2025

Courts Service Annual Report

An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

Cover image: Sligo Courthouse

Mission Statement

To manage the courts, support the Judiciary and provide a high quality and professional service to all users of the courts.

An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

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*Irish Prison Service
Note: all figures are as at 31 December.

Structure of the Courts

Supreme Court

The Court of final appeal in civil and criminal matters. Appeals may be made only where the Court grants permission in limited circumstances as set out in the Constitution. Can decide on the constitutionality of a bill if referred to it by the President.

Can determine a question of the permanent incapacity of the President if it arises.

Court of Appeal

Deals with appeals from the High Court in civil cases and appeals from the Circuit Criminal Court, Central Criminal Court or Special Criminal Court.

High Court

Has full original jurisdiction in, and power to determine, all matters and questions, whether of law or fact, civil and criminal. Power to determine the validity of any law having regard to the Constitution. Appeal court from the Circuit Court in civil matters.

Central Criminal Court

Criminal division of the High Court. Tries serious crime including murder, rape, treason and piracy.

Special Criminal Court

Established for the trial of offences in cases where it is determined that the ordinary courts are inadequate to secure the effective administration of justice and the preservation of public peace and order.

Circuit Court

Court of limited and local jurisdiction organised on a regional basis

Civil Jurisdiction: claims up to the value of €75,000 (€60,000 in personal injury cases)

Family Law: Divorce, judicial separation, nullity, and other ancillary matters

Criminal Jurisdiction: Jury trial of offences other than those triable in the Central Criminal Court.

Appeal Court from the District Court in all matters.

District Court

Court of limited and local jurisdiction organised on a local basis

Civil Jurisdiction: claims up to the value of €15,000

Family Law: Maintenance, custody, access and domestic violence

Criminal Jurisdiction: includes non-jury trial of offences including most road traffic offences.

The Small Claims Procedure operates within the District Court

Denotes appeal structure

(the diagram is simplified for the purpose of this representation)

Foreword by the Chairperson of the Board,

The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly

I want to pay tribute to the former Chair of the Courts Service Board, Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne who retired as Chair in October 2025 prior to retiring as a Judge in February 2026. She was both a stellar and a steady Chair and she is a hard act to follow. In large measure, this report reflects the achievements of the Courts Service under her stewardship of the Board.

The past year, 2025, has been a more than busy year for the Courts Service as our 10-year Modernisation Programme reached its halfway point. Major back-office works have been completed following large scale collaboration and communication with other members of the justice community as new models of work were advanced across the courts' administrative system.

I will concentrate here on the benefits already realised from the increased use of technology which is central to the Modernisation Programme.

Technology use in court cases

The Courts Service Modernisation Programme provides benefits for the wider justice sector through increasing our ability to undertake data sharing and video-enabled courtroom technology. As a result of our joint programme with the Irish Prison Service (IPS) both organisations won a Civil Service Innovation and Excellence Award for 2025 in the Best in Digital category. The award recognised the expansion of courtroom video technology and is a strong example of how the Modernisation Programme benefits the wider justice sector.

The project has resulted in substantial cost savings arising from fewer staff escorts for IPS, lower transportation expenses, and less downtime for prisoners, creating more opportunities for constructive activities and rehabilitation. In 2025, the Courts Service video technology facilitated 23,560 courtroom appearances from the Irish Prison Service, our highest to date.

Additional savings stem from reduced fleet depreciation, along with lower diesel use and carbon emissions, delivering long-term financial and environmental benefits.

The investment in video courtroom technology also provides access to new technologies to support the presentation of digital evidence. Examples include evidence acquired from An Garda Síochána body-worn cameras and providing witness anonymity in certain criminal proceedings. We will continue to collaborate with An Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Service to enhance the remote court platform.

Data collection and use

In 2025 we made great improvements in how we collect, manage and use our data. Improving the quality and access to our data is better informing how we make decisions as an organisation.

We also continue our commitment to transparency, and in 2025 we expanded the datasets available on our Open Data Portal – a place online where quarterly figures are available across a myriad of case types nationwide – from all jurisdictions.

The Courts Service ongoing and ambitious project to replace 150 long standing systems with one Unified Case Management System (UCMS) will strengthen the quality of data sharing under the Criminal Justice Strategy.

Modernisation supporting the Judiciary

Our Modernisation Programme is not just an idea, or something in the pipeline, or esoteric. The examples in this Report show how we are delivering practical and efficient benefits for the wider sector. This progress is helping the Judiciary through improved data, digitalisation and video-enabled technology. Improved data is supporting the Judiciary to understand the volume of work going through the courts. This is helpful for the Court Presidents following the Judicial Planning Working Group findings. Digitalisation will allow the Judiciary to view court documentation online. The Courts Service UCMS is providing the opportunity for the Judiciary to view the documents filed by practitioners online before the Court. In 2025 judges across Circuit Court and the High Court participated in a pilot/ test project. The pilot was successful and the engagement with judges, County Registrars and Judicial Assistants was very positive. We focused on developing a system that will work for the Judiciary and quasi-judicial officers, providing the benefits they need, when further rolled out in 2026.

In addition, as Chair of the Board I wish to acknowledge the work of the Rules Committees updating and introducing new Court Rules across the court jurisdictions. Digital Rules came in 2025. Without the updated Rules and work of the Rules Committees we couldn't have made the progress with the Modernisation Programme in 2025 as described in this Foreword and Report.

We also thank court user groups and civil society organisations who work with us to ensure we are responsive to the needs of courts users and the public.

In this Report, you will see more examples of change and modernisation. These changes help us stay flexible, and ready to respond to challenging and ever-changing workloads as one type of law is superseded by others. Good data helps us plan ahead to put in place the resources and court sittings needed to run courts efficiently.

Safety of Court users

The Board of the Courts Service recognises the changing nature of society which always impacts on the Courts. Increased incidents aimed at Courts Service staff and members of the Judiciary both in-person and online renewed our focus on security in 2025 – a priority for the Board. The Courts Service and the Judiciary are working together to identify issues and security risks to improve the safety of all court users.

Ever changing court case numbers

In the Central Criminal Court, with additional judges following the implementation of Judicial Planning Working Group recommendations, the disposal rate for cases has more than doubled over the last 5 years.

In the Circuit Criminal Court, positive progress is being made to reduce the number of cases on hand which has decreased by 18% over the last 5 years even with high volumes of new incoming cases.

The District Court saw a decrease by 7% in the total number of offences listed (342,791), while the number of adjournments decreased by 4%.

On the civil side however, the District Court received 5% more new applications in 2025 than 2024. There was a significant increase of 19% in the number of applications resolved.

Despite an increase of 35%, in the number of Asylum, Immigration and Citizenship (AIC) based Judicial Review cases issued in 2025, waiting times remained stable. This was due to additional judicial sittings during the legal terms to manage the increased caseload. In addition, eight sittings of the AIC pre-leave list took place during the Long Recess Pilot Project.

Our Thanks

In recommending this report as an overview of the great work of the Courts Service, I would like to thank the members of the Courts Service Board for all their oversight, wisdom, and help. I also sincerely thank the CEO, management and staff of the Courts Service for a job well done and their enthusiasm for public service. Members of the Judiciary, the wider justice sector partners and the Minister and officials of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration have all been a great support in our work – for which we are grateful.

Aileen Donnelly

The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly

Chairperson of the Board of the Courts Service

1 About the Courts Service

About the Courts Service

The Courts Service is responsible for the administration and management of the Courts in Ireland. Our primary functions are to:

- manage the courts,
- provide support services to the Judiciary,
- provide information on the courts system to the public, and
- provide court buildings and facilities for court users.

Our additional powers include:

- acquiring, holding, and disposing of land,
- entering contracts,
- designating court venues, and
- making proposals to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, for example, on reform and development matters.

We are responsible for the management of all aspects of court activities (except for judicial functions which are a matter exclusively for the Judiciary). In fulfilling our functions our 1,300 plus people nationwide provide services in Civil, Criminal and Family Law to court users daily. These offices, supported by directorates, were established as part of our management structure, and facilitate the work of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Circuit Court and District Court.

> ***We are responsible for the management of all aspects of court activities (except for judicial functions which are a matter exclusively for the Judiciary).***

The Courts Service Board

We are governed by the Courts Service Board (the Board) consisting of a chairperson and 17 other members.

The Courts Service Act, 1998 provides that the Board should contain Judicial representatives from each court, a staff representative, nominees of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and representatives from the legal professions, trade unions and business.

The Board considers and determines policy in relation to the Courts Service and oversees the implementation of that policy by the Chief Executive Officer. The Act provides that the Board consider:

- the most beneficial, effective and efficient use of organisation resources and
- how any policy or objective of the Government or Minister might affect or relate to the functions of the organisation.

The Act enables the Board to establish committees to advise on the performance of its functions. The Board also may appoint committee members who are not members of the Board but have specialist knowledge and experience related to the purposes of the committee. Committees and their actions are subject to confirmation by the Board as deemed necessary. The committees of the Board as of 31 December 2025 were:

- Finance Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Family Law Court Development Committee
- Building Committee
- Modernisation Committee

Membership of the Courts Service Board

The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly
Judge of the Supreme Court and Chairperson of the Board

The Hon. Ms Justice Caroline Costello
President of the Court of Appeal

The Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville
President of the High Court

The Hon. Mr Justice Seamus Woulfe
Elected by the ordinary Judges of the Supreme Court

The Hon. Ms Justice Tara Burns
Elected by the ordinary Judges of the Court of Appeal

The Hon. Mr Justice Tony O Connor
Elected by the ordinary Judges of the High Court

The Hon. Ms Justice Patricia Ryan
President of the Circuit Court

His Honour Judge Keenan Johnson
Elected by the ordinary Judges of the Circuit Court

His Honour Judge Paul Kelly
President of the District Court

Note: The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly replaced The Hon. Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne as Chair of the Board on 3 November 2025.

Judge Alan Mitchell
Elected by the Judges of the District Court

Ms Angela Denning
Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service

Mr Sean Guerin
Nominee of the Bar Council

Mr Stuart Gilhooly
Nominee of the Law Society

Mr Derek Bunyan
Elected by the staff of the Courts Service

Ms Rachel Woods
Official of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration nominated by the Minister

Ms Sarah Benson
Nominated by the Minister to represent consumers of the services provided by the Courts

Mr Owen Reidy
General Secretary
Nominated by Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Mr Noel Beecher
Nominated by the Minister because of his relevant knowledge and experience in commerce, finance or administration

Committees of the Board (as of 31/12/2025)

Finance Committee (31 December 2025)
The Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville, President of the High Court (Chair)
The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly, Judge of the Supreme Court
The Hon. Ms Justice Caroline Costello, President of the Court of Appeal
The Hon. Ms Justice Patricia Ryan, President of the Circuit Court
His Honour Judge Paul Kelly, President of the District Court
Ms Angela Denning, Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service
Ms Rachel Woods, Board member representing the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
Mr Noel Beecher, Board member representing commercial and financial interests
Ms Amelia Casey, External member
Ms Lisa Scott, Secretary

Note: The Hon Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly replaced the Hon Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne on 3 November 2025.

Audit and Risk Committee (31 December 2025)
Mr Noel Beecher– Board Member (Chair)
The Hon. Mr Justice Senan Allen, Judge of the Court of Appeal
His Honour Judge Francis Comerford, Judge of the Circuit Court
Judge Alec Gabbett, Judge of the District Court
Ms Rachel Woods, Board member representing the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration,
Mr Paul Spring, Chief Information Officer, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Ms Michelle McGreal, External Member with experience in Audit and Risk
Ms Lisa Scott, Secretary

Building Committee (31 December 2025)
The Hon. Ms Justice Tara Burns, Judge of the Court of Appeal (Chair)
The Hon. Mr Justice John Jordan, Judge of the High Court
His Honour Judge Brian O'Callaghan, Judge of the Circuit Court
Judge Brendan Toale, Judge of the District Court
Ms Angela Denning, Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service
Mr Jack Nicholas, nominee of the Bar of Ireland
Mr Ciaran O'Connor, Office of Public Works
Ms Tabitha Wood SC, nominee of the Bar of Ireland
Ms Helen Coughlan, The Law Society of Ireland
Ms Maura Derivan, The Law Society of Ireland
Ms Nina Brennan, Assistant Secretary, Circuit and District Court operations
Ms Lisa Scott, Secretary

Note: Mr Tom Ward stepped down from the Committee on 20 February 2025
Ms Tabitha Wood SC, replaced Ms Deirdre Browne BL, 22 October 2025

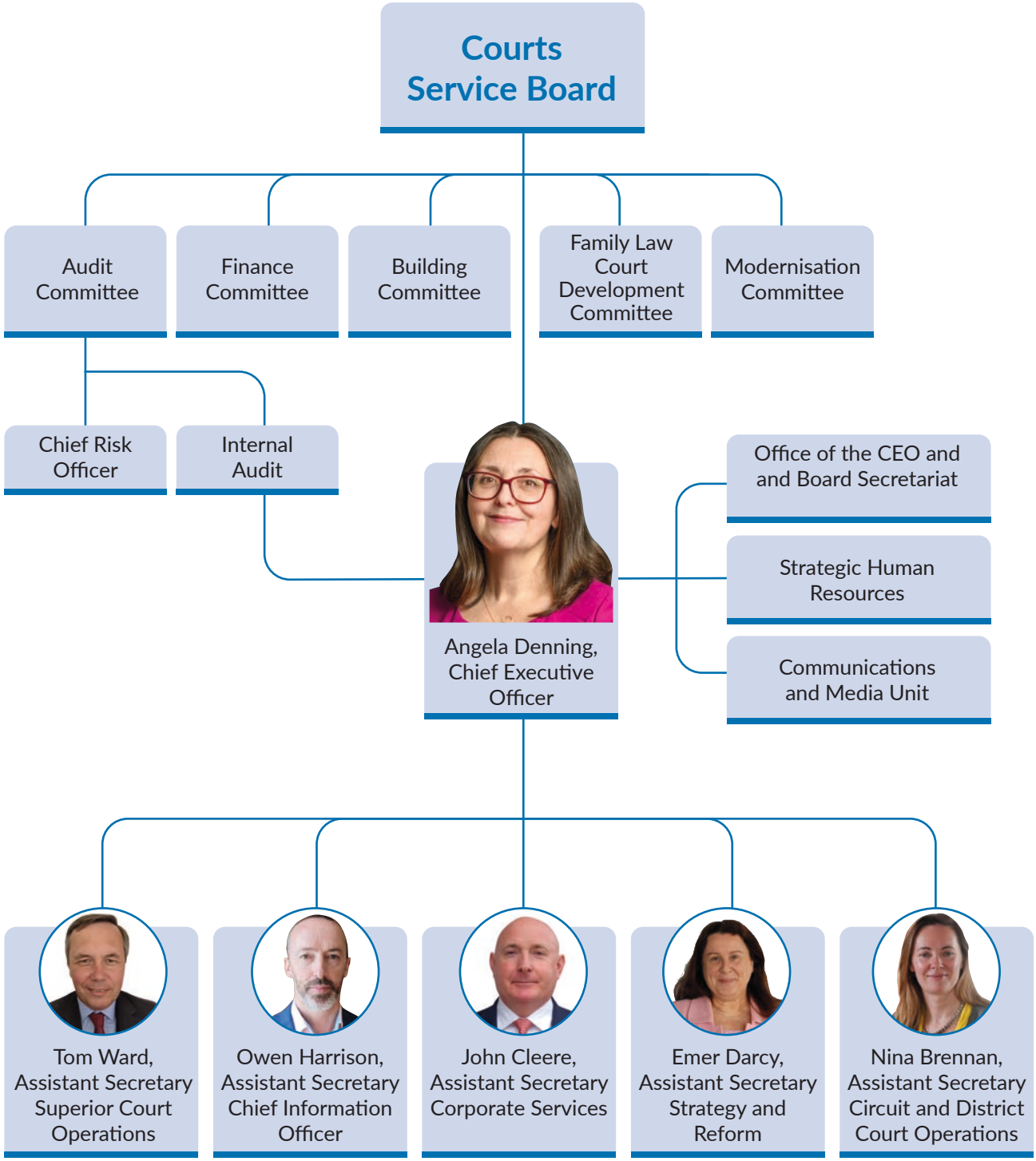
Family Law Court Development Committee (31 December 2025)
Ms Sarah Benson, member of the Courts Service Board (Chair)
The Hon. Mr Justice John Jordan, Judge of the High Court
Her Honour Judge Elizabeth Maguire, Judge of the Circuit Court
Her Honour Judge Sinéad Ní Chúlacháin, Judge of the Circuit Court
Judge Carol Ann Coolican, Judge of the District Court
Judge Máire Conneely, Judge of the District Court
Ms Cliona Cleary, nominee of the Bar of Ireland
Mr Peter Doyle, nominee of the Law Society of Ireland
Mr Tom Ward, Assistant Secretary, Superior Court Operations
Ms Nina Brennan, Assistant Secretary, Circuit and District Court Operations
Ms Rita Considine, County Registrar
Ms Emily Sherlock, Legal Aid Board
Ms Karen Kiernan, Chief Executive Officer – One Family
Ms Jennifer Clancy, Head of Family Law Reform, Courts Service
Mr Derek Bunyan, Courts Service staff representative on the Courts Service Board
Ms Yvonne Carroll, Secretary

Note: Ms Cliona Cleary, The Bar of Ireland replaced Ms Deirdre Browne BL 10 November 2025

Modernisation Committee of the Courts Service Board (31 December 2025)
The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly (Chair)
The Hon. Mr Justice Liam Kennedy, Judge of the High Court
His Honour Judge Colin Daly, Judge of the Circuit Court
Mr Michael Quinlan, Legal Practitioner Representative
Ms Catherine Treacy, Former Chief Executive Officer of the Property Registration Authority
Ms Louise Jevens, Chief Information Officer, Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration
Ms Angela Denning, Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service
Mr Emmet Callaghan, Secretary

Note: The Hon. Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne's term as Chair of the Board came to an end on 22 October 2025 and she was replaced by The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly who was the Chief Justice's nominee as Chair of the Board.

Organisation Structure



Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the implementation of policies approved by the Board, the day-to-day management of the staff, administration and business of the organisation, and is also the Accounting Officer for the Courts Service.

The Chief Executive Officer is supported by the Senior Management Team comprising:

- Assistant Secretaries with responsibility for:
  - Superior Court Operations,
  - Circuit and District Court Operations,
  - Strategy and Reform,
  - Corporate Services,
  - Information Communications Technology (ICT), where the role is referred to as Chief Information Officer),
- the following Principal Officers:
  - the Head of Strategic Human Resources,
  - the Head of the Office of the CEO,
  - the Head of Communications, and
  - a representative of Courts Service Principal Officers.

Where we are

We are a largely decentralised organisation found in courthouses and offices throughout Ireland.

In Dublin, court offices support the work of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, High Court, Dublin Circuit Court and Dublin Metropolitan District Court in the Four Courts, Criminal Courts of Justice, Dolphin House, Swords, Dun Laoghaire, Tallaght, Balbriggan, Chancery Street, Green Street, the Children Court in Smithfield, Blanchardstown and Cloverhill.

Outside of Dublin, 27 court offices support the work of both the Circuit Court and the District Court, and 6 offices support the work of the District Court only.

The Southern Regional Office includes the administrative area of counties: Cork, Limerick, Tipperary, and Kerry.

The Eastern Regional Office includes the administrative area of counties: Kildare, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Laois, and Waterford.

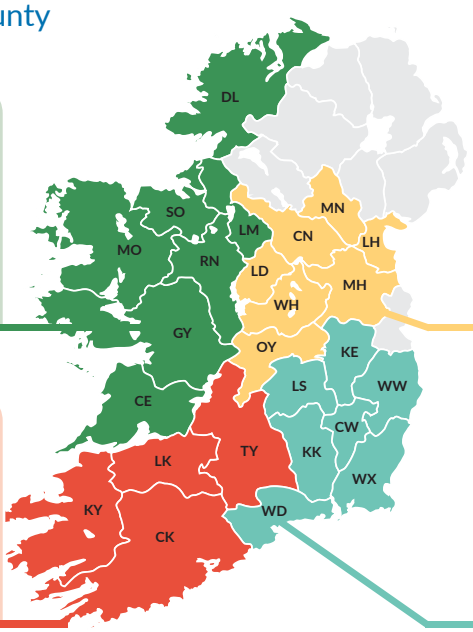
The Western Regional Office includes the administrative area of counties: Mayo, Galway, Clare, Sligo, Roscommon, Donegal, and Leitrim.

The North Midlands Regional Office includes the administrative area of counties: Louth, Meath, Monaghan, Westmeath, Offaly, Longford, and Cavan.

Regional Offices by County

Ms Josephine Mulherin,
Manager,
Western Regional Office

Mr Eoin Manning,
Manager,
North Midlands Regional Office



Ms Mary Crowley,
Manager,
Southern Regional Office

Ms Susan Cahill,
Manager,
Eastern Regional Office

2 The Year in Review

Introduction by Angela Denning

Chief Executive Officer

2025 was another very productive year. Courts were as busy as ever. By year-end we were reaching the midway point in our 10-year Modernisation Programme for which we're already seeing the initial benefits. From 2021 – 2024 we concentrated on preparatory work, some initial projects and developing our skills, capability and resources across our ICT and reform teams. This enabled us in 2025 to successfully roll out reform and digitalisation projects with busy teams in court offices, who were also managing the impact of legislative changes. Government investment, new ways of working and the resilience of our colleagues has enabled us to introduce system-wide changes, whilst keeping courts running.

2025 was the first full year of the operation of the legislation which introduced Civil Orders against Relevant Conduct (Civil Restraining Orders), with 1,839 orders made in the District Court. The legislation is not limited to stalking or harassment cases; it applies broadly to, for example disputes between neighbours, issues within families (that fall outside domestic violence legislation), and cases involving bullying. Some challenges have been inevitable, as court offices, judges, legal professionals and those involved familiarise themselves with this new complex area of law. The level of demand has placed a significant time burden on already busy District Courts. In response, we began a project towards the end of 2025 to review the processes and supporting information, with the aim of making improvements for all users.

We are also seeing an increase in domestic violence applications in the District Court. In the 6 years from 2019 to 2025 we have seen an increase of almost 7,000 applications incoming annually. Like Civil Restraining Orders, domestic violence applications can be a complex area. We're supporting this area through our Modernisation Programme with improved information, forms and digitalisation. Indeed, the Family Courts Act 2024 introduces important changes to the delivery of family justice in Ireland. We worked closely with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in 2025, gathering and providing valuable user insights to inform the development of an implementation plan for the Act. We look forward to continuing to work with them on the plan in 2026.

Key to improving the family law system in Ireland is the development of the Dublin Family Courts complex in Hammond Lane. You can read in this chapter how, following years of preparatory work, this building project was formally handed over to the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA) in August 2025. This handover marks the end of the appraisal and planning stages and moved the project into the procurement and implementation stages. We believe that the Dublin Family Courts project is well positioned to complete the procurement process in 2026. Everyone involved is dedicated to the timely delivery of a modern, integrated court facility that meets user needs in a modern family justice system.

The preparatory work undertaken in the initial years of the Modernisation Programme was essential to meet the scale of our transformation ambition. Replacing 150 legacy systems, used by approximately 1,330 staff in 127 offices and courthouses nationwide, while introducing better ways of working across the sector, isn't possible overnight. In 2025 we made real progress delivering on our digital strategy which centres around a new Unified Case Management System (UCMS). UCMS provides the technology needed for:

- a Courts Service case management system to be used by staff,
- a Portal for practitioners to file court documents online, and
- a judicial view of court sitting and case documentation.

By the end of 2025 over 500 staff members were using UCMS across 7 areas of work, with the system becoming a core part of our daily work. This included UCMS for staff working in Probate, Court of Appeal for civil cases, the Supreme Court, the High Court, Circuit Court Family Law cases and District Court Family Law cases in Dolphin House and the Child Care Office, Chancery Street with an incremental nationwide rollout planned for 2026.

In 2025 we also achieved nationwide rollout of the Courts Portal, which enables practitioners file court documents, to the Circuit Court for Family Law. Our second Courts Portal milestone in 2025 was to enable the Portal to receive applications for grants of probate for select practitioners in a Dublin-based pilot. Taking account of user feedback, the Portal is being updated on an ongoing basis to support a phased national rollout for probate applications in 2026.

A wide range of court forms are used to start, respond to or progress cases across the 5 court jurisdictions. However multiple versions of forms and inconsistent use across the country, not only challenge users, solicitors and the Judiciary but also pose issues for digitalisation. In June 2025 we rolled out the first new Family Law forms to the District Court with the support of District Court President His Honour Judge Paul Kelly and the District Court Rules Committee. These new user-friendly, accessible forms written in plain language reduced 37 forms to 7 for consistent use in court offices and courtrooms nationwide. This valuable work supported the introduction of UCMS to the District Court for Family Law cases. Streamlined forms that meet user needs provide an easier transition to digitalisation. We are adopting a similar approach with Circuit Court Family Law forms in 2026.

Building on the success in the 2024 Civil Service Innovation and Excellence Awards for provision of Family Law information; in 2025 we won the award for Best in Digital in conjunction with the Irish Prison Service. As mentioned by our chairperson in the opening lines of this Report, the award recognises the positive impact of our video-enabled courtroom expansion for the Irish Prison Service and others. We made further improvements across our courtroom technology, data and our Artificial Intelligence (AI) work. We also upgraded our website **courts.ie** to ensure we met our accessibility obligations, receiving a National Disability Authority accessibility score of 100%. You can read more about these achievements in the rest of this chapter.

We're only getting started. The preparatory work undertaken in the early years of the Modernisation Programme has positioned us well to deliver significant transformational change at pace over the second half of the programme. Further Civil and Family Law changes, widespread rollout of UCMS and the Portal, combined with a culture of continuous improvement will deliver lasting benefit for all users.

I have always believed that our people are our greatest asset. I would like to thank all my colleagues for their hard work and dedication to constantly improving the service we deliver. To better understand our people, we introduced the annual Healthy Place to Work survey several years ago. Feedback in 2024 indicated a different approach to training was needed. We responded in 2025 using a combination of e-learning modules supplemented by training officers on the ground to provide an improved blended form of training. This approach was aimed at better meeting the needs of those in busy offices. We believe investing in our people improves our retention rates and service delivery to users. I would like to thank our 1,047 colleagues who responded to the 2025 survey for taking the time to engage with the survey. I look forward to acting on the feedback received over the course of the coming year.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the engagement of the Judiciary, our partners across the justice sector and Government as well as all our users. We can't transform our information and services for users without your engagement and consistent feedback. We value collaboration and look forward to continuing to work together as we roll out the second half of our Modernisation Programme. It is in these coming years that we will realise the longer-term benefits for users and positive transformational change for the system.

Angela Denning
Chief Executive Officer

About this Chapter

In this chapter we provide an overview of Courts Service operations across all jurisdictions, specifically highlighting the diverse and evolving nature of our work, as well as updates on our Modernisation Programme 2020 - 2030.

At the end of the chapter, we report on our target activities for 2025. These activities are aligned to our strategic goals from our Corporate Strategic Plan 2024 -2027, which supports overall delivery towards our Strategic Vision 2030.

Court Operations

Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015

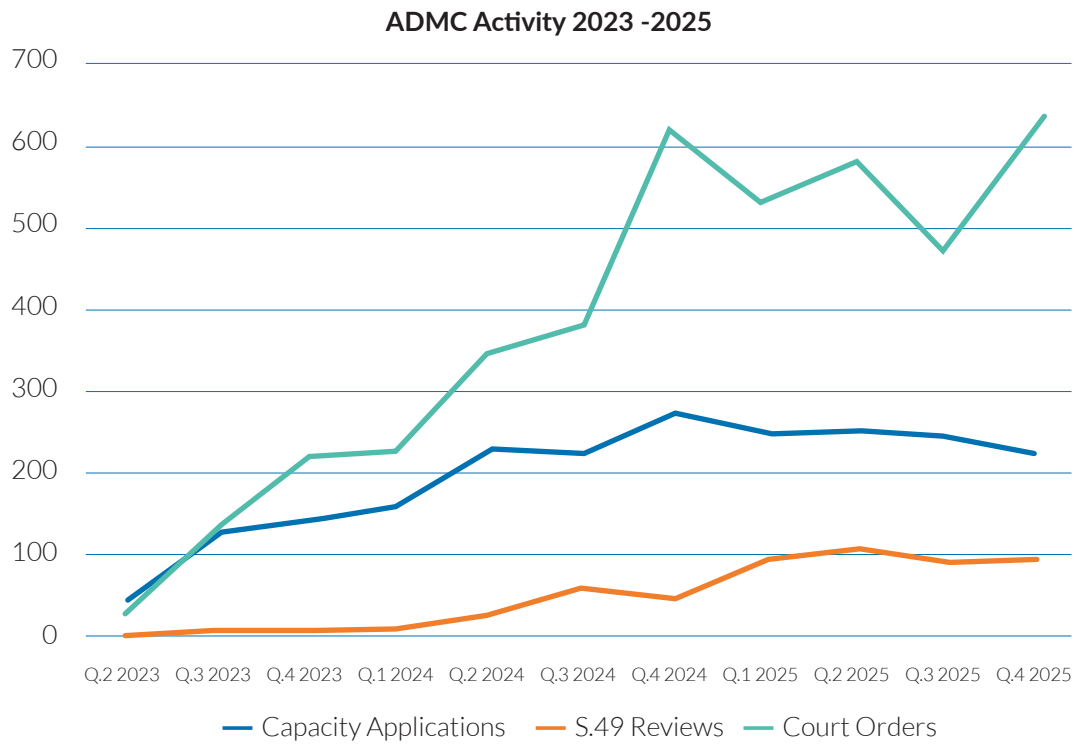


Figure 1: Assisted Decision-making Capacity activity profile 2023 - 2025

> *Target activities for 2025 are aligned to our strategic goals from our Corporate Strategic Plan 2024 -2027, which supports overall delivery towards our Strategic Vision 2030.*

The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (ADMC) came into effect on 26 April 2023 and established a new legal framework for supported decision making in Ireland. It allows people to make legal agreements on how they can be supported to make decisions about their personal welfare, property, and affairs. The Act abolished the Wards of Court system for adults.

The Circuit Court is now the Court with responsibility to hear applications when there are serious questions of decision-making capacity for individuals. When a Court decides a person lacks capacity, it can make orders to support them. These cases are not one-off hearings and must be reviewed in Court regularly.

This remains a relatively new area of law with agreed practice and procedures still developing. This can cause challenges in implementing the legislation in a uniform manner while new norms are formed. The volume of new cases stabilised during 2025, with approximately 250 new capacity applications each quarter.

In cases where a Court has decided a person lacks capacity, the legislation (Section 49) requires that their capacity is reviewed again within 3 years. Approximately 90 reviews are now heard each quarter. As the legislation matures, Section 49 reviews will grow in number and require greater court time.

Impact of the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 on High Court Offices

During 2025 the Offices of Wards of Court and of the General Solicitor for Minors and Wards of Court continued to communicate the process of discharging people from wardship ahead of the 26 April 2026 deadline. This deadline was set in the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 as amended. As of end-December 2025, the following tables give an overview of the progress made to discharge people from wardship to date:

Discharge Applications by Applicant type	Total by year end
Private Committee	481
General Solicitor as Committee	356
Wards of Court Office Minor to Adult	29
Ward of Court/ Relevant Person	50
Other*	42

Figure 2: Details of the Applications to discharge people under wardship

*Other includes the Court granting consent to bring the discharge application or the Court directing the application be made or progressed.

In addition, the Court made orders under Section 54 (2) in 579 cases. This included appointing a legal representative for the Wards of Court or relevant person from the panel established by the Legal Aid Board and directing that certain actions be taken.

By the end of the year, 286 Wards of Court had been discharged from wardship. They were either determined to have capacity to manage their own affairs or with the assistance of one of the support arrangements available under the Act. The table below breaks down the Discharge Orders by support arrangement by the end of the year.

