the High Courts*". The report assesses transparency in the higher judiciary, identifies gaps in disclosure practices across the Supreme Court and High Courts, and makes recommendations to address them. It uses the Judicial Transparency Index,¹ a first-of-its-kind framework, to analyse how far key information is publicly accessible on court websites. This toolkit seeks to translate the recommendations from the report into practical measures for courts. It highlights areas for improvement and proposes implementable reforms, along with best practices, to strengthen judicial transparency and openness.

The toolkit has been divided into three categories of suggestions: (i) quick fixes (ii) practice reforms and (iii) policy reforms. Quick fixes comprise measures that involve making existing information publicly available or easier to access. These reforms require minimal effort or resources and may be implemented within six months. For instance, publishing consolidated, searchable and updated versions of all the relevant rules on court websites can enhance stakeholders' understanding of court processes.

Practice reforms involve suggestions that require greater planning, consultation, investment, or resource allocation. Implementation of these measures may require between six months to one year. For example, the open court principle can be further strengthened by live streaming proceedings across all courtrooms, though this would require additional infrastructure and resources. Policy reforms consist of long-term measures that require the formulation and adoption of formal policies. These are contingent on institutional will and stakeholder alignment and hence may take over one year to implement. For instance, a detailed recusal policy can provide clarity on the procedure through which litigants may seek a judge's recusal, but its adoption would first require building institutional consensus on such a policy.

¹. Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, 'Measuring Transparency in the Indian Judiciary: The Judicial Transparency Index' (2025) <<https://vidhilegalpolicy.in/research/measuring-transparency-in-the-indian-judiciary-the-judicial-transparency-index/>> accessed 23 June 2026.

Each suggestion in the toolkit explains the current practice, why it matters, implementable recommendations, and examples of national and international best practices. Where relevant, best practice examples have been provided in the annexures to offer guidance on the content, structure and level of detail that may be adopted in practice.

1. Quick fixes

Applicable to:



Areas where a mandate or information already exists but needs to be made publicly available or more easily accessible.

Timeline: up to six months

Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Public access to hearings  	Most courts do not provide detailed information on how non-litigants can attend court hearings.	Absence of information creates uncertainty for general members of the public seeking to attend court hearings.	Publish a Public Access Guide covering procedure to access court premises, security protocol, courtroom etiquette, and contacts for further assistance.	The Judiciary of England and Wales provides detailed guidance for attending hearings in person and remotely (See Annexure A).
Advance publication of cause lists 	Most courts publish cause lists less than 24 hours before the next day's hearing.	Advance publication of hearing schedules, particularly for significant cases, provides interested members of the public a greater opportunity to attend hearings.	Publish 24 hours in advance the cause list for all cases.	The Supreme Court and two other courts - the Bombay and Gujarat High Courts publish cause lists for the following two working days.
Publication of updated rules  	Many court websites publish either outdated rules that are not often digitally searchable, or provide the amendments in separate documents.	Stakeholders require access to the latest rules to understand procedures and processes governing courts.	Publish consolidated, searchable and updated versions of all the relevant rules on court websites, complete with all the amendments. Clearly mention the date of the latest amendment.	The Orissa High Court regularly updates the rules and regulations published on its website to reflect the latest amendments, publishes a consolidated version, and also mentions the latest update date on each document (See Annexure B).

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Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Establishment of individual Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) for each bench of a High Court 	Some High Courts have not disclosed information about their bench-wise ICCs, providing only the details of the principal-bench ICC.	Failing to provide information about bench-wise ICCs is inconsistent with the PoSH Act which requires a separate ICC for each branch or constituent of an establishment.	Set up an ICC for each bench separately in the case of courts having multiple regional benches, and publish the details concerning the composition and contact information of all the members of those ICCs.	The High Court of Rajasthan has provided the composition and contact information of individual ICCs for its principal seat as well as other benches. ²
Publication of budget and expenditure details 	Very few High Court websites provide the recent budget and expenditure figures, including for the district courts.	Regular budgetary disclosures are necessary to enable public understanding of the adequacy and utilisation of public funds allocated to the judiciary.	Publish the budget and expenditure figures for each High Court, as well as the district judiciary, covering details like infrastructure, personnel, etc. on a dedicated webpage annually.	The Judicial Branch of California publishes the budget and expenditure statements in a single section on its website, covering all courts within its hierarchy, with detailed breakdowns across budget heads. ³
Sanctioned and working strength of court staff 	Most courts do not provide updated information on the sanctioned and working strength of their staff.	Statistics on court personnel help inform the public, as well as important decision-makers, about staffing levels and resource allocation in courts.	Publish and update the sanctioned and working strength of court staff annually on a dedicated webpage or in the court's annual report.	The Supreme Court publishes the sanctioned and working strength of its staff in its annual reports.

2. 'Rajasthan High Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaint Committee (GSICC), Bench Jaipur' (*Rajasthan High Court*) <https://hcraj.nic.in/hcraj/gsicc_jaipur.php> accessed 11 June 2026; 'Rajasthan High Court Gender Sensitization and Internal Complaint Committee (GSICC), Jodhpur' (*Rajasthan High Court*) <https://hcraj.nic.in/hcraj/gsicc_jodhpur.php> accessed 11 June 2026.

3. 'Branch Expenses and Salaries' (*Judicial Branch of California*) <<https://courts.ca.gov/policy-administration/budget-finance/branch-expenses-salaries>> accessed 11 June 2026.

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Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Publication of Select Lists for district judiciary appointments 	Many High Courts did not publish the candidates' marks in recent Select Lists. Select Lists are also often buried under other recruitment notifications.	Limited and scattered information reduces public understanding of the recruitment process.	Publish Select Lists containing the names and marks of shortlisted candidates on a dedicated webpage, organised and searchable by the year and post.	The High Court of Gujarat publishes the candidates' names and marks together in its Select Lists (See Annexure C). The Chhattisgarh High Court systematically categorises recruitment notifications by post, year, and notification type (See Annexure D).
Transfer policy for the district judiciary 	Only 14 High Courts publish the transfer policy applicable to the district judiciary.	Clear guidelines reduce scope for discretion and enhance objectivity in the transfer process.	Make the district judiciary's transfer policy publicly available on the court website.	A few High Courts like Andhra Pradesh ⁴ and Patna ⁵ publish transfer policies for the district judiciary.

4. High Court of Andhra Pradesh, *Notification No. ROC.NO.123/2020-B.SPL.* (16 February 2022)

<<https://aphc.gov.in/docs/REVISED%20GUIDELINES%20FOR%20TRANSFERS%20DT%2016.02.2022.pdf>> accessed 11 June 2026.

5. Patna High Court, *Notification* (8 September 2025) <<https://www.patnahighcourt.gov.in/getfile/OTc4Ng==C5--ak1--z4jM--ak1--Yh0=>>> accessed 11 June 2026.

2. Practice reforms

Applicable to:



Areas where institutional guidelines or practices already exist, but implementation may require financial, technical, or human resource investment.

Timeline: six months to one year

Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Virtual access to court hearings  	Only a limited number of courts livestream proceedings from all court halls on a daily basis.	Live streaming enhances virtual access to court hearings, particularly for litigants who are unable to attend court in person, as well as for cases involving significant public interest.	Allocate adequate infrastructure and human resources to live stream court halls of every court.	The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom livestreams all its daily proceedings and also provides access to archived hearing recordings on its website. ⁷
	The absence of remote hearing facilities leads to overcrowding in court halls, as advocates, litigants, interns, and others attend proceedings in person. ⁶	Remote participation by litigants and advocates will help reduce overcrowding in court halls.		
Publication of Annual Reports 	Many courts are not publishing recent annual reports on their websites.	The absence of recent annual reports limits the public's understanding of the work of a court.	Publish all annual reports on court websites every year, highlighting court initiatives, case institution, pendency and disposal data from the past year, as well as the performance of bodies under the court's administrative supervision like the Legal Services Authorities and Judicial Academies of the concerned states.	The Supreme Court has published all its Annual Reports from 2005-06 on its website. ⁸

⁶. Bar and Bench, 'Interns can't occupy chairs: Karnataka High Court asks for solution to overcrowding concerns' (June 2026) <<https://www.barandbench.com/news/litigation/interns-cant-occupy-chairs-karnataka-high-court-asks-for-solution-to-overcrowding-concerns>> accessed June 2026.

⁷. 'Hearing' (Supreme Court of U.K.) <<https://supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2025-0119>> accessed 11 June 2026.

⁸. 'Indian Judiciary Annual Report' (Supreme Court of India) <<https://www.sci.gov.in/indian-judiciary-annual-report/>> accessed 11 June 2026.

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Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Disclosure of assets 	Only 87 of the 813 High Court judges currently disclose their assets.	Uneven disclosures impact public trust in the judiciary.	Institutionally require all judges to disclose assets in a standard format covering real estate, investments, movable assets, and liabilities of judges and their dependents.	The Administrative Office of the United States Courts publishes financial disclosures of all judges in an easily searchable database (See Annexure E).

3. Policy reforms

Applicable to:



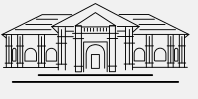
Supreme Court



High Courts

Areas where institutional policies, procedures, or standards need to be formulated or clarified.

Timeline: More than one year

Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Case Allocation Policy  	Although subject-matter rosters for judges are publicly available on court websites, no policy or official guide has been published explaining how cases are assigned to judges or how the Chief Justice makes revisions or deviations from those rosters.	Transparency in case allocation enhances public understanding of how judges take up cases in the courtroom.	Adopt a formal policy for assigning cases to benches using a standard method. The policy should also explain when and why cases may be reassigned or handled differently from the standard process.	In Croatia, Article 33 of the 'Rules of Procedure for the Court' prescribes detailed procedure for case allocation. This includes the method of case assignment, explicit reasons for, and the procedure to re-allocate cases between judges (See Annexure F).
Recusal Policy  	None of the courts publish the grounds for recusal by judges. Only one court publishes the procedure governing recusal requests.	Absence of clear procedure creates uncertainty about how potential conflicts of interest are addressed.	Formulate and publish a policy outlining the principles governing recusals, the conflicts of interest requiring recusals, and the procedure for litigants to seek recusal.	The Courts of New Zealand formulate and publishes recusal guidelines on their official websites (See Annexure G).
Media Policy 	Many courts do not have a media policy that facilitates media access, including provisions for media accreditation, access to documents, media lounges, and related facilities.	A media policy would help in providing the resources required for the media to report on court proceedings.	Publish a media policy for court premises, including accreditation rules, information on reporting restrictions, facilities, and courtroom etiquette.	The Supreme Court of Victoria in Australia provides a brief media guide on its website, outlining reporting restrictions, courtroom etiquette, and use of technology, along with official contact details for media inquiries (See Annexure H).

Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Publication of meeting minutes of committees  	Courts currently do not publish the minutes of meetings of their committees. The RTI disclosures of a few courts also explicitly bar public access to meeting minutes.	Minutes of meetings of certain important committees, such as AI, arrears, and infrastructure committees, can provide important insights into the administrative decision-making of courts.	Identify committees whose deliberations are of public interest and proactively publish their minutes in a consolidated and searchable format, subject to confidentiality requirements.	The New Zealand judiciary publishes the minutes of meetings of its Rules Committee on a dedicated webpage, with records available from 1994 onwards.⁹
Disclosure of information under the RTI Act 	Many courts include restrictions on the disclosure of information in their RTI rules over and above those present in Section 8 of the RTI Act. Very often these grounds suffer from overbreadth and unclear drafting.	Introducing additional restrictions not consistent with the RTI Act frustrates the spirit of the Act and provides greater scope to withhold disclosures.	Ensure that the exemptions to disclosures under the RTI rules of courts are consistent with the RTI Act, and are clear and unambiguous.	Quite a few High Courts, including High Courts of Karnataka¹⁰ and Chhattisgarh,¹¹ have refrained from laying down any additional restrictions on disclosures beyond the ambit of the RTI Act.
Publication of audit reports  	No court has a policy in place to publish their audit reports or disclose details of audits conducted.	Publication of audit reports strengthens public trust in the judiciary and acts as a safeguard against the risk of financial irregularities.	Publish updated audited reports of court accounts, as conducted by the State Accountant General or the Comptroller and Auditor General ('CAG') from time to time. Alternatively, publish a declaration by the auditing authority that an audit was conducted according to the rules along with the outcome of the audit.	The Supreme Court of the UK in its annual report contains a declaration by the CAG explaining the CAG's audit role, findings relating to accounts, and a certification that no financial irregularities were detected (See Annexure I).

9. 'Minutes and Meetings' (Courts of New Zealand) <<https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/about-the-judiciary/rules-committee/meetings>> accessed 11 June 2026.

10. High Court of Karnataka Right to Information (Regulation of Fee and Cost) Rules 2005 <<https://judiciary.karnataka.gov.in/rti2005.php>> accessed 11 June 2026.

11. Chhattisgarh High Court Right to Information Rules 2005 <<https://highcourt.cg.gov.in/information/rule/hcrule.pdf>> accessed 11 June 2026.

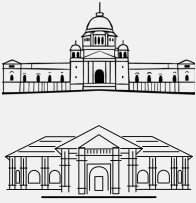
Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Objective criteria governing transfers 	Most courts do not publish any objective criteria for non-routine transfers of judicial officers in the district judiciary.	Absence of objective grounds leaves scope for excessive discretion in judicial transfers.	Formulate or amend transfer policies to clearly set out the objective grounds on which district judicial officers can be transferred. Remove all subjective grounds of mid-tenure transfers such as "administrative exigencies" or "public interest".	The High Courts of Andhra Pradesh, ¹² Chhattisgarh, ¹³ and Patna, ¹⁴ among others, provide objective grounds for transfers.
Transfer policy for the High Courts 	The Supreme Court website does not currently publish a policy that discloses the objective factors governing the transfer of High Court judges.	Publicly articulated criteria can enhance transparency and improve understanding of the transfer process.	Formulate and publish a policy setting out the objective criteria based on which transfers of High Court judges are recommended.	The Judiciary, Republic of Kenya, provides a detailed policy regarding the transfer of the Judges of the High Court and Magistrate Court. The purpose of transfer is mentioned to be to allow for equitable rotation of Judicial Officers. ¹⁵
Complaints mechanism  	Courts do not publish information on the conduct against which complaints against judges may be made. Most courts also do not provide the procedure for filing such complaints.	Lack of information creates uncertainty regarding available accountability mechanisms.	Provide clear and easily accessible information on the kinds of conduct against which complaints may be made, the authority authorised to receive complaints, and the procedure, mode and format for filing complaints.	The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office in the U.K. publishes detailed information on its website on the conduct against which complaints can be made and the procedure for filing such complaints (See Annexure J and Annexure K).

12. High Court of Andhra Pradesh, Revised Guidelines for transfers and postings of Judicial Officers of all cadres working in the State of Andhra Pradesh -Regarding (16 February 2022) <<https://aphc.gov.in/docs/REVISED%20GUIDELINES%20FOR%20TRANSFERS%20DT%2016.02.2022.pdf>> accessed 11 June 2026.

13. High Court of Chhattisgarh, Transfer Guidelines (20 June 2024) <https://highcourt.cg.gov.in/information/rule/2024/transfer_guideline_25062024.pdf> accessed 11 June 2026
<<https://aphc.gov.in/docs/REVISED%20GUIDELINES%20FOR%20TRANSFERS%20DT%2016.02.2022.pdf>> accessed 11 June 2026.

14. High Court of Judicature at Patna, Transfer Policy for Judicial Officers in the District Judiciary of Bihar (8 September 2025) <<https://patnahighcourt.gov.in/getfile/OTc4Ng==C5--ak1--z4jM--ak1--Yh0=>>> accessed 11 June 2026.

15. 'Transfer Policy for Magistrates and High Court Judges' (Judiciary, Republic of Kenya, 2017) <<https://judiciary.go.ke/download/transfer-policy-for-magistrates-and-high-court-judges/>> accessed 26 June 2026.

Subject Matter	Current Practice	Why it Matters	Recommendation	Example
Publication of disciplinary sanctions 	Only two High Courts publish orders imposing sanctions on district judicial officers.	Publication of sanction orders reinforces public trust in the judiciary and ensures fairness and consistency in the disciplinary process.	Publish information on sanctions imposed against judicial officers, detailing the conduct under investigation, the process followed, the applicable rules, and the final decision.	The Judicial Conduct Investigations Office publishes detailed disciplinary statements (See Annexure L). In India, the Tripura High Court publishes detailed sanction orders on its website.¹⁶

¹⁶. High Court of Tripura, Notification (1 July 2016) <<https://thc.tripura.gov.in/page/Noticedet.aspx?Noticeld=23769>> accessed 11 June 2026; High Court of Tripura, Notification (20 January 2017) <<https://thc.tripura.gov.in/page/Noticedet.aspx?Noticeld=23891>> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure A

Public Access Guide of the Judiciary of England and Wales

Source: Government of the United Kingdom¹⁷

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How you can attend or access courts or tribunals - GOV.UK

 **GOV.UK**


**HM Courts &
Tribunals Service**

Guidance

How you can attend or access courts or tribunals

Updated 29 May 2024

Applies to England, Scotland and Wales

Contents

1. Types of courts and tribunals
2. Before a hearing
3. Observing a hearing
4. Accessing information about court and tribunal proceedings
5. Contact points and further information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>

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¹⁷. 'HM Courts and Tribunals Service' (Government of the United Kingdom) <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>> accessed 11 June 2026.

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How you can attend or access courts or tribunals - GOV.UK

This guide will help you understand your rights when attending court or tribunal hearings as a member of the public. It also provides advice on how you can access information about a court or tribunal case.

There is specific guidance if you are attending a court or tribunal (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-to-expect-coming-to-a-court-or-tribunal>) to participate in a hearing, attending as a victim or witness (<https://www.gov.uk/going-to-court-victim-witness>), or attending a trial as a member of a jury (<https://www.gov.uk/jury-service>). We also offer support to people with disabilities to make sure they can access our courts and tribunals to reduce and overcome any barriers.

Our justice system is widely recognised as being fair, independent and transparent. It does have some complex processes that may make it challenging to understand what's happening and why.