Discharge Order Types	Total by year end
Discharged with Capacity	34
Discharged (Co-Decision Maker)	26
Discharged (Decision Making Representative)	226
Total	**286**

Figure 3: Discharge Order by support arrangements

Work was under way, by the end of the year, in the Department of Children, Disability and Equality to prevent the lacuna where Wards of Court not discharged from wardship, by the statutory deadline of 26 April 2026, could see Court Orders, for medical treatment and placement, lapse without intervention.

Inherent jurisdiction (Capacity) List

The Inherent Jurisdiction (Capacity) list was established to respond to an increase in numbers of applications under the High Court's inherent jurisdiction derived from the constitution after the commencement of the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act in April 2023. Since that time, there has been a steady demand for this new type of application to the High Court under its inherent jurisdiction. Typical reliefs sought included seeking orders where the person concerned lacks decision making capacity, is at risk and requires the protection of the Court, whether by detention, treatment, surgical intervention or other means.

The following table demonstrates the steady demand for Inherent Jurisdiction (Capacity) applications since January 2024.

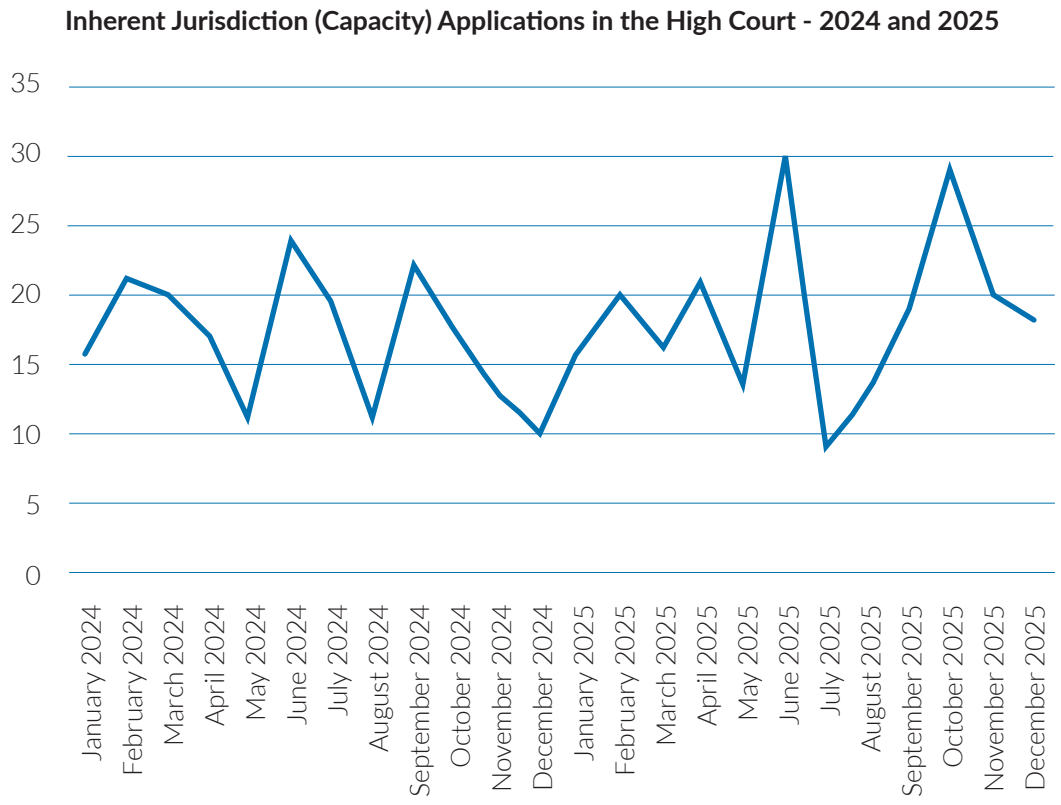


Figure 4: Inherent Jurisdiction (Capacity) Applications in the High Court 2024 - 2025

Enhanced Practice Directions and daily dedicated sittings have streamlined the process, making applications more accessible and efficient to bring before the Court.

Civil Orders against Relevant Conduct (commonly known as Stalking or Restraining Orders)

Figure 5: Civil Restraining Orders activity profile 2024 - 2025

Part 5 of the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023 commenced in September 2024. This legislation provides a remedy for applicants, like those available in domestic violence cases. The legislation (Section 27) defines the conduct that can lead to a Court imposing an order (under Section 28) prohibiting a respondent from doing any or all of the following:

a) using or threatening to use violence against, molesting or putting fear in the person,
b) following or communicating by any means with or about the person,
c) approaching, within such distance as the Court shall specify, the place of residence, education or employment of the person, and
d) engaging in such other forms of relevant conduct as the Court specifies.

2025 was the first full year this legislation was in operation. Demand grew sharply after its introduction and has now plateaued at approximately 400 applications per quarter. As with domestic violence applications, restraining order cases are complex and take considerable amount of court and court office time to manage. Eligibility to apply for this remedy is broadly defined in the legislation so is not limited solely to stalking or harassment cases. It is often used, for example, in disputes between neighbours, within families (not covered by domestic violence) or cases of bullying.

New and complex areas of law can cause issues initially, taking longer to process. This is because the court offices, judges, legal professionals and others involved in the process need time to understand the new law, practice and procedure. This remains the case for restraining/stalking orders.

Juvenile Protocol – Central Criminal Court

A juvenile protocol was introduced to the Central Criminal Court in 2025. Its objective being to fast-track serious criminal prosecutions involving juveniles. Whether a juvenile is a victim of crime or may be the accused or a witness in criminal proceedings, it is recognised that the experience of criminal trials on juveniles is particularly difficult and detrimental to their wellbeing.

Mr Justice Paul McDermott and Ms Justice Caroline Biggs worked with 16 organisations and agencies, involved in the criminal justice sector, to get sign-up to the protocol. In its first year in operation, 65 cases were fast-tracked reducing waiting times for juvenile cases from 20 to 8 weeks.

Criminal Courts overview

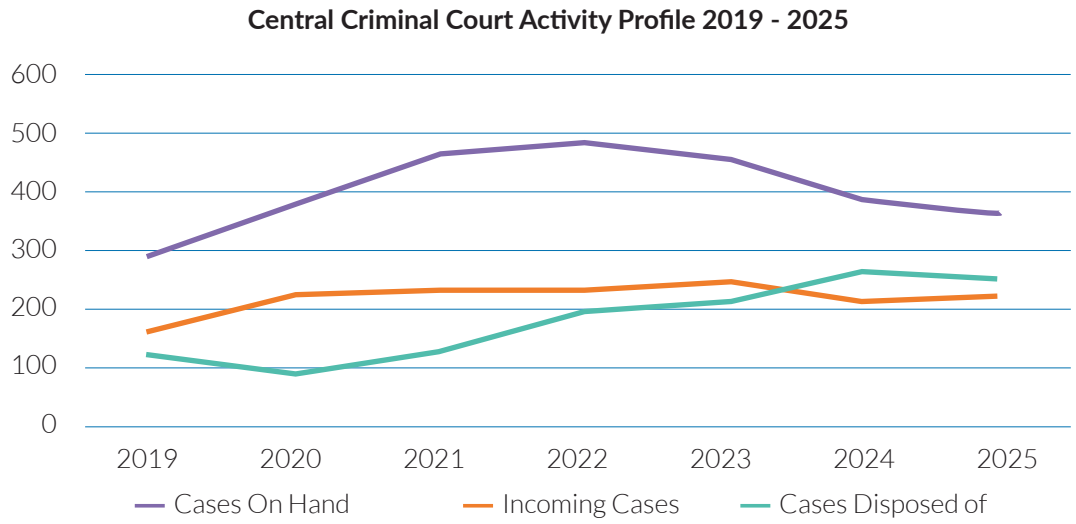


Figure 6: Central Criminal Court activity profile 2019 - 2025

The Central Criminal Courts saw a decrease of 5% in cases on hand. New cases also increased 3% while matters disposed of decreased by 2% from an historically high level in 2024. This trend continues a positive pattern of reducing numbers of cases waiting to be dealt with by the Court. With additional judges following the implementation of Judicial Planning Working Group recommendations, the disposal rate has more than doubled over the last 5 years.

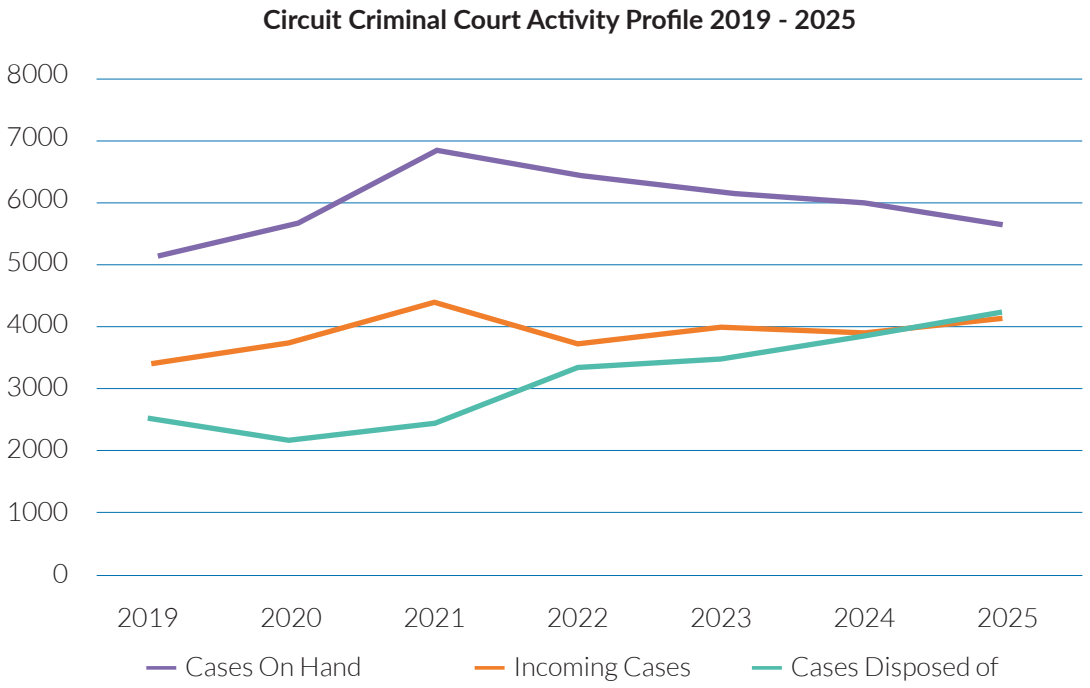


Figure 7: Circuit Criminal Court activity profile 2019 - 2025

The Circuit Criminal Court continued to make progress dealing with cases on hand, these decreased by 5% in 2025. New cases increased by 7% while cases disposed of increased by 9%. As with the Central Criminal Court, positive progress is being made to reduce the number of cases on hand which has decreased by 18% over the last 5 years even with high volumes of incoming cases. Disposal rates have also increased allowing cases on hand to fall.

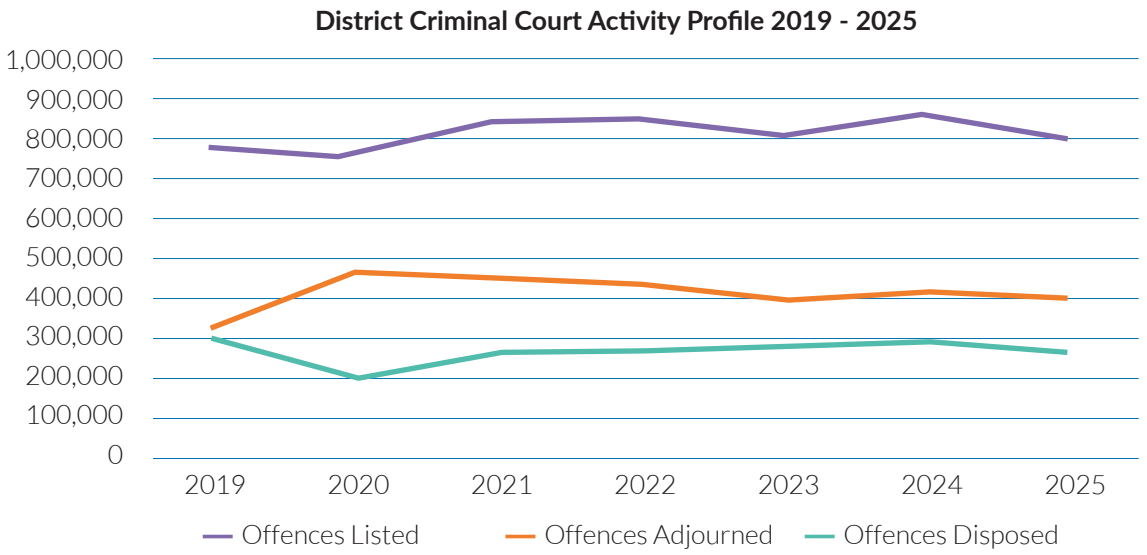


Figure 8: District Criminal Court activity profile 2019 – 2025

In 2025, the District Court saw a decrease by 7% in the total number of offences listed in Court, the number of adjournment orders decreased by 4% and the number of offences disposed decreased by 7%.

Family Law Courts Overview

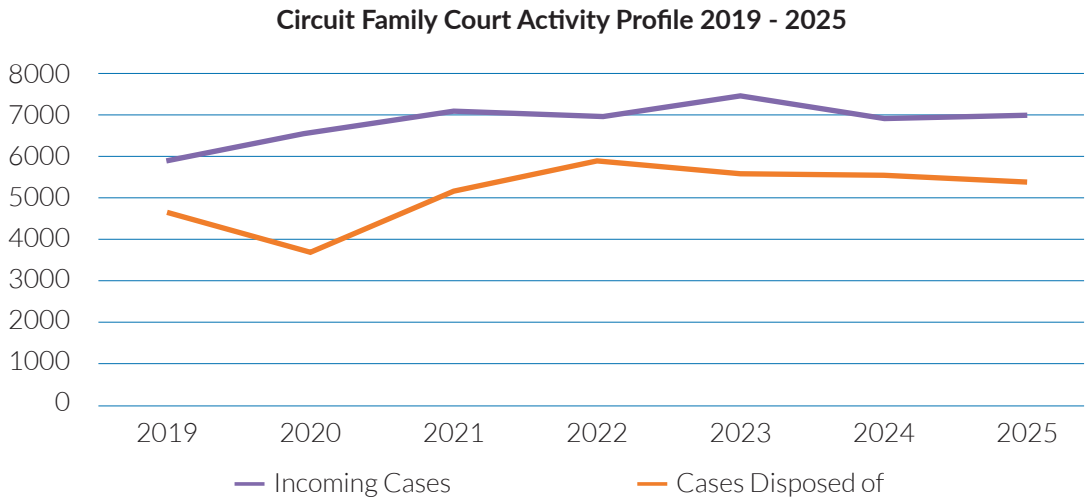


Figure 9: Circuit Family Courts activity profile 2019 – 2025

The Circuit Family Court saw a slight increase by 1% in new cases while those disposed of cases decreased by 3%. Activity has been stable for the last few years.

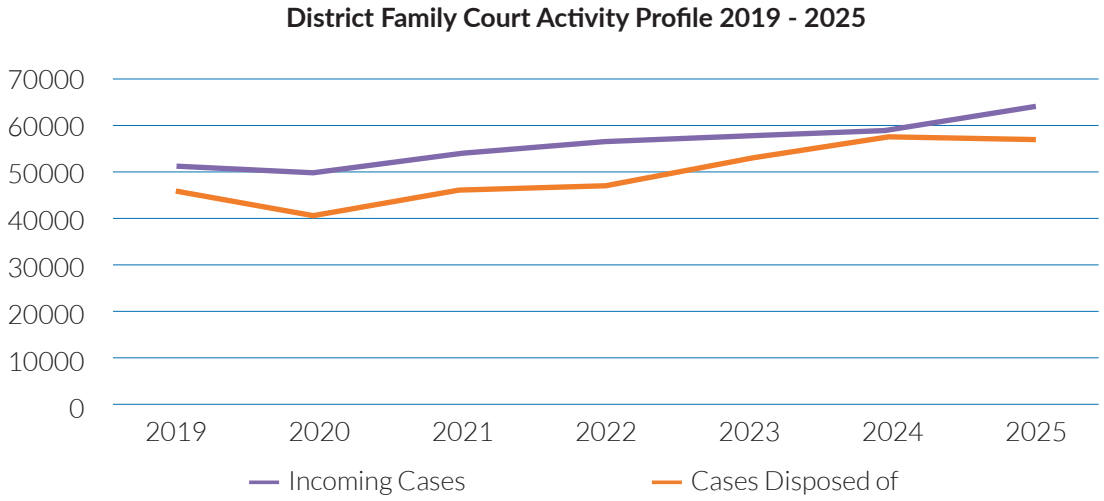


Figure 10: District Family Courts activity profile 2019 – 2025

Incoming applications increased again in 2025 with growth of 9%. The number of applications disposed of remained at the same level as 2024. Activity in this area has grown steadily over the last 5 years.

Civil Courts Overview

Circuit Court

Incoming applications increased again in 2025 by 9%. The number of applications disposed of remained at the same level as 2024. Activity in this area has grown steadily over the last 5 years.

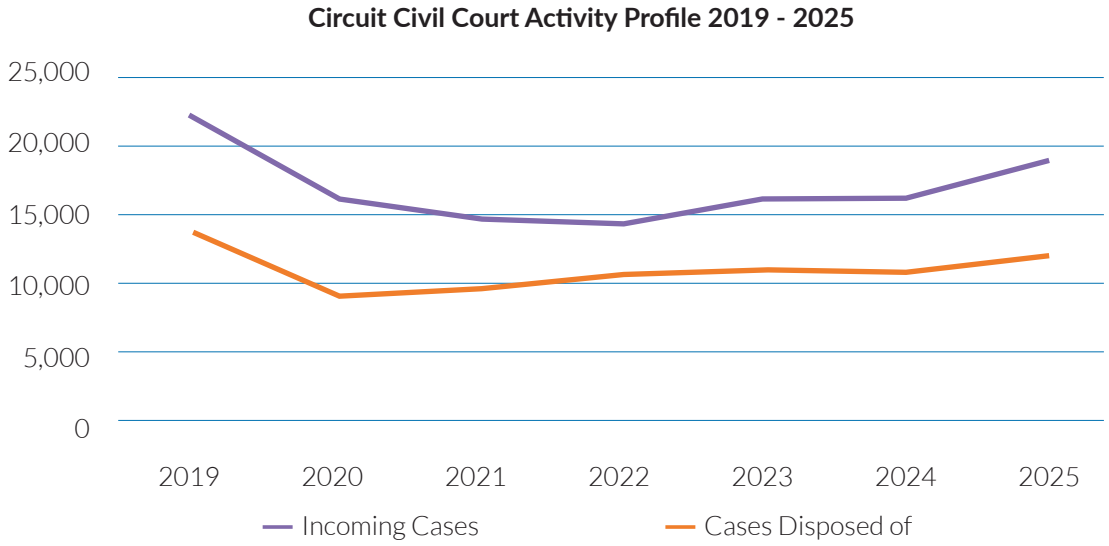


Figure 11: Circuit Civil Court activity profile 2019 – 2025

Incoming cases increased by 17% over 2024 levels and disposed of cases were also up, seeing an 11% growth. Activity is slowly increasing after decreasing significantly in 2020.

District Court

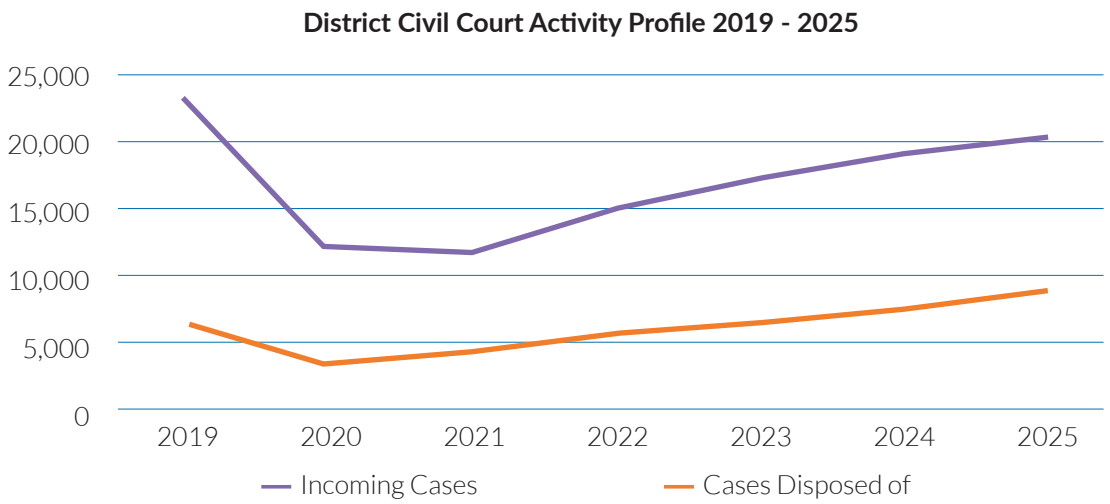


Figure 12: District Civil Court activity profile 2019 - 2025

While it remains below 2019 levels, the District Court received 5% more new applications in 2025 than 2024. There was also an increase of 19% in the number of applications resolved. As already mentioned separately, it was the first full year of the Stalking/Restraining Orders legislation which may explain some part of the increase in 2025.

Personal Injury applications

The Personal Injuries Guidelines, adopted by the Judicial Council in early 2021, came into effect on 24 April 2021 when the Government commenced the relevant provisions of the Judicial Council Act 2019. These had an immediate impact on the numbers of personal injury actions commenced in the High Court, the Circuit Court and the District Court during the rest of 2021 and in the years since.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Incoming – High Court	5,167	3,795	4,540	4,612	5,140
Incoming - Circuit Court	8,856	7,151	7,495	7,228	8,434
Incoming - District Court	1,070	1,542	1,401	1,149	1,087
TOTAL	15,093	12,488	13,436	12,989	14,661

Figure 13: Personal Injury actions 2021 - 2025

However, as can be seen from the table above, there has been a steady rise in incoming personal injury actions in the High Court and the Circuit Court, in the intervening years. The distribution of actions between the jurisdictions, as represented in the graph below, also tells an interesting story.

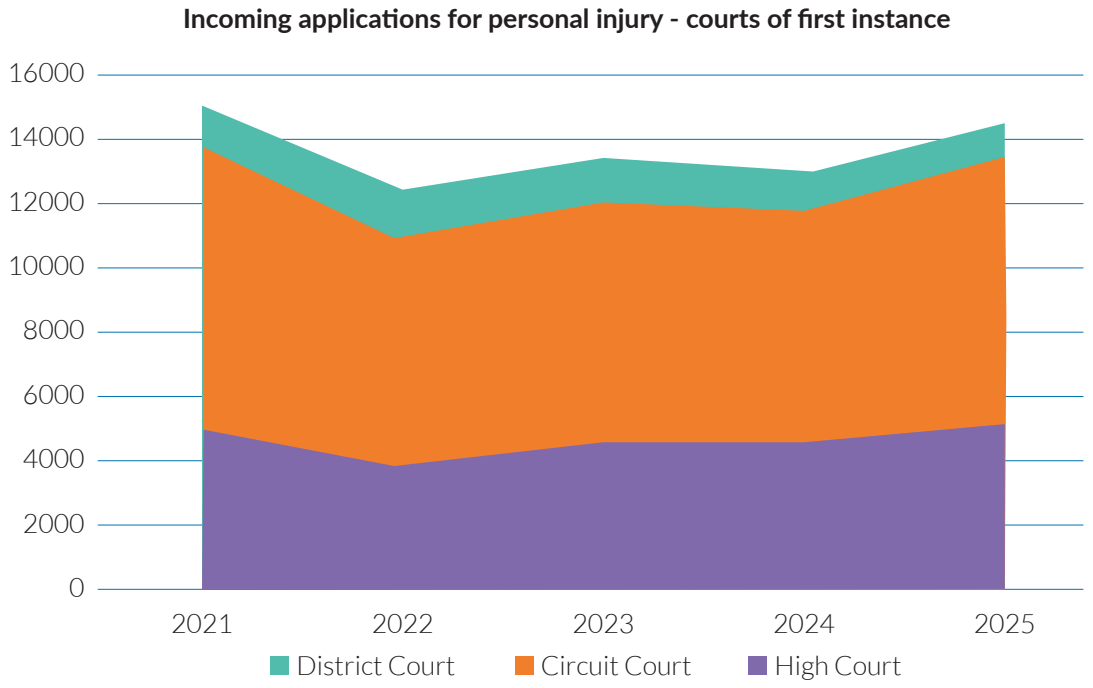


Figure 14: Trends in personal injury applications in the District, Circuit and High Courts 2021 - 2025

The net number of personal injury actions commenced in 2025 is now close to the levels in 2021, as is the relative distribution between the jurisdictions.

High Court operations

Planning and Environment List

2025 was the second full year of operation of the Planning and Environment List in the High Court. The list has experienced a significant increase in new cases lodged since commencing in December 2024.

The number of live cases in the list doubled during 2025 but in the last quarter, the situation improved. There were 313 live cases in the list as of 31 October 2025, but this reduced to 282 cases by the end of the year.

New court rules for the Planning and Environment List (S.I. No 246 of 2025), aimed at improving the efficiency and throughput of cases, came into effect on 18 June 2025. Work also commenced on a subsequent Practice Direction, which was published on **courts.ie** for public consultation in November 2025. This is expected to issue in 2026.

As part of its commitment to transparency and access to justice, a live online observation video channel was launched in March 2025 for the main Planning and Environment List. This enabled practitioners and other interested parties who register to view proceedings remotely.

The number of live cases in the list doubled during 2025 but in the last quarter, the situation improved. There were 313 live cases in the list as of 31 October 2025, but this reduced to 282 cases by the end of the year.

Judicial Review applications in Asylum applications

2025 saw a continuation of the trend of an increase in the numbers of applications for Judicial Review in asylum matters, as can be seen from the table below:

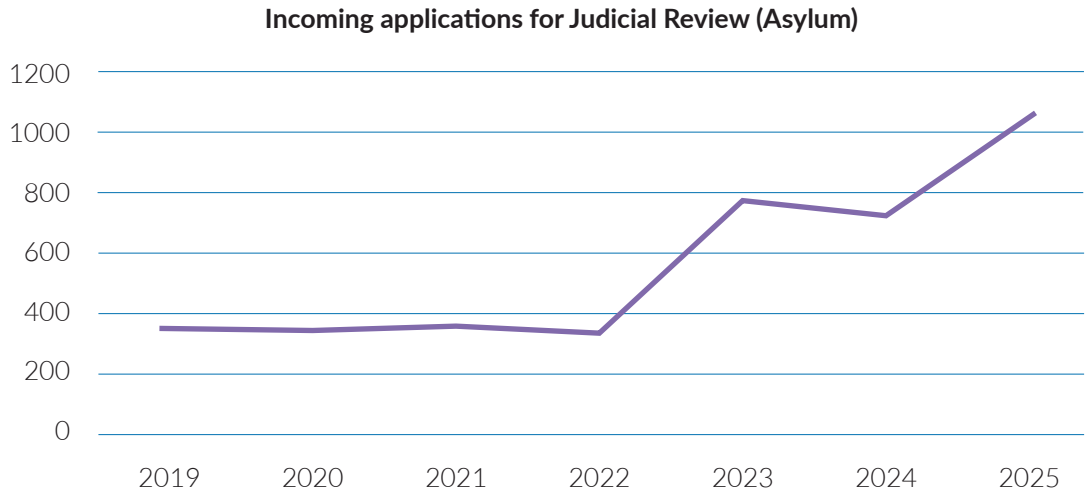


Figure 15: Trends in applications for Judicial Review

There was a 35% percent increase in the number of Asylum, Immigration and Citizenship (AIC) based Judicial Review cases issued in 2025 over 2024 figures. This is not surprising, considering the increase in applications for international protection up to 2024 as well as the consequent scaling up in decision making in the International Protection Office of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in 2024 and 2025. Notwithstanding the increase in case numbers in the AIC business area, waiting times remained stable in 2025. This was due to additional judicial sittings during the legal terms time to manage the increased caseload. In addition, 8 sittings of the Asylum pre-leave list took place during the Long Vacation Pilot Project.

Court of Appeal and Supreme Court move to the Unified Case Management System

In 2025 the ICT Digital team's plan to roll out a consistent case management system (UCMS) across the whole organisation reached the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. During the summer recess staff started the transition from the previous system to the new UCMS and by the last quarter of the year staff in the Supreme Court were also transitioning. Court users have been very patient as we continue to transition approximately 150 legacy systems to the UCMS. There is more information on the Modernisation Programme and the digitalisation of our services further in this chapter.

Supreme Court – pilot project on broadcasting of hearings

In October 2025, the Supreme Court commenced a pilot project to record and broadcast on **supremecourt.ie**:

- court proceedings,
- oral argument in substantive appeal hearings, and
- the delivery of judgments.

The pilot operates within the framework set out in Practice Direction SC24 issued by the Chief Justice, to provide guidance on the scope and safeguards for the recording and broadcasting of proceedings.

The purpose of the pilot is to support the principle of open justice, enhance public access to proceedings of public importance and assist accurate reporting and educational use of broadcast recordings. Practice Direction SC24 identifies categories of proceedings that are excluded and confirms that the decision to broadcast in any individual case is at the discretion of the Supreme Court.

In the Courts Service we have enabled the pilot using audio-visual and remote hearing infrastructure already in use for remote hearings. Recordings are uploaded to the website as soon as is practicable after the proceedings are concluded.

Modernising the Courts Service

The end of 2025 marked the half-way point in the Courts Service 10-year Modernisation Programme. The Programme was developed to improve the services we provide to our users. With a strong emphasis on enhancing our technology to enable digital services, our approach has and continues to be digital first but not digital only.

The first 5 years focused on:

- building our skills and teams internally,
- developing our technology, and
- engaging with justice sector partners and users to introduce better ways of working for everyone.

Replacing 150 legacy ICT systems with 1 Unified Case Management System (UCMS), hundreds of different forms with more user-friendly streamlined forms and jargon-heavy information online with plain language, all takes time to co-design.

In this section of the chapter, we detail some of the initial visible results and benefits experienced in 2025, the culmination of 5 years investment and preparatory and foundational work. ICT, Digital, Data; Strategy and Reform; and Communications updates provide an insight into what has been achieved to date bringing us to the end of 2025.

ICT, Digital and Data updates

Technology update

In 2025, we continued to expand our technology capability within courtrooms and courthouses through continued investment, as follows:

- the expansion of video-enabled courtrooms,
- the rollout of Wi-Fi across courthouses,
- improvements in base-level network connectivity, and
- the modernisation of our Digital Audio Recording and Sound systems used in courtrooms throughout the country.

We enabled full video technology capability in another 8 courtrooms, bringing the number to 173 technology-enabled courtrooms countrywide. This technology facilitates parties to a case to 'dial into' proceedings from another location and provides a digital evidence display solution in courtrooms. The Irish Prison Service continued to be a high-volume user of remote courtroom attendance, with 23,560 "dial-ins" from prisons throughout the year, a slight increase on 2024.

Wi-Fi service expansion supports members of the Judiciary, our people, justice sector bodies and legal practitioners to use technology in a flexible way across our estate. We completed our project to expand Wi-Fi services, across all major courthouses and court offices nationwide, with the final rollout in the Criminal Courts of Justice in 2025. We have continued to invest in less frequently used courthouses to improve their use by increasing the number of such venues that are connected to the network. This enables proceedings within these courthouses to take advantage of a base level of technology services such as networking and printing. We connected another 14 courthouses to the network in 2025, with more planned for next year.