An open and transparent justice system gives confidence that we live in a country that is fair and just. The principle of open justice – that justice must be done and be seen to be done – is fundamental to our justice system. It's this principle which gives you the right to know what happens in courts and tribunals.

For centuries open justice has been fulfilled by having public galleries in courts and tribunals which allow you to observe proceedings in-person, to see justice being delivered. This is still the case and where a judge considers it appropriate, you can now observe a court or tribunal hearing remotely online.

1. Types of courts and tribunals

Hearings in the legal system are broadly divided into 4 types, known as jurisdictions:

1.1 Criminal

Cases where an individual is alleged to have committed a crime. All cases begin in a magistrates' court, with more serious cases progressing to the Crown Court. Specialist magistrates' courts called youth courts deal with criminal cases involving children aged between 10 and 17.

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1.2 Civil

Usually disputes between people or organisations and include landlord and tenant disputes, debt recovery, claims between companies. These cases are mostly heard in the county court. Magistrates' courts also have a civil jurisdiction which covers enforcement (for example, council tax and child support), applications by public bodies for orders such as sexual harm prevention orders or stalking prevention orders and appeals against some local authority decisions.

1.3 Family

Usually disputes between family members, for example over arrangements for children and other issues such as parental responsibility and divorce. Also applications by local authorities for orders to protect children from harm.

1.4 Tribunals

These are specialist panels dealing with a range of day-to-day disputes such as asylum and immigration claims, unfair dismissal, social security appeals, and tax. They take evidence from parties and other experts.

The Judicial Office website has lots of helpful information about the [history of the justice system and the structure of the courts and tribunals](https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/our-justice-system/court-structure/) (<https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/our-justice-system/court-structure/>).

2. Before a hearing

Most court and tribunal hearings usually take place in public. Proceedings in the family court and the youth court are held in private and what follows does not apply to them.

The judge or magistrate in each case decides how a hearing is held, including whether and how people can observe. On rare occasions, if they think it's necessary for the proper administration of justice, they can decide

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>

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to hold a hearing in private, with no observers allowed. Depending on the decision, you may be able to observe a hearing:

- in person, in designated public seating (for example, in a public gallery or designated part of a courtroom)
- remotely, using a video or audio link

You can use our [Find a Court and Tribunal service \(https://www.find-court-tribunal.service.gov.uk/\)](https://www.find-court-tribunal.service.gov.uk/) to find out:

- location address and contact details
- opening times
- the area(s) of law it covers
- building accessibility

You can ask to observe a court or tribunal hearing remotely. To check if that's an option for a particular hearing, you'll need to contact the court or tribunal in advance and your full name, email address and any other information about yourself requested by the judge.

If a court or tribunal does not have the appropriate technology or resources, or a decision not to hold the hearing remotely has been made by a judge, they might suggest observing the hearing in person instead.

Some court jurisdictions stream some or all of their hearings online such as:

- Supreme Court live streaming
- Court of Appeal (Civil Division) live streaming
- Competition Appeal Tribunal live streaming

Court lists: Courts are responsible for publishing lists of hearings that are due to take place. These lists are available to all, free of charge, and should normally be available – online or in hard copy in court and tribunal buildings – by the morning the hearing will take place. Court lists can sometimes change, if you are unsure or have any questions please ask a member of court staff.

You can access our public court lists through the [GOV.UK website \(https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmcts-hearing-lists\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmcts-hearing-lists) or through our [Courts and Tribunals Hearing service \(https://www.court-tribunal-hearings.service.gov.uk/\)](https://www.court-tribunal-hearings.service.gov.uk/).

Security processes: To help keep our court and tribunal buildings safe and secure you must go through security every time you enter. Please [read our guide to going through security \(https://www.gov.uk/entering-court-or-tribunal-building\)](https://www.gov.uk/entering-court-or-tribunal-building) at a court or tribunal building when you plan your visit.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>

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Once inside a court building, staff at reception can direct you to the relevant room and public seating area. If you are party or witness in a hearing, please let a member of court staff know when you arrive.

3. Observing a hearing

3.1 Public seating area or gallery

Where possible seating will be in a designated 'public gallery' or other designated seating area. This is a section of seats reserved for the public away from the parties involved in the case. A member of staff can direct you to this area. Unless the judge has specifically restricted public access for good reason, you can enter and leave the courtroom, provided you do so without disrupting proceedings.

3.2 Remote hearings

The judge hearing the case will decide if you can observe the hearing remotely. The factors the judge will take into account when making the decision will include:

- the interests of justice
- the technical capacity of the court to provide remote observation
- what is necessary to secure the proper administration of justice.

On the day of the hearing, you'll need to follow the instructions sent by the court or tribunal. This usually involves the court or tribunal sharing a link with you by email which allows you to observe the hearing online.

3.3 Access restrictions

Each court or tribunal has the power to restrict public access to the courtroom where it's necessary to do so in the interests of justice, for example to prevent disorder or help a vulnerable witness give their best evidence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>

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Access may also be restricted to prevent members of the public, as well as participants in the proceedings, from entering and leaving the courtroom during the following parts of proceedings when:

- the charges are read out
- the jury is enrolled and sworn in
- people such as the jury or witnesses take an oath or affirmation
- the jury returns its verdict
- the judge passes a sentence

It is unlawful to issue a blanket policy for a court or tribunal to restrict access during other parts of the proceedings.

3.4 Court and tribunal processes

When a member of staff says “all rise” or “stand please” you must stand up. This means the judge or magistrate is about to come into the room. They will tell you when to sit down again. You must remain silent when observing a hearing. If you cannot stand because of a disability or condition please let one of our ushers know before the hearing starts.

3.5 Photography, filming and sound recording

It is illegal, and can also be a contempt of court, for an observer to take photographs, film, or make sound recordings in the courtroom, hearing room, court building or in any part of the court building. This also applies when attending hearings remotely. It is also illegal, and may be a contempt of court, to publish or broadcast images or recordings made in breach of this ban. In some cases the court may imprison a person doing any of these things.

3.6 Using phones and laptops

Mobile phones and other devices such as laptops can be taken into the court or the tribunal room subject to any contrary order from a judge. They cannot be used to record any audio or video of the hearing, and they must not be used to transmit any information about the hearing. If you do take a

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device in with you please keep it on silent or turn it off if it's not being used to avoid disrupting proceedings.

3.7 Taking notes

You do not need permission to take notes. Where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that notetaking may be for an unlawful purpose, or that it may disrupt proceedings, you may be asked to stop. If you are unsure, please ask a member of court staff. Examples include where there is reason to believe that notes are being used to:

- transmit live text-based communications without the required permission
- facilitate the contravention of a reporting restriction

3.8 Live text based communication (for example social media)

Transmitting information about hearings as they happen, for example by texting, tweeting, live streaming, emailing etc. is not permitted without prior permission by the judge or magistrate. All decisions around public access to court hearings are subject to judicial control. You should always check with a member of court or tribunal staff before proceedings begin, as restrictions may also apply in individual cases.

3.9 Wi-Fi in court and tribunal buildings

Free GovWifi is available (<https://www.wifi.service.gov.uk/>) for the public to use in all court and tribunal buildings.

3.10 Broadcasting in courts

Authorised media have permission to film sentencing remarks by some judges in the Crown Court. They may choose to broadcast these in their TV or online news bulletins or publish online. Only judges are filmed, other participants, parties to the case or the public gallery are not currently filmed.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>

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4. Accessing information about court and tribunal proceedings

As well as observing hearings, you're entitled to receive information about what's happening in courts and tribunals whether or not you were a participant in the hearing.

In some circumstances you can apply for a transcript of a court or tribunal hearing (or specific parts of a hearing) if it was recorded. The court can refuse to provide part or all of a transcript (for example, if details of the hearing are confidential). Magistrates' courts do not record their proceedings.

You may be required to pay for hearing notes or a transcript (<https://www.gov.uk/apply-transcript-court-tribunal-hearing>), please check with the court or tribunal if it's free or if there will be a charge.

4.1 Reporting restrictions

Some court or tribunal hearings are subject to restrictions which prevent anyone from reporting on cases or publishing information. If you are unsure if a hearing has a reporting restriction, please speak to the court or tribunal directly. You must adhere to these restrictions and should not publish restricted information. This would be classed as contempt of court (<https://www.gov.uk/contempt-of-court>) and can carry a fine or prison sentence.

4.2 Request for information about cases

If you want information or documentation about a hearing you can contact the relevant court or tribunal. You may have a right to the information, depending on the court's or tribunal's rules. With other information, and information about criminal cases which ended more than 6 months ago, you must apply to a judge or magistrate via the local court or tribunal and explain the reasons for the request.