We also progressed our multi-year initiative to upgrade the courtroom Digital Audio Recording and sound systems across the country. This initiative seeks to establish a single and consistent sound system across all courtrooms – improving reliability and resilience and providing backup capability as standard. We also enabled video connectivity at the counsel bench to allow for a more streamlined digital evidence playback facility within courtrooms. This project concluded its design and pilot phase with the installation of the new systems within 12 courtrooms, with more installations scheduled across 2026 and beyond.

The impact of the improvements in technology within the courts was recognised during the year with the Courts Service and the Irish Prison Service jointly winning the 'Digital First' category award at the 10th Civil Service Innovation and Excellence Awards.

Digital update

The multi-year initiative to re-imagine and migrate all case-related activity to a single Unified Case Management System (UCMS) continued to be one of our Digital team's main priorities in 2025. UCMS is replacing approximately 150 legacy systems with a single, modern, and user-friendly system that supports our people, County Registrars, and the Judiciary. It also supports a digital portal for court users (Court Portal) that enables online journeys such as electronic filing, payment, order collection as well as improved data quality and security. The portal is being configured and introduced incrementally to different case types over time.

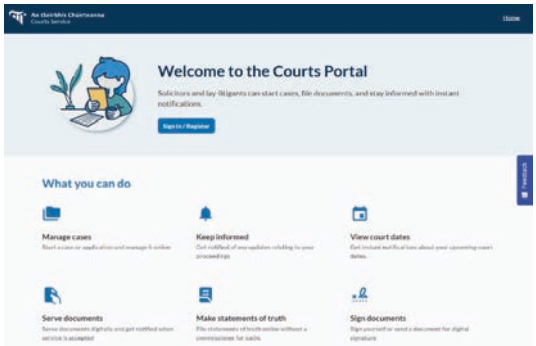
Building on the previous rollout of UCMS to back-office operations in the High Court and Circuit Family Court, in 2025 we rolled out the system to our people in:

- the Supreme Court,
- the Court of Appeal,
- the Probate Office,
- the District Probate Registries, and
- a number of offices for processing District Court Family applications.

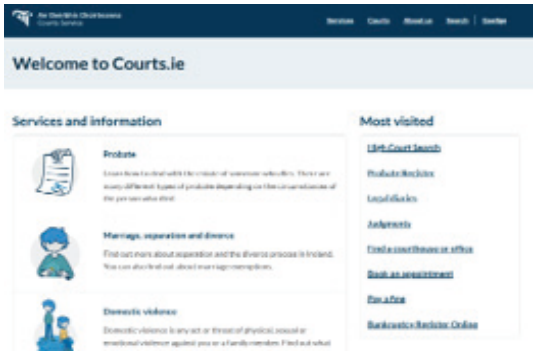
As a result, we were able to close a significant number of unconnected legacy technology systems, paving the way for coherent end-to-end digital journeys. We also started similar work in several other back-office operational areas such as District and Circuit Civil proceedings. It is planned to advance these migrations over 2026.

We continued to build the UCMS components to replace the 2 main legacy crime systems, which will be rolled out over 2026 and 2027. We have several parallel workstreams also under way as part of this project, including:

- the design of a new legal aid process involving the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (DOJHAM) and the National Shared Services Office,
- the integration of the UCMS with the courts accounting system,
- new data exchange architecture for the UCMS, and
- the adoption of common data registries across the criminal justice sector.



By having a single Unified Case Management System, we have paved the way for online filing. We have made significant progress on the development of a Courts Portal and launched support for electronic filing of Circuit Court family proceedings nationwide. Through the portal we also launched in 2025, support for applications for grant of probate on a pilot basis for a limited number of users. We will expand the use of the portal to support probate applications nationwide in 2026, along with expanding its support to select lists within the High Court.



In 2025 we also migrated all information content on **courts.ie** to a new accessible, mobile-friendly, plain language website. The project focused on bringing **courts.ie** in line with the National Disability Authority (NDA) accessibility guidelines and in compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) Level AA and the European Accessibility Act. The website achieved a 100% score in the 2025 National Disability Authority annual accessibility monitoring report. We continue to work on reforming many sections of the **courts.ie** website, working with the Judiciary and court users to provide clear and plain language content in both English and Irish.

During 2025 we met our EU regulatory obligations under the recast Service of Documents and Taking of Evidence Regulations. We achieved this by using the e-CODEX decentralised ICT system for cross-border civil and commercial judicial procedures, which is now mandatory. These were the first procedures to go live under the EU's broader programme to digitalise judicial cooperation and access to justice in cross-border civil and criminal matters. Over the coming years we anticipate this will extend to further procedures under EU Regulation 2023/2844 on a phased basis.

Our Data

Improving our records management practice continued to be a focus for the organisation in 2025. Following the previous year's launch of a new staff-facing data retention portal and management tools for physical files to help us meet our obligations under the National Archives Act; we rolled out training and support in 2025 to all court offices nationwide. An increasing number of our files are now systematically tracked centrally, giving a clearer picture of the health of our record-keeping practices, aligned to our statutory obligations. This work will continue in 2026, not only to improve how we manage our records and clear file rooms, but also to help us foster a healthier, safer, and more organised workplace for all staff.

Alongside improvements in how we physically manage records, a business case was approved for the implementation of a new electronic document management system. We designed the system to transform how staff share, search for, and manage documents with improved access controls and modern features such as co-authoring, (multiple authors of one shared document). We rolled out the system to an initial group of pilot users, with rollout planned for offices nationwide during 2026 and 2027.

Recognising that data quality underpins the effective use of all data, we designed and introduced a Data Quality Framework for the organisation. This framework introduces a systematic, organisation-wide approach to diagnosing and improving data quality and by extension, process quality. High-quality data supports efficient service development, decision making, process assurance, compliance with reporting obligations, and digital transformation. Poor quality leads to inefficiencies, delays, process control risks, and reputational risk. The framework -

- establishes the responsibilities for ownership and improvement of data quality,
- embeds regular data quality reporting across the organisation, and
- drives collaboration across operational and digital functions to address data quality issues.

We plan to expand and mature the framework over time, tracking an increasingly large number of data quality indicators.

Data-driven decision-making continues to be a focus across all our business areas. It's driving a growing demand for dashboards which enable data analysis on a single reporting portal. A significant number of new data dashboards were delivered across various areas of court activity, and this activity will continue to expand during 2026. Our commitment to Open Data continued in 2025 through our data platform **data.courts.ie**, a central hub for the publication, access, and sharing of Courts Service data.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In 2024, we established an organisation-wide AI standard and introduced a governance framework for the use of AI across the Courts Service. The framework sets out the required processes, roles and documentation. It supports the safe and responsible use of AI and aligns with the EU AI Act (2024), Public Service AI Guidelines (2025), and our AI standard.

In 2025, we carried out a series of tests to assess the potential use of AI. These focused on transcription, translation, on a knowledge base query support and document review. The results were mixed. In many cases, AI did not provide information that was sufficiently accurate or complete for reliable use. This confirmed the need for human oversight in all uses of AI.

We also introduced a secure, enterprise AI chat tool for our people to support routine administrative work. We provided training on its use, including the benefits and risks. We will continue to assess opportunities to use AI, in line with our governance framework, as the technology develops.

Reform updates

Alongside core ICT developments, we continued to build expertise in strategy, reform, governance, innovation and engagement. The Modernisation Programme Board continues to meet twice each month. It oversees all projects through regular reports on status, benefits and budget. In 2025, we completed 86% of work across 50 key deliverables. Over the first 5 years, the Board oversaw the completion of 78 projects.

Our digital first, but not digital only approach is led by reform teams across Civil, Family Law, customer experience, and the Communications and Media Unit. These teams work with ICT and operational staff in courts and court offices to deliver on our Strategic Vision 2030. We aim to improve services by placing users at the centre of design. We are building expertise in user-centred service design.

We continued to engage with our Civic Society Forum, which includes voluntary, not-for-profit and non-government organisations. We used user insights and feedback from members to inform improvements. This has helped to build trust and strengthen engagement. Throughout the year, we applied a service design approach to our work. We engaged with people who use our services and attend our buildings. This helped us to develop, test and refine the changes we are delivering.

Plain Language and accessible information

Over the first 5 years, we adopted a plain language approach. Our Civil Service Innovation and Excellence award- winning plain language information on Family Law was first launched in 2023. Since then, we have continued to support users with a focus during 2025 on civil law. We published plain English, accessible information on:

- Small Claims,
- Civil Restraining Orders,
- Personal Injuries,
- Personal Insolvency, and
- Licensing.

We also developed 3 animated informational videos on support service for repossessions, small claims and civil restraining orders.

Family Law Reform

Designing a future blueprint for Family Law was foundational work which we achieved in the first few years of the Modernisation Programme. It has informed the approach for the new Dublin Family Courts complex and wider thinking about Family Law. Our focus for the first half of 2025 was on District Court Family Law forms - replacing 37 forms with just 7 forms in 2025. The new forms were developed with the President of the District Court, the District Court Rules Committee, the Judiciary, our colleagues in District Court offices and our Civic Society Forum members. Almost 1,000 people attended workshops and training pre-go live to support the effective rollout of the changes.

During the second half of 2025 supporting a co-ordinated and collaborative approach, we worked closely with Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration and Department of Children, Disability and Equality to start developing an implementation plan for the Family Courts Act 2024. We led a user insight-gathering exercise, engaging with over 100 participants, and identified the key opportunities, challenges and considerations for implementing the Family Courts Act.

Customer Experience

As our Modernisation Programme develops, we are committed to continuous improvement of the court user experience and have established a team to lead the work in this area. The main focus for the team during 2025 was to develop a new Customer Charter which sets out the standard we aim to meet. In support of the Charter, we rolled out a Let's All Be Respectful campaign and the first set of interaction standards.

Human Resources

Our workforce

In 2025, 268 staff joined us and 188 left. Our turnover was 14% and, when adjusted for those on fixed-term contracts, the turnover is 10%. As at the end of December 2025 we had full-time equivalents (FTE) of 1,346 people, (where 1 FTE equals 1 full time staff member, part time members are counted as a proportion of an FTE based on the hours they work).

Retaining staff in a jobs market that has a demand for blended working is a challenge. 53% of our staff have less than 3 years in grade.

People and Organisation Strategy

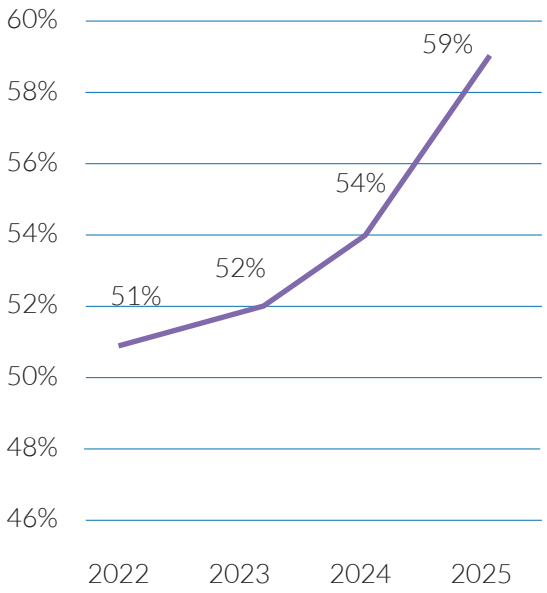
Last year we launched our second People and Organisation Strategy, for 2025 to 2027 in support of the Modernisation Programme. The focus of the strategy is to develop new behaviours and leadership capability, as we incorporate digital and better ways of working into our processes.

Healthy Place to Work survey

2025 saw an increase of 5% in our people engagement survey score. Since our first survey in 2022 our score has increased by 8%. In 2025 the response rate for the survey was 81% of the organisation, representing 1,047 respondents. The purpose of the survey is to diagnose organisation issues and develop targeted sustainable interventions through our People and Organisation Strategy. These results reflect the interventions and programmes which contributed to the score increase, including:

- investment in training for District Court Clerks,
- better ways of working through the impact of modernisation and digital systems,
- the Leadership in Action programme – development programme delivered to senior leaders and office managers,
- Employee Experience Conferences for court-going staff (District Court Clerks, Clerical staff at public counters, Circuit Court Registrars), and

Healthy Place to Work survey overall score



- employee groups established for inclusion, staffing, employee experience, health and wellbeing and people data reporting.

The survey also reflects certain challenges. These include suboptimal working conditions, persistent staffing challenges to support court sittings and increased awareness of security and personal safety risks. We continue to look at ways to deal with these challenges.

Team Effectiveness and Leadership

In 2025, 15 teams took part in the Building Effective Teams coaching programme.

The programme focused on agreed purpose, communication at team and individual level, and collaborative working.

Feedback from all teams showed that the programme:

- improved understanding of how to contribute to teamwork,
- strengthened team performance, and
- supported agreement on better ways of working.

All team leaders reported improved team collaboration. The programme will continue in 2026.

Our Learning and Development programme supports staff to build leadership and management skills. It includes:

- targeted internal courses,
- short courses delivered by external providers, and
- funding through the Refund of Fees scheme.

In 2025, 172 staff, from Clerical Officer to Principal Officer level, completed short courses in areas such as coaching, performance, and climate action leadership.

Two Principal Officers were selected to take part in the Civil Service Executive Leadership Programme. This programme is delivered by the Institute of Public Administration and Roffey Park.

Training and Development Programme

Training and development remained a key priority in 2025. We progressed our crime training programme by developing 22 e-learning modules. These were developed with experienced staff who are subject matter experts in crime. We tested the modules with both new and experienced staff working in District and Circuit Criminal Courts.

The modules are self paced and available on-demand to all staff. They support staff who are new to their grade, role or the Courts Service. They also allow staff to complete training flexibly, without leaving their duties. Engagement with the modules continues to grow. To date, more than 450 staff have completed over 2,500 modules.

We also piloted classroom-based crime training for Registrars and Clerical Officers. Following positive feedback, we plan to roll out this training nationwide in 2026.

We delivered new development pathways for staff from Clerical Officer to Assistant Principal level. These are available online on the Courts Service learning management system.

We also introduced a new Induction programme and developed guidance for managers and training buddies. This was shared across court offices to support staff training.

Health and Safety and Security

In 2025, the Safety, Health and Wellbeing Unit (SHWU), with members of the Senior Management Team (SMT), carried out 18 site inspections. These were part of a joint health and safety inspection programme.

The inspections focused on:

- managing risks related to slips, trips and falls,
- fire safety compliance,
- court building security, including risks linked to increasing violence, and
- risks of harassment and aggression.

We introduced a system to track corrective actions. This was implemented with local and regional management. We provided quarterly updates to the Senior Management Team on progress.

Court building security was identified as an area for improvement across the organisation. This was particularly the case in heritage buildings with limited security infrastructure. We developed a security improvement plan. The plan takes a consistent, risk-based approach to courthouse security. It focuses on protecting staff, the Judiciary and court users, while supporting safe and effective service delivery nationwide.

We continue to work with justice sector partners and court users to support these improvements. This includes the Irish Prison Service, An Garda Síochána and members of the Judiciary, particularly in relation to custody areas.

Estates Operations

The Courts Service estate comprises 101 court venues, a significant proportion of which are protected heritage buildings, with an average age of more than 160 years. In line with the Courts Service Strategic Vision 2030, we continued to modernise and adapt the estate to:

- support access to justice,
- enhance service delivery, and
- reflect our organisation values: service, integrity and respect.

Capital Investment

During 2025 we continued to make steady progress in strengthening the management and development of our estate. The year saw further progress in long-term capital planning to respond to legacy under investment. Completing the Gandon Building dome repairs, delivered by the Office Public Works (OPW) was a significant milestone for us in 2025. This complex conservation project addressed critical structural and fabric issues in one of the State's most important heritage buildings. Throughout the year, works progressed steadily, culminating in the successful:

- repair and replacement of all damaged capitals,
- substantial renewal of the steel perimeter angle,
- extensive stone repairs, and
- the safe removal of scaffolding.

The completion of these works represents a major achievement in safeguarding a nationally important asset while maintaining court operations.

In parallel, we progressed accessibility improvements within the Gandon Building, working closely with the OPW. Priority routes were identified, and a pilot courtroom was selected to facilitate wheelchair access for legal parties, providing a foundation for further accessibility improvements.

Another important milestone in 2025 was the development of the Courthouse Capital Investment Programme 2025 – 2035.

In the programme we set out a structured, prioritised approach to addressing long-standing deficiencies across the estate, while aligning future investment needs with anticipated demographic, legislative and policy developments.

The programme establishes a clear strategic framework across areas such as Central Dublin accommodation, regional venues, heritage conservation, sustainability, maintenance and programme management. The programme informed engagement in supporting our National Development Plan (NDP) submission.

Building on this work, we engaged closely with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration (DOJHAM) during 2025 on capital funding under the NDP. Revised allocations for the period 2026–2030 were subsequently confirmed, providing greater certainty in relation to future capital ceilings and priorities.

We identified initial rollout sites to validate the model and inform wider implementation. This work represents a significant step towards improving consistency, resilience and accountability in the management of court buildings, particularly in the context of reduced OPW support capacity.

By the end of 2025, we had made incremental improvements throughout the estate. We also made progress in strengthening our strategic capability to plan for the future development of the estate, including enabling procurements.

Given the size, age and geographical spread of the estate, challenges are inevitable. Notwithstanding this, important conservation works were completed and long term investment planning continued to progress. Taken together, these developments provide a more stable basis for the continued delivery of safe, accessible and fit-for-purpose court facilities in the years ahead.

Management of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Projects

During 2025, we continued to manage our Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements effectively, with both operational PPP projects in the Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ) building and the Courts PPP Bundle performing to a high standard.

The Courts PPP Bundle comprises 7 courthouses located in Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, Letterkenny, Mullingar and Drogheda. All 8 buildings remained fully operational throughout the year, facilitating the delivery of court business and maintaining high levels of availability.

These long-term contractual arrangements remained stable and performed well overall. Any operational and contractual issues that arose during the year were addressed in a timely and structured manner, resulting in a low level of service deductions. Performance monitoring, compliance activities and robust governance arrangements were maintained, with support from the National Development Finance Agency (NDFA). They provided additional expertise and oversight as required. This collaborative approach continued to support the consistent operation of key court facilities and to protect value for money over the life of the contracts.

Dublin Family Court (DFC) Complex

The Dublin Family Courts (DFC) Complex will provide a modern, purpose-built 19 courtroom facility designed with the specific needs of Family Law court users in mind. The DFC project is an important Courts Service and justice sector project in the National Development Plan.

The DFC project is being delivered as a Public Private Partnership. The DOJHAM is the project Approving Authority, and the Courts Service is the project Sponsoring Agency and the Contracting Authority. The OPW is providing the lead technical advisory and architectural services to the Dublin Family Courts Project Team. The project is being delivered in line with a governance structure which divides project delivery into 2 stages:

(1) an Appraisal and Planning stage directed by the Courts Service and

(2) a Procurement and Implementation stage directed by the NDFA.

The Appraisal and Planning stage came to an end in August 2025, when the project was formally handed over to the NDFA for procurement. At the time of publication of this report, the procurement stage was ongoing.

While procurement was the key focus during the year, the OPW also completed works on the excavation of small portions of the Hammond Lane site that remained archeologically unresolved from earlier phases. Completion of these works helps derisk the project ahead of construction and prepares the site for handover to the successful PPP partner when appointed.

Additionally good progress was made on the transfer of the Hammond Lane site from OPW to the Courts Service with execution of contract expected in 2026.

The project continued to be managed within a strong governance framework, in line with the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation Infrastructure Guidelines and Guidelines for the use of Public Private Partnerships.

By the end of 2025, the Dublin Family Courts project was well positioned to complete the procurement process in 2026. The progress achieved during the year represents an important step towards delivering a modern, integrated court facility that will support the administration of family justice and provide a safe, fit-for-purpose working environment for staff and court users.

Climate Action in 2025

In 2025, we continued to focus our resources on the public sector Climate Action Mandate and progressing towards our 2030 energy efficiency and decarbonisation targets. We progressed the following actions:

- We published our fourth Climate Action Roadmap in the fourth quarter of 2025, which was signed off by the Senior Management Team and aligns with Climate Action Plan 2025. This included an updated Gap-to-Target model, reflecting projects delivered in 2024 and identifying projects required to reach our public sector 2030 targets. We communicated the roadmap goals and projects across the organisation.
- We made a significant change to our project delivery approach in 2025, with the establishment of a Courts Service multi-supplier consultant framework.

We tendered for a supporting multi-supplier contractor framework in late 2025, due for establishment in early 2026. We expect to use both frameworks to supplement existing delivery approaches and to facilitate the timely rollout of our climate action project pipeline in coming years.

- We developed a multi-year Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the Four Courts (our second largest energy consumer) and are working with the OPW in progressive implementation of smaller measures and identifying delivery approach for larger initiatives.
- We continued engagement on the Energy Efficiency Action Plan for the Criminal Courts of Justice with our PPP partner. We also continue to roll out successive and progressive energy efficiency actions and operational improvements with our regional bundle PPP partners, with a plan to formalise a multi-year plan in 2026.
- We continued to implement energy efficiency projects across our estate including LED lighting, building controls and automation, systems insulation and enhancing digital monitoring and oversight.
- We carried out a full estate review to identify opportunities for the installation of Photovoltaic solar panels (PV) to generate electricity on site. The output is a multi-year PV rollout plan. During 2025, pilot projects progressed through the design and quotation stage and to the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) for consent to connect.
- We continued our progress towards ISO50001 alignment throughout 2025, including enhanced maintenance oversight, developing a consumption dashboard, and maintaining statutory compliance with energy regulations.
- We continued our participation in the Optimising Power at Work programme in 26 of our venues, with our advisors delivering staff workshops and engagement events nationwide.
- We rolled out a bespoke in-house Climate Action Leadership Training programme for all managers at Principal Officer level and above in 2025.
- We successfully completed a pilot application for the Smarter Travel Mark for our Phoenix House headquarters in 2025, with plans to expand to more of the estate.
- We continued our staff engagement programs, displays and sustainability communication.

Monitoring and Reporting 2025

In 2025 the Courts Service was fully compliant with all reporting requirements via Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's (SEAI) Public Sector Monitoring and Reporting System for our energy consumption across our estate. Our provisional Monitoring and Reporting (M and R) results (as of 20 April 2026) indicate:

- total carbon emissions of 4,065,002 kgCO2, an improvement of 43.8% compared to the baseline of the 2016-2018 average,
- fossil carbon emissions (from on-site heating) of 2,067,362 kgCO2, an improvement of 24.0% compared to the baseline of the 2016-2018 average,
- energy efficiency improvement of 39.8% compared to 2009,
- total final energy consumption of 18,574,278 kWh, and
- total energy expenditure of €3,974,335.

Climate Action Mandate 'Comply or Explain'

Public bodies must report annually on their progress on all elements of the Climate Action Mandate via the Monitoring and Reporting software, using a 'Comply or Explain' approach. We reported on progress in the second quarter of 2025 on the elements of the 2024 Climate Action Mandate as follows; fully implemented 14, partially implemented 12, under review 8, and non-applicable 7.

Our Climate and Sustainability Champion provided a comprehensive summary statement on our progress to date, challenges encountered and intentions for the years ahead. We will report in May 2026 on our progress on the elements of the 2025 Climate Action Mandate.

Official Air travel

In 2025 the Courts Service was fully compliant with Circular 1/2020: Procedures for offsetting the emissions associated with official air travel. We calculated the carbon generated from air travel in 2025 as **42.86 tonnes** based on 326,782km flown and paid an on-time contribution of **€2,721.61**.

Communications and public awareness activity

2025 was an active year for the Communications and Media Unit (CMU), with continued outreach and public engagement.

In 2025 we reached 39,000 followers across our 4 social media channels - LinkedIn, X, Facebook and YouTube. We published more than 1,100 posts over the 4 channels. We also published 457 news articles on our website, in both Irish and English.

Podcast series

We released the second season of The Irish Courts Podcast in October and November. The 4 episodes had over 3,000 downloads. Total downloads across both seasons exceeded 12,000 by the end of the year.

Events and Outreach

We continue to support public understanding of the courts system by taking part in events and outreach initiatives.

In 2025

- we attended the National Ploughing Championships 2025.
- we took part in Culture Night, hosting a Céilí Mór in the Round Hall of the Four Courts and offering public tours. We also supported tours during Open House and Heritage Week with members of the Judiciary.

The Taoiseach stopped by our stand at the National Ploughing Championships.

- the interest in court building tours remained strong. We plan to expand public access to tours in 2026, in partnership with guides from the Custom House Visitor Centre.
- we delivered various cultural and educational initiatives, including a programme marking the 222nd anniversary of Robert Emmet's rebellion. This included a guided walk and a film screening.
- our panel of legal practitioners delivered more than 200 school visits to the Criminal Courts of Justice. These visits included mock trials and helped students understand how the courts operate.
- we took part in events such as the Future of Legal Practice Summit. This included demonstrating our Virtual Reality courtroom experience, which is also available online.

We also supported Transition Year work placements and the National Mock Trials competition. These initiatives help young people to learn about the justice system.

Irish Language

In July 2025, we launched the first Courts Service Irish Language Strategy 2025–2028. This is an important step towards becoming a fully bilingual organisation.

The strategy sets out our commitment to ensuring that members of the public can use Irish when engaging with the Courts Service. It aims to ensure that users can access services in Irish as easily as in English and that their language choice is respected.

A key action under the strategy is the introduction of **Legally Líofa**, an in-house training programme for court registrars. The programme began in September 2025. It focuses on legal terminology and court procedures, supporting registrars to manage hearings and documentation in Irish.

We also took part in Oireachtas na Gaeilge for the first time, which was held in Belfast in 2025. This annual event promotes the Irish language and provides an opportunity to engage with the language community and share good practice.

Further information on our Irish language commitments is set out in Chapter 4.

Courts Service Irish Language Strategy 2025–2028

Corporate Strategic Plan: Target Activities 2025

Introduction

2025 was the second year of our Corporate Strategic Plan 2024–2027. This is our second strategic plan under our 10-year Modernisation Programme.

The table below shows how our 2025 activities align with the objectives set out in the Corporate Strategic Plan and the original goals set in 2024.

This approach supports continuity and helps us to progress the objectives of our Modernisation Programme to 2030.

Goal 1

Take a user-centric approach

Strategic Goal

We will adopt new collaborative ways of working, taking a user-centric approach, to provide improved and enhanced service delivery.

Key Outcomes

- An evidence-based approach to customer service
- Better understanding of the needs of all service users
- Culture of collaborative working
- User-friendly and efficient experience for those who engage with the court system
- Customer charters and customer service initiatives have regard to the needs of vulnerable users

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Continue to explore opportunities to support improved Customer Service, including a service catalogue and possible Customer Service Models	Develop Customer Experience vision with supporting communications plan.	Complete.
	Design Customer Experience function.	Design complete. Implementation is dependent on budget considerations.
	Develop and roll out Customer Service Standard.	Standards developed, piloted and iterated. We will roll out in 2026.
	Develop blueprint for Courts Service response to legislative change including the Regulatory Impact Assessment and Estimates process.	Initial draft complete. Currently paused to focus on Family Courts Act and Civil Reform Bill.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Integrate Design Principles for Government in Ireland with our approach to Modernisation	Use Design Principles to provide improved information on changing your name by Deed Poll including a new application process and form and to make recommendations for an improved future state.	Project plan developed but this project is on hold because of resource constraints. Design Principles are used by Reform Teams in their work, such as gathering extensive user insights to support development of the implementation plan for the Family Courts Act.
	Research and respond to Juror needs to support the procurement and provision of pilot Jury Minding Services.	A pre-market consultation for Jury Minding Services outside Dublin was published on eTenders in 2025. The submissions received were reviewed. We intend to undertake a procurement process in 2026, as resources become available.
	Research jury attendance rates.	We will finalise the draft report in 2026.
Further develop the provision of information in plain language	Relaunch **courts.ie**, legal diary and rules of courts ensuring that all are optimised for accessibility, mobile-friendly and with a significantly improved reading age.	We successfully launched the updated website and achieved a 100% score in the National Disability Authority accessibility review.
	Improve plain language civil content on **courts.ie** for topics including repossession, Small Claims and Civil Restraining Orders.	Complete.
Streamline and simplify access to court through the introduction of new digital journeys and improved court forms	Complete development and rollout of new District Court Family Forms.	Complete.
	Complete development and rollout of new Circuit Court Family Forms.	We're progressing engagement with the Judiciary, the Rules Committee, County Registrars, legal practitioners, advocacy groups, internal and external users. This is a priority project for 2026.
Support legislative initiatives as prioritised in the Programme for Government, including the Family Courts Bill	Review Programme for Government for initiatives impacting court system and engage proactively on legislative programme with appropriate business units conducting impact assessments to support implementation.	Complete.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
	Design future state Specialist Family Courts model.	We agreed and completed a detailed vision and project scope. Our work on the implementation of Family Justice Strategy through collaboration with justice sector partners took priority in 2025 and will continue into 2026. The next stage of developing the model, is for us, to complete the Service catalogue (listing available services) project for Family Law. Work to commence early 2026.
Cooperate with groups providing Court Accompaniment Services for victims and, where possible, providing improved facilities for vulnerable witnesses in court buildings, including videolink evidence facilities	Include Court Accompaniment Services in Court User Groups.	Complete in all offices where these services are available. This action is now part of business as usual.
	Include Court Accompaniment Services in stakeholder design sessions where buildings are being refurbished/newly built.	User-centric design and overall accessibility forms part of any refurbishment/build projects as part of business as usual.
	Continue to provide technological solutions facilitating consideration of remote hearings where possible and appropriate.	As business as usual we continue to identify additional courtroom video technology expansion sites. By end of 2025, 173 courtrooms had been technology enabled countrywide. We maintain close coordination with the Irish Prison Service and An Garda Síochána to support remote hearings and technology use within courtrooms.
Cooperate with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration in the review of the Pilot Registered Intermediary scheme	Continue to participate in review group.	We participated on the review group and completed our work in 2025. It is likely that this work will become part of business as usual once the Department has completed its review. We await feedback from the Department on next steps. In the meantime, we continue to manage the register.

Support the Judiciary

Strategic Goal

We will work collaboratively with the Judiciary to define and provide the resources needed to effectively carry out their judicial functions.

Key Outcomes

- Efficient, effective and suitable support services provided to the Judiciary
- Clearer and more real-time access to digital court data to assist with resource planning and case management
- Through stronger collaboration, reformed court procedures and practices progressed
- Improved understanding of challenges and opportunities facing the courts system

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Continue to engage with the Judiciary to develop a digital portal for the Judiciary enabling digital end-to-end journeys for cases	Commence a pilot of the Unified Case Management System (UCMS Judiciary) with members of the Judiciary, starting with Circuit Family.	Complete.
Review current staffing and judicial support model to identify opportunities to provide improved support services to the Judiciary and court Presidents	Engage with judges to ascertain the effectiveness of the library and other services provided by the Legal Research and Library Service (LRLS).	Complete.
	Explore further opportunities for synergies between the Legal Research and Library Service function and the Offices of the Presidents of the Courts.	We have a new staffing model for the library service in place since October. Further exploration of Library Service roles will be carried over to the Corporate Business Plan 2026.
	Continue to work with court Presidents to scope support required for HR record keeping and advice.	We developed our database model, work will continue in 2026 in consultation with the court Presidents.
	Develop new judicial handbook.	Complete. We will review the judicial handbook periodically and update in response to feedback from the Judiciary as part of business as usual.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Develop data dashboards to support decision-making by Court Presidents and judges	Support the Judiciary with data dashboards and Master Statistics reports, working with the Judicial Planning Working Group Data and Courts Service Directorates.	Complete. We will continue to work with the Judiciary on this.
Work collaboratively with the Judicial Council to enhance judicial training particularly in areas related to implementation of JPWG recommendations	Introduce Data Training for the Judiciary.	Complete. Further training to follow in 2026.
	Expand the judicial ICT training webinars commenced last year.	Complete. Judicial ICT training will continue as part of business as usual.
Support the establishment of the Judicial Appointments Commission	Establish core ICT services for the Judicial Appointments Commission and commence a long-term ICT support model.	Complete.
	Put suitable grant funding and financial oversight arrangements in place.	We are progressing this in collaboration with the National Shared Services Office and the and Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. Funding transfer and oversight arrangements will be documented once the system is in place.
Continue positive engagements with various judicial working groups	Judicial Modernisation Engagement Working Group continues throughout 2025.	Complete.