4.3 Contempt of court

Annexure A

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How you can attend or access courts or tribunals - GOV.UK

'Contempt of court' happens when someone risks unfairly influencing a court case. It may stop somebody from getting a fair trial and can affect a trial's outcome. Penalties for contempt include fines and imprisonment. Contempt of court can include:

- disobeying or ignoring a court order
- taking photos or shouting out in court
- refusing to answer the court's questions if you're called as a witness
- publicly commenting on a live court case, for example on social media or online news articles

5. Contact points and further information

You may find useful information at the following websites:

- [HMCTS \(GOV.UK\) website \(https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service)
- [Judiciary website \(https://www.judiciary.uk/\)](https://www.judiciary.uk/)
- [Crown Prosecution Service \(https://www.cps.gov.uk/\)](https://www.cps.gov.uk/)
- [The Police \(https://www.police.uk/\)](https://www.police.uk/)
- [Criminal Procedure Rules \(https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-and-practice-directions-2020\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rules-and-practice-directions-2020)
- [Civil Procedure Rules \(https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil\)](https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/civil)
- [Family Procedure Rules \(https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family/rules_pd_menu\)](https://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/procedure-rules/family/rules_pd_menu)
- [Find a court or tribunal \(https://www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal\)](https://www.gov.uk/find-court-tribunal)
- [The Tribunal Procedure \(Upper Tribunal\) Rules \(https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2008/2698/contents\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2008/2698/contents)
- [Judiciary website judgments archive \(https://www.judiciary.uk/judgments/\)](https://www.judiciary.uk/judgments/)
- [Find case law \(National Archives\) \(https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](https://caselaw.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
- [Who's who in courts and tribunals \(https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmcts-whos-who-in-courts-and-tribunals\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmcts-whos-who-in-courts-and-tribunals)
- [Reasonable adjustments in courts and tribunals \(https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/equality-and-diversity\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/equality-and-diversity)
- [Attending court as a victim or witness \(https://www.gov.uk/going-to-court-victim-witness\)](https://www.gov.uk/going-to-court-victim-witness)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-you-can-attend-or-access-court-and-tribunal-hearings/how-you-can-attend-or-access-courts-or-tribunals>

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Annexure A

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How you can attend or access courts or tribunals - GOV.UK

- [Attending a trial as a member of a jury \(https://www.gov.uk/going-to-court-victim-witness\)](https://www.gov.uk/going-to-court-victim-witness)
- [HMCTS guide to going through security \(https://www.gov.uk/entering-court-or-tribunal-building\)](https://www.gov.uk/entering-court-or-tribunal-building)
- [Contempt of court \(https://www.gov.uk/contempt-of-court\)](https://www.gov.uk/contempt-of-court)
- [Gov Wifi Service \(https://www.wifi.service.gov.uk/\)](https://www.wifi.service.gov.uk/)
- [Apply for a transcript for a court or tribunal hearing \(https://www.gov.uk/apply-transcript-court-tribunal-hearing\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-transcript-court-tribunal-hearing)
- [History of the justice system and the structure of the courts and tribunals \(https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/our-justice-system/court-structure/\)](https://www.judiciary.uk/about-the-judiciary/our-justice-system/court-structure/)
- [Support to people with disabilities \(https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/equality-and-diversity\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-courts-and-tribunals-service/about/equality-and-diversity)



OGL

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Annexure B

Updated Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service Rules, 2007

Source: High Court of Orissa Website¹⁸



High Court of Orissa

The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service Rules, 2007

Heading		View/Download	
The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service Rules, 2007 (Consolidated till 20.04.2026 incorporating all the amendments made thereto)		 400.8 KB	
Sl. No.	Gazette Notifications	Date of publication in the Odisha Gazette	View/Download
1	The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service Rules, 2007	No. 1483 dtd. 23.08.2007	 13.67 MB
2	The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2008	No. 913 dtd. 09.05.2008	 986.57 KB
3	The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008	No. 03 dtd. 02.01.2009	 348.83 KB
4	The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2010	No. 171 dtd. 20.01.2011	 1.16 MB
5	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2011	Law Deptt. Notification No. 11948 dtd. 22.12.2011	 270.84 KB
6	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2012	No.1574 dtd.05.08.2012	 286.21 KB
7	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2013	No.1605, dtd.20.08.2013	 2.59 MB
8	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2016	No.727 dtd.26.04.2016	 379.76 KB
9	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2016	No.41 dtd.05.01.2017	 693.14 KB

https://www.orissahighcourt.nic.in/rules/OSJS_OJS_rules/

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18. 'The Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service Rules, 2007' (High Court of Orissa <https://www.orissahighcourt.nic.in/rules/OSJS_OJS_rules/> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure B

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Orissa Superior Judicial Service and Orissa Judicial Service uploads/rules | High Court of Orissa

Heading		View/Download	
10	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2018	No.258 dtd.22.02.2018	 717.37 KB
11	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2018	No.1047, dtd.28.06.2018	 983.04 KB
12	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2020	No.151, dtd.24.01.2020	 706.07 KB
13	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2021	No.689, dtd.27.04.2021	 330.84 KB
14	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021	No.2009, dtd.03.12.2021	 682.02 KB
15	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Third Amendment) Rules, 2021	No.09 dtd.04.01.2022	 1.53 MB
16	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2022	No.2905, dtd.14.10.2022	 304.36 KB
17	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2023	No.285, dtd.30.01.2023	 124.73 KB
18	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2023	No.2013, dtd.22.08.2023	 243.74 KB
19	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (1st Amendment) Rules, 2024	No.1908, dtd.08.10.2024	 308.79 KB
20	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2025	No.5899, dtd.19.12.2025	 768.2 KB
21	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Amendment) Rules, 2026	No.590, dtd.10.02.2026	 767.54 KB
22	The Odisha Superior Judicial Service and Odisha Judicial Service (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026	No.1481, dtd.20.04.2026	 767.54 KB

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Website Designed by NIC, Odisha State Centre 

Annexure C

Select List: High Court of Gujarat

Source: High Court of Gujarat website¹⁹

High Court of Gujarat, Sola, Ahmedabad
No.RC/0719/2023

[CJ-100-2022]

SELECT LIST of Candidates for Recruitment to the Cadre of CIVIL JUDGES						
Sr. No.	Seat No.	App. No.	Name of Candidate	Category	Total Marks (Out of 250)	Select Category
1	100000001	2225	Ms. Manali Latta	General	156.50	General
2	100000018	3138	Mr. Vipulbhai Nagarbhai Patel	General	145.25	General
3	100000005	4920	Ms. Kaajal Rajesh Chand	General	145.25	General
4	100000016	1361	Mrs. Kavita Gehlot	General	142.00	General
5	100000007	1573	Mr. Swapnil Kishorekumar Fatania	General	141.00	General
6	100000011	334	Ms. Chandani Chhabildas Gondalia	SEBC	137.50	General
7	100000009	1466	Mr. Ankit Kaushikbhai Mehta	SEBC	136.25	General
8	100000012	3454	Mr. Mayank Damjibhai Valani	General	134.25	General
9	100000013	2376	Ms. Jayshri Purshottamlal Goyal	General	133.50	General
10	100000006	5	Mr. Harsh Shantibhai Rathod	SC	130.75	General
11	100000015	2176	Ms. Poonam Sahadev Prasad Swami	General	128.00	General
12	100000021	3	Mr. Omdevsinh Nirmalsinh Chudasama	General	126.75	General
13	100000026	2682	Mr. Abhishek Jitendrakumar Jani	General	126.00	General

High Court of Gujarat,
Sola, Ahmedabad.
Date: 01/11/2023

Sd/-
Registrar (Recruitment)

19. 'Results' (High Court of Gujarat) <<https://gujarathighcourt.nic.in/results>> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure D

Recruitment page: High Court of Chhattisgarh

Source: High Court of Chhattisgarh
website²⁰

High Court Of Chhattisgarh छत्तीसगढ़ उच्च न्यायालय										
HOME JUDGES ▼ REGISTRY ▼ DISTRICT JUDICIARY ▼ E-SERVICES ▼ E-BOOK ▼ JUDICIAL ▼ IT ▼ OTHERS ▼ INFORMATION ▼										
High Court Recruitments										
Name of Exam.	Particular	Advertisement	Last date	Application Form	List of Eligible Candidates	List of Ineligible Candidates	Date of Exam.	Admit Card	Result	Other
District Judge (Entry Level) 2025 U/R 5(1)(b).	2025	PDF	--	--	PDF	PDF PDF	--	Admit Card PDF	Result PDF	New Notice PDF New
District Judge (Entry Level) 2025 U/R 5(1)(a).	2025	--	--	--	PDF	--	--	PDF	Select List PDF New	--
Civil Judge (Senior Division)-2025	2025	--	--	--	PDF	--	--	--	PDF	--
Staff Car Driver	2024	Download PDF Notice	--	--	Notice Notice Eligible List	Notice PDF Ineligible List	--	Admit Card PDF Admit Card (Practical Examination) PDF-1 PDF-2 PDF-3 PDF-4	Tabulation Sheet PDF New Qualified List PDF New Notice PDF New	--

²⁰. High Court of Chhattisgarh <<https://highcourt.cg.gov.in/recruit/recruithc.php>> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure E

Assets disclosure database: Administrative Office of the United States Courts

Source: United States Courts website²¹

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United States Courts | Financial Disclosures

 Download Selected 0

Federal Judicial Financial Disclosure Reports

[New Search](#) | [Search Tips](#) | [Request Additional Reports](#) | [Exit Database](#)



Search by name or keywords

Year

2026 x



Report Type



Court Name



Position



Sort By

Filer Name



 A to Z

Check the box to the left for each financial disclosure report you wish to download. Refine your search to narrow by categories or adjust your keywords for search. Multiple options in each category may be selected.

Africk, Lance M.
District Judge
U.S. District Court - Louisiana Eastern

<https://pub.jefs.uscourts.gov>

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²¹. United States Courts <<https://pub.jefs.uscourts.gov/>> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure E

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United States Courts | Financial Disclosures

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Apr 16, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Feb 5, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Jan 6, 2026

Download Selected0

Alsup, William Haskell

District Judge

U.S. District Court - California Northern

☐ Annual/Final, 2026

Altman, Roy

District Judge

U.S. District Court - Florida Southern

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, May 3, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report¹, May 3, 2026 (amended)

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, May 3, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Apr 21, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Apr 21, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Feb 20, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Feb 17, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Jan 26, 2026

Altonaga, Cecilia M.

District Judge

U.S. District Court - Florida Southern

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Mar 18, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Mar 3, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Feb 11, 2026

Ambro, Thomas L.

Circuit Judge

U.S. Court of Appeals - Third Circuit

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, May 1, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Apr 15, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Apr 2, 2026

☐ Periodic Transaction Report, Mar 10, 2026

Case-allocation Policy: Rules of Procedure for the Court, Croatia

Source: Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia website²²

Book of Rules for Courts

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1. Annual agenda

Article 30

Annual agenda is determined at the end of calendar year for the following year. Prior to determining agenda for the judges, president of the court obtains judgements from the full-bench session or from general session of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia and for other employees – judgement of organisational units.

On assigning judges and other employees for particular tasks, requirements of the court, professional abilities and affinities of the judges, court advisors and other employees for particular tasks shall be of primary concern.

Article 31

By annual agenda, the following positions are assigned: deputy of the president of the court, department presidents and their deputies, members of second-instance councils, president and deputy president and members of extrajudiciary councils, presidents of trial chambers, councils for minors, judges and investigating judges, and court advisors and other court employees. Tribunals, judges and investigating judges are labeled by Roman numerals.

Article 32

During one calendar year, judges shall, as a rule, be appointed for work on tasks of the same kind. On smaller courts, where the scope of tasks and the number of judges do not require (impose) organisation of work according to types of tasks, simultaneous performance of tasks on different types of cases shall, if possible, be minimised.

Article 33

At determining annual agenda, manner of case distribution shall also be determined. Cases assigned to judges are distributed by the president of the court in courts without instituted court departments and in courts with instituted court departments it shall be done by the president of the department.

Prior to the assignment of cases to judges, cases are classified chronologically starting with the receipt of the first brief which initialises procedure. In case there are several simultaneous briefs which initialise procedure, the cases are classified in alphabetical order of clients against which the procedure is initialised (indictée, accused, counterparties, detainees etc.).

Cases classified in such a manner are distributed by alphabetical order of the court judges or court department, taking into account evenness of distribution throughout the year, as well as type and complexity of cases. Second-instance cases are distributed by alphabetical order of council presidents, and council presidents distribute cases to council members by alphabetical order of judges – members of the council. If, due to significant work arrears or higher work load of judges, cases are not distributed to the judges promptly, the president of the court or the president of the department is obliged to appoint judges without delay, who shall deal with cases according to their work schedule, in accordance with criteria as referred to in § 2 and 3 of the present Article.

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²². Supreme Court of the Republic of Croatia <<https://www.vsrh.hr/en/>> accessed 11 June 2026.

Cases of particular type (labor disputes, housing disputes, press disputes) shall be distributed to judges appointed for such cases by annual agenda in courts where it is required by the character of work and with the purpose of simplifying the work and achieving higher quality and efficiency.

The case in which the decree was revoked shall go before the same judge i.e. the same council which passed the decree.

If new procedure has to be conducted and decree passed with a different judge or council, president of the court shall appoint the case in a manner as referred to in § 2 to 5 of the present Article.

Article 34

As an exception to the Article 33 of the Rules of procedure for the court, according to which the case had to be appointed to one judge, due to the objective incapacity of that judge, the case shall be appointed to the next judge according to the alphabetical list of judges in court or department.

The same procedure as referred to in § 1 of the present Article shall also be applied to the docket of those judges who are prevented from carrying on the procedure due to being exempt from the case, being absent from work, obvious and expressed overburden of the docket or due to other justifiable reasons when it is necessary for the legal and effective work of court and the protection of the right of a client(s) to a trial without justifiable delay.

Article 35

Organisational units in the court registry office and individual services and the scope and range of their work shall be determined by annual agenda.

Deployment of officials and employees shall be carried out in accordance with task systematisation and the province of the manager of court registry office and services, head of individual organisational units, their deputies and other employees shall be determined. Relating to the aforementioned, it shall be provided for that the tasks are evenly distributed in accordance with the conditions in court (scope of tasks, number of employees, etc.).

Personnel for delivery and other tasks, as well as the manner of performing these tasks, if there is such a need, shall be determined by the agenda.

Article 36

Copying service shall be instituted within court registry office by annual agenda and manner of its work shall be determined in detail.

2. Objection to annual agenda

Article 37

The judges and the court councilors have to sign the receipt of annual agenda and the rest of the employees of the court are given oral notification regarding the agenda and they have to sign it as well. Each judge may state an objection within a period of three days to

Annexure G

Recusal Policy: Courts of New Zealand

Source: Courts of New Zealand website²³

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High Court recusal guidelines — Courts of New Zealand

High Court recusal guidelines

Introduction

Section 171 of the Senior Courts Act 2016 requires the Chief High Court Judge, in consultation with the Chief Justice, to develop and publish recusal guidelines for the High Court. These recusal guidelines are issued after consultation with the Chief Justice.

1. General principles

- 1.1 A judge has an obligation to sit on any case allocated to him or her unless grounds for recusal exist.
- 1.2 A judge should recuse him or herself if, in the circumstances, a fair-minded, fully informed observer would have a reasonable apprehension that the judge might not bring an impartial mind to the resolution of the question the judge is required to decide.
- 1.3 The standard for recusal is one of “real and not remote possibility”, rather than probability.
- 1.4 The test is a two-stage one. The judge must consider
 - 1.4.1 First, what it is that might possibly lead to a reasonable apprehension by a fully informed observer that the judge might decide the case other than on its merits; and
 - 1.4.2 Second, whether there is a “logical and sufficient connection” between those circumstances and that apprehension.⁽¹⁾
- 1.5 The question of recusal is for the judge hearing the case. Some of the matters the judge should consider are:
 - 1.5.1 A judge should apply the above principles firmly and fairly and not accede too readily to suggestions of bias.
 - 1.5.2 A judge should be mindful of the burden that passes to other judges if the judge recuses him or herself unnecessarily.
 - 1.5.3. A judge is not required to recuse him or herself merely because the issues involved in a case are in some indirect way related to the judge’s personal experience or that the judge has previously dealt with the case.

<https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/about-the-judiciary/judicialconduct/high-court-recusal-guidelines>

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²³. Courts of New Zealand <<https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/about-the-judiciary/judicialconduct/high-court-recusal-guidelines>> accessed 11 June 2026.

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High Court recusal guidelines — Courts of New Zealand

1.5.4 The making of a complaint to the Judicial Conduct Commissioner against a judge does not of itself serve to disqualify the judge from hearing cases involving the complainant. (2)²

1.5.5 If, after considering all relevant circumstances, there is doubt about whether there may properly be an appearance of bias, it may be prudent for the judge to decline to sit in that case.

1.6 Conflicts of interest can arise in a number of different situations. A judge should be alert to any appearance of bias arising out of connections with litigants, their legal advisors or witnesses.

1.7 The apprehension of bias is case dependent. The fact that a particular relationship falls outside the examples in these guidelines does not automatically mean that there cannot be a reasonable apprehension of bias in the particular circumstances of the case at hand.

2. Recusal where relationship exists

2.1 The existence of a relationship with a party, lawyer or witness will not in itself create a reasonable apprehension of bias. There must be some logical connection between the relationship and its capacity to influence the judge to deviate from the course of deciding a case on its merits alone.

2.2 A judge should recuse himself or herself where a party, lawyer or witness of disputed facts is a close relative or domestic partner of the judge.

2.3 Other situations are not so clear cut. Some examples of common relationships that a judge should consider as they may give rise to the apprehension of bias are:

2.3.1 A party or witness of disputed facts is a close friend of the judge;

2.3.2 A witness of disputed facts is someone known to the judge or someone about whom he or she has formed a view, such as a former client; or

2.3.3. A party, lawyer or witness of disputed facts is a business associate of the judge. Much will depend on the nature and extent of the association. For example, if the judge is directly or indirectly financially dependent on or indebted or otherwise beholden to a party, lawyer, or witness, the judge should recuse himself or herself unless that dependence or indebtedness is so minimal as to be immaterial.

2.4 The fact a judge has a friendship or past professional association with lawyers engaged in the case, will not generally be sufficient to require recusal. The test as always is whether a fair minded fully informed observer would

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High Court recusal guidelines — Courts of New Zealand

reasonably apprehend the judge might not be impartial in the circumstances of the case.

3. Recusal arising from legal practice

3.1 A judge should recuse himself or herself if he or she served as a legal advisor in respect of the matter in issue when in practice.