Goal 3

Digital First

Strategic Goal

We will adopt a digital first, but not digital only, approach.

Key Outcomes

- Reliable and secure digital environment
- Digital channels in place reflecting user-centric approach and best practice in online service design
- Reduced reliance on paper-based processes and outdated technology
- Improved customer service that is inclusive and provides for digital first but not digital only solutions, taking account of human and equality rights
- Increased utilisation of technology and improved options for court attendance and participation in remote and hybrid hearings
- A robust, secure and transparent data ecosystem supporting the functioning of the courts, effective decision making, and collaboration with justice agencies and government in line with GDPR
- New applications meet the requirement of the EU Web Accessibility Directive

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Continue to deploy the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) across all jurisdictions, moving away from our highly fragmented and legacy technology ecosystem	Roll out the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) to back-office operations in the Court of Appeal.	Complete.
	Roll out the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) to back-office operations in the Supreme Court.	Complete.
	Roll out the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) to back-office operations in Dolphin House (District Family Dublin).	Complete.
	Roll out the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) to back-office operations in District and Circuit Civil in Dublin.	This is underway, rollout delayed until 2026.
	Commence combined rollout of the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) to back-office operations in District Family, District Civil and Circuit Civil in the Regions.	Partially delivered to Dolphin House, Tullamore Office and Child Care Office. Full rollout delayed until 2026.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
	Roll out the Unified Case Management System (UCMS) to back-office operations Probate offices nationwide.	Complete.
Deliver "UCMS Portal" – a user-facing portal enabling engagement with the court system in a digital manner	Complete the rollout of the online portal component of the Unified Case Management System (UCMS Portal) to all Circuit Family offices.	We are progressing rollout with over 120 legal firms registered to date. Nationwide launch for Circuit Family commenced in December.
	Launch online support for probate applications on UCMS Portal.	Partially complete – we launched online support to select practitioners as part of a pilot. We're planning nationwide rollout for 2026.
	Commence expansion of rollout of UCMS Portal to other areas (for example select High Court lists, District Family Dublin).	Delayed due to previous portal projects taking longer than anticipated. We plan to start High Court rollout in 2026.
Continue to expand technology-enabled courtrooms to support administration of courts through digital channels and work collaboratively with IPS and AGS to support court appearances by videolink	Design, test and pilot a new modernised courtroom DAR and Sound architecture, allowing for a centralised support model, and improved ergonomics and performance.	Pilot complete. We're planning for nationwide rollout in 2026.
	Deliver a refresh and expansion of modern printers in offices and courtrooms nationwide.	Complete.
	Complete the Wi-Fi rollout to all court offices and courthouses.	Complete.
	Expand the network connectivity to our non-networked venues.	Complete with 14 new installations.
	Upgrade organisational network connectivity (Firewall upgrade and capacity increase from 1GB to 10GB).	Complete.
	Conduct analysis of use of courtroom technology.	Complete. We're continuing to engage with users to drive up adoption in low adoption areas.
Continue to advance initiatives to further strengthen our cybersecurity posture	Launch a new Security Operating Centre providing 24/7 security monitoring.	Complete.
	Introduction of mandatory cybersecurity training for staff to align with the National Cyber Security Centre guidelines.	Complete.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Improve records management processes by implementing records management and data retention policies	Continue the nationwide rollout of our data retention project, consisting of record cataloguing and treatment per the National Archives Act.	Complete. Our ongoing work is part of business as usual.
Explore opportunities for appropriate use of advanced technologies, including AI, in support of court administration	Building on 2024 AI proofs of concepts, continue to develop proof of concepts that are relevant to the courts to understand the value and risk associated with AI and other emerging technologies.	Completed a series of proof-of-concept projects in 2025; we are continuing in 2026 to explore opportunities in a responsible manner.
Meet our obligations with regards to digital integration with EU member states under the e-CODEX programme	Meet our EU "e-CODEX" obligations with the digitisation of Taking of Evidence and Service of Documents EU processes.	Complete.
Continue to integrate accessibility features at each stage of digital development process	Integrate best practices in regards accessibility as part of the **courts.ie** relaunch project.	Complete (we launched updated website and achieved 100% in National Disability Authority accessibility review).

Goal 4

Better ways of working

Strategic Goal

We will continue to invest in and support our people to create a high-performing organisation, delivering on the modernisation agenda and broader government priorities.

Key Outcomes

- Sufficient supported and trained staff with the skills required to deliver services to court users in a modern, digital court environment
- A strong culture of staff engagement, innovation and continuous improvement which maximise staff members' contribution to a high performing organisation
- Improved choices for working arrangements as digital environment matures
- Trained staff who feel valued and heard and choose to invest their career in the Courts Service
- Leaders who can effectively and efficiently guide and drive organisation transformation
- A Healthy Place to Work score of 70% thereby achieving HPTW certification
- Enhanced workplace culture and the provision of services, so that our staff and service users see evidence of the organisation's commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
To respond to the challenges of retention, modernisation and the implementation of JPWG recommendations, continue to invest in recruitment, training, leadership development and change management	Roll out the following elements of the Courts Service Training and Development Programme: Induction for new entrants, Core training for all staff and Crime training programmes to Circuit and District court operational staff.	Complete for year 1. The Training and Development Programme will continue as business as usual for year 2 in 2026.
	Commence build of blended training programme for Family Law.	A Family Law training programme did not commence as resources were focused on finalising the crime programme.
	Restructure Learning and Development Unit to include a training office to support delivery.	Complete.
	Align developmental pathways for staff with new capability model developed by Public Appointments Service.	Complete.
	Continue rollout of Building Effective Teams programme.	Complete.
	Carry out research in relation to recruitment and selection conducted over the past 3 years to identify best practice in selection skills resulting in high performing recruits.	Complete.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
	Continue Leadership in Action programme for SMT and Principal Officers to better lead change adoption.	Complete.
	Commence cascade of Leadership in Action to Directorate management teams and office managers as part of AP Management development programme to better support a defined approach to change adoption.	Complete.
Continue to create a diverse organisation that supports digitally-enabled operations and new ways of working	Participate in Civil Service programmes to recruit from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.	Complete.
	Develop and roll out training to bring about a culture of diversity and inclusion.	Carried forward to 2026.
	Implement National Shared Services Office (NSSO) FMS Financial Management System.	Implementation for rollout of the FMS to the justice sector bodies has been pushed out. We will continue to work with the NSSO and other bodies in 2026 on this project.
Continue to place the employee experience at the heart of our people agenda and improve our Healthy Place to Work (HPTW) assessment	Develop a programme of interventions (including refining training and personal development, leveraging the benefits of UCMS, manager and judicial behaviour) to improve the Employee Experience of court-going staff.	Complete.
	Develop and implement plans to increase our HPTW score so we can achieve a score of 70% in 2027.	We developed and completed HPTW plans, and the overall score increased to 59%. Across the 4 pillars the results increased as follows– Purpose increased by 6%, Connection and Mental Resilience both increased by 5%, and Physical Health by 4%.
	Further develop programme of Senior Management Team (SMT) engagement with local offices.	Complete and part of business as usual.
Implementation of Courts Service Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan	Implement actions under the Courts Service Public Sector Duty Action Plan 2024 – 2027.	We have implemented actions under our Public Sector Duty Action Plan. Our full implementation plan is on course before end-2027.

Goal 5

Provide a modern and improved estate and facilities

Strategic Goal

Provide buildings that are modern, fit-for-purpose, safe and accessible and support the new ways in which we will conduct business.

Key Outcomes

- Progress made in site acquisition in line with funding provided for the National Development Plan 2030
- Progress towards a more proactive management of the estate via a Facility Management and Planned Preventative Maintenance regime
- Be on track to meet our climate action obligations for 2030
- Construction of Dublin Family Courts well underway
- Improved accessibility, security and safety evidenced by an appropriate testing regime
- An emphasis on sustainability is included in our fiscal, enterprise, innovation, and environmental approach and policies

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Continue to develop plans for new and improved infrastructure to bring the estate and facilities to an appropriate standard, accommodate new ways of delivering court services and other commitments of the Service	Develop business case for estate funding to inform preparation of any submission for a revised National Development Plan.	Complete.
	Define scope and specification of Facility Management and Planned Preventative Maintenance services required.	Complete.
	Conduct market consultation, feasibility on new approach as detailed above. Identification of priority standards and develop with other teams as required.	Consultation complete. We have identified and developed key standards identified for 2 initial sites, which will be concluded in early 2026. Next stage due to be in place by mid-2026.
	Conclude procurements for furniture and minor works contracts and multi-disciplinary design team services (including to support sustainability initiatives).	We completed framework agreements for 'furniture and fittings' and 'multi-party design teams' and sustainability initiatives, for example mechanical and electrical framework. A minor works framework will be in place by mid-2026.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Progress implementation of our project pipeline to meet our public sector obligations including those relating to energy and decarbonisation targets, as outlined in our Climate Action Road Map to 2030	Review annual Climate Action Mandate and update of the Climate Action Roadmap.	Complete.
	Progress towards achieving ISO50001 certification.	We progressed towards statutory compliance with energy regulations as required for ISO50001 in 2025. Ongoing in 2026.
	Complete detailed analysis of Four Courts campus systems to create specific Four Courts energy efficiency action plan in cooperation with the Office of Public Works (OPW).	Complete.
	Complete Public Private Partnership (PPP) Bundle energy efficiency action plan in cooperation with PPP Co including installation of pilot PV (solar) project in 2025.	The PPP Bundle Energy Efficiency Action Plan is at draft stage, for completion in 2026.
	Progress actions/projects within Criminal Courts of Justice (CCJ) energy efficiency action plan in cooperation with the PPP Co and G4Security.	We progressed actions in 2025, this is a multi-year plan for completion in 2029.
Progress the development of the Dublin Family Law Complex	Complete site-enabling works.	Complete.
	Finalise site title transfer of the Dublin Family Courts Complex at Hammond Lane.	We have made substantial progress on the site transfer and expect the execution of contracts in 2026.
	Finalise tender and other documents including output specifications, obtain necessary approvals and handover to National Development Finance Agency (NDFA).	Completed
	Undertake the tender dialogue phase.	We commenced dialogue phase, due to progress to next stage in 2026.
	Participate in tender evaluation process.	Evaluation will follow completion of process detailed above.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Through minor works projects, enhance accessibility, security and safety of the estate for staff, Judiciary and court users	As part of Health and Safety management system for the Courts Service, establish Health, Safety and Security Committee to coordinate implementation of recommendations arising from Health and Safety Authority inspections, Health and Safety Inspections, GTAG review (An Garda Síochána review) and Internal Audits.	We established a Courthouse Health, Safety and Security Steering Committee, and a programme of work has been developed for 2026.
	Schedule regular engagement with Association of Judges of Ireland (AJI), Association of District Court Judges of Ireland (ADJI), Association of County Registrars, An Garda Síochána and staff associations in respect of courthouse security.	Complete for 2025. Ongoing into 2026.

Accountability and Leadership

Strategic Goal

We will maintain robust governance structures to ensure effective accountability and leadership for our modernisation and reform agenda.

Key Outcomes

- A single organisational approach to managing change is embedded
- Robust business continuity, analysis, and risk structures in place
- Benefits of Modernisation Programme and reform agenda are realised

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Ensure governance structures and performance indicators across the organisation are reviewed and monitored regularly	Put appropriate governance, financial oversight and assurance arrangements in place for the move of the Judicial Council and Judicial Appointments Commission to the Courts Service.	We continue to engage with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, NSSO and Government Accounting regarding the accounting requirements for both entities.
	Continue to monitor and manage Modernisation Programme governance structures including planning, reporting and risk management.	Complete for 2025. Ongoing into 2026.
	Draft assurance framework documentation.	Complete.
	Review governance documentation following Board Effectiveness Review.	Although no specific recommendations were made in relation to governance documentation following the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Report, a review of procedures is expected in 2026 which may require an amendment to the Governance Framework. We have carried this over to the Corporate Business Plan 2026.
	Create fixed asset register.	Review of the Register complete.
	Develop improved protocol with OPW for management of invoices.	Protocol agreed.
Monitor progress and performance of the actions set out in this Strategic Plan through regular reports to the Board	Report progress to Board quarterly as part of CEO report.	Complete for 2025. Ongoing into 2026.
	Present a review of first-year progress on Strategic Plan to September Board meeting.	Carried over to 2026 Business Plan to review the midway point in the Strategic Plan.

Priorities	Target Activity for 2025	Update
Monitor and report on the benefits accruing from the Modernisation programme and reform agenda	Monitor and evaluate benefits accrued from the Modernisation programme at regular intervals in line with the schedule agreed by the Modernisation Programme Board and approved by Modernisation Committee.	Complete for 2025. Ongoing into 2026.
An annual report will be prepared on the Courts Service's attainment of progress in meeting its obligations under the Official Languages Acts	Report on the progress of the organisation in meeting its obligations under the Official Languages Act.	Complete for 2025. Ongoing into 2026.
A plan will be developed to meet statutory public service Irish language targets by 2030, including recruitment and advertising	Develop Irish Language Plan setting out how the organisation will meet the statutory Public Service Irish language targets.	Complete for 2025. Ongoing into 2026.
Development of master statistics for management information, resource allocation and regular reporting to the Courts Service Board	Mature our organisational data reporting capability by establishing a Data Quality Framework through which we will monitor and improve the scope and quality of our data.	Complete.
Develop and publish updated strategies	Estate and Sustainability Strategy 2026- 2030.	To be completed in 2026 following confirmation of NDP 2026 -2030 funding in late 2025.
	ICT, Digital and Data Strategy 2024-2027.	Complete.
	People and Organisation Strategy 2025-2027.	Complete.
	Innovation Strategy.	Complete.
	Communication and engagement strategy 2026-2030.	We gathered extensive feedback to develop the strategy and carried strategy publication and launch over to 2026.

3 The Year in Numbers

This chapter offers a comprehensive overview of data within the Courts Service, presenting breakdowns across all jurisdictions and areas of operation.

As part of the Courts Service Modernisation Programme, we are advancing our use of digital technologies and strengthening data management practices. The rollout of new case management systems in the High Court and Circuit Court - along with improved data collection processes - reflects our continued commitment to progress.

The data chapter in the Annual Report has also evolved, with a shift towards semi-automated data collection. This has reduced our reliance on manual and paper-based methods, delivering greater standardisation, consistency, and efficiency. Further enhancements are planned as we continue to modernise. Improvements in data collection processes have resulted, in some cases, in the restatement of figures for earlier years. Figures in blue have been restated.

In 2023, we launched our Open Data portal, **data.courts.ie**, to provide easy and transparent access to Courts data. The portal is designed to be user-friendly, enabling users to explore trends and patterns through clear, accessible visuals. It features data from all previous Annual Reports and will be updated to include this year's Annual Report data.

Overview

Civil Business By Jurisdiction	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
District Court	136,736	136,120	112,604	111,033
Circuit Court	28,631	25,772	19,469	19,047
High Court	21,740	21,371	18,169	17,360
Court of Appeal	319	293	311	362
Supreme Court	213	231	213	239
Total	**187,639**	**183,787**	**150,766**	**148,120**

Civil Business By Type	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Civil and commercial litigious cases	123,786	120,029	88,848	86,171
Civil and commercial non-litigious cases	54,391	55,648	52,623	52,732
Non-litigious enforcement cases	7,546	6,277	7,787	5,990
Appeals	1,890	1,811	1,498	3,218
Cases Stated	26	22	10	9
Total	**187,639**	**183,787**	**150,766**	**148,120**

Criminal Offences and Appeals By Jurisdiction	Incoming		Resolved*	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
District Court	342,791	350,852	291,288	309,787
Circuit Court	31,495	33,175	40,705	40,808
Special Criminal Court	18	68	63	47
Central Criminal Court	2,506	2,810	2,749	3,338
Court of Appeal	2,424	3,194	2,568	2,014
Supreme Court	28	59	43	51
Total	**379,262**	**390,158**	**337,416**	**356,045**

*by offence

Criminal offences and appeals total	Incoming		Resolved*	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Offences	364,390	373,733	320,942	337,659
Appeals	14,872	16,425	16,474	18,386
Total	**379,262**	**390,158**	**337,416**	**356,045**

*Resolved for Criminal matters is a count of orders made.

Civil Business

Civil Business Is categorised by case type:

1. Civil And Commercial Litigious Cases

Comprise Cases Where One Party Is Suing Another; European Payment Order Applications; Corporate Insolvency Cases; Personal Insolvency Cases (Concerning Applications By Creditors); Appeals To The District Court And Litigious Enforcement Matters.

2. Civil And Commercial Non-Litigious Cases

Comprise Proceedings Issued In Ireland That Are Not Inter-Partes (Including Probate, Wards Of Court And Personal Insolvency Cases Concerning Applications By Debtors In Person); And Certain Foreign Proceedings.

3. Non-Litigious Enforcement Cases

Comprise Proceedings By Creditors Following Judgment To Procure Payment Of Debts Due.

4. Appeals

Comprise Civil And Family Law Appeals From The District Court To The Circuit Court; From The Circuit Court To The High Court; And From The High Court To The Court Of Appeal. They Also Include Applications For Leave To Appeal And Appeals To The Supreme Court.

5. Cases Stated

Are Instances Where A Court Asks For An Opinion On A Point Of Law From A Higher Court.

Civil statistics are presented by reference to cases/matters received and cases/matters resolved during the year. The majority of civil cases initiated in Ireland do not proceed to trial. Typically, they are either settled between the parties (with or without a court approving a settlement), are formally discontinued (involving notification to the defendant and the court), or are not pursued further by the plaintiff (without the plaintiff notifying the court). It is therefore not possible to provide figures for pending caseloads in most courts. Cases referred to as 'resolved' may include cases commenced in years other than 2024 or 2025.

1. Civil and Commercial Litigious Cases

A. Cases where one party is suing another: General

1. Personal injury (including clinical negligence)

A person may pursue a claim for damages for personal injuries through the courts upon receipt of an authorisation from the Injuries Resolution Board (IRB). This is a legal document issued in the absence of consent from the person responsible for the injury (the respondent) to the assessment of the claim by the IRB or the rejection by either party of a IRB assessment. IRB does not deal with clinical negligence claims.

Settlements in personal injury cases involving persons under 18 years (infant rulings) must be brought before the relevant court for approval prior to being accepted.

Two new Practice Directions (HC 131 and HC 132) were published by the President of the High Court in April 2025 to establish a dedicated Clinical Negligence List within the Dublin Personal Injuries List. The purpose of this list is to manage clinical negligence proceedings to ensure that such cases receive focused attention and enhanced case management by experienced judges.

Personal Injury	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court*	Out of Court	By Court*	Out of Court
High Court	5,140	4,612	3,743	474	3,817	435
Circuit Court	8,434	7,228	6,225	247	6,070	293
District Court	1,087	1,149	677	0	695	0

* Cases dealt with by the court include all cases assigned to a judge.

The District Court has power to award up to €15,000 in damages in personal injury cases and the Circuit Court has power to award up to €60,000, though both courts can make higher awards with the consent of the parties. The High Court has unlimited power to award damages.

Personal Injury Awards	District Court	
Amount	Cases	
	2025	2024
€0 to €7,500	179	222
€7,500 to €15,000	93	67
€15,000+	0	0
Total	**272**	**289**

Personal Injury Awards	High Court	
Amount	Cases*	
	2025	2024
€0 to €60,000	115	143
€60,000 to €199,999	97	80
€200,000 to €499,999	29	24
€500,000+	70	53
Total	**311**	**300**

Personal Injury Awards	Circuit Court	
Amount	Cases	
	2025	2024
€0 to €15,000	229	260
€15,000 to €60,000	356	382
€60,000+	2	4
Total	**587**	**646**

* includes clinical negligence awards

	High Court		Circuit Court		District Court	
Amounts awarded*	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
Lowest amount	€2,832	€2,000	€1,000	€629	€500	€750
Highest amount	€10,600,000	€14,500,000	€85,000	€70,000	€15,000	€13,905
Total amount	**€210,233,949**	**€135,598,424**	**€11,869,887**	**€12,811,201**	**€ 1,675,894**	**€1,542,134**

* includes clinical negligence awards

Clinical Negligence Awards:	High Court	
Amount	Cases*	
	2025	2024
€0 to €60,000	50	33
€60,000 to €199,999	21	18
€200,000 to €499,999	11	14
€500,000+	48	34
Total	**130**	**99**

Clinical Negligence Awards:	High Court	
Amount	Cases	
	2025	2024
Lowest amount awarded	€10,000	€6,680
Highest amount awarded	€10,600,000	€14,500,000
Total amount awarded	**€141,942,115**	**€93,376,275**

2. Negligence (excluding clinical negligence causing personal injury)

Negligence claims are claims for damages against a person or persons against whom it is alleged breached a duty of care owed to the claimant resulting in pecuniary loss.

Negligence	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	127	161	119	110	95	123

3. Commercial

Commercial proceedings are defined in Rule 1 of Order 63A of the Rules of the Superior Courts. In short, they include claims in contract or tort arising out of business transactions where the value of the claim is not less than €1 million, intellectual property cases (including passing off), certain types of arbitration claims and appeals from, or judicial review applications in respect of, any statutory body where the judge in charge of the list considers that, having regard to the commercial or any other aspect of such an application it is one appropriate for entry into the commercial list.

Entry into the commercial list is not mandatory for any case types. Cases are only admitted to the list if one of the parties makes an application and the judge admits the case. They are not automatically admitted to the commercial list because of the relief sought and can be prosecuted in the chancery or in the non-jury lists if the parties so wish.

2025 was the first full year of operation of the commercial court list without cases relating to planning or environmental matters, which are now heard in the Planning and Environment List.

Commercial	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	107	76	103	108

4. Chancery

Chancery matters are dealt with in the High Court. They include injunction applications, company law motions, specific performance/rescission of contracts, administration of estates of deceased persons and trust actions.

Chancery	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	1,509	1,452	764	227	542	259

Analysis Of Incoming Cases	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Specific performance	134	140	100	93	99	125
Injunction	365	346	326	188	238	212
Declaration	403	499	348	425	487	663
European Communities Regulations*	24	22	12	5	6	2
Other	583	445	520	421	430	550
Total	**1,509**	**1,452**	**1,306**	**1,132**	**1,260**	**1,552**

* Cross Border Mergers S.I. No. 157 of 2008

5. Property

Property (possession) cases are cases in which the plaintiff is seeking possession of lands and/or premises including family homes.

Other property cases include 'mortgage suits' (cases where the creditor has a mortgage on the property in which the defendant has an interest but does not have power to sell that property unless the court declares the mortgage well-charged on the debtor's interest), applications for ejectment, applications under Landlord and Tenant legislation, applications involving the Residential Tenancies Board and ground rent matters.

Property (Possession)	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	84	71	40	23	66	41
Circuit Court	1,566	1,064	373	0	299	0
Total	**1,650**	**1,135**	**413**	**23**	**365**	**41**

Property (Possession)	Orders Granted		Orders Not Granted	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Circuit Court	207	141	166	158

Property (Other)	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	31	32	27	5	9	6
Circuit Court	99	128	740	121	336	143
District Court	243	155	186	0	115	0
Total	**373**	**315**	**953**	**126**	**460**	**149**

6. Breach of contract

Where a party refuses or fails to fulfil an obligation imposed by a contract, the injured party can bring an action for damages. In this context, breach of contract cases do not include claims for liquidated damages.

The reason for the spike in new breach of contract cases in 2024 was the commencement in that year of a large number of cases relating to defects in certain concrete building materials due to the presence of Mica.

High Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
463	1,435	142	126	111	128

7. Recovery of debt (liquidated claims)

Actions to recover debt are generally taken by financial institutions seeking to recover specified amounts of money, often in respect of loans.

	Incoming		Resolved					
	2025	2024	2025			2024		
			By Court	Out of Court 1	Out of Court 2	By Court	Out of Court 1	Out of Court 2
High Court	882	909	183	355	224	204	642	210
Circuit Court	2,156	2,274	174	128	1,600	172	129	914
District Court	18,644	19,401	1,239	0	9,995	1,273	0	8,629
Total	**21,682**	**22,584**	**1,596**	**483**	**11,819**	**1,649**	**771**	**9,753**

1 Discontinuance

2 Judgments marked in the office – these figures are also on page 87 as part of the civil and commercial non-litigious statistics.

8. Defamation

Defamation is defined by the Defamation Act 2009 as the "publication, by any means, of a defamatory statement concerning a person to one or more than one person (other than the first-mentioned person)".

	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	75	61	26	16	38	7
Circuit Court	189	228	1	12	0	14
Total	**264**	**289**	**27**	**28**	**38**	**21**

9. Assault

Assault claims are claims for damages against a person or persons against whom it is alleged intentionally attempted or threatened to inflict injury that placed the claimant in fear of imminent bodily harm or brought about an unconsented harmful or offensive contact with the claimant.

	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	196	144	87	49	81	28

10. Employment

Employment cases include those relating to the enforcement of and appeals relating to decisions of the Workplace Relations Commission / employment tribunals brought under legislative provisions relating to matters such as unfair dismissal, payment of wages, adoption leave, parental leave and organisation of working time.

Employment	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	8	11	5	0	3	0
Circuit Court	22	26	14	4	14	2
Total	**30**	**37**	**19**	**4**	**17**	**2**

Small claims

The Small Claims procedure provides an inexpensive way for consumers to resolve consumer complaints and business to make claims against other businesses, without the need to employ a solicitor. To make a claim under the Irish Small Claims procedure both the claimant and the respondent must be living or based within the State and the claim cannot exceed €2,000. Claims can be made online or lodged in person in the court office.

The European Small Claims Procedure, provided for in Regulation (EC) No. 861/2007 and the District Court Rules 1997-2014, is an alternative method of commencing and dealing with civil and commercial matters in respect of a small claim in cross-border cases. These are cases where at least one of the parties lives in a Member State of the European Union (excluding Denmark) other than the Member State of the court dealing with the claim. The claim cannot exceed €5,000. Claims cannot be made online.

Small Claims: Ireland* And EU: District Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
2,565	2,081	533	1,442	520	1,615

* claims include those made online.

Analysis Of Cases Dealt With	2025		2024	
	Ireland	EU	Ireland	EU
Not proceeded with	192	14	276	27
Decrees by default	322	20	336	25
Settled by registrar	795	19	818	37
Referred to court	517	16	478	42
Settled after notice to pay	80	0	96	0
Total	**1,906**	**69**	**2,004**	**131**

Adjudicated By The Court	2025		2024	
	Ireland	EU	Ireland	EU
Decrees granted	218	10	205	14
Cases dismissed	104	1	88	9
Withdrawn/struck out	195	5	185	19
Total	**517**	**16**	**478**	**42**

11. Proceeds of crime

The Proceeds of Crime Act 1996 provides for the civil forfeiture of property which is the proceeds of crime. Applications to the High Court under the Act are usually made by the Chief Bureau Officer of the Criminal Assets Bureau. If the court is satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that a person is in possession or control of property which is or represents the proceeds of crime, it may order the freezing of the property and, after seven years, its disposal for the benefit of the Exchequer.

High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
49	60	39	19

12. Judicial review

Judicial review applications are made when a person seeks an order in respect of the actions or decisions of certain courts, tribunal or regulatory bodies. Applications in asylum-related cases generally seek an order quashing the decision of a body such as the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, or an injunction restraining the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration from deporting them.

There was a 35.4% increase in the number of judicial review cases issued in respect of Asylum, Immigration and Citizenship (AIC) related decisions of public bodies in 2025. The AIC List sits three times per week, to accommodate demand and maintain waiting times, there are two pre-leave asylum sittings taking place on Mondays, the AIC Registrars List which takes place on Wednesday with the Judge's case management list for post leave asylum matters taking place on Fridays. The increased decision-making capacity of public bodies charged with decision making responsibilities has led to a higher number of decisions being issued and a corresponding increase in the number of judicial review proceedings challenging those determinations being issued. The increase in the AIC related JRs is contrasted by a 2.34% decrease in the number of non-AIC related judicial review proceedings (excluding planning and environment matters) coming before the High Court in 2025.

Judicial Review (Asylum Cases): High Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
1,082	799	555	2	366	5

Judicial Review (Non-Asylum cases): High Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
875	896	536	0	831	4

Judicial Review: High Court	(Asylum Cases)		(Non-Asylum Cases)	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Orders made:				
Granted	1,107	588	726	601
Refused	70	24	74	100
Strike Out	308	122	215	212
Miscellaneous - Interim	89	77	406	994
Miscellaneous - Final	33	272	97	144
Other	40	30	227	78
Total	**1,647**	**1,113**	**1,745**	**2,129**

13. Regulation of professions

The High Court deals with cases relating to the confirmation of, and appeals relating to, sanctions imposed by bodies regulated by statute affecting the ability of a registered professional to practice.

High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
235	232	163	183

14. Garda compensation

Members of An Garda Síochána who sustain injuries maliciously inflicted upon them in the performance of their duties or acting in their general capacity as a member of the force are entitled to apply to the High Court for compensation. Off duty members assaulted by virtue of them being a member of the force may also apply for compensation.

The Garda Síochána (Compensation) Act 2022 came into operation on 10 April 2023. This Act replaces the Garda Síochána (Compensation) Acts 1941 to 2003. The new Act brings claims to the Injuries Resolution Board in the first instance (Garda Compensation claims had previously been excluded from the Injuries Board remit).

High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
5	3	88	99

15. Habeas Corpus

Persons who believe they are being detained or held unlawfully, may apply to the High Court for an order of habeas corpus pursuant to Article 40.4 of the Constitution This requires the person or institution detaining them to either produce the body of the person detained before the court or release that person from such detention

In some instances, applications are issued and do not proceed. In others, the matter is resolved without recourse to the court following the making of an interim order.

There was a 38.5% increase in the number of applications pursuant to Article 40.4.2 of the Constitution issued in the High Court in 2025. Given the urgent nature of these applications, they are dealt with in an expeditious manner.

Habeas Corpus: High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
115	83	95	56

16. Extradition

The Extradition List of the High Court is based in the Criminal Courts of Justice. The High Court is responsible for the execution of European Arrest Warrants (pursuant to the European Arrest Warrant Act 2003 [as amended], warrants pertaining to the provisions of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (2020) and from third countries outside of the European Union (pursuant to the Extradition Act 1965 [as amended]). Extradition may only be granted for offences carrying a sentence of at least one year under the statutes of the state seeking the extradition of an individual and Irish law. In the circumstances where a sentence has been imposed, it is required to be at least 4 months in duration.

There was a 29.8% increase in the number of cases coming before the Extradition List of the High Court in 2025. The number of proceedings tied to a 1965 Act Arrest Warrant remained the same at 4 per year. The increased activity is reflected in the European Arrest Warrant / Schengen Information Systems Alert and Trade Cooperation Arrest Warrant categories.

Extradition: High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
344	265	130	226

Extradition Proceedings by initiating Warrant Type		
Warrant Type	2025	2024
European Arrest Warrant / Schengen Information System Alert	186	149
Trade Cooperation Arrest Warrant	154	112
1965 Arrest Warrant	4	4
Total	**344**	**265**

17. Bail

The majority of bail applications in the High Court relate to appeals from the District Court where bail has been refused. However, there are some bail applications (such as in relation to murder and offences against the State, among others) which can only be dealt with in the High Court and such cases that specifically must go before the High Court Bail List are outlined in Section 29 of The Criminal Procedures Act.

Other examples of bail applications that are dealt with by the High Court are variations to High Court and District Court Bail, Revocations of Bail, Arrest and Committal Warrants, Consolidation Orders and Compassionate Bail Applications.