3.2 If the matter in issue was dealt with by the firm at a time when the judge was a member of the firm, the judge may need to consider recusal even if the judge had no personal involvement in providing advice about it if the judge obtained relevant knowledge about the matter in issue or had formed a view of the parties.

4. Recusal where economic interest

4.1 A judge should recuse him or herself if he or she, or a close relative or member of the judge's household, directly or indirectly has an economic interest in the outcome of the proceedings. Such conflicts may arise out of current commercial or business activities, financial investments (including shareholding in public or private companies) or membership or involvement with educational, charitable or other community organisations which may be interested in the litigation.

4.2 An economic interest may also arise in another situation. That is where the case is to decide a point of law which may affect a judge in his or her personal capacity beyond that of the public generally. In deciding whether to recuse him or herself, a judge should have regard to the point of law, to the nature and extent of his or her interest, and the effect of the decision on others with whom the judge has a relationship, actual or foreseeable.

4.3 Shareholdings in litigant companies or companies associated with litigants should be disclosed even where the shareholding is small. They should lead to recusal if the value of the shareholding would be affected by the outcome of the litigation.

5. Recusal where opinions earlier expressed

5.1 A judge should consider recusing him or herself if the case concerns a matter upon which the judge has made public statements of firm opinion on the issue before the court.

5.2 An expression of opinion in an earlier case or in an earlier stage of a proceeding is not of itself a ground for recusal.

6. Disclosure of conflict of interest: principles

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High Court recusal guidelines — Courts of New Zealand

6.1 Adequate disclosure protects the integrity of the judicial process and is also a defence against later challenges to the decision.

6.2 Disclosure does not constitute an acknowledgement that the circumstances give rise to a reasonable apprehension of bias.

6.3 Disclosure of any matter which might give rise to objection should be undertaken even if the judge has formed the view that there is no basis for recusal. There may be circumstances not known to the judge which may be raised by the parties consequentially upon such disclosure.

7. Disclosure of conflict of interest: practice

7.1 Disclosure should be made as early as possible before the hearing.

7.2 When making disclosure, the judge should issue a minute through the Registrar to counsel for all parties.

7.3 The judge should ensure that the minute contains sufficient information, without unnecessary detail, to enable the parties to decide whether to make a recusal application. It is undesirable for parties to be placed in the position of having to seek further information from the judge.

7.4 On occasion advance disclosure often may not be possible in light of listing arrangements. In this situation, disclosure on the day of the hearing may be unavoidable. If this occurs:

7.4.1. Discussion between the judge and the parties about whether to proceed should normally be in open court, unless the case itself is to be heard in chambers.

7.4.2 The parties should be given an opportunity to make submissions on recusal after full disclosure of the circumstances giving rise to the question of recusal.

7.4.3 The judge should be particularly mindful of the difficult position that the parties and their advisors are placed in by disclosure on the day of the hearing. Late disclosure puts the parties in a situation where it might appear to them that consent is sought even although a ground of recusal actually exists.

7.5 The consent of the parties to a judge sitting is important but not determinative, as the subjective perceptions of the parties are not relevant to whether there is a reasonable apprehension of bias.

7.5.1 Even where parties consent, the judge should nonetheless recuse himself or herself where he or she is satisfied recusal is required.

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High Court recusal guidelines — Courts of New Zealand

7.5.2 In other cases, where the judge has disclosed a matter which might give rise to objection and has heard and considered submissions, he or she may form the view that the hearing may proceed notwithstanding the lack of consent.

7.6 In circumstances of urgency, where the judge cannot be replaced for practical reasons, he or she may need to hear the case, notwithstanding that there may exist arguable grounds in favour of recusal. Consent will be a particularly relevant consideration in this situation.

Hon Justice G J Venning

Chief High Court Judge – Te Kaiwhakawā Matua

12 June 2017

1) See *Saxmere Company Ltd v Wool Board Disestablishment Company Ltd* [2009] NZSC 72, [2010] 1 NZLR 35; *Saxmere Company Ltd v Wool Board Disestablishment Company Ltd (No 2)* [2009] NZSC 122,

2) [2010] 1 NZLR 76; *Ebner v Official Trustee in Bankruptcy* [2000] HCA 63, (2000) 205 CLR 337; and *Aussie Airlines Pty Ltd v Australian Airlines Pty Ltd* (1996) 135 ALR 753. See also: Grant Hammond, *Judicial Recusal Principles, Process and Problems* (Hart Publishing, Oxford and Portland Oregon, 2009). See *Slavich v Attorney-General* [2013] NZSC 130 at [6].

Links

1. <https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/about-the-judiciary/judicialconduct/high-court-recusal-guidelines#Ftn1>
2. <https://www.courtsofnz.govt.nz/about-the-judiciary/judicialconduct/high-court-recusal-guidelines#ftn2>

Media Policy: Media Guide, Supreme Court of Victoria

Source: The Supreme Court of Victoria
website²⁴

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Reporting on the Court: A brief guide | The Supreme Court of Victoria

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REPORTING ON THE COURT: A BRIEF GUIDE

This guide has been developed to assist media covering the work of the courts. It is not intended to provide or replace legal advice. More information and useful links can be found online in the SCV Media Centre.

▶ REPORTING ON THE COURT: A BRIEF GUIDE

 REPORTING ON THE COURT: A BRIEF GUIDE (PDF 255.77KB)

Author	Supreme Court of Victoria
Publisher	Supreme Court of Victoria
Copyright	Supreme Court of Victoria, 2023
Date of publication	September, 2023

DECIDING WHAT TO COVER

<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/for-the-media/reporting-on-the-court-a-brief-guide>

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²⁴. Supreme Court of Victoria <<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/for-the-media/reporting-on-the-court-a-brief-guide>> accessed 11 June 2026.

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Reporting on the Court: A brief guide | The Supreme Court of Victoria

- Check the Daily List for hearing times and locations. It's first published for the next sitting day around 4pm and can change overnight or in the morning.
- Some matters are not open to the public or media, such as criminal case conferences, certain police applications, mediations, and matters where there is a closed court order.
- Reviews under the Crimes (*Mental Impairment and Unfitness to be Tried*) Act 1997 often have a suppression order over part or all of them, or one may be made during the hearing.
- Pre-trial and preliminary hearings and s198B applications are generally open to the public and media but what can be published at the time may be limited

ETIQUETTE IN THE COURTROOM

- Bow to the judge (a slight nod) when entering or exiting the courtroom during a hearing.
- If entering the court while it is being opened, or a witness is being sworn in, do not move into the body of the court until the formalities are completed.
- Some courtrooms have seats for media, they are usually opposite the jury box.
- Space restrictions or special arrangements may impact the availability and location of media seats.
- Water bottles are allowed but eating is not permitted.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Media may use phones, laptops, and tablets while in the courtroom to assist with notetaking.
- Devices must be on silent and used discreetly.
- Do not take photos in court or record hearings.
- To request permission for a court artist or transcript contact media@supcourt.vic.gov.au

<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/for-the-media/reporting-on-the-court-a-brief-guide>

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Reporting on the Court: A brief guide | The Supreme Court of Victoria

REMOTE ACCESS

- Remote access by livestream or by telephone may be available, contact media@supcourt.vic.gov.au
- Do not record remote proceedings or take screenshots.
- In a trial, the jury will not be visible on the livestream. Extra care must be taken to ensure you do not report anything said in the absence of the jury. If you are unsure contact the media team

► REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Breaching a legal requirement or court order can, and has, led to penalties for both journalists and media outlets. The Court cannot provide legal advice on interpreting orders or legal obligations. Journalists should speak to their organisation's lawyers.

Examples of possible restrictions on reporting include:

SUPPRESSION ORDERS

It's a journalist's responsibility to check if there are any suppression orders on a matter. Most orders are made under the *Open Courts Act 2013*. Media can be heard on applications made under the Act.

LEGISLATIVE RESTRICTIONS, INCLUDING:

Children Youth and Families Act 2005 – Many factors to consider including: if an accused was under 18 at the time of the alleged offence, they cannot be identified. Identification includes more than just a person's name – it is any combination of details which could lead to the person being recognised.

Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958 – The victim of an alleged sexual offence cannot be identified, unless they have given written permission. This applies in criminal and civil matters (eg, cases for

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compensation or damages). Also restricts reporting on sentence indication hearings.

Juries Act 2000 – Don't identify or approach jurors or those attending for jury service. Be careful not to include them in footage taken outside court. Don't publish anything said in jury room deliberations.

Family Violence Protection Act 2008 – Restricts publication of the identity of a person involved in a proceeding related to family violence or the subject of a family violence order.

SUB JUDICE CONTEMPT

Concerns material which may interfere with or prejudice legal proceedings, especially a jury trial. If a person plead guilty or is found guilty, sub judice contempt is no longer an issue, but suppression orders may remain in force.

Things to be mindful of include:

- during a jury trial – don't report anything said in the absence of the jury, including legal argument and court arrangements
- co-accused, where matters are not being heard together
- linking to old articles
- revealing prior convictions or further pending charges
- interviews with witnesses and republishing interviews from the time of arrest
- using images or video which are not part of the evidence
- 'explainers'/'reads'/ comment pieces about a specific case or related topic ahead of or during a trial
- photos which may prejudice a jury, including showing a person in handcuffs
- pre-trial arguments and rulings

<https://www.supremecourt.vic.gov.au/for-the-media/reporting-on-the-court-a-brief-guide>

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- evidence or comments ruled inadmissible, even when said in front of a jury
- requests for, and hearings of, criminal case conferences and sentence indications.

CONTEMPT

Concerns material which impacts the authority and functioning of the Court, including interrupting a hearing, ignoring judicial directions, breaching orders, and unfounded criticism.

► GENERAL TIPS

- Don't imply guilt or innocence, attribute allegations.
- Report fairly and accurately – when in doubt, leave it out.
- Be careful not to attribute the parties' legal arguments to the judge, even if the judge recites or summarises them it may not mean they have accepted them.
- Court reporting is reporting what you hear, save analysis until the matter has resolved.

Contact media@supcourt.vic.gov.au

For case queries, exhibit/document requests, hearing dates for matters, transcripts, and remote access.

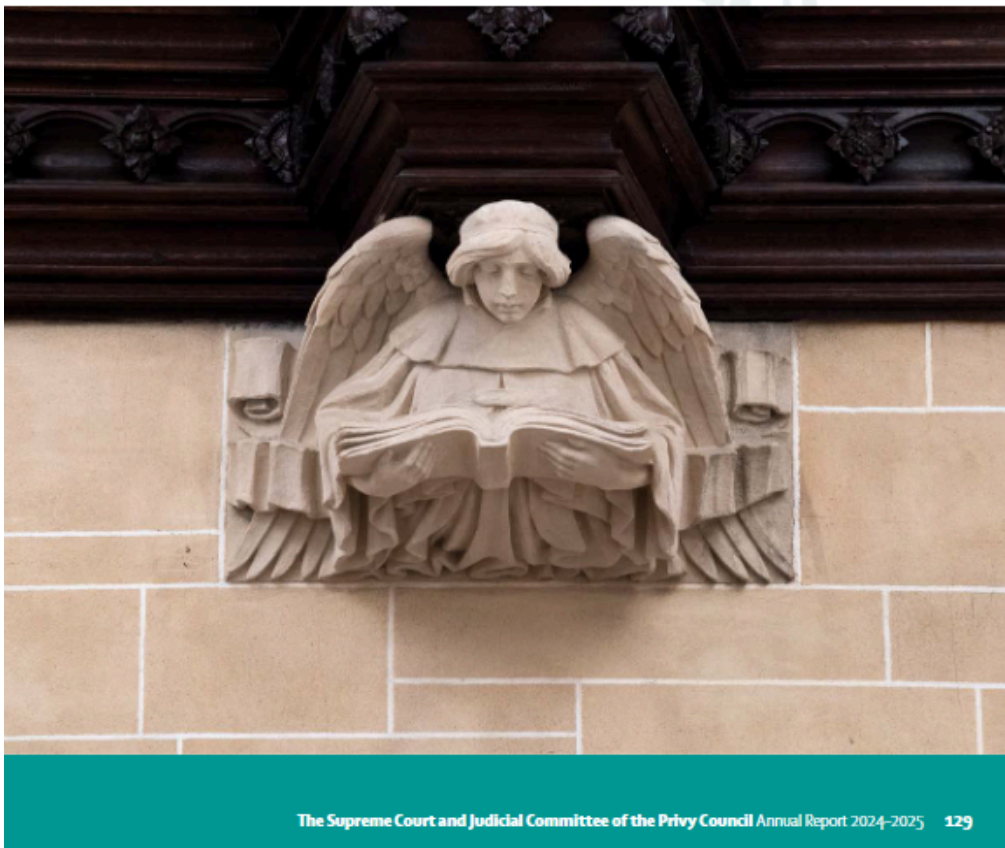
Annexure I

Publication of Audit Reports: Supreme Court of the UK

Source: Supreme Court of the United Kingdom website²⁵

Section 5

The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons



²⁵. 'Annual Reports and Accounts' (Supreme Court of the United Kingdom)

<https://supremecourt.uk/uploads/The_Supreme_Court_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2024_25_ec4ecbe2e5.pdf> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure I

Section 5: The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom for the year ended 31 March 2025 under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

The financial statements comprise the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's

- Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025;
- Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Cash Flows and Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year then ended; and
- the related notes including the significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the financial statements is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards.

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and the net operating expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and HM Treasury directions issued thereunder.

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects:

- the Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply properly presents the outturn against voted Parliamentary control totals for the year ended 31 March 2025 and shows that those totals have not been exceeded; and
- the income and expenditure recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for opinions

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs UK), applicable law and Practice Note 10 *Audit of Financial Statements and Regularity of Public Sector Bodies in the United Kingdom* (2024). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my certificate.

Those standards require me and my staff to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's *Revised Ethical Standard* 2024. I am independent of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK. My staff and I have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Annexure I

Section 5: The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this certificate.

The going concern basis of accounting for the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom is adopted in consideration of the requirements set out in HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual, which requires entities to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements where it is anticipated that the services which they provide will continue into the future.

Other information

The other information comprises information included in the Annual report, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's certificate and report thereon. The Accounting Officer is responsible for the other information.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my certificate, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion the part of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions issued under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the parts of the Accountability Report subject to audit have been properly prepared in accordance with HM Treasury directions issued under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000;

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Section 5: The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

- the information given in the Performance and Governance Reports for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Performance and Governance Reports.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my staff; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the financial statements and the parts of the Performance and Governance Reports subject to audit are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of remuneration specified by HM Treasury's Government Financial Reporting Manual have not been made or parts of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited is not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- the Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with HM Treasury's guidance.

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for:

- maintaining proper accounting records;
- providing the C&AG with access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
- providing the C&AG with additional information and explanations needed for his audit;
- providing the C&AG with unrestricted access to persons within the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom from whom the auditor determines it necessary to obtain audit evidence;
- ensuring such internal controls are in place as deemed necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements to be free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view, in accordance with HM Treasury directions issued under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000;
- preparing the annual report, which includes the Remuneration and Staff Report, in accordance with HM Treasury directions issued under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000; and

Annexure I

Section 5: The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

- assessing the Supreme Court of United Kingdom's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Accounting Officer anticipates that the services provided by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a certificate that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud

I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud. The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud is detailed below.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, I:

- considered the nature of the sector, control environment and operational performance including the design of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's accounting policies.
- Inquired of management, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's head of internal audit and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's policies and procedures on:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations including the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's controls relating to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's compliance with the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000 and Managing Public Money;

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Section 5: The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

- Inquired of management, the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's and those charged with governance whether:
 - they were aware of any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
 - they had knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- discussed with the engagement team, regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, I considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition, posting of unusual journals, complex transactions, and bias in management estimates. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), I am required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

I obtained an understanding of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom's framework of authority and other legal and regulatory frameworks in which the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom operates. I focused on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. The key laws and regulations I considered in this context included Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, Managing Public Money, Supply and Appropriation (Main Estimates) Act 2024, employment law and pensions legislation.

Audit response to identified risk

To respond to the identified risks resulting from the above procedures:

- I reviewed the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described above as having direct effect on the financial statements;
- I enquired of management, the Audit and Risk Committee and in-house legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- I reviewed minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and the Board; and internal audit reports;
- I addressed the risk of fraud through management override of controls by testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements on estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business; and

I communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential risks of fraud to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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Section 5: The Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my certificate.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I am required to obtain appropriate evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the Statement of Outturn against Parliamentary Supply properly presents the outturn against voted Parliamentary control totals and that those totals have not been exceeded. The voted Parliamentary control totals are Departmental Expenditure Limits (Resource and Capital), Annually Managed Expenditure (Resource and Capital), Non-Budget (Resource) and Net Cash Requirement.

I am required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income recorded in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control I identify during my audit.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Gareth Davies

Comptroller and Auditor General

7 July 2025

National Audit Office

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road

Victoria

London

SW1W 9SP

Complaints Mechanism: What can I complain about: Judicial Conduct Investigations Office, United Kingdom

Source: Government of the United Kingdom website²⁶

What can I complain about?

We can only deal with complaints about the **personal conduct** of judicial office holders. This means that **we cannot accept complaints about a judge's decision or the way a judge has managed a case, that does not raise a question of misconduct. Complaints which fall outside our remit will be rejected.**

If you believe the way that a judge has handled a hearing or a judge's decision was unfair, you might be able to appeal to a higher court. The JCIO is unable to intervene in court cases. We would suggest seeking advice about your options from a solicitor, law centre or the Citizens Advice.



We can investigate

Any action that amounts to misconduct. Some examples include:

- Bullying or harassment, for example of staff, colleagues, litigants, or legal representatives
- Using racist, sexist, or otherwise offensive language
- Loss of temper/rudeness/aggression, for example shouting
- Misusing judicial status, for example to try to influence another person or organisation for personal gain
- Misusing social media, for example posting offensive content, or content which could damage public confidence in judicial impartiality such as remarks about government policy
- Failure to report personal involvement in civil, criminal, or professional disciplinary proceedings
- Delay in issuing a judgment (The general threshold for when the time taken to complete a judgment may raise a question of misconduct is that the period since the conclusion of the hearing or trial exceeds three months. Some courts/tribunals have different target timescales)
- Delay in dealing with an application - usually considered to be a delay, without a reasonable excuse, of more than three months. The complainant must first establish that the court have processed the application and placed it before the judge.

https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/what_can_i_complaint_about/

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²⁶. Judicial Conduct Investigations Office <https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/what_can_i_complaint_about/> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure K

Making a complaint: Judicial Conduct Investigations Office, United Kingdom

Source: The Government of the United Kingdom website²⁷

Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (/) / Making A Complaint

Making A Complaint

We can only deal with complaints about the **misconduct of judicial office-holders**.