The number of incoming bail applications in 2025 was almost 7% more than 2024. In order to reduce waiting times, the High Court Bail list sat five days per week during term time, for three days per week in August and four days per week in September 2025.

High Court: Bail			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
1,996	1,871	1,381	1,279

18. Planning and Environment

The Programme for Government and Housing for All commit to the establishment of a dedicated Planning and Environment division of the High Court, as well as legislative changes in relation to Judicial Review on planning cases. The Planning and Environment list was established in December 2024 and deals with planning and environmental cases as defined in Order 103 of the Rules of the Superior Courts. Updated rules came into effect in June 2025. Cases commenced in 2024 transferred from the Commercial Court list to the Planning and Environment list. 2025 was the first full year of operation of the new list.

High Court: Planning and Environment List

Planning and Environment List	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	205	241	145	87

Note: P and E resolved cases do not include matters struck out without a formal strike-out order, consistent with High Court counting rules.

19. Inherent Jurisdiction

The High Court holds inherent jurisdiction under Article 34 of the Constitution and from its status as a superior court of full original jurisdiction. Inherent Jurisdiction (Capacity) cases refer to proceedings where the High Court exercises its Inherent Jurisdiction to vindicate the constitutional rights of people who lack the capacity to make decisions in their own interest.

Inherent Jurisdiction (Capacity)	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	219	215	110	94

Cases where one party is suing another: Family Law

The High Court and the Circuit Court have concurrent jurisdiction in family law matters. However, the majority of judicial separation, divorce and nullity applications are made to the Circuit Court. There is a right of appeal from the Circuit Court to the High Court.

1. Divorce

A decree of divorce dissolves a marriage and allows each party to remarry. Before a court can grant a divorce, the parties must have been married and living apart for at least 2 out of the previous 3 years (previously this was 4 out of the previous 5 years). There must be no reasonable prospect of reconciliation; and proper arrangements must have been made or will be made for the spouse and any dependent members of the family.

Divorce:	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	79	91	66	0	65	2
Circuit Court	4,968	4,913	4,514	0	4,617	0
Total	**5,047**	**5,004**	**4,580**	**0**	**4,682**	**2**

Divorce:	2025			2024		
	Granted	Refused	Other	Granted	Refused	Other
High Court	36	0	3	48	0	3
Circuit Court	4,514	0	0	4,614	3	0
Total	**4,550**	**0**	**3**	**4,662**	**3**	**3**

2. Judicial separation

A decree of judicial separation removes the obligation on spouses to co-habit. The most common ground on which a decree is granted is where the court considers that a normal marital relationship has not existed between the spouses for at least one year before the date of the application for the decree.

Judicial Separation:	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	47	22	24	0	17	0
Circuit Court	535	482	260	0	292	0
Total	**582**	**504**	**284**	**0**	**309**	**0**

Judicial Separation:	2025			2024		
	Granted	Refused	Other	Granted	Refused	Other
High Court	9	0	1	9	0	0
Circuit Court	260	0	0	292	0	0
Total	**269**	**0**	**1**	**301**	**0**	**0**

3. Dissolution of partnership

The Courts can dissolve civil partnerships in a similar way to the granting of divorce. A decree of dissolution allows both parties to a civil partnership to marry.

Dissolution Of Partnership	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Circuit Court	31	38	17	33

Dissolution Of Partnership	2025			2024		
	Granted	Refused	Other	Granted	Refused	Other
Circuit Court	13	4	0	32	1	0

4. Cohabitation

These are claims made under the Civil Partnership and Certain Rights and Obligations Of Cohabitants Act 2010 in respect of claimants who are living together in an intimate and committed relationship, not married to each other, not in a registered civil partnership and not related to each other.

High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
9	9	7	8

5. Nullity

Nullity of marriage (civil nullity or civil annulment) is a legal declaration by the court which states that although two people went through a marriage ceremony, their marriage never actually existed in the eyes of the law or the State. There are two types of marriages that may be annulled or cancelled - void marriages and voidable marriages.

A void marriage is considered to have never taken place. A voidable marriage is considered to be a valid marriage until a decree of annulment is made.

Nullity of civil partnership is a declaration by a court that a supposed civil partnership is null and void and that no valid civil partnership exists between the partners. In nullity of civil partnership law, there are only void civil partnerships.

Nullity (Of Marriage)	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	0	0	0	0
Circuit Court	11	15	5	5
Total	**11**	**15**	**5**	**5**

Nullity (Of Marriage)	2025			2024		
	Granted	Refused	Other	Granted	Refused	Other
High Court	0	0	0	3	0	0
Circuit Court	5	0	0	4	1	0
Total	**5**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**1**	**0**

6. Guardianship, custody, access

Guardianship means the rights and duties of parents in respect of the upbringing of their children. **Custody** is the right of a parent to exercise physical care and control in respect of the upbringing of his or her child on a day-to-day basis. **Access** is contact between a child and its parent or other relative with whom the child does not live. The majority of applications in all three areas are made to the District Court.

Guardianship, Custody, Access: District Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
11,200	10,855	9,499	11,507

7. Maintenance

Maintenance is financial support (money) paid by a person for the benefit of a dependent spouse/civil partner and/or dependent children. Spouses/civil partners are required to maintain each other according to their means and needs. Parents, whether married or not, are responsible for the maintenance of their dependent children. If the parties cannot reach an agreement about maintenance an application can be made to the court for a maintenance order. The majority of applications for maintenance are made to the District Court.

Applications for maintenance in the Circuit Court as usually made as part of applications for judicial separation and/or divorce.

Maintenance	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	2	1	0	0
District Court *	5,987	5,845	5,004	5,986
Total	**5,989**	**5,846**	**5,004**	**5,986**

* excludes foreign maintenance – see page 95 (Section under 'Foreign Proceeding')

8. Domestic violence

Domestic violence legislation protects spouses/civil partners and children and offers legal remedies to dependent persons and persons in other domestic relationships where their safety or welfare is at risk because of the conduct of the other person in the relationship. It also gives An Garda Síochána powers to arrest without warrant where there is a breach of a court order.

Safety Order

A Safety Order is a full or long-term order that directs the respondent to stop engaging in violence or threats of violence, but does not order them to leave the home.

If the respondent is not living at the family home, it directs them to stay away from, being near, or watching the home. A Safety Order might also direct them to stop following or communicating in any way with the person applying for the Order (the applicant) and any dependent children. A judge will decide on these issues on a case-by-case basis.

Barring Order

A Barring Order is a full or long-term order that directs the respondent to leave - or stay away from – the applicant's home and any dependent children. In some cases, it can direct them to stop using violence or threats. It may also direct them to stop following, or communicating in any way with the applicant and dependent children. It can only be issued to current spouses or civil partners, or certain people who have an equal or greater ownership rights in the home than the respondent.

The applicant can apply for either an Interim Barring Order or Protection Order while waiting for the Court to hear the application for a full Barring Order. Both applications can be made at the same time.

Protection Order

A Protection Order is a short-term order. It is sometimes called a 'Temporary Safety Order' because it gives the same protection as a Safety Order but over a shorter time period. A Protection Order directs the respondent to stop committing further violence or threats of violence. A judge can make this order if they believe there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or any dependent children.

If the respondent is living with the applicant, it does not order them to leave the home. If the respondent is not living with the applicant, it directs them to stay away from, being near or watching the applicant's home. A Protection Order might also direct them to stop following or communicating in any way with the applicant and any dependent children.

The applicant can seek a Protection Order while waiting for the Court to hear the full application for a Safety Order or a Barring Order. Both applications can be made at the same time.

Interim barring order

An Interim Barring Order is a temporary and immediate order. It directs the respondent to leave - and stay away from – the applicants home and any dependent children. They must do this once they are aware that the order is in place. In some cases, it can direct them to stop using violence or threats. It may also direct them to stop following or communicating in any way with the applicant and dependent children.

A judge can make this order if they believe there is an immediate risk of significant harm to the applicant or dependent children and that a Protection Order would not be a sufficient safeguard. The applicant can ask for an Interim Barring Order while waiting for the court to hear an application for a full Barring Order. Both applications can be made at the same time.

Domestic Violence: District Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
27,429	25,270	26,992	25,739

Domestic Violence: Circuit Court - Outcomes						
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Orders Made	78	77	71	38	38	38

District Court: Domestic Violence - Trends*						
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Barring Order applications	2,794	2,934	3,326	2,933	2,987	3,577
Barring Orders granted	924	813	849	732	810	1,159
Protection Order applications	10,753	9,745	9,641	8,719	8,269	7,649
Protection Orders granted*	7,495	8,009	7,971	5,815	6,917	6,592
Safety Order applications	10,731	9,956	9,913	9,317	8,918	8,887
Safety Orders granted	3,596	3,398	2,975	2,475	2,461	2,467
Interim Barring Order applications	2,643	2,129	2,064	1,951	1,917	1,918
Interim Barring Orders granted	1,358	1,190	1,105	951	1,141	1,251
Other applications	508	506	619	616	505	915
Orders granted	519	273	346	223	291	376

* Some interim Barring Orders were granted on foot of applications for Protection Orders. Likewise, some Protection Orders were granted on foot of Interim Orders.

9. Adoption

These are applications made under the Adoption Act 2010 for the making of adoption orders and challenges thereto.

Adoption: High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
50	53	27	45

10. Child abduction: Hague Luxembourg Convention

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (1980) is the main convention covering child abduction. The Convention seeks to protect children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return. It is based on the principle that the court of the child's habitual residence is best placed to decide any custody disputes.

The Luxembourg Convention on Child Abduction is the common name for the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and Restoration of Custody of Children and was also signed in 1980.

Ireland is a signatory to *The Hague and Luxembourg Conventions*. These conventions have been incorporated into Irish domestic law by the Child Abduction and Enforcement of Custody Orders Act 1991.

Child Abduction: High Court - Analysis			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
24	26	21	27

Child Abduction: High Court - Analysis						
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Incoming	24	26	33	30	32	21
Orders made						
Assess child	6	12	22	7	17	7
Interim Order*	54	70	149	103	85	44
Child returned (on consent)	6	4	7	3	15	6
Child returned (court order)	0	1	5	2	8	4
Child remain (on consent)	3	3	10	7	9	5
Child remain (court order)	5	7	7	8	1	1
Other	13	18	14	0	10	5
Total	**87**	**115**	**214**	**130**	**145**	**72**

* there may be a number of Interim Orders made in individual cases

11. Childcare - Supervision and care orders

The courts deal with applications for orders in respect of the care or supervision of minors, or on behalf of minors concerning the arrangements made by Tusla - the Child and Family Agency for their care. Tusla can apply to the courts for a number of different orders when dealing with children who are at risk or who are in need of care. These orders give the courts a range of powers about the type of care necessary and about access to the children for parents and other relatives. The vast majority of applications are made to the District Court.

Emergency Care Orders

Tusla can apply for an Emergency Care Order for a child who is still at home or for one who has been removed by An Garda Síochána. In exceptional cases this type of order can be sought 'ex parte' without notice to the parent (for example, a child may be found in a very vulnerable position unaccompanied with no adult carer). While exceptional applications may be made without notice being given to the parents or guardians of the child, generally, when An Garda Síochána remove a child, Tusla notify the parent and the parent is in Court when the matter is heard. The order will be made if the judge considers that there is an immediate and serious risk to the health or welfare of the child requiring him/her to be placed, or to remain in, the care of Tusla.

Care Orders and Interim Care Orders

Tusla must apply for a Care Order or a Supervision Order (see below) if a child needs care and protection which he/she is unlikely to receive without an order. The District Court judge may make an interim care order while the decision on a full care order is pending. This means that the child is placed in the care of Tusla for 29 days. It may be extended if Tusla and the parents agree or if the court finds that the threshold criteria for the making of the order continue to exist. Parents/guardians must be given notice of an Interim Care Order application or the extension of the order unless exceptional circumstances exist making this impossible.

Supervision Orders

A Supervision Order is an alternative to children being taken into the care of Tusla. It may be applied for by the Tusla instead of a Care Order. Tusla may consider that a care order is not necessary or appropriate in the circumstances, but that the child should be visited regularly by a social worker under a court Supervision Order.

The court can make a Supervision Order as an alternative, more proportionate remedy at the care order stage – but not at the Interim Care Order stage. During the application for a Care Order the court may decide that a Supervision Order will address the risk of harm identified by Tusla. A Supervision Order may also be made when the court has heard most of the evidence but needs more time to conclude the care proceedings.

The number of applications does not necessarily reflect the number of children in respect of whom orders are made, as several orders may be made in respect of an individual child. There may also be applications for a variety of orders in the same case.

Special Care applications in the High Court

Special care applications in the High Court are applications made under Part IVA of the Child Care Act 1991, that are initiated by the Child and Family Agency (Tusla), to detain children for up to three months—extendable to nine months or more—in a secure, specialised unit to prevent imminent risk to their life, health, or welfare.

Supervision and Care Orders	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court*	65	67	50	1	51	1
District Court	18,198	15,372	14,972	0	12,973	0
Total	**18.263**	**15,439**	**15,022**	**1**	**13,024**	**1**

*This figure includes a small number of Guardianship of Infant Acts cases.

Child Care: High Court – Analysis				
	2025	2024	2023	2022
Received	38	99	62	71
Orders made	277	289	202	279

Child Care: District Court - Analysis						
	Incoming			Resolved (Orders made)		
	2025	2024	2023	2025	2024	2023
Supervision Order	498	310	358	333	343	319
Care Order	1,241	927	904	870	915	974
Extension of Care Order	570	498	779	500	519	793
Interim Care Order	1,299	1,013	929	835	840	736
Extension of Interim Care Order	7,042	6,897	5974	7,023	6,991	5,942
Emergency Care Order	345	279	283	236	270	274
Review of Care Order	1,652	1,009	834	552	531	573
Re-entry of case	1,150	554	378	415	383	386
Other*	4,401	3,885	3,517	2,326	2,181	1,460
Total	**18,198**	**15,372**	**13,956**	**13,108**	**12,973**	**11,457**

*The "Other" section covers amongst others, After Care Assessment; After Care Review, Interjurisdictional Applications, Section 43a - Foster Parent Enhanced Rights, Section 25 - Mental Health Act, Section 37 - Access, Section 47 - Welfare of a child, Vary/ Discharge Care Order, Production Orders and F.M.'s

[1] Following the introduction of a new case management system in the Dublin Child Care Office, child care figures for previous years have been revised and restated accordingly.

[2] The total number of resolved applications will not always equal the number of orders made, as an order is not made in every case.

Family: Other

Included in this data are appeals of Family Law orders made in the Circuit Court, family law applications under the High Court's Inherent Jurisdiction and applications under Council Regulation (E) 4/2009 matters relating to maintenance.

Family Law: Other	Incoming		Resolved			
	2025	2024	2025		2024	
			By Court	Out of Court	By Court	Out of Court
High Court	133	75	93	0	30	0
Circuit Court	315	263	36	0	18	0
District Court	2,135	1,928	1,811	0	1,776	0
Total	**2,583**	**2,266**	**1,940**	**0**	**1,824**	**0**

Assisted Decision-Making

The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 was signed into law on the 30 December 2015. The Act is about supporting decision-making and maximising a person's capacity to make decisions. The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) (Amendment) Act 2022 was signed into law in 2022. This amending legislation was necessary for the full commencement of the 2015 Act and to streamline processes and improve safeguards.

The 2015 Act brings about important changes for people who may require support to make decisions. These decisions can be about their personal welfare, health, social care, and their property and affairs. The Act introduced new arrangements to replace the Wards of Court system for adults, and requires all adult wards to be discharged from wardship within three years of commencement of the Act. It introduces a tiered system of decision support arrangements for people who need help with making decisions.

Circuit Court: Assisted Decision Making			
Incoming		Resolved*	
2025	2024	2025	2024
1,117	950	1,001	622

*Cases with a Decision Making Representative assigned.

Circuit Court: Assisted Decision Making		
Incoming Applications *	2025	2024
Capacity Application	968	871
Ex Parte Consent Application	433	398
Total	**1,401**	**1,269**

*Note, a single relevant person (the incapacitated person) may have multiple applications.

Corporate insolvency

1. Examinership

Examinership is a process in Irish law whereby the protection of the court is obtained to assist the survival of a company. It allows a company to restructure with the approval of the court. Applications are typically made under the Companies Act 2014.

High Court: Examinership - Incoming	
2025	2024
6	3

High Court: Examinership - Resolved							
Resolved							
Out of Court		By Court					
Petition Withdrawn		Appoint interim examiner*		Appoint examiner*		Wind up company	
2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024
5	1	4	5	4	1	0	0

* Figures for appointment of interim examiner and examiner may not be mutually exclusive as appointment of interim examiner often precedes appointment of examiner.

Examinership: Circuit Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
6	4	1	0

2. Liquidation

The Examiner's Office of the High Court continues to assist the Court in the supervision of pre-Companies Act 2014 liquidations, with particular regard towards bringing any outstanding liquidations to a timely conclusion.

Wind Up Company Orders: High Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		Settled/ struck out/ withdrawn	Order made	Settled/ struck out/ withdrawn	Order made
52	89	55	119	68	128

3. Restrict Directors

In certain circumstances an application can be made to the High Court to have a company director restricted from acting as a director or secretary of a company or be concerned or take part in the formation or promotion of a company. Restriction Orders are made under the Companies Act 2014. Restriction orders remain in force for a period of 5 years and confine a person to being a director in certain types of companies that have been adequately capitalised by their shareholders.

Restrict Directors: High Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		Settled/ Struck Out/ Withdrawn	Order made	Settled/ Struck Out/ Withdrawn	Order made
13	5	0	6	0	5

4. Disqualify Directors

In certain circumstances the High Court may disqualify a person from being appointed or acting as a director or other officer, statutory auditor, receiver, liquidator or examiner or being in any way, whether directly or indirectly, concerned or taking part in the promotion, formation or management of certain corporate bodies. These circumstances include where the court is satisfied that the person is guilty of fraud or is in breach of his/her duty under Company Law or that the conduct of the person makes him/her unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

Disqualified Directors: High Court					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		Settled/ Struck Out/ Withdrawn	Order made	Settled/ Struck Out/ Withdrawn	Order made
5	5	1	7	1	3

Appeals to District Court

There are a number of statutory entitlements to appeal decisions of regulatory bodies to the District Court. They include decisions regarding the award of taxi licences and gun licences.

Appeals To The District Court		Resolved	
2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
95	94	94	126

Litigious enforcement

Following judgment, the creditor in a case can apply to the District Court for an Instalment Order against the debtor requiring him/her to pay the debt in instalments. The District Court can subsequently vary the amount ordered to be paid (Variation Order). If the debtor fails to make the instalments as ordered by the District Court, the creditor can apply for an Order committing the debtor to prison (Committal Order).

Summons For Attendance Of Debtor: District Court				
2025	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**	**2021**
900	958	949	1,094	1,243

Litigious Enforcement	Outcome	
	2025	**2024**
Instalment Orders issued	1,144	1,141
Variation Orders issued	29	60
Committal Orders issued	0	7
Total	**1,173**	**1,208**

2. Civil and Commercial Non-Litigious Cases

Proceedings in Ireland

1. Judgments marked in the office

Where a defendant does not respond to a summary summons in the High Court, a civil bill in the Circuit Court, or a claim notice in the District Court; or where the Master of the High Court gives liberty to enter 'final' judgment, the plaintiff can apply to have judgment 'marked' (awarded) against the defendant in the court office.

Judgement Marked in the office	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
High Court	237	222	237	222
Circuit Court	1,462	1,251	1,600	914
District Court	8,315	6,800	9,995	8,629
Total	**10,014**	**8,273**	**11,832**	**9,765**

2. Deed poll

Persons requiring documentary confirmation of a change of name, other than on marriage, may need to execute a document called a 'deed poll'. The deed poll can be lodged in the Central Office of the High Court.

Deed Poll: High Court			
Incoming		**Resolved**	
2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
800	989	800	989

3. Probate

A legal document called a *Grant of Representation* is required for authority to administer the estate of a deceased person. If there is a will, the executor needs to take out probate. If there is no will, or, if no executor has been appointed or the appointed person cannot act, an administrator may be appointed, and he/she takes out a Letter of Administration (or a Letter of Administration with Will Annexed if there is a will).

The Principal Probate Registry in the country is located in Dublin and the 14 District Probate Registries are in the Combined Court Offices in Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford, Cork, Tralee, Limerick, Clonmel, Castlebar, Galway, Letterkenny, Sligo, Dundalk, Cavan and Mullingar.

Probate: Incoming Applications		
	2025	**2024**
Applications Lodged	13,808	10,606
Local registries	9,408	10,737
Total	**23,216**	**21,343**

Probate	Probate (And Administrations With Wills Annexed): Grants Issued		Intestacy - Grants Issued	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Principal Registry	8,790	10,614	2,075	2,523
Local registries	7,823	8,183	1,918	1,928
Total	**16,613**	**18,797**	**3,993**	**4,451**

4. Wards of Court

Historically when a person became unable to manage his or her affairs because of mental incapacity, an application was made to have the person to become a Ward of Court. Since commencement of Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act, as amended, no new applications have been received for adult wards of court. The Wards of Court Office is now processing discharge applications, the Court will make orders, where appropriate for a decision support person to be appointed and the person's assets and property will be returned to them.

A person under 18 years of age may still be taken into wardship as a minor and subsequently discharged from wardship on turning 18 years.

The reduction in the number of incoming wardship applications reflects the commencement of Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act, as amended on 26 April 2023.

Wards Of Court: High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
22	45	291	319

Wards Of Court: Incoming Cases:		
Reason admitted to wardship	**2025**	**2024**
Brain injury	1	2
Dementia and age-related illness	0	10
Learning/intellectual disability	0	6
Minors (under 18 years of age)	19	23
Psychiatric illness	2	4
Total	**22**	**45**

5. General Solicitor for Minors and Wards of Court

The General Solicitor for Minors and Wards of Court is a solicitor in the service of the State appointed by the President of the High Court to act in certain wardship matters. He/she is accountable to the High Court for all monies and assets under his/her control relating to the affairs of a minor or ward. The General Solicitor can only act as solicitor in those matters assigned to them by the Registrar of the Wards of Court. He/she cannot take on private clients like a solicitor in private practice.

General Solicitor For Minors And Wards Of Court		
	2025	**2024**
Active (yearly average)	464	645
Pending	2	2
Dismissal	395	493

6. Enduring Powers of Attorney (registered)

An enduring power of attorney (EPA) allows another specially appointed person ('the attorney') to make 'personal care decisions' on the donor's behalf once he/she is no longer capable of making decisions themselves. Personal care decisions may include deciding where and with whom the donor will live, who he/she should see or not see and what training or rehabilitation he/she should get.

Enduring Powers Of Attorney (Registered): High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
1,058	1,633	1,051	1,246

7. Care representatives

We have removed the table for Care Representatives, as the Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 (as amended) abolished the right to apply to be appointed a Care Representative.

8. Mental Health Act applications

A person can appeal the making of an admission order or a renewal order by a mental health tribunal to the Circuit Court under the Mental Health Act 2001.

Mental Health Act Applications: Circuit Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
128	160	42	45

9. Personal insolvency (self)

The Insolvency Service of Ireland administers the debt settlement procedures introduced under the Personal Insolvency Act 2012. The Act introduced three debt resolution mechanisms for people who cannot afford to pay their personal debts. Applications may be made to the Circuit Court or to the High Court.

A **Debt Relief Notice** allows for the write-off of qualifying debt up to €35,000, subject to a 3-year supervision period. The Circuit Court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear applications.

A **Protective Certificate** (PIA and DSA) offers a debtor and their assets protection from legal proceedings by creditors in respect of debts for a limited time while they are applying for a DSA or PIA. A Protective Certificate remains in force for a period of 70 days but may be extended in limited circumstances.

A **Debt Settlement Arrangement** applies to the agreed settlement of unsecured debts, usually over a period of 5 years. The Circuit Court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear applications where the total value of unsecured debts does not exceed €2.5m. Where qualifying debts exceed €2.5m but do not exceed €3m, jurisdiction is vested in the High Court. For debts above €3m, the Act does not apply, and people are expected in the main to consider applying for bankruptcy.

An **Objection of Creditor to a Proposal for Debt Settlement Arrangement** is an objection made by a Creditor to the proposal for a Debt Settlement Arrangement

A **Personal Insolvency Arrangement** applies to the agreed settlement and/or restructuring of secured debts up to a total of €3 million (as well as unsecured debts) over a period of 6 years. The Circuit Court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear applications where the total value of qualifying debts does not exceed €2.5m. Where qualifying debts exceed €2.5m but do not exceed €3m, jurisdiction is vested in the High Court.

An **Objection of Creditor to a Proposal for Personal Insolvency Arrangement** is an objection made by a Creditor to the proposal for a Personal Insolvency Arrangement.

An Application Pursuant to Section 115A(9) of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012-2015 affords a debtor an opportunity to have Personal Insolvency Arrangements ("PIA"s), which has been rejected by creditors, reviewed by the Court under certain circumstances.

An **Objection of Creditor to a Proposal for Application Pursuant to Section 115A(9) of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012-2015** is an objection made by a Creditor to the proposal for an Application pursuant to Section 115A(9) of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012-2015

Bankruptcy applications may be made to the High Court by creditors or by debtors in person ('self-adjudications'). See below for details of applications by debtors to be

adjudicated bankrupt. Details of pre-bankruptcy applications by creditors (bankruptcy summonses') and details of applications by creditors to have debtors adjudicated bankrupt are on page 93.

Personal Insolvency: High Court										
	Incoming		**Resolved – by Court**							
			Approve request		**Refused**		**Struck out**		**Withdrawn**	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Debt settlement arrangements	3	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal insolvency arrangements	4	7	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total	**7**	**10**	**6**	**9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**

Personal Insolvency: Circuit Court								
	Incoming		**Resolved – by Court**					
			Approve request		**Refused**		**Struck out**	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Debt relief notices	228	239	218	241	0	0	0	0
Debt settlement arrangements	87	85	89	79	1	0	0	0
Personal Insolvency Arrangements	487	618	450	655	10	3	0	10
Protective Certificate (PIA and DSA)	1,060	1,264	1059	1,304	4	2	1	7
Application Pursuant to Section 115A(9) of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012-2015	307	363	118	181	148	209	15	25
Application to Extend the Period of a Protective Certificate (PIA and DSA)	534	592	530	583	0	2	0	0
Objection of Creditor to a Proposal for Application Pursuant to Section 115A(9) of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012-2015	242	277	121	186	40	27	14	14
Objection of Creditor to a Proposal for Personal Insolvency Arrangement	12	15	5	21	0	8	0	4
Total	**2,957**	**3,453**	**2,590**	**3,250**	**203**	**251**	**30**	**60**

Bankruptcy Petitions (Self): High Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
		Adjudicated / granted/ approved	Adjudicated / granted/ approved
81	74	79	68

Personal Insolvency Appeals from the Circuit Court to the High Court				
	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	111	125	47	20

Personal insolvency

Personal insolvency (creditors' applications)

Applications to have a person adjudicated bankrupt are filed in the Office of the Examiner of the High Court. Following the making of an Adjudication Order ownership of the bankrupt's property is transferred to the Official Assignee in Bankruptcy (who manages the Bankruptcy Division within the Insolvency Service of Ireland). He/she is an independent statutory officer who administers the estate of the bankrupt person and is answerable to the High Court.

Under the provisions of the Bankruptcy (Amendment) Act 2015 a person is automatically discharged from bankruptcy one year after the order of adjudication unless the period is extended by the High Court upon application by the Official Assignee in Bankruptcy.

Personal Insolvency: High Court	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
			Adjudicated / granted/ approved	Adjudicated / granted/ approved
Bankruptcy summonses	29	26	28	22
Bankruptcy petitions (creditors)	18	8	6	3

10. Licensing

The majority of applications for licences are made to the District Court. They include pub, restaurant, dance and lottery licences with applications for special exemption orders comprising over 80% of applications in any year. Special exemption orders exempt the holder of an on-licence from the provisions of the Intoxicating Liquor Act relating to prohibited hours in respect of licensed premises.

Licensing	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Circuit Court	205	201	186	200
District Court	37,672	40,276	37,577	39,686
Total	**37,877**	**40,477**	**37,763**	**39,886**

11. Marriage exemption

The Circuit Court can exempt persons wishing to marry from the requirement to give three months' notice to the Registrar of Marriages. It can also exempt persons from the age requirements for marriage.

Marriage Exemption: Short Notice: Circuit Court			
Incoming		**Resolved**	
2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
315	502	355	402

Foreign proceedings

1. Service of documents

Service Of Documents	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court*	112	105	75	49

* Hague Convention (proceedings initiated in non-EU countries)

Service of Documents: Circuit Court	Incoming		Outgoing Requests	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Circuit Court	3,656	3,045	93	95

2. Maintenance (foreign)

Maintenance (Foreign)	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court*	3	42	5	0
District Court	109	104	88	38

* applications under Regulation (EC) 4/2020

3. Other

Taking Of Evidence: Circuit Court			
Incoming		Resolved	
2025	2024	2025	2024
93	73	90	72

3. Non-Litigious Enforcement Cases

Following judgment, a creditor can choose a number of routes to obtain payment of money adjudged to be owed by a debtor, or the return of property the subject of possession proceedings ('enforce the judgment'). In general, once the creditor has a Judgment Order, the judgment can be enforced. Enforcement Orders can be issued by court offices – the creditor does not have to go back to court for the order. Creditors have 12 years from the date of the judgment to look for Enforcement Orders.

1. Execution Orders issued – following judgments marked in the office in debt cases

	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
High Court*	339	357	339	357
Circuit Court	1,462	1,251	1,600	914
Total	**1,801**	**1,608**	**1,939**	**1,271**

* includes Execution Orders issued on foot of court orders

2. Execution Orders issued – on foot of court orders

	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Circuit Court	384	299	450	333

3. Execution Orders issued – possession cases

	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
High Court	10	9	10	9
Circuit Court	220	183	257	199
Total	**230**	**192**	**267**	**208**

4. Judgments registered

Judgments Registered *	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
High Court*	4,216	3,301	4,216	3,301

* judgments of High Court, Circuit Court and District Court are registered in High Court Central Office

5. Judgment mortgage certificates issued

Judgment Mortgage Certificates Issued	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	196	171	196	171
Circuit Court	279	279	279	279
District Court	285	287	285	287
Total	**760**	**737**	**760**	**737**

6. Satisfaction piece issued

Satisfaction Piece Issued	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court	26	31	26	31
Circuit Court	46	41	46	41
District Court	83	68	83	68
Total	**155**	**140**	**155**	**140**

4. Appeals

Appeals (Civil and Family Law)				
	Incoming		**Resolved**	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Circuit Court to High Court	434	416	305	299
District Court to Circuit Court	924	880	669	430

5. Cases Stated

Case stated is a procedure by which a court or tribunal can ask another court for its opinion on a point of law. There are two kinds: consultative case stated and appeal by way of case stated.

	2025		2024	
	Received	**Orders made**	**Received**	**Orders made**
District Court to High Court	15	6	12	6
Revenue to High Court	11	4	10	3

6. Miscellaneous

1. Written judgments

The High Court may decide following the hearing of a matter to 'reserve' its decision to another date. The decision may subsequently be delivered in the form of a written judgment. Many High Court judgments are available on the website of the Service: **courts.ie.**

High Court				
Written Judgments	**2025**	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**
Delivered	685	707	691	738

2. Notices of Motion

A Notice of Motion is a formal notice to participants in litigation of an intention on the part of another party to seek particular relief from the court. There may be numerous Notices of Motion issued in the course of an action and Notices of Motion may be adjourned a number of times before they are dealt with.

Notices Of Motion	Issued/dealt with	
	2025	2024
High Court	11,284	10,060
Circuit Court	25,299	24,848

3. Case Progression (Family Law)

Case Progression is the term given to the management of a case before it comes to trial. Its purpose is to ensure that proceedings are prepared in a manner which is fair, efficient and likely to keep the costs as low as possible. It also ensures that time and other resources of the court are put to best use.

Case Progression: Family Law	Number of Listings for Case Progression	
	2025	2024
Circuit Court	6,523	6,254

4. Civil Restraining Orders

Civil Restraining Orders, introduced in recent years, are orders of the court made to restrict specified conduct where this is considered necessary to protect individuals or the administration of justice.

District Civil - Civil Restraining Orders	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
District Court	1,839	281	2,009	253

Criminal Business

Criminal Business: By Offence	Incoming		Resolved: Orders Made*	
	2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
Serious criminal offences: Central Criminal Court; Special Criminal Court; Circuit Criminal Court	21,571	22,822	29,611	27,821
Misdemeanour and/or minor criminal offences: District Court	342,791	350,852	291,288	309,787
Appeals: Supreme Court; Court of Appeal; Circuit Court	14,900	16,484	16,517	18,437
Total	**379,262**	**390,158**	**337,416**	**356,045**

* Orders made in respect of offences. Note that there may be more than one Order made in respect of an individual offence

Number of Trials				
	2025	**2024**	**2023**	**2022**
Special Criminal Court	3	0	4	7
Central Criminal Court	148	161	125	118
Circuit Criminal Court	361	337	362	357

District Court

The District Court exercising its criminal jurisdiction deals with four particular types of offences: summary offences, indictable offences tried summarily, some indictable offences, and indictable offences not tried summarily.

When the District Court hears a criminal case, the judge sits without a jury. The District Judge decides the issues of fact and whether to convict. He/she also determines the sentence. In the case of most indictable offices which have to be tried by a judge sitting with a jury, the District Court may impose sentence where the accused pleads guilty provided that the Director of Public Prosecutions consents and the judge accepts the guilty plea.

Otherwise, the accused is sent forward to the Circuit Court on his signed plea of guilty for sentencing. There is a limit of 12 months on the sentence the District Court may impose in respect of a single criminal charge.

Criminal Business: District Court	Incoming Offences		Resolved Offences: Orders Made		
Categories	**Offences**	**Defendants**	**Summary**	**Indictable dealt with summarily**	**Sent forward for trial***
Domestic Violence	5,181	2,880	4,180	2	24
Drugs	30,018	15,419	1,116	21,399	3,490
Larceny/Fraud/Robbery	38,219	14,438	26	28,259	5,077
Other	41,860	25,283	25,515	7,739	6,848
Public Order/Assault	48,537	24,433	35,883	2,829	2,831
Road Traffic	175,328	118,966	141,204	1,037	326
Sexual	3,648	866	62	250	3,191
Total	**342,791**	**202,285**	**207,986**	**61,515**	**21,787**

*Note: There is usually only one Order made when an offence is being sent forward for trial.

Summary Offences: Orders Made: District Court													
	Dis	**S/O**	**TIC**	**Fine**	**Bond**	**Disq**	**C/S**	**Prob**	**Imp***	**Susp**	**Other**	**3rd Pay**	**Total**
Domestic Violence	471	1,388	388	143	49	0	15	295	307	283	841	0	**4,180**
Drugs	52	269	289	119	12	1	29	93	61	44	147	0	**1,116**
Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	0	8	4	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	7	0	**26**
Other	532	7,964	5,817	5,200	177	13	85	1,542	792	444	2,949	0	**25,515**
Public Order/ Assault	1,176	7,848	9,785	5,775	541	0	274	3,422	1,450	881	4,731	0	**35,883**
Road Traffic	4,437	42,426	20,304	37,957	12	9,807	328	886	1,017	1,186	11,942	10,902	**141,204**
Sexual	3	11	3	14	0	0	1	4	13	10	3	0	**62**
Total	**6,671**	**59,914**	**36,590**	**49,211**	**792**	**9,821**	**733**	**6,243**	**3,640**	**2,849**	**20,620**	**10,902**	**207,986**

Note: There is usually only one Order made when an offence is dismissed, struck out or taken into consideration. There may be more than one Order made when the penalty imposed in respect of an offence is a fine, bond, disqualification, community service, probation, imprisonment/detention, or sentence suspended.

Key: Dis = dismiss. S/O = strike out TIC = taken into consideration Disq = disqualified C/S = community service Prob = probation Imp = imprisonment or detention* Susp = suspended sentence Fixed = fixed penalty 3rd Pay = 3rd Pay Option

* refers to detention of a person under 18 in a detention centre

Indictable Offences Dealt With Summarily: Orders Made: District Court													
	Dis	**S/O**	**TIC**	**Fine**	**Bond**	**Disq**	**C/O**	**Prob**	**Imp***	**Susp**	**Other**	**3rd Pay**	**Total**
Domestic Violence	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**2**
Drugs	662	5,118	3,534	2,465	65	2	225	2,130	675	617	5,906	0	**21,399**
Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	712	5,602	8,381	1,486	174	17	338	2,789	4,266	1,554	2,940	0	**28,259**
Other	359	2,182	1,351	543	77	2	115	696	756	371	1,287	0	**7,739**
Public Order/ Assault	255	932	122	88	43	0	57	288	229	259	556	0	**2,829**
Road Traffic	60	274	159	45	1	38	8	101	154	38	159	0	**1,037**
Sexual	14	101	5	1	1	0	1	22	8	23	74	0	**250**
Total	**2,062**	**14,209**	**13,553**	**4,628**	**361**	**59**	**744**	**6,026**	**6,088**	**2,862**	**10,923**	**0**	**61,515**

Note: There is usually only one Order made when an offence is dismissed, struck out or taken into consideration. There may be more than one Order made when the penalty imposed in respect of an offence is a fine, bond, disqualification, community service, probation, imprisonment/detention, or sentence suspended.
Key: Dis = dismiss. S/O = strike out TIC = taken into consideration Disq = disqualified C/S = community service 3rd Pay = 3rd Pay Option Prob = probation Imp = imprisonment or detention* Susp = suspended sentence
* refers to detention of a person under 18 in a detention centre

Specific Road Traffic Offences: Orders Made: District Court													
	Dis	**S/O**	**TIC**	**Fine**	**Bond**	**Disq**	**C/S**	**Prob**	**Imp***	**Susp**	**Other**	**3rd Pay**	**Total**
Dangerous Driving	133	1,243	428	531	0	819	34	34	161	114	1,431	0	**4,928**
Drink/ Drug Driving	699	1,405	138	3,011	0	3,663	36	30	100	196	506	0	**9,784**
Offences attracting Penalty Points	1,905	11,706	2,361	18,686	4	4,731	208	101	484	677	2,698	6,901	**50,462**
Total	**2,737**	**14,354**	**2,927**	**22,228**	**4**	**9,213**	**278**	**165**	**745**	**987**	**4,635**	**6,901**	**65,174**

Note: This is a selection of specific road traffic offences - not the full total.
There is usually only one Order made when an offence is dismissed, struck out or taken into consideration. There may be more than one Order made when the penalty imposed in respect of an offence is a fine, bond, disqualification, community service, probation, imprisonment/detention, or sentence suspended.
Key: Dis = dismiss. S/O = strike out TIC = taken into consideration Disq = disqualified C/S = community service
Prob = probation Imp = imprisonment or detention* Susp = suspended sentence 3rd Pay = 3rd Pay Option
* refers to detention of a person under 18 in a detention centre

Juvenile Crime

The age of criminal responsibility in Ireland is 12 years (section 52 Children Act 2001, as amended by section 129 Criminal Justice Act 2006). Children who have not reached the age of 12 years cannot be charged with an offence. There is an exception for children aged 10 or 11 who can be charged with murder, manslaughter, rape, rape under section 4 of the Criminal Law (Rape)(Amendment) Act 1990 or aggravated sexual assault. In addition, where a child under 14 years of age is charged with an offence, no further proceedings can be taken without the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The majority of children who come before the courts are aged between 15 and 17 years.

District Court: Juvenile Crime. Orders made.

	Dis	S/O	TIC	Fine	Bond	Disq	C/S	Prob	Imp*	Susp	Other	3rd Pay	Total
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Drugs	42	126	100	13	0	0	4	135	17	2	135	0	**574**
Larceny/ Fraud/ Robbery	58	286	235	19	8	0	6	294	48	12	104	0	**1,070**
Other	52	110	80	5	4	0	4	180	16	1	48	0	**500**
Public Order/ Assault	70	162	91	19	1	0	9	216	13	2	68	0	**651**
Road Traffic	52	210	181	60	0	63	1	121	42	22	101	0	**853**
Sexual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	**5**
Total	**274**	**894**	**687**	**116**	**13**	**63**	**24**	**949**	**136**	**39**	**458**	**0**	**3,653**

Note: There is usually only one Order made when an offence is dismissed, struck out or taken into consideration. There may be more than one Order made when the penalty imposed in respect of an offence is a fine, bond, disqualification, community service, probation, imprisonment/detention, or sentence suspended.
Key: Dis = dismiss. S/O = strike out TIC = taken into consideration Disq = disqualified C/S = community service Prob = probation Imp = imprisonment or detention* Susp = suspended sentence 3rd Pay = 3rd Pay Option
* refers to detention of a person under 18 in a detention centre

Circuit Court

The Circuit Court deals with all indictable offences except murder, rape, aggravated sexual assault, treason, piracy and related offences. This jurisdiction is exercisable in the area where the offence has been committed or where the accused person has been arrested or resides. In Circuit Courts outside Dublin, the trial judge may transfer a trial to the Dublin Circuit Criminal Court on application by the prosecution or the defence and if satisfied that it would be unjust not to do so. Criminal cases dealt with by the Circuit Criminal Court begin in the District Court and are sent forward to the Circuit Court for trial or sentencing. Where a person is sent forward to the Circuit Criminal Court for trial the case is heard by judge and jury although a person can change their plea to guilty and dispense with a trial. Certain indictable offences of a minor nature can be heard in the District Court where the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and/or the accused consents.

Offences:	Incoming Offences		Resolved Offences: Orders made*							
	Offences	**Defendants***	**Guilty**	**Trials**		**N/P**	**TIC**	**Quash**	**Deceased**	**Total**
				Convicted	Acquitted					
Assault	1,741	1,131	1,961	109	94	496	249	0	1	**2,910**
Child Abuse	63	19	69	41	0	12	5	0	0	**127**
Domestic Violence	23	23	35	2	2	17	25	0	0	**81**
Drugs	3,533	852	3,295	56	13	1,009	970	0	10	**5,353**
Firearms	1,024	731	625	40	52	261	260	0	3	**1,241**
Larceny/ Fraud/Robbery	5,432	1,358	3,792	86	36	1,221	2,190	0	3	**7,328**
Manslaughter	3	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	**2**
Other	4,725	2,100	3,270	173	156	978	1,032	0	16	**5,625**
Road Traffic	355	226	832	21	14	157	392	0	2	**1,418**
Sexual	2,148	341	833	540	203	610	506	0	22	**2,714**
Total	**19,047**	**6,784**	**14,713**	**1,068**	**571**	**4,761**	**5,629**	**0**	**57**	**26,799**

* Note: There is usually only one order made when an offence is being sent forward for trial.
Key: N/P = nolle prosequi TIC = taken into consideration

Offences: Orders made: Circuit Court										
	TIC	Fine	Bond	Disq	C/S	Prob	Imp*	Susp	Other	Total
Assault	119	6	661	13	35	106	618	369	153	**2,080**
Child Abuse	32	0	28	0	0	1	23	16	10	**110**
Domestic Violence	6	0	8	0	0	3	16	3	1	**37**
Drugs	582	16	627	6	29	71	509	483	1,042	**3,365**
Firearms	120	6	126	1	10	29	193	71	124	**680**
Larceny/ Fraud/Robbery	495	12	1,032	11	35	223	1,249	532	417	**4,006**
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
Other	482	51	923	19	77	115	919	543	396	**3,525**
Road Traffic	128	28	146	227	8	11	206	82	17	**853**
Sexual	309	1	282	0	4	34	519	137	125	**1,411**
Total	**2,273**	**120**	**3,833**	**277**	**198**	**593**	**4,253**	**2,236**	**2,285**	**16,068**

Key: TIC = taken into consideration Disq = disqualified C/S = community service Prob = probation Imp = imprisonment or detention* Susp = suspended sentence
* refers to detention of a person under 18 in a detention centre.

Appeals From District Court : Circuit Court								
Categories	Incoming Offences		Resolved Offences: Orders made					
	Off	Def	Aff	Var	Rev	Withdrawn	S/O N/A	Total
Domestic Violence	288	135	53	101	70	34	39	**297**
Drugs	790	353	128	361	73	176	188	**926**
Larceny/Fraud/Robbery	1,979	592	300	621	88	512	458	**1,979**
Other	1,210	710	251	427	137	271	461	**1,547**
Public Order/Assault	1,582	747	250	596	169	340	430	**1,785**
Road Traffic	6,566	4,116	1,221	2,264	1,650	1,221	974	**7,330**
Sexual	33	22	6	13	4	15	4	**42**
Total	**12,448**	**6,675**	**2,209**	**4,383**	**2,191**	**2,569**	**2,554**	**13,906**

Key: Off = offences Def = defendants Aff = affirmed Var = varied Rev = reversed S/O = struck out S/O N/A = struck out no appearance

Special Criminal Court

The Offences Against the State Act 1939 provides for the establishment of Special Criminal Courts. The Special Criminal Court sits with three judges and no jury. The rules of evidence that apply in proceedings before the Court are the same as those applicable to trials in the Central Criminal Court. The Court is authorised by the 1939 Act to make rules governing its own practice and procedure.

Special Criminal Court			
Categories	**Incoming**		**Resolved Offences**
	Offences	**Defendants**	**Offences**
Drugs	7	7	8
Membership Of Illegal Organisation	2	1	0
Murder	0	0	4
Other	8	4	5
Possession of firearms/ammunition/explosive substance	1	1	46
Theft	0	0	0
Threat To Kill	0	0	0
Total	**18**	**13**	**63**

* there may be more than one offence brought against a defendant

Categories	Offences : (All Outcomes)					
	Conviction (Guilty plea)	**Conviction (trial)**	**Acquittal**	**TIC**	**Nolle Prosequi**	**Total**
Drugs	8	0	0	0	0	**8**
Membership Of Illegal Organisation	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Murder	0	4	0	0	0	**4**
Other	2	3	0	0	0	**5**
Possession of firearms/ ammunition/explosive substance	22	0	0	24	0	**46**
Theft	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Threat To Kill	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Total	**32**	**7**	**0**	**24**	**0**	**63**

Key: TIC = taken into consideration

Offences : (Convictions)			
Categories	**Imprisonment**	**Suspended Sentence**	**Total Convictions**
Drugs	8	0	**8**
Membership Of Illegal Organisation	0	0	**0**
Murder	4	0	**4**
Other	5	0	**5**
Possession of firearms/ ammunition/explosive substance	22	0	**22**
Theft	0	0	**0**
Threat To Kill	0	0	**0**
Total	**39**	**0**	**39**

High Court: Central Criminal Court

The High Court exercising its criminal jurisdiction is known as the Central Criminal Court. It consists of a judge or judges of the High Court. The court sits at such time and in such places as the President of the High Court may direct and tries criminal cases which are outside the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court. The court mainly hears murder and rape trials and can hear criminal trials under the Competition Act 2002. An appeal against conviction or sentence by the Central Criminal Court may be taken to the Court of Appeal.

Offences: Outcome: Central Criminal Court									
Central Criminal Court	**Incoming**		**Resolved**						
Offence type	**Off**	**Def**	**Guilty Pleas**	**Trials**	**Nolle Prosequi**	**TIC** *	**Quash**	**Dec**	**Total**
Assault	124	41	43	16	24	17	0	0	**100**
Domestic Violence	6	5	6	0	2	0	0	0	**8**
Murder (Including Attempted Murder)	49	44	11	34	13	0	0	0	**58**
Other **	187	63	53	24	41	35	0	0	**153**
Rape (Including Attempted Rape)	990	203	118	580	235	68	0	36	**1,037**
Sexual Offences *	1,150	120	278	495	162	423	0	35	**1,393**
Total	**2,506**	**476**	**509**	**1,149**	**477**	**543**	**0**	**71**	**2,749**

* includes serious offences such as sexual assault and sexual offences against children, previously reported under 'other'.

** includes impeding a prosecution, accessory to manslaughter, false imprisonment, criminal damage, possession of a knife, burglary.

Key: TIC – 'taken into consideration' – offences may be taken into consideration where an offender is sentenced on other multiple offences.

Off = offences Def = defendants Dec = accused deceased.

Offences: Resolved: Outcome Of Trials : Central Criminal Court						
Offence type	**Convicted**	**Acquitted**	**Disagreed**	**Committal: not guilty by reason of insanity**	**Prohibited**	**Total***
Assault	17	1	0	0	0	**18**
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Murder (Including Attempted Murder)	28	2	2	2	0	**34**
Other	31	4	0	0	0	**35**
Rape (Including Attempted Rape)	438	168	85	0	0	**691**
Sexual Offences	333	170	64	0	0	**567**
Total	**847**	**345**	**151**	**2**	**0**	**1,345**

*The number of offences for the Trial Outcomes is higher than the number of offences that are resolved by trials, because a single offence may have more than one result. For example, 'Imprisonment Part Suspended' and 'Probation'

Offences: Resolved: Penalties Imposed On Conviction : Central Criminal Court						
	Fines	**Det (minors)**	**Imp F/S**	**Imp P/S**	**Imp**	**Total**
Assault	0	0	2	11	40	**53**
Domestic Violence	0	0	1	2	3	**6**
Murder (Including Attempted Murder)	0	2	0	9	29	**40**
Other	0	0	9	24	39	**72**
Rape (Including Attempted Rape)	0	14	0	169	261	**444**
Sexual Offences	0	17	2	51	463	**533**
Total	**0**	**33**	**14**	**266**	**835**	**1,148**

Key: Det (minors) = detention of a person under 18 years in a detention centre Imp F/S = imprisonment fully suspended Imp P/S = imprisonment/detention* part suspended
* includes manslaughter

Offences: Resolved: Length Of Sentences Imposed On Conviction: Central Criminal Court						
	Up to 2 years	Over 2 years to 5 years	Over 5 years to 10 years	Over 10 years	Life	Total
Assault	18	24	11	0	0	**53**
Domestic Violence	0	5	1	0	0	**6**
Murder (Including Attempted Murder)	0	1	2	9	28	**40**
Other*	25	29	14	4	0	**72**
Rape	4	58	123	259	0	**444**
Sexual Offences	77	197	234	25	0	**533**
Total	**124**	**314**	**385**	**297**	**28**	**1,148**

Figures include suspended sentences

* Other includes manslaughter

Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2018
The Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2018 gives effect to provisions of Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA. The Courts Service commenced the collection of statistical information in compliance with section 30 of the Act during 2019.

Criminal Justice (Victims of Crime) Act 2018		
Evidence given by videolink	**Evidence given behind a screen**	**Intermediaries used**
37	1	30

Court Of Appeal

Court of Appeal: Civil

The Court of Appeal is the final court of appeal in Civil and Criminal matters, save in respect of those cases where the Supreme Court grants leave to appeal either from the Court of Appeal or directly to it, pursuant to Article 34.5.4 of the Constitution. All orders of the High Court are appealable to the Court of Appeal. In Civil proceedings, the Court of Appeal hears appeals from the High Court and determines questions of law referenced to it by the Circuit Court, the High Court or the Military Judge, hear courts-martial (cases stated). The number of cases resolved almost matched the number of incoming cases.

The appeals are managed at a weekly Directions List to ensure that appeals are properly prepared and are given a timely date for hearing. The time between lodging an appeal and the hearing of an appeal continues to decrease, and most appeals can be heard within six months of the filing of a Notice of Appeal. The number of appeals issued increased in 2025.

In 2025, a new case-management system was introduced in the Court of Appeal (Civil). To ensure consistency and comparability, the 2024 igures were also reviewed and adjusted.

New appeals

New Appeals : Court Of Appeal			
Incoming 2025	**Incoming 2024**	**Resolved 2025**	**Resolved 2024**
319	294	311	371

New Appeals : Court Of Appeal				
Case type	**Incoming 2025**	**Resolved 2025**		
		In Court		**Out of Court**
		Determined	**Withdrawn**	**Withdrawn**
Article 40/ Habeas Corpus	6	4	1	0
Bail	11	5	0	0
Chancery	57	47	4	1
Commercial	10	15	4	0
Company	1	2	0	0
Constitution	0	0	0	0
Contract	0	0	0	0
Criminal*	8	13	1	0
Extradition	7	2	1	0
Family	13	12	1	0
Insolvency (Corporate)	0	0	0	0
Insolvency (Personal)	1	0	0	0
Judicial Review (asylum-related)	22	14	3	0
Judicial Review (other)	45	42	4	1
Personal injury	18	17	2	1
Plenary	74	52	0	1
Proceeds of Crime Act	4	6	0	0
Security for costs	0	0	0	0
Summary judgment	20	17	2	0
Other	22	31	3	2
Total	**319**	**279**	**26**	**6**

*Criminal refers to Judicial Review cases where the original case was a criminal matter.

2. Cases stated

Cases Stated : Court Of Appeal		
	Received	**Orders made**
Circuit Court to Court of Appeal	0	1
High Court to Court of Appeal	1	1
Military Judge to Court of Appeal	0	0
Total	**1**	**2**

3. Additional matters

Additional Matters : Court Of Appeal		
	2025	**2024**
Motions listed before the Court	103	106
Appeals from appellants in person	135 (42%)	99 (34%)
Written judgments delivered	272	309
Length of appeal hearing:		
• One day or less	219	344
• Two days or more	41	14

Court of Appeal: Criminal

The Court of Appeal deals with appeals from the Circuit Criminal Courts, Central Criminal Court and Special Criminal Court. During 2025 the Court aligned the process of allocating Hearing dates with that of the Civil list and criminal appeals are managed at a weekly Directions List to ensure that appeals are properly prepared and are given a timely date for hearing and to ensure that cases are dealt with as efficiently as possible. Civil appeals with a custody/criminal element (bail/Article 40/habeas corpus, judicial review and extradition) and Appeals from a Military Judge were accommodated as required without impacting on the waiting time for criminal appeals.

There were 312 appeals issued in respect of 2,424 offences lodged in the Court of Appeal (Criminal) in 2025. This compares to 341 appeals in respect of 3,194 offences lodged in 2024 marking decrease year on year but similar to 2023 figures. The Court disposed of 247 appeals in respect of 2,568 offences (269 appeals in respect of 2,014 offences in 2024).

Court Of Appeal: Appeals: Criminal Case					
Incoming		Resolved			
2025	2024	2025		2024	
		In Court	Out of Court	In Court	Out of Court
312	341	216	31	233	36

Court of origin	Appeals	
	2025	2024
Central Criminal Court	81	84
Circuit Criminal Court	219	252
Court Martial	2	0
Special Criminal Court	10	5
Total	**312**	**341**

Appeals: Outcomes					
Court of origin	Conviction	Sentence (severity)	Sentence (leniency)	Other	Total
Central Criminal Court	40	14	4	2	**60**
Circuit Criminal Court	30	112	36	2	**180**
Court Martial	1	0	0	0	**1**
Special Criminal Court	6	0	0	0	**6**
Total	**77**	**126**	**40**	**4**	**247**

Appeals - Incoming (By Court Of Origin) : Court Of Appeal				
Categories (by offence)	**Incoming**			**Total**
	Central Criminal Court	Circuit Criminal Court	Special Criminal Court	
Assault	24	125	0	**149**
Criminal Damage	0	0	0	**0**
Drugs/Misuse of Drugs	1	179	10	**190**
Firearms/weapon/possession of explosives/ ammunition	3	81	24	**108**
Manslaughter	0	0	0	**0**
Murder	26	0	2	**28**
Public Order	0	37	1	**38**
Rape	296	8	0	**304**
Road Traffic	0	63	0	**63**
Sexual Offences	294	580	0	**874**
Theft/Fraud/Robbery	1	319	0	**320**
Other	30	311	9	**350**
Total	**675**	**1,703**	**46**	**2,424**

Appeals : Outcomes : Court Of Appeal				
Categories (by offence)	**Resolved**			**Total**
	Central Criminal Court	Circuit Criminal Court	Special Criminal Court	
Assault	19	147	0	**166**
Drugs/Misuse of Drugs	0	100	0	**100**
Firearms/weapon/possession of explosives/ammunition	12	48	2	**62**
Manslaughter	0	0	0	**0**
Murder	11	0	3	**14**
Public Order	1	26	0	**27**
Rape	285	2	0	**287**
Road Traffic	0	93	0	**93**
Sexual Offences	370	705	0	**1,075**
Theft/Fraud/Robbery	5	187	1	**193**
Other	33	513	5	**551**
Total	**736**	**1,821**	**11**	**2,568**

Appeals: Resolved (By Offence) Court of Appeal								
Categories (by offence)	**Resolved**							
	Conviction	Sentence (severity)	Conviction and Sentence	Sentence (leniency)	DPP (dismissal)	MC*	Other	**Total**
Assault	6	119	27	14	0	0	0	**166**
Drugs/ Misuse of Drugs	3	72	8	13	0	0	4	**100**
Firearms/ weapon/ possession of explosives/ ammunition	3	44	4	11	0	0	0	**62**
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
Murder	10	2	1	0	0	0	1	**14**
Public Order	2	19	4	2	0	0	0	**27**
Rape	145	17	62	59	0	0	4	**287**
Road Traffic	0	36	3	54	0	0	0	**93**
Sexual Offences	216	520	141	198	0	0	0	**1,075**
Theft/Fraud/ Robbery	3	128	28	34	0	0	0	**193**
Other	10	439	56	43	0	0	3	**551**
Total	**398**	**1,396**	**334**	**428**	**0**	**0**	**12**	**2,568**

* miscarriage of justice

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the court of final appeal in civil and criminal matters. Appeals may be made only where the court grants permission in limited circumstances as set out in the Constitution. The court therefore concentrates on cases raising important constitutional and legal questions that have far reaching consequences for individuals and have systemic implications for the administration of justice as a whole.

The 2025 year-end position has seen a decrease of 8% in the number of applications for Leave to Appeal filed when compared to 2024. The number of applications for Leave to Appeal determined in 2025 is similarly 8% lower than in 2024. The number of incoming appeals was down 6% on 2024, with the number of appeals resolved decreasing by 23%. In 2025, there was a 25% increase in the number of appeals requiring a hearing of two days or more. These appeals represented 20% of appeals in 2025 compared with 16% of appeals in 2024. Currently litigants at final appellate level where Leave to Appeal has been granted can expect a hearing date within approximately 15 weeks. The Court has no backlog of appeals awaiting a hearing date other than the necessary time required to fulfil the procedural steps prior to hearing.

Origin Of Applications For Leave To Appeal

	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
High Court to Supreme Court	70	68	72	82
Court of Appeal to Supreme Court	97	114	98	101
Total	**167**	**182**	**170**	**183**

Supreme Court: Overview: Applications for Leave

	Incoming	Resolved
Civil	149	144
Criminal	18	26
Total	**167**	**170**

Supreme Court: Appeals

	Incoming		Resolved	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Appeals	46	49	43	56

	Incoming	Resolved
Civil	36	26
Criminal	10	17
Total	**46**	**43**

Supreme Court: Total (Leave to Appeal and Appeals)		
	Incoming	**Resolved**
Civil	185	170
Criminal	28	43
Total	**213**	**213**

Other Matters : Supreme Court	2025	2024
Motions listed before the court	7	4
Reserved judgments delivered	80	93
Applications for Leave to Appeal from appellants in person	77	61
• One day or less	36	39
• Two days or more	10	8
Commissioners for Oaths appointed	20	19
Notaries Public appointed	8	3

Case analysis

Median number of days from issue to disposal. Note, this includes weekends, bank holidays and holiday periods. The median is considered a better measure of the length of proceedings in the High Court as it is not skewed by exceptionally high or low values.

Extradition proceedings can appear lengthy because a significant period may elapse between the endorsement of the relevant arrest warrant and the arrest of the individual sought by the requesting jurisdiction. Excluding this delay, the average duration of proceedings would be approximately 58 days. This factor is particularly affecting the extradition figures reported for 2025.

Median length of proceedings - first instance courts

Family: District Court: Median Length In Days			
	2025	**2024**	**2023**
All	91	84	98

Median Duration of Proceedings counts the number of days between the date of application lodged to the date of application resolved.

Family: Circuit Court: Median Length In Days			
	2025	**2024**	**2023**
All	315	301	308

Duration of Proceedings refers to the median time from date of issue to the final order on cases. Divorce cases make up the vast majority of Circuit Family.

Criminal: District Criminal: Median Length In Days					
Summary		**Indictable dealt with summarily**		**Return for trial**	
2025	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**	**2025**	**2024**
182	206	245	258	81	80

Note: Previously calculated as 'average', now 'median'. Summary: time from issue of summons to disposal of offence in the District Court

Indictable dealt with summarily: time from lodgement of charge sheet to disposal of offence in the District Court

Return for trial: time from lodgement of charge sheet to transfer of offence to higher court for trial.

Circuit Court: Criminal - Median Length In Days *		
	2025	**2024**
All	379	452

* time from receipt of return for trial in Circuit Court to final Order

Note: Previously calculated as 'average', now 'median'.

High Court Civil : In Days - From Issue To Disposal		
	High Court	
	2025	**2024**
All	566	630
Asylum	246	224
Bail	13	20
Chancery	413	419
Extradition*	138	46
Family	135	107
Judicial Review	231	151
Personal Injury	1,121	1,191

Median number of days from issue to disposal. Note, this includes weekends, bank holidays and holiday periods.

*Note, Extradition proceedings appear lengthy because a period may elapse between the endorsement of the arrest warrant and the arrest of the individual. This factor is particularly affecting the extradition figures for 2025.

Central Criminal Court: Criminal - Median Length In Days *		
	2025	2024
All	506	735

* time from receipt of return for trial to final Order

Note: Previously calculated as 'average', now 'median'.

Special Criminal Court: Criminal – Median Length In Days *		
	2025	2024
All	297	257

* time from receipt of charge sheet to final order

Note: Previously calculated as 'average', now 'median'.

Median length of proceedings (in days) (from issue to disposal) (second instance courts)

Court Of Appeal: Civil Appeals - Median Length In Days *		
	2025	2024
All (new appeals only)	193	182

* Median time from issue of notice of appeal to final order

Note: Previously calculated as 'average', now 'median'.

Court Of Appeal - Criminal Appeals - Median Length In Days *		
	2025	2024
All	262	246

* Median time from issue of notice of appeal to final order)

Note: Previously calculated as 'average', now 'median'.

Median length of proceedings (in weeks) from issue to disposal

Supreme Court	2025	2024
Application for Leave Determined (issue to determination date)	12	12
Application for Leave Determined (from papers being ready to determination)	2.5	2.5
Appeals (from grant of leave to case disposal)	49	53

Waiting times

District Court – criminal, civil and family

Criminal: Waiting Time

Summons:

The time from receipt of summons application to scheduled date for hearing. There is an agreement with An Garda Síochána as part of Criminal Justice Interoperability Project that a period of 12-14 weeks will be allowed between the issuing of a summons and the first court date to allow time for service of the summons. The waiting times for criminal summonses generally reflect this agreement. Summonses may not be disposed on the first scheduled hearing date.

Charge sheets:

The time from receipt of a charge sheet to the first court date. Charge sheet cases are initially listed before the court usually within a day of the person being charged by An Garda Síochána. The first listing may not be the date of the hearing of the matter as the court may adjourn/ postpone the hearing for a variety of reasons. The time between the first appearance before the court and the final disposal of the case is outside the control of the Courts Service, but details are provided here.

Civil: Waiting Time

Applications:

The time from receipt of application to date when application is listed for hearing. This may not be the date that the matter is disposed of. A waiting time of up to 12 weeks is maintained in most offices with no waiting times of more than 6 months in recent years.