We cannot accept complaints about a judge's decision or the way a judge has managed a case, that does not raise a question of misconduct.

Please see the "What can I complain about (https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/what_can_i_complaint_about/)?" page for further information before making a complaint.

Time limit for making a complaint

A complaint must be made within **three months** of the matter complained of. We can only extend this timescale in exceptional circumstances.

Please note that:

- An ongoing case will not usually be considered as an exceptional reason to extend the time limit.
- If you inform us that you did not complain in time for medical reasons, we may ask you for proof of your medical condition.

Details we need from you

Please read the guidance below to find out which details we need you to include with your complaint. You can then contact us if you are still unsure about the details we need.

Rule 8 of the Judicial Conduct Rules 2023 states that a complaint must:

- State the name of the person making the complaint;
- State the address or email address of the person making the complaint;
- Contain an allegation of misconduct on the part of an identified or identifiable person holding an office, which is supported by relevant details as specified in guidance published by the JCIO from time to time;
- State the date, or dates, that the alleged misconduct took place unless the JCIO decides that this is unnecessary taking into account all the circumstances of the complaint.

What does an "allegation of misconduct" mean?

<https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/makeacomplaint/>

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27. Judicial Conduct Investigations Office <<https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/makeacomplaint/>> accessed 11 June 2026.

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Making A Complaint - Customer Self-Service

An **allegation of misconduct** means that your complaint is about a judge’s personal behaviour, not about a decision or order which they have made, or how they have managed a case. It means you believe that a judge’s personal behaviour has fallen below the standards of conduct in the *Guide to Judicial Conduct* (<https://www.judiciary.uk/guidance-and-resources/guide-to-judicial-conduct-revised-july-2023/>) See *What can I complain about* (https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/what_can_i_complain_about/)?

What does “supported by relevant details” mean?

Relevant details means that we need you to be specific about what you are alleging the judge said or did which you believe was misconduct. It will not be enough to say: “the judge was rude to me” or “the judge shouted at me”. To be able to accept and consider your complaint, we need you to give us relevant details.

The table below provides further details of the kind of relevant details we need to assess your complaint.

Type of complaint	Details We Need
Something a judge said e.g., rudeness, and/or something about a judge’s tone or manner e.g., shouting, laughing inappropriately, sarcasm, (This may include complaints of bullying or harrassment)	• The words the judge used that you want to complain about • If applicable, a description of the judge’s tone or manner • If applicable, the context of the inappropriate laughter, e.g. what the laughter was in response to and how it sounded • Where it happened • If your complaint is about something that happened in a hearing, we also need you to tell us the name of the court and the time(s) when the alleged misconduct happened (see guidance further below)

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Making A Complaint - Customer Self-Service

Type of complaint	Details We Need
A physical act e.g., a physical display of anger (This may include complaints of bullying or harrassment)	- A description of what the judge did - Where it happened - If your complaint is about something that happened in a hearing, we also need you to tell us the name of the court or tribunal and the time(s) when the alleged misconduct happened (see guidance further below)
Misusing judicial status, for example to try to influence another person or organisation for personal gain	- A description of what the judge did - How and when you became aware of it
Misusing social media, for example posting offensive content, or content which could damage public confidence in judicial impartiality such as remarks about government policy	- A link to, or screenshot of, the content you want to complain about - The date when you first saw the content
Failure to report personal involvement in civil, criminal, or professional disciplinary proceedings	- The type of proceedings you believe the judge involved is/has been involved in - How and when you became aware of the matter
Delay in issuing a judgment (The general threshold for when the time taken to complete a judgment may raise a question of misconduct is that the period since the conclusion of the hearing or trial exceeds three months. Some courts/tribunals have different target timescales)	- The names of the parties in the case - The name of the court dealing with the case - If applicable, the date of the hearing

Complaints about misconduct in a hearing

If you want to complain about something that happened during a hearing, you **must** also provide us with information about **when** during the hearing it took place. **As well as the relevant details in the table above**, we need you to tell us, in as much detail as possible:

<https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/makeacomplaint/>

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Annexure K

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Making A Complaint - Customer Self-Service

The time (or times) during the hearing when the alleged misconduct took place.

For example: "the judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith be quiet' at 11.30 a.m."

If you cannot remember the exact time, give us your best estimate. For example:

- "The judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith be quiet' at approximately 10.00 a.m."
- "The judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith be quiet' approximately one hour after the hearing started."
- "The judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith be quiet' approximately half an hour before the lunchbreak on the second day of the hearing."
- "The judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith be quiet' approximately 45 minutes after I started giving my evidence."

Please try to provide a time estimate for every instance of alleged misconduct that you are making a complaint about: for example, if your complaint is that the judge shouted at you on three occasions, you should provide three time estimates of when those incidents occurred.

If you believe that there are exceptional reasons why you are unable to provide time estimates for the allegations, for example due to a disability, please provide this information along with your complaint. We will take this information into account when assessing your complaint.

Our caseworkers will usually listen to a one-hour 'window' of time based on the estimate you have given, for example, if you stated: "the judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith be quiet' at approximately 10.00 am, the caseworker would listen to the recording from 9.30-10.30 am or if, for example, you stated: "the judge shouted at me 'Mr Smith' approximately half an hour before the lunch break, the caseworker would listen to the recording for one hour up until the lunchbreak.

If you provide

It is, therefore, important to be as accurate as possible when you give us this information. We will consider accepting a complaint without this information only if there are exceptional reasons as to why you cannot do so.

Information from other people/third parties

If you believe that there is anyone else who might have evidence relevant to your complaint e.g., anyone who was present when the alleged misconduct took place, please let us know in your complaint. This is not essential but may help us to assess your complaint.

If you wish to submit a complaint, please click here:

[Make Your Complaint \(/support/create-case/\)](#)

Annexure L

Disciplinary statement: Judicial Conduct Investigations Office, United Kingdom

Source: Government of the United
Kingdom website²⁸

Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (/)
/ Disciplinary Statements (/disciplinarystatements/) / **Statement8325**

Statement8325



STATEMENT

JCIO 83/25

Date: 11 February 2026

STATEMENT FROM THE JUDICIAL CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE

Mr Adrian Kermode JP

A spokesperson for the Judicial Conduct Investigations Office said:

" Mr Justice Keehan, on behalf of the Lady Chief Justice and with the Lord Chancellor's agreement, has issued Mr Adrian Kermode JP with a sanction of formal advice for misconduct.

Facts

The declaration and undertaking signed by all magistrates on their appointment states that they will maintain the good reputation of the magistracy at all times, in their private, working, and public lives. Additionally, social media guidance for the judiciary cautions against expressing or appearing to endorse views that could cast doubt on an office-holder's objectivity or impartiality. This includes engaging with controversial content, including by liking, sharing, or commenting on posts that relate to political, legal, or socially divisive issues.

<https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/disciplinarystatements/Statement8325/>

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²⁸. Judicial Conduct Investigations Office <<https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk/disciplinarystatements/>> accessed 11 June 2026.

Annexure L

29/05/2026, 04:19

Statement8325 - Customer Self-Service

In August 2025, Mr Kermode liked a post on LinkedIn which contained several politically sensitive statements. This resulted in a complaint from a member of the public alleging that Mr Kermode's actions were in breach of the standards of conduct expected of judicial office-holders.

This matter was dealt with under the expedited process in the Judicial Conduct (Magistrates) Rules 2023. The expedited process enables the JCIO to advise the Lord Chancellor and the Lady Chief Justice that the magistrate concerned should be issued with formal advice or a formal warning where the facts are not disputed and the conduct likely amounts to misconduct.

Mr Kermode's representations

Mr Kermode accepted responsibility for his actions and apologised for them. He took prompt action to delete the like and gave assurances as to his future conduct.

Decision

Mr Justice Keehan and the Lord Chancellor agreed with advice from the JCIO that Mr Kermode's actions risked undermining public confidence in his impartiality and had reputational implications for the magistracy.

In agreeing to issue Mr Kermode with a sanction of formal advice, the Lord Chancellor and Mr Justice Keehan took into consideration that Mr Kermode accepted responsibility for his actions and gave assurances as to his future conduct."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Media queries in relation to the JCIO should be made in the first instance to the Judicial Press Office - telephone 020 7073 4852 or via email - press.enquiries@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk (<mailto:press.enquiries@judiciary.gsi.gov.uk>)

Sanctions for misconduct by judicial office-holders are set out in the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. They are, in order of severity: formal advice, formal warning, reprimand and removal from office.

For more information about the Office, including details on how to make a complaint against a judicial office holder, you can visit the JCIO website at: Judicial Conduct Investigations website (<https://www.complaints.judicialconduct.gov.uk>)

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