Family : Waiting Time

Applications:

The time from receipt of application to date when application is listed for hearing. This may not be the date that the matter is disposed of. Emergency domestic violence applications are dealt with on the date of first application to the court. In the majority of District Court Districts, waiting time for the hearing of these applications have not increased despite an ongoing increase in the volume and complexity of cases. Cases are listed for hearing in most instances within four to eight weeks of the date of the initial application.

In a change to the 2024 Annual Report, the figures for 2025 are an average of the waiting times across the year. Previously, it was the figure at the end of the year.

District Court: Waiting Processing Times Shown In Weeks
(average of times across the year)

Office	Family Law				Civil	Criminal	
	Child care	Domestic Violence	Guardianship	Maintenance	Civil Applications	Adult Charge Sheets	Adult Summonses
Athlone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballina	21	5	12	15	8	40	18
Blanchardstown	0	0	0	0	7	51	35
Bray	17	13	15	15	20	21	5
Carlow	72	18	18	20	20	16	7
Carrick-on-Shannon	1	9	17	19	14	25	18
Castlebar	98	15	15	15	8	14	7
Cavan	32	13	11	8	12	13	7
Clonakilty	1	3	8	9	7	22	7
Clonmel	13	5	7	4	8	11	4
Cork	4	13	15	9	11	14	4
Donegal	34	6	10	36	8	24	20
* Dublin	14	11	12	12	12	25	57
Dun Laoghaire	0	0	0	0	10	33	0
Dundalk	68	10	11	13	4	35	0
Ennis	7	15	12	2	12	11	4
Galway	0	15	20	18	10	23	0
Kilkenny	0	12	13	15	8	11	0
Letterkenny	57	13	35	17	8	56	33
Limerick	9	5	7	14	16	19	4
Longford	24	10	9	6	13	24	4
Loughrea	28	10	4	12	12	13	4
Mallow	14	12	22	28	10	13	0
Monaghan	100	16	2	5	4	21	13
Mullingar	81	5	7	14	0	21	7
Naas	22	36	15	27	14	22	8
Nenagh	57	10	7	9	20	23	0
Portlaoise	54	9	11	9	8	30	6
Roscommon	115	14	8	14	4	16	1
Sligo	0	21	34	65	8	16	24
Swords	0	9	11	14	4	23	23

District Court: Waiting Processing Times Shown In Weeks
(average of times across the year)

Office	Family Law				Civil	Criminal	
	Child care	Domestic Violence	Guardianship	Maintenance	Civil Applications	Adult Charge Sheets	Adult Summonses
Thurles	0	0	0	0	16	25	6
Tralee	11	8	19	7	20	10	9
Trim	35	13	12	16	5	13	5
Tullamore	0	15	30	86	12	12	0
Waterford	2	9	5	6	10	18	4
Wexford	98	14	7	6	14	26	10
Youghal	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

(1) The data contains a mixture of average and median values. Median values are being used for District Family and District Criminal and average values for District Civil. Please note the long-term direction is to transition to median values.

(2) Family Duration of Proceedings values are the median time (counted in weeks) from the Date the Application is lodged until the Court Date when the application was granted or refused (completed).

(3) Civil Applications is defined as the time from receipt of application to date when application is listed for hearing.

(4) Criminal Duration of Proceedings is defined as the date of the first hearing on an offence to the date of the Final Order (when the offence is resolved). The category "Adult" also includes "Company", but this is a very small number. The category "Summons" includes summons "Reissues".

Circuit Court – criminal, civil and family

Criminal

Waiting times for criminal cases vary, depending on whether the accused is on bail or in custody; on whether the plea is 'guilty' or 'not guilty'; on whether the trial is scheduled to last two days or two weeks. In most Circuit Courts outside Dublin, the majority of guilty pleas will be dealt with at the next criminal session – making the waiting time approximately three months. Defendants who are in custody take precedence so their trials are dealt with first, followed by trials of those who are on bail.

Waiting times in Dublin Circuit Court have been impacted in recent years by the number of so-called 'white collar' cases taken by the State in the wake of the financial collapse that followed the global recession in 2008. The complicated nature of the evidence in these cases together with the number of witnesses called and the additional legal argument required has lengthened the trials with a resulting impact on the number of trial courts available for other cases.

Measures introduced to address this situation include the allocation of the additional judges (subject to the availability of courtrooms) and the listing of only one long trial at any one time.

Nature Of Matter	Waiting Time
Trials	The time from receipt of return for trial to hearing date of trial
Sentences	The time from receipt of return for trial to sentence hearing (where plea of guilty entered)
Appeals	The time from receipt of District Court appeal to date of appeal hearing

Civil

Waiting times for civil cases vary with precedence given to criminal and family law cases where resources are limited. The nature of civil business has changed in recent years with fewer short cases and an increase in longer contested cases. Waiting times for longer cases tend to be longer than for so-called 'ordinary' cases and can distort waiting times. Some longer cases are dealt with by the allocation of additional sittings to the circuit.

Nature Of Matter	Waiting Time
Trials	The time from receipt of notice of trial to hearing date
Appeals	The time from receipt of District Court appeal to date of appeal hearing

Family

Waiting times are generally less than those for civil cases due to the priority afforded to family law cases. In most circuits, consent matters are heard in the 'next session' (a waiting time of three months or less). Additional sittings are arranged for long cases.

Nature Of Matter	Waiting Time
Cases	The time from receipt of notice of trial/notice of motion to hearing date
Appeals	The time from receipt of District Court appeal to date of appeal hearing

In a change to the 2024 Annual Report, the figures for 2025 are an average of the waiting times across the year. Previously, it was the figure at the end of the year.

Circuit Court: Waiting Processing Times Shown In Weeks (average of times across the year)						
Office	Civil			Criminal		
	Family Law Matters	Trials	Appeals	Trials	Sentences	Appeals
Carlow	47	25	25	32	20	32
Carrick-on-Shannon	36	65	38	117	65	65
Castlebar	63	20	20	42	24	24
Cavan	40	24	24	52	12	12
Clonmel	49	35	20	70	22	30
Cork	37	30	24	12	12	13
Dublin	36	14	14	43	8	18
Dundalk	66	8	8	100	32	8
Ennis	62	20	20	59	48	19
Galway	38	30	26	88	36	26
Kilkenny	37	12	12	24	16	8
Letterkenny	41	104	52	104	48	48
Limerick	74	30	16	45	15	8
Longford	31	39	10	126	13	19
Monaghan	43	12	12	104	52	36
Mullingar	6	0	0	0	0	0
Naas	48	73	15	52	40	26
Portlaoise	32	20	8	90	52	26
Roscommon	55	24	9	104	10	10
Sligo	55	9	9	108	30	9
Tralee	80	24	24	52	8	8
Trim	50	11	11	54	16	16
Tullamore	36	48	16	48	24	16
Waterford	50	16	16	44	45	19
Wexford	55	28	20	80	14	12
Wicklow	60	39	20	70	61	20

(1) The data contains a mixture of average and median values. Median values are being used for Circuit Family and average values for Circuit Civil and Circuit Criminal.

(2) Family Duration of Proceedings is a new metric for Circuit Family - it refers to the median time from date of issue to the final order on cases. Family Law matters relate to all Circuit Family matters including Divorce, Marriage Exemption, Judicial Separation, Co-habitation and others.

(3) Civil Appeals is defined as from Receipt of District Court Appeal to Date of the Appeal Hearing. Civil Trials is defined as from Receipt of Notice off Trial to Hearing Date of the Trial.

(4) Criminal Appeals is defined as from Receipt of District Court Appeal to Date of Appeal Hearing. Criminal Trials is defined as from Receipt of Return For Trial to Hearing Date of Trial. And Criminal Sentences is defined as from Receipt of Return For Trial to Sentence Hearing (where a Guilty Plea has been entered).

High Court – civil and family

High Court: Personal Injury		
Waiting time: Dublin		
The High Court tries personal injury cases in Dublin every week during court sittings. Cases that are ready for hearing can obtain a date within six weeks		
Waiting time in other venues		
The High Court tries personal injury cases for a limited number of weeks in each of the venues below. The time from when a case is set down for trial to the date on which it is listed in the selected venue is shown below for each venue		
Venue	**2025**	**2024**
Dublin	4 weeks	4 weeks
Cork	4 weeks	4 weeks
Dundalk	4 weeks	4 weeks
Galway	4 weeks	4 weeks
Kilkenny/Waterford	4 weeks	4 weeks
Limerick	25 weeks	50 weeks
Sligo	4 weeks	4 weeks

High Court: Insolvency (Corporate)			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Applications to appoint examiner	The time from the issue of a petition to the allocation of the first return date before the High Court	Date immediately available	Date immediately available
Applications to wind up company	The time from the issue of a petition to the allocation of the first return date before the High Court	3 weeks	2 weeks

High Court: Other Corporate Applications			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Restrict directors	The time from the issue of a Notice of Motion to the first return date before the High Court	4 weeks	4 weeks

High Court: Insolvency (Personal)			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Applications to issue summons	The time from the issue of a summons/ petition to the first return date before the High Court	2 weeks	2 weeks
Applications for adjudication	The time from the issue of a summons/ petition to the first return date before the High Court	2 weeks	2 weeks

High Court: Commercial List (Proceedings Defined In Order 63a Rule 1 Rules Of The Superior Courts)			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Liberty to enter list (motion)	The time from the issue of a summons to the first return date before the High Court	Date immediately available	Date immediately available

High Court: Competition List			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Monday motion list	The time from the issue of a Notice of Motion to the first return date before the High Court	3 weeks	2 weeks

High Court: Chancery			
Chancery matters commenced by plenary summons or special summons (including injunction applications, company law matters, specific performance/rescission of contracts, administration of estates of deceased persons, trust actions).			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Monday motion list	The time from the issue of a Notice of Motion to the first return date before the High Court *	3 weeks	2 weeks
Hearing of certified cases	The time from when a case is certified ready for hearing to the allocation of the first date for hearing before the High Court	14 weeks	7 weeks
Special summonses (Master's Court)	The time from the issue of a summons to the first return date before the Master of the High Court	3 weeks	6 weeks
Special summonses (High Court)	The time from the date of transfer from the Master's Court to the first return date before the High Court	3 weeks	3 weeks

* Average waiting time for Chancery 1 and Chancery 2 Motions

High Court: Possession			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Special summons for possession	The time from the issue of a summons to the first return date before the Master of the High Court	7 weeks	6 weeks
Full hearing	The time from the date of transfer from the Master's Court to the first return date before the High Court	3 weeks	2 weeks

High Court: Mortgage Suits			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Special summons for well charging order	The time from the issue of a summons to the first return date before the Master of the High Court	4 weeks	6 weeks
Full hearing	The time from the date of transfer from the Master's Court to the first return date before the High Court	2 weeks	2 weeks

High Court: Non-Jury (Breach Of Contract, Professional Negligence, Debt Collection)			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Miscellaneous (motions that require more time than they can be given in the Monday list)	The time between listing in the common law list and hearing in the non-jury List	4 weeks	4 weeks
Full hearing	The time from when a case is certified ready for hearing to the allocation of the first date for hearing before the High Court	12 weeks	14 weeks

High Court: Appeals From The Circuit Court			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Full hearing - cases less than 1 hour in duration	The time from the lodgement of the books of appeal to the allocation of the first date for hearing before the High Court.	4 weeks	4 weeks

High Court: Judicial Review: Asylum-Related		
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	
	2025	**2024**
Pre-leave	5 weeks	6 weeks
Post-leave	2 weeks	Date immediately available

High Court: Judicial Review: Other		
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	
	2025	**2024**
Pre-leave	4 weeks	4 weeks
Post-leave	10 weeks	7 weeks

High Court: Jury (Defamation; False Imprisonment; Assault)		
Waiting time	**2025**	**2024**
The time from when a case is certified ready for hearing to the allocation of the first date for hearing before the High Court	12 weeks	17 weeks

High Court: Garda Compensation Act			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Full hearing	The time from the date of transfer from the Master's Court to the first return date before the High Court	18 weeks	12 weeks

High Court: Proceeds Of Crime Act		
Waiting time	**2025**	**2024**
The time from receipt of application to hearing	Date immediately available	Date immediately available

High Court: Master's Court			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Motions	The time from the issue of a Notice of Motion to the first return date before the Master	9 weeks	11 weeks

High Court: Common Law Motions		
Waiting time	**2025**	**2024**
The time from the issue of a Notice of Motion to the first return date before the High Court	12 weeks	13 weeks

High Court: Family		
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	
	2025	**2024**
Urgent applications	1 week	1 week
Non-contested cases	2 weeks	2 weeks
Contested cases	11 weeks	11 weeks
Applications under Hague Luxembourg Convention	Date immediately available	Date immediately available
Appeals from Circuit Court	10 weeks	10 weeks

High Court: Extradition			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Full Hearing	The time from application to the substantive hearing in the High Court.	3 weeks	3 weeks

High Court: Professional Disciplinary			
Nature of application	**Waiting time**	**2025**	**2024**
Ex Parte Applications	Ex parte applications are heard on request.	0 weeks	0 weeks
Full Hearing	The time from the completion of case management until full hearing in the High Court	12 weeks	13 weeks

High Court – Criminal

Change to this table from previous years to add clarity and better demonstrate the waiting times.

Central Criminal Court – Waiting Times (Weeks)		
	2025	**2024**
Priority/Custody cases	28	44
Bail Cases	41	49
Juvenile/Priority	16	24

Priority/Custody refers to cases that are considered urgent (for example, where juveniles are involved) or where the accused is in custody thereby considered a priority as they are being denied liberty.

Bail refers to cases where the accused is on bail, and do not have their liberty denied while awaiting trial.

Juvenile/Priority was added as a new metric in 2024.

Court Of Appeal - Civil

Waiting time:		
The time from when an appeal is entered into the court list to the date of hearing		
	2025	**2024**
Appeals*	18 weeks	22 weeks
Fast tracked short appeals**	3 weeks	3 weeks

* appeals requiring more than two hours

**depends on time available

Court Of Appeal - Criminal

Waiting time:		
The time from when an appeal is entered into the court list to the date of hearing		
	2025	**2024**
Appeals	18 Weeks	22 weeks
Article 40/habeas corpus appeals	2 Weeks	1 week
European Arrest Warrant / Judicial Review appeals	5 Weeks	5 weeks

Median length of proceedings at the Supreme Court are available on Page 119.

4 Governance and Transparency

About this chapter

In this chapter we explain how we manage our governance and report across the organisation, the Courts Service Board, and its various Committees.

We also give updates on our:

- audit and assurance arrangements,
- requests for information,
- data protection,
- customer complaints and compliments, and
- our Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty.

Governance standards and practices

The Courts Service has strong governance arrangements in place at organisational and Board level. These set out the rules and practices we follow to ensure:

- accountability,
- fairness, and
- transparency across organisational activities.

Under the Courts Service Act 1998, the Courts Service is a public body with our own Vote and Accounting Officer (the Chief Executive Officer). In addition to the Act, we base our governance on the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (CPGSB) and the Corporate Governance Standard for the Civil Service.

Our Governance Framework sets out the statutory (legal) basis for the organisation, in line with the codes above and our specific requirements. The Framework also provides information on:

- our organisational structure,
- the roles of the Board and its Committees,
- the roles and responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Management Team, and
- the governance and accountability/ assurance arrangements in place.

The effective operation of this Framework is essential for appropriate management and control. It also gives assurance to those we work with and report to such as:

- the Oireachtas,
- court users,
- the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration,
- the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation (DPEIPSRD),
- the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, amongst others.

Our governance arrangements use the principles developed by DPEIPSRD as a reference point, to ensure they are effective and robust.

Statement of Compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance. In 2025, we complied with the relevant provisions of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (August 2016). We also applied the Corporate Governance Standard for the Civil Service as is relevant to the organisation as a public body.

Where specific parts of these frameworks do not apply to the Courts Service, or need to be adapted because of legal provisions specific to the Courts Service, or where alternative arrangements meet the same governance objective, we:

- record the reasons, and
- agree them as part of our governance and oversight arrangements with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

We support compliance and good governance through:

- our Governance Framework,
- the work of the Board and its Committees, and
- our annual cycle of planning, risk management, and financial reporting, and
- internal audit and external audit.

Later in this chapter we summarise our main governance arrangements and disclosures for the year, including:

- Board and committee activity,
- procurement oversight, and
- audit and assurance arrangements.

The Statement of Internal Financial Control (SIFC) provided with the Appropriation Account (see Chapter 6) provides additional assurance on our internal financial control environment and our compliance with public financial procedures.

Oversight Agreement with the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

We have a three-year oversight agreement (2023-2025) with the Department, as required by the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. This is in line with best corporate governance practice.

This agreement is supported by Annual Performance Delivery Agreements, which recognise our role as an independent State body governed by our own Board. The agreements encompass all the legal and any other obligations which we face and aim to:

- enhance our working relationship with the Department,
- support us to carry out our functions, and
- provide the necessary accountability and oversight for the Minister.

Organisation Overview

The Courts Service Board

We are governed by the Courts Service Board (the Board) consisting of a chairperson, and 17 other members.

The Board:

- approves and oversees the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and other organisational policies,
- provides strategic direction to the executive,
- approves an annual corporate business plan which it reviews quarterly,
- approves our annual budget and monitors expenditure, and
- is responsible for Risk Management Policy, approving risk management appetite and monitoring risks.

The Board fulfils these responsibilities directly and through its committees.

Board members serve for a term of 3 years. The current Board has been in place since November 2023. Standing meeting agenda items include:

- minutes of meetings and reports from the Committees of the Board,
- financial reports,
- reports from the Chief Executive Officer, and
- reports from the Chief Risk Officer and Head of Corporate Services.

The Board approves proposals for contracts and arrangements, including the acquisition or disposal of any interest in land or property in addition to leases for periods more than 4 years and 9 months, irrespective of value. The Board also approves:

- contracts with a value more than €5m for Goods and Services, and
- consultancy contracts more than €500,000.

In 2025 the Board considered or approved our:

Corporate Business Plan 2025
Annual Budget 2025
Annual return to Minister for Justice under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

In 2025, the Board considered and approved 1 contract for consultancy in excess of €500,000.

Disclosures of Conflict of Interest & Declaration of Interest

As part of good governance, before the Board or its committees consider any procurement proposals, the chairperson asks members to step out of discussions if they believe they have a conflict of interest. The minutes record any such declarations or abstentions.

In line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies, Board members also make periodic disclosure of interests which they, or a family member, may hold that could represent a conflict of interest for them as a Board member.

Board Meetings

The Board meets regularly and receives reports from the Chief Executive Officer on:

- how the organisation is working,
- how Board policy and the annual Corporate Business Plan are implemented,
- expenditure and budgets, and
- other relevant issues and/or developments.

The Board receives regular reports on the implementation of an effective risk management system.

In 2025, the Board monitored progress on the implementation of the Courts Service Strategic Vision 2030; and on progress being made towards the development of the Dublin Family Law Complex.

In 2025, the Board met 8 times with an overall attendance rate of 89%. Meetings happened on 27 January, 24 February, 7 April, 26 May, 21 July, 25 September, 3 November, 15 December. Information on individual attendance at Board meetings is listed at the end of this chapter.

Five committees supported the Board in its work in 2025:

- the Finance Committee,
- the Audit and Risk Committee,
- the Building Committee,
- the Modernisation Committee, and
- the Family Law Court Development Committee.

(See Chapter 1: About the Courts Service for membership details).

Committees meet regularly, in advance of, and close to, the date of Board meetings where possible, to allow any issues to be brought to the attention of the Board without any undue delay.

Meetings of Committees of the Board 2025:

Audit and Risk Committee	29 January, 10 February, 5 March, 24 March, 7 May, 21 July, 13 October, 1 December
Building Committee	20 February, 27 March, 14 May, 10 July, 29 October, 27 November
Family Law Court Development Committee	13 January, 3 March, 14 April, 9 June, 27 September, 11 November
Finance Committee	17 February, 24 March, 30 June, 20 October, 25 September, 8 December
Modernisation Committee	5 February, 26 March, 7 May, 23 July, 22 October, 10 December

Board members, other than the Judiciary and serving public servants are paid an annual fee of €11,970. They can also claim travel and subsistence expenses in line with rates set by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation.

Minutes of meetings of the Board, are published on our website **courts.ie**.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for managing the organisation on a day-to-day basis and for implementing policies approved by the Board. The CEO prepares an annual budget, with support from the Senior Management Team. The annual budget is approved by both the Finance Committee and the Board. The CEO regularly updates the Board and committees, on:

- how the organisation is being managed,
- how policies are being implemented, and
- progress of the Strategic Plan and the modernisation agenda.

Each year, the CEO provides an Annual Report on behalf of the Board to the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, which is required by the Courts Service Act 1998 and is in line with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (the Code). This report provides assurance that the organisation has proper governance and internal controls in place. It also confirms that we comply with the Code, where relevant, including:

- appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, travel,
- procurement, and asset disposals,
- inclusion of a Statement of Internal Control,
- adherence to Codes of Business Conduct for Board members and employees,
- compliance with Government guidelines on the payment of Board members' fees, and
- provision of a draft strategic plan to the relevant Minister prior to the plan being finalised and adopted by the Board.

The Department sends the Annual Report to be laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Appropriation Account

As Accounting Officer, the CEO is responsible for signing the organisation's annual Appropriation Account with a Statement of Internal Financial Controls, providing assurance on the internal financial controls in place across the organisation.

The Appropriation Account is the annual financial account of the funding the Courts Service receives from the Oireachtas and any income we collect or receive. The Appropriation Account is sent to the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) on or before 31 March each year for auditing and publishing. The Accounting Officer may have to attend the Public Accounts Committee to answer any questions they may have on the accounts and the Comptroller and Auditor General's audit report.

The financial results for the year are set out in Chapter 6.

Internal Control

The Board is responsible for overseeing the internal financial control of the organisation. It delegates responsibility to the Audit and Risk Committee for monitoring the effectiveness of risk management and the internal controls in place.

The Committee receives regular reports from:

- management,
- the Chief Risk Officer,
- Internal Audit, and
- external auditors.

These arrangements are designed to manage risk rather than eliminate the risks facing the organisation.

As part of the annual Appropriation Accounts the Accounting Officer (CEO) signs a Statement of Internal Financial Control. This statement provides details of the internal control environment within the organisation, including:

- the financial control environment,
- the framework of administration,
- management reporting, and
- internal control.

As part of the statement, the Accounting Officer also confirms that the Courts Service:

- complies with procurement guidelines,
- has an Audit and Risk Committee, and
- has Internal Audit function.

Shared Services

Some of our financial and HR transactions are carried out on our behalf by Shared Services centres:

- The National Shared Services Office (NSSO) provides services such as payroll, travel and subsistence and human resource services.
- The Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC), Killarney provides us with financial and accounting services and other ancillary activities.

Each year the Accounting Officers for both the NSSO and the FMSSC provide written assurance that their internal control systems are working properly. This assurance is given to the Courts Service's Accounting Officer as part of the Appropriation Account process to enable the Accounting Officer to sign the Statement of Internal Financial Control.

Reporting

In the case of internal controls, systems can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. Breaches of control, in particular instances of fraud or irregularity, must be brought to the attention of the Comptroller and Auditor General in accordance with public financial procedures. We have a policy statement on the prevention and detection of fraud and all cases, irrespective of value, being reported to:

- the Head of Corporate Services,
- the Senior Management Team,
- the Audit and Risk Committee, and
- An Garda Síochána.

Financial Management

We are represented on the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration Financial Management Committee as part of the governance arrangement for budget management within the justice sector. The Committee is comprised of representatives from, amongst others, the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, An Garda Síochána, the Prison Service and the Courts Service. It provides for a further level of assurance to the Department regarding:

- vote management,
- adherence to Government financial guidelines, and
- ensuring that value for money is achieved in the expenditure of public funds.

Budget Management

The Chief Executive Officer and the Senior Management Team prepare an annual budget based on the funding allocation contained in the annual Estimates approved by the Oireachtas. The Finance Committee recommends the annual budget for approval by the Board. Day-to-day responsibility for managing expenditure within budgetary limits is assigned to the Assistant Secretaries responsible for each Directorate. Budgets are monitored closely with monthly reports furnished to the Senior Management Team. Quarterly financial reports are submitted to the Finance Committee and the Board.

Performance budgeting

Performance budgeting forms part of the published Estimates and attempts to link funding provided to measurable results. We comply with the performance budgeting format which identifies key outputs, context, and impact indicators. The expanded performance budgeting targets for 2025 were set out in the Revised Estimates Volume.

Risk Management

The Board has overall responsibility for overseeing the management of risk within the organisation. To support good governance, we have developed a risk management framework which clearly defines roles and responsibilities at the Board, Audit and Risk Committee, and at all levels of management.

The Board approves our Risk Management Policy, recognising that effective management of risk is the responsibility of all staff and seeking to promote a culture of risk management through the operation of a formal risk management framework. The Policy defines the risk appetite of the organisation. The Policy is supported by risk management guidelines aligned to the policy.

We have adopted key principles of the CPGSB and the Risk Management Guidance for Government Departments and Offices. The risk management framework and policy provide for a planned and systematic approach to identifying and managing a range of risk categories:

- Financial,
- Service Delivery,
- Buildings,
- ICT,
- People,
- Governance and compliance,
- Reform, and
- External Environment.

We operate in a complex and evolving environment, where a range of operational, financial and external factors can influence risk exposure. Within this context, risk management supports the organisation in responding to changing demands, sustaining core services, and progressing strategic priorities, while ensuring that appropriate controls and mitigations are in place.

The Chief Risk Officer is a member of the Senior Management Team and reports directly to the Audit and Risk Committee and the Board. Risks are identified at corporate and business unit level and managed accordingly by assigning responsibility to the relevant Directorate and office manager.

We maintain a Corporate Risk Register that is reviewed regularly by the Chief Executive Officer, Senior Management Team, Audit and Risk Committee, and the Board. The Corporate Risk Register is reviewed quarterly and refreshed annually.

We rate strategic risks based on their impact and likelihood of occurrence, with new and emerging risks being added as they arise. The Risk Register is linked to the annual business planning process and is a key document in enabling the organisation deal with the challenges it faces. It sets out the major risks we face together with existing controls and actions to mitigate against them.

It also identifies owners and target dates for completion. It also provides the context through which each Assistant Secretary prepares Risk Registers for their respective Directorates. In particular, we recognise the importance of cybersecurity and the impact an adverse ICT event could have on the operation of the courts. We continuously review our ICT security systems and processes, acting to further protect the organisation where appropriate.

Procurement

Procurement within the organisation complies with Office of Government Procurement public procurement guidelines for goods and services. We comply with the principle of competitive tendering in respect of expenditure on works, supplies and service contracts.

Responsibility for procurement is devolved to each Assistant Secretary for their Directorate, with the Corporate Services Directorate taking a lead coordination role in promoting awareness of obligations at both national and EU level. The Directorate monitors expenditure and maintains a contract register and an annual procurement plan, which is approved by the Senior Management Team.

We avail of centralised frameworks and contracts put in place by the Office of Government Procurement and continue to engage with the Office for advice on current and future procurement requirements.

Throughout 2025, we awarded a total of 19 contracts and Framework Agreements (FWA) with a multi-annual spend totalling €62.97m (excluding VAT). These contracts cover a range of services including but not limited to:

- provision of Integrated Framework for Application Support, Power Platform Services and ICT Consultancy totalling €47.35m or 75% of the contracts awarded,
- provision of Multi-disciplinary Design Services,
- provision of a Supply, Design and Installation of Office Furniture,
- provision of Media and Court Reporting Support Services,
- provision of ICT Systems and Services, and
- provision of a Learning Management System.

Protected Disclosures

The Board maintains a role in overseeing the operation of the organisation's policy under the Protected Disclosures (Amendment) Act 2022. The Courts Service Protected Disclosure Policy is published on **courts.ie**. No protected disclosures were received in 2025.

Audit and Assurance Arrangements

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee is chaired by a member of the Board and includes Judicial representatives from:

- the Court of Appeal,
- the Circuit Court, and
- the District Court.

It also includes members with significant business expertise and experience within the public and private sectorsThe Committee plays a fundamental role in advising the Board on the effectiveness of the organisation's systems of internal control, risk management, governance and financial reporting, and in supporting oversight of the Internal Audit function and the relationship with external audit. The Committee held 8 meetings in 2025 at which it reviewed and considered a wide range of reports including the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee 2024 and the Annual Report of the Internal Audit Unit for 2024.

Internal Audit Function

Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function. Their role is to provide assurance to the Board, Audit and Risk Committee, Chief Executive Officer and all levels of management as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the systems on governance, risk and internal controls operating within the organisation.

The Internal Audit unit operates in accordance with an audit charter approved by the Board and an annual audit plan approved by the Chief Executive Officer and the Audit and Risk Committee. In carrying out audits, the unit complies with the Institute of Internal Audit Standards, as adapted by the Department of Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation for use in Government Departments.

All audit reports are submitted directly to the Chief Executive Officer and to the Audit and Risk Committee who also receive periodic reports showing progress against the plan. By the end of the year, our Internal Audit unit had completed 17 audits and 9 audits were ongoing.

External audit

The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) performs the external audit of voted funds. The C&AG's authority extends to the audit of public funds and therefore does not include court funds managed by the Courts Service on behalf of Minors and Wards of Court.

The audit of court funds managed by the Accountant's Office to financial end of the year 30 September 2025 was carried out by external auditors, Forvis Mazars.

Requests for information

We continued to respond to requests for information from the public, government departments and parliamentary representatives during the year. We provided material for responses to 292 parliamentary questions tabled by members of the Oireachtas. Our Office of the Chief Executive Officer dealt with 72 letters from TDs and Senators and 1,060 pieces of correspondence from other government departments and members of the public.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

In 2025, we received 218 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Many of these requests related to personal information contained in court records, which are not covered by FOI legislation and access therefore had to be refused.

We continue to meet our legal obligations in relation to responding to FOI requests and maintaining a well-informed network of decision-makers and internal reviewers. The Freedom of Information Officer continues to participate in the FOI Public Service User Network.

FOI Requests and Decisions are outlined below:

Freedom of Information Requests 2025	
On hand 01/01/2025	3
Received	218
Dealt with	213
On hand 31/12/2025	8
Outcomes	
Access granted/part granted	59
Refused*	108
Transferred/withdrawn	34
Handled outside of FOI	11

*Includes access requests for court records which are exempt under Freedom of Information legislation (section 42 (a) (i) of the 2014 Act).

Data Protection

We process personal data in accordance with relevant data protection legislation. The Data Protection unit works with managers and staff to achieve full regulatory compliance by ensuring data protection is embedded into business practices from the outset. The Data Protection Officer participates in the Civil Service Data Protection Officer Network.

In 2025, the Data Protection unit dealt with 113 data subject access requests for personal data held on CCTV, personnel files, and other Courts Service records under Data Protection legislation.

In the case of personal data processed by or on behalf of a Court when acting in a judicial capacity, the data protection rights of data subjects are restricted in law to the extent that the restrictions safeguard judicial independence and court proceedings. Access requests for personal information held on the court record must be addressed to the relevant court office under the existing rules of Court.

Customer complaints and compliments

The Customer Comments Co-ordination Office, supported by Directorate Liaison Officers, manages formal complaints as well as compliments received from members of the public. It is important for the organisation to understand services that are valued and appreciated by our customers as well as services or actions that need to be improved. Feedback, both positive and negative, can provide unique insights into the standards of service being provided to court users.

Conduct or decisions about court business are matters for the Judiciary and are therefore not dealt with under the formal complaint procedure. We received 236 formal customer complaints and 9 compliments during 2025.

Business Continuity Planning

In 2025, the organisation continued to strengthen its Business Continuity Planning (BCP) to ensure resilience in service delivery and operational stability during any disruptions.

A Central Business Continuity Steering Committee has been established under a clear Terms of Reference to oversee the implementation of the Business Continuity Framework and to support the integration of business continuity practices across the organisation.

The Committee is responsible for the oversight, planning, approval, and review of all BCP activities, including regular testing and reporting. It coordinates BCP efforts across all business units and provides assurance on framework compliance to the Audit and Risk Committee and Senior Management Team, ensuring a robust and unified approach to continuity planning.

Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty

Section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 establishes a positive duty on public bodies to try to:

- eliminate discrimination,
- promote equality, and
- protect the human rights of staff and persons to whom services are provided.

We published our Public Sector Duty Action Plan 2024-2027 in April 2024. The goals of our plan include:

- embedding the culture underpinning the plan as part of the People and Organisation pillar of our Modernisation Programme,
- promoting awareness within the organisation of our core policies that relate to equality and human rights,
- developing a culture of human rights, equality and diversity,
- reviewing communications to the public and court users for accessibility,
- reflecting our commitment to diversity and inclusion in recruitment campaigns,
- ensuring that our new buildings are fully accessible to court users and reviewing physical access and signage of existing court buildings, and
- reviewing the accessibility of our website.

The equality, diversity and inclusion agenda in the organisation is being driven by our Inclusion Group. The group aims to ensure the organisation is not just compliant with equality and human rights legislation but that we change our work culture to achieve a diverse and inclusive work environment, protecting the human rights of staff and users.

Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

We are committed to meeting our obligations under the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 and to the provision of fully bilingual services to court users. We were in full compliance with both advert placement and expenditure requirements for this reporting period.

In July of 2025, we published our first Irish Language Strategy 2025 - 2028, representing a significant milestone and providing a structured roadmap for the development and growth of the Irish language throughout the organisation. This Strategy sets out a clear framework to:

- improve Irish language services,
- enhance organisational language competency, and
- promote a positive bilingual culture.

It focuses on 6 key priorities covering:

- compliance,
- training,
- recruitment,
- supporting the Judiciary,
- facilitating the use of Irish in court proceedings, and
- raising awareness.

These priorities recognise Irish as a core element of accessibility, equality and public service delivery within the courts system. We will continue to monitor and report on implementation annually, to ensure compliance, transparency and continuous improvement in the delivery of our Irish language services.

There were a number of other highlights achieved throughout the year relating to the Irish language. In September of 2025 we delivered our first course of the tailored Irish language training programme, called Legally Líofa, in Cork Court Office. The course focused on Irish language training for court registrars. Further courses for registrars and court office counter staff will be delivered as part of the Legally Líofa programme in 2026.

In November, we attended Oireachtas na Samhna for the first time, the largest annual celebration of the Irish language and culture. The focus was on sharing information about language rights in the courts system with the public.

Overall, we continued to progress our commitments in respect of the Irish language throughout the year. Implementation of the Irish Language Strategy for the Courts Service 2025 - 2028 will continue to be a top priority into the future.

Climate Action

The Government's Climate Action Plan sets out the mandatory requirement for all Public Sector Bodies within a section known as the Climate Action Mandate. The Mandate sets out requirements under 4 headings:

- Our Targets,
- Our People,
- Our Ways of Working, and
- Our Buildings and Vehicles.

It aims to support public sector bodies to lead by example on climate action and thereby inspire action in wider society. The Mandate requires every public body to publish a Climate Action Roadmap with details on actions planned under the 4 headings.

The Courts Service Climate Action Roadmap is a comprehensive document including narrative on our estate, our staff engagement and sustainability initiatives and the decarbonisation and energy efficiency projects required to achieve our 2030 targets. 2025 saw the publication and approval by the Senior Management Team and Board of our fourth Climate Action Roadmap, aligned with CAP25 (Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2025), publicly available on **courts.ie**. In line with requirements, our Climate Action Roadmap will be updated with each iteration of the national Climate Action Plans.

Board Meeting Attendance

Board member attendance at meetings in 2025

Name	Attendances
The Hon. Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne	6/6
The Hon. Ms Justice Aileen Donnelly	2/2
The Hon. Mr Justice Seamus Woulfe	6/8
The Hon. Ms Justice Caroline Costello	7/8
The Hon. Ms Justice Tara Burns	8/8
The Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville	7/8
The Hon. Mr Justice Tony O'Connor	7/8
The Hon. Ms Justice Patricia Ryan	8/8
His Honour Judge Keenan Johnson	5/8
His Honour Judge Paul Kelly	8/8
Judge Alan Mitchell	8/8
Ms Angela Denning	8/8
Ms Rachel Woods	7/8
Mr Stuart Gilhooly	8/8
Mr Derek Bunyan	8/8
Ms Sarah Benson	7/8
Mr Owen Reidy	5/8
Mr Noel Beecher	8/8
Mr Sean Guerin	6/8

5 Legislative Provisions

The implementation of new legislation impacting on criminal proceedings and civil actions can place significant demands on the resources of our organisation. We review the content of, and provide input into, proposed legislation to ascertain whether the provisions affect court operations or require new court procedures. Legislation in this context includes schemes of bills, bills, draft statutory instruments and draft EU legal instruments.

It is important that we are afforded the opportunity to assess the impact of proposed legislative initiatives at an early stage. This is particularly relevant in the context of the development of strategies across a range of areas including ICT, buildings and Human Resources. The following are examples of legislation, or proposed legislation, which impacted the work of the courts or the organisation or into which input was provided in 2025.

Health (Assisted Human Reproduction) Act 2024

This Act which was signed into law in July 2024 but has not yet commenced. It gives the Circuit Court jurisdiction to make Parental Orders for future surrogacy arrangements, both domestic and international. The High Court will have jurisdiction to make Parental Orders for past surrogacy arrangements, both domestic and international.

Planning and Development Act 2024

This Act was commenced in August 2025, updating and consolidating the planning and development regime. Sections 278 – 290 contain procedural changes for judicial review proceedings to which the Act applies.

Court Proceedings (Delays) Act 2024

This Act provides for a system to compensate litigants where there are unreasonable delays in court proceedings. A party can bring a claim to a Court Delay Assessor for determination as to whether there was undue delay in court proceedings. In certain circumstances a party may bring an application to the Circuit Court to review an Assessor's determination. We continue to provide observations on the legislation, which has not yet been commenced.

Family Courts Act 2024

This Act provides for family divisions of the first instance courts and for new rule-making provisions relating to family law proceedings. The Act also provides for the appointment of dedicated family court judges, including Principal Judges, for the District, Circuit and High Courts. This legislation has not yet been commenced.

Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2025

This Act was signed into law in December 2025 providing, inter alia, for an increase in the number of ordinary judges of:

- the Court of Appeal to 21,
- the High Court to 55,
- the Circuit Court to 51, and
- the District Court to 77.

The relevant sections are not yet commenced.

Digital Rules

Rules of the:

- Superior Courts (Digital), S.I. 13 of 2025,
- Circuit Court Rules (Digital) 2025, S.I. 217 of 2025, and
- District Court (Digital) Rules 2025, S.I. 218 of 2025,

which together facilitate the digitalisation of civil proceedings in all of the court jurisdictions had been adopted by the 3 rules committees in 2024. They were enacted in June 2025 following concurrence by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. These rules enable digital filing, issuing and service of documents and also provide for the making of a Statement of Truth in place of an affidavit in proceedings where digital filing is used. Providing for digitalisation of proceedings is a key part of the Courts Service Modernisation Programme, bringing more modern ways of working and transacting business to the administration of justice.

District Court Rules Committee Annual Report 2025

The rule making authority for the District Court is the District Court Rules Committee established under section 71 of the Courts of Justice Act, 1936. The Committee may annul or alter rules and make new rules with the concurrence of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Members of the Committee at 31 December 2025

- The President of the District Court, His Honour Judge Paul Kelly (Chairperson)
- Judge Anne Watkin, Judge of the District Court
- Judge Alan Mitchell, Judge of the District Court
- Judge Sandra Murphy, Judge of the District Court
- Judge Monika Leech, Judge of the District Court
- Ms Joyce Good Hammond, Solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- Ms Ann McGarry, Solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- Mr Eoin Martin, B.L., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- Ms Ciara McMahon, Chief State Solicitor's Office, appointed to act in place of the Attorney General under section 71(9)(c) of the Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Mr James Finn, Strategy and Reform Directorate, Courts Service, to whom membership has been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer under section 71(9)(b), Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Mr Eoin Manning, District Court Clerk, Dublin Metropolitan District Court, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service under section 71(3)(d) of the Courts of Justice act 1936, as amended

Secretary: Elaine Ellard, Strategy and Reform Directorate, Courts Service.

Drafting Services: Mr Sean Barton of McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors.

The Committee held 5 hybrid meetings during 2025. The following Rules of the District Court were signed by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025, with the exception of SI No. 692 of 2025 which did not require the Minister's concurrence and were enacted following adoption by the Rules Committee:

S.I. NO.	Title	Date signed by Committee	Date effective from
218 of 2025	DC (Digital) Rules 2025	3 December 2024	28 May 2025
219 of 2025	DC (Domestic Violence) Rules 2025	25 April 2025	28 May 2025
220 of 2025	DC (Guardianship) Rules 2025	25 April 2025	28 May 2025
221 of 2025	DC (Maintenance) Rules 2025	25 April 2025	28 May 2025
459 of 2025	DC (Order 51) Rules 2025	17 June 2025	26 September 2025
692 of 2025	DC (Data Protection Act 2018 (Section 159(3)) (Amendment) Rules 2025	24 September 2025	4 February 2026

By the end of the year the following Rules signed by the Committee were awaiting the concurrence of the Minister:

- District Court (Donor-Assisted Human Reproduction) Rules 2026, (commencing 20 April 2026), and
- District Court (Interrogatories) Rules 2026.

The following matters were under consideration by the Committee at year end:

- District Court (Child Care) Rules 2026, and
- Civil Restraining Orders.

Elaine Ellard
Secretary April 2026

Circuit Court Rules Committee Annual Report 2025

The rule-making authority for the Circuit Court is the Circuit Court Rules Committee established under section 69 of the Courts of Justice Act 1936. The remit of the Committee is fixed partly by section 66 of The Courts of Justice Act 1924 which empowers it to annul or alter rules and make new rules with the concurrence of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, including rules for regulating the sessions, vacations and circuits of the Circuit Judges and the practice, pleading and procedure generally (including liability of parties as to costs and also the entering-up of judgement and granting of summary judgement in appropriate cases) of the Circuit Court and the use of the national language therein amongst other things.

The members of the Committee at 31 December 2025:

- The Hon. Ms Justice Patricia Ryan, President of the Circuit Court (Chairperson)
- His Honour Judge John Aylmer, Judge of the Circuit Court
- Her Honor Judge Sinéad Ní Chúlacháin, Judge of the Circuit Court
- Mr Tomás Keys B.L., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- Ms Tracy Ennis Faherty B.L., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- Ms Siún Hurley, Solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- Mr Martin Lawlor, Solicitor, nominated by the Law Society of Ireland
- Ms Ann Spaine, Principal Solicitor, Office of the Chief State Solicitor – appointed to act in place of the Attorney General under section 69(9)(c), Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Mr James Finn, Principal Officer, Courts Service, to whom membership has been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service under section 69(9)(b), Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Ms Patricia Hickey, County Registrar, Dublin, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service under Section 69(4)(d) of the Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Mr Rory Hannify, County Registrar, Laois and Offaly, nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service under Section 69(4)(d) of the Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended

Secretary: Elaine Ellard, Strategy and Reform Directorate, Courts Service.

Drafting Services: Mr Sean Barton of McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors.

The Committee met on 4 occasions during 2025. Meetings held were remote and hybrid. The following Rules of the Circuit Court were signed by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025, with the exception of SI No. 270 of 2025 which did not require the Minister's concurrence and were enacted following adoption by the Rules Committee:

S.I. NO.	Title	Date signed by Committee	Date effective from
200 of 2025	Circuit Court Rules (Interrogatories) 2025	5 March 2025	21 May 2025
216 of 2025	Circuit Court Rules (Evidence Regulation) 2025	5 March 2025	28 May 2025
217 of 2025	Circuit Court Rules (Digital) 2025	5 November 2024	28 May 2025
270 of 2025	Circuit Court Rules (Data Protection Act 2018 (Section 159(2)) (Amendment) 2025	5 March 2025	27 June 2025
460 of 2025	Circuit Court Rules (EU Service Regulation) 2025	4 June 2025	26 September 2025
461 of 2025	Circuit Court Rules (Combined Court Offices) 2025	4 June 2025	26 September 2025

At the end of the year the following Rules were awaiting the concurrence of the Minister:

- Circuit Court Rules (Appearances) 2025,
- Circuit Court Rules (Donor Assisted Human Reproduction) 2025,
- Circuit Court Rules (Presumption of Death) 2025,
- Circuit Court Rules (GAL/Next Friend) 2025, and
- Circuit Court Rules (Cultural Objects) 2025.

At the end of the year the following Rules were under consideration by the Committee:

- Circuit Court Rules (Discovery) 2025.

Elaine Ellard
Secretary 10 March 2026

Superior Courts Rules Committee Annual Report 2025

The Superior Courts Rules Committee was established by Section 67 of the Courts of Justice Act 1936. Under Section 68 of the 1936 Act the power to make, annul or alter rules of court is exercisable by the Committee with the concurrence of the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration.

Membership of the Committee at year ending 31 December 2025:

- The Chief Justice, the Hon. Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell (Chairperson)
- The President of the Court of Appeal, the Hon. Ms Justice Caroline Costello (Vice Chairperson)
- The President of the High Court, the Hon. Mr Justice David Barniville
- The Hon. Ms Justice Elizabeth Dunne, Judge of the Supreme Court
- The Hon. Mr Justice Brian Murray, Judge of the Supreme Court
- The Hon. Ms Justice Mary Faherty, Judge of the Court of Appeal
- The Hon. Ms Justice Nuala Butler, Judge of the Court of Appeal
- The Hon. Mr Justice Richard Humphreys, Judge of the High Court
- The Hon. Ms Justice Siobhan Phelan, Judge of the High Court
- The Master of the High Court, VACANCY
- Ms Yvonne McNamara S.C., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- Ms Grainne Larkin B.L., nominated by the Council of the Bar of Ireland
- Ms Michele O'Boyle, Solicitor, nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Ireland
- Ms Áine Hynes, Solicitor, nominated by the Council of the Law Society of Ireland
- Mr James Finn, Strategy and Reform Directorate, Courts Service, to whom membership has been delegated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service under section 67(9)(c) Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Ms Mary Cummins, Office of the Chief State Solicitor – appointed to act in place of the Attorney General under section 67(9)(d) Courts of Justice Act 1936, as amended
- Ms Mary Kelly, Registrar of the Supreme Court

Secretary - Ms Elaine Ellard, Strategy and Reform Directorate, Courts Service.

Drafting Services - Mr Sean Barton of McCann Fitzgerald Solicitors.

The Committee met on 5 occasions during 2025. Meetings held were hybrid. The following rules of the Superior Courts were concurred in by the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025:

S.I. number	Title	Date signed by Committee	Operative date
13 of 2025	RSC (Digital) 2025	30 September 2024	14 January 2025
14 of 2025	RSC (Guardian ad litem and Next Friend) 2023	17 October 2024	21 January 2025
55 of 2025	RSC (Digital Services Act) 2025	18 July 2024	28 February 2025
150 of 2025	RSC (Companies Act 2014 Section 459) 2023	12 December 2024	25 April 2025
149 of 2025	RSC (Appendix I) 2023	12 December 2024	28 April 2025
246 of 2025	RSC (Planning and Environment) 2023	10 March 2025	10 June 2025

By the end of the year the following rules are awaiting the concurrence of the Minister:

- Rules of the Superior Courts (Service Regulation) 2025,
- Rules of the Superior Courts (Appearances) 2025,
- Rules of the Superior Courts (Brussels IIter) 2025,
- Rules of the Superior Courts (Order 53D) 2025,
- Rules of the Superior Courts (Commercial) 2025, and
- Rules of the Superior Courts (Presumption of Death) 2025.

At year end the following matters were under consideration by the Committee:

- Draft Rules of the Superior Courts (Statutory Applications and Appeals) 2025, and
- Draft Rules of the Superior Courts (Representative Actions) 2025.

Elaine Ellard
Secretary April 2026

6 Financial Highlights

Financial Statements 2025

About this chapter

In this chapter we present our financial statements for 2025 which details the funding provided to meet our statutory obligations and the financial position at the end of the year. We also provide a financial overview for 2025, an analysis of our sources of funding, in addition to providing a detailed analysis of expenditure and income comparing 2025 with 2024. Finally, we outline information on our prompt payment interest and provide an extract from the financial statements relating to Court Funds.

Financial Highlights

Expenditure & Income	2025 €'000	2024** €'000
Current Expenditure		
Pay	81,851	74,974
Non-Pay	49,738	48,477
Total Current	**131,589**	**123,451**
Capital expenditure	61,486	65,322
Total Gross Expenditure	**193,075**	**188,733**
Total Income	**39,080**	**38,313**
Expenditure Net of Income	**153,995**	**150,460**

Staff	2025	2024
Full Time Equivalents	**1,357**	**1,285**

Court funds	2025	2024
Funds managed on behalf of court, minors and other beneficiaries at 30 September	2.446 billion	2.499 billion

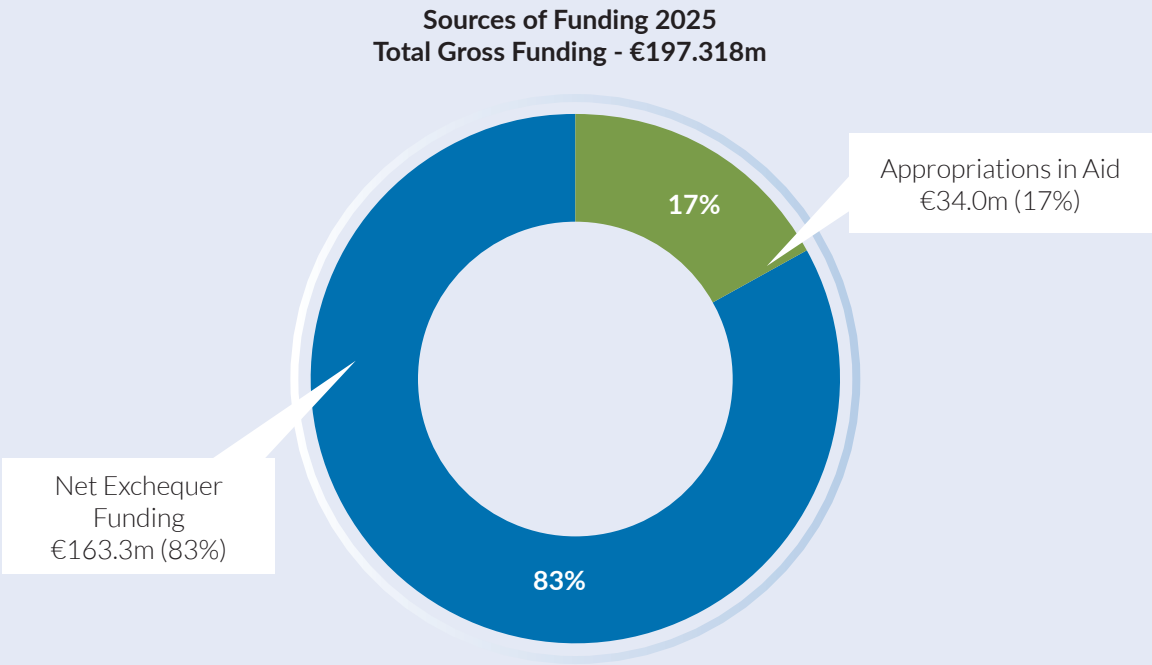
Financial Overview

The funding of the Courts Service is from 2 main sources:

- direct Exchequer funding, and
- Appropriation-in-Aid (income) primarily generated through court fees.

For 2025 the total funding allocation net of receipts was €163.285m (2024 €154.950m). This reflects a gross allocation of €197.318m (2024 €191.283m) combined with total receipts of €34.033m (2024 €36.333m). Appropriations-in-Aid represents 17% (19% in 2024) of the total cost of running the organisation. Operating within the funding parameters and the achievement of a balanced budget is a requirement under Government accounting guidelines.

Diagram 1: Sources of Funding



The outturn for 2025 saw the achievement of a balanced budget, with total gross expenditure for the running of the organisation of €193.075m (€188.773mm for 2024), €4.243m less than the funding received of €197.318m. Expenditure for 2025, compared with that of 2024, can be broken down between total current expenditure €131.589m (€123.451m for 2024), including pay of €81.851m (€74.974m for 2024), and total capital expenditure of €61.486m (€65.322m for 2024), including PPP charges of €38.089m (€38.682m for 2024).

The composition of the outturn reflects that 42% (2024 40%) is attributable to Pay, with 26% (2024 26%) relating to the day-to-day operation of the organisation, 20% (2024 20%) to the Unitary Charges for the CCJ and Regional PPP's and the balance of 12% (2024 14%) for both ICT and Courthouse Capital.

Our funding is supplemented by Appropriations-in-Aid which were €39.080m (€38.313m for 2024) this is €5.047m more than the funding target of €34.033m outlined above. Court Fee Income represents the main source of receipts. Court Fee Income relates to the administrative charge for the processing of civil cases. In 2025 this amounted to €36.023m (€35.677m in 2024). In addition to Court Fee Income, Appropriations-in-Aid includes Miscellaneous Income and a Pension Levy.

Court Fees

Court fees are charged in respect of legal documents lodged and services provided in court offices.

We also collect fees on behalf of the Revenue Commissioners. The fees collected on behalf of the Revenue Commissioners are mainly excise duties on certain licensing applications.

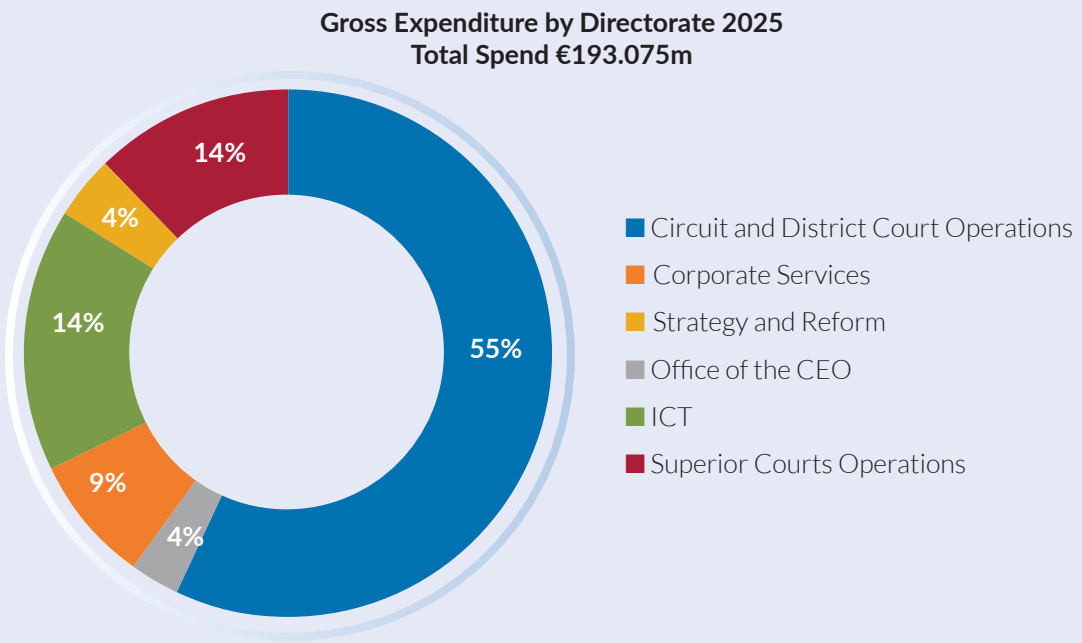
Court Fees	2025 €'000	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Retained by the Courts Service	36,023	35,677	34,164
Revenue Commissioners	2,500	2,500	2,375
Total	**38,523**	**38,177**	**36,539**

Court fee income excludes miscellaneous income, the pension levy and DSP benefits.

The above fee income includes fees collected through the Court Funds Office and collected directly for various court services.

Our organisation is structured across 6 Directorates, each with a distinct function. Figure 2 below represents the spend across each Directorate in the organisation.

Figure 2: Gross Expenditure by Directorate



Capital expenditure represents 32% of our overall expenditure. Figure 3 below sets out how capital expenditure was spent.

Figure 3: Capital Expenditure

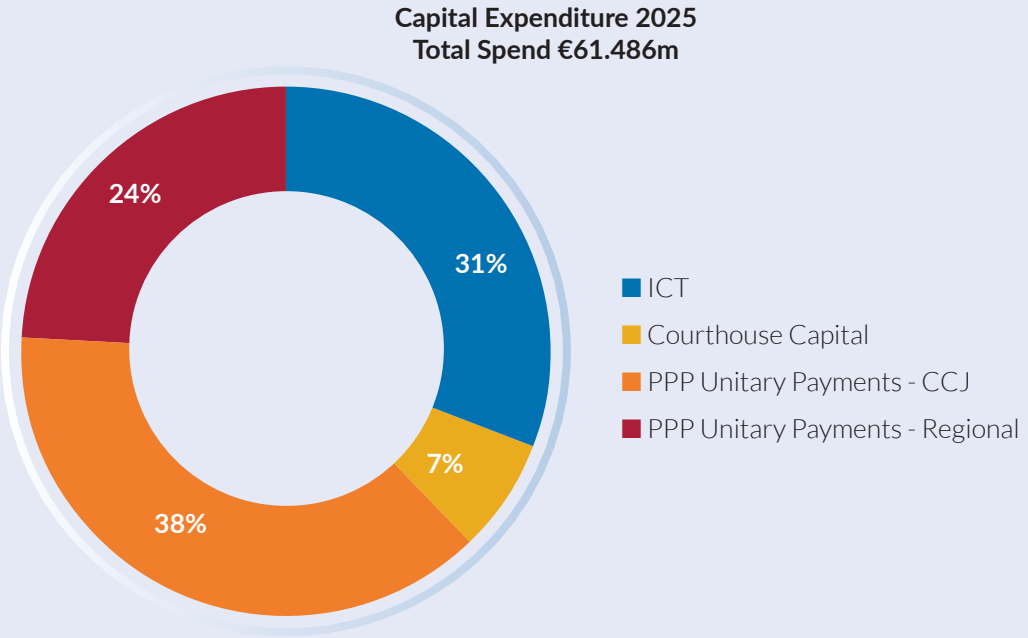
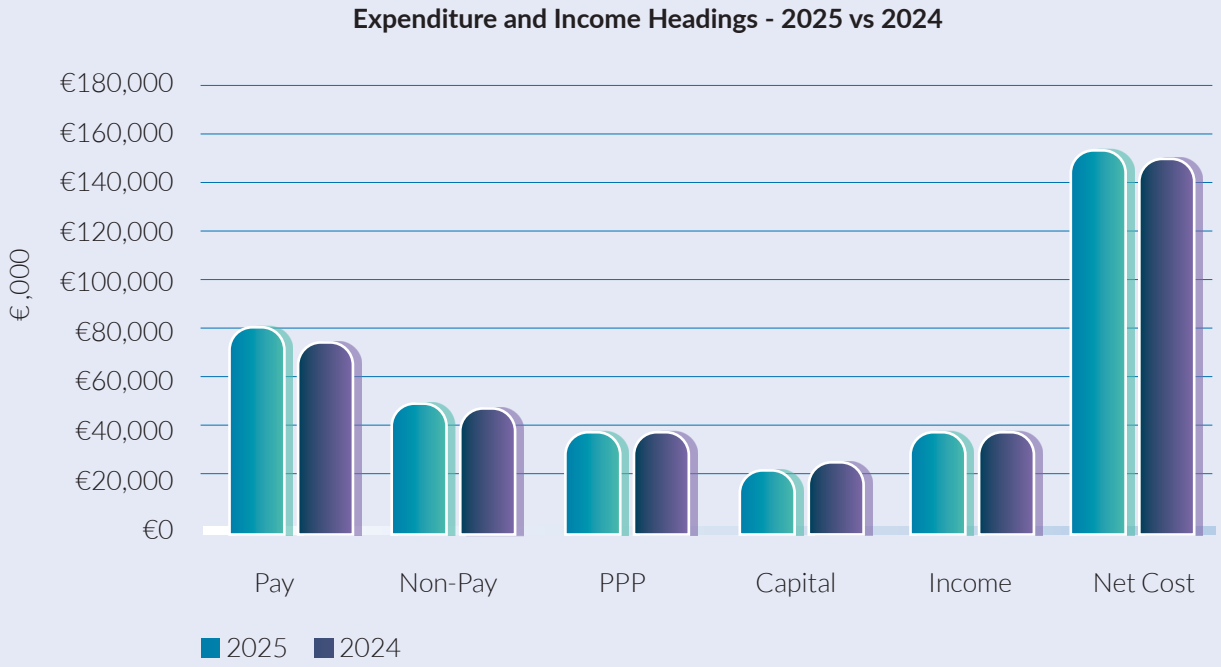


Figure 4 below compares our expenditure in 2025 against 2024.

Figure 4: Expenditure Comparison to Prior Year



Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997

Payment practices

Prompt payment interest provides for the payment of interest to suppliers for invoices not paid within 30 days. We have procedures in place to ensure that all invoices are paid within the time limits identified on the invoices or, if no time limit is specified, within the statutory time limit. While the procedures have been designed to ensure compliance with the Act, they only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material non-compliance with the Act.

Prompt payment interest

We pay prompt payment interest and compensation to suppliers in respect of invoices not paid within 30 days of receipt. In 2025, the total amount paid out in respect of late payments was €10,439 (€12,766 in 2024).

Late payments			
Year	Interest amount	Compensation amount	Total
2025	€1,849	€8,590	€10,439
2024	€2,876	€9,890	€12,766
2023	€5,884	€14,050	€19,934

15-day payment requirement

We make every effort, with consistent and proper financial procedures, to ensure that all suppliers are paid within 15 days.

Prompt Payment Quarterly Returns by Government Departments Agency: Courts Service				
Year	% of overall total value paid within 15 days	Value of payments within 15 days	% No. of payments within 15 days	No. of payments within 15 days
2025	67%	€66,151,661	74%	7,516
2024	62%	€60,628,746	58%	6,195
2023	69%	€67,965,493	57%	5,587

Expenditure and Income

Expenditure & Income	2025 €'000	2024 €'000
Current Expenditure		
Salaries and wages	81,851	74,974
Travel and subsistence	4,237	4,111
Staff and judicial training	1,455	909
Incidental / miscellaneous costs	11,433	10,246
Digital audio recording and other fees	6,520	5,342
Legal services	1,118	1,243
Postal services	2,258	2,232
Telecommunications	1,389	1,082
Photocopying materials and Equipment	256	302
Office equipment and materials	569	1,418
Courthouse maintenance	9,099	10,164
Heat, light and fuel costs	3,991	4,199
Furniture and fittings	207	527
General Premises	2,664	2,090
Leases	4,387	4,470
Consultancy (non-ICT-related)	155	142
Total Current Expenditure	**131,589**	**123,451**
Capital Expenditure		
Office Equipment and ICT Equipment & Software	19,088	20,142
Courthouses and other buildings	4,309	6,498
PPP -CCJ Unitary payment	23,333	23,809
PPP - Regional Unitary Payments	14,756	14,873
Total Capital Expenditure	**61,486**	**65,322**
Total Gross Expenditure	**193,075**	**188,773**
Income (Appropriations - in - Aid)		
Fees	36,023	35,677
Miscellaneous	557	686
DSP Illness Benefit	351	
Additional Superannuation Contribution	2,149	1,950
Total Income	**39,080**	**38,313**
Total Net Expenditure	**153,995**	**150,460**

Note: The figures are provisional and subject to the audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

Court Funds Office

The Courts Service, in accordance with the Courts Service Act 1998, is responsible for the management and administration of the courts and the provision of support services for judges. It is in this capacity that we have a role in the management and investment of Court Funds, which are held in trust by the courts. These funds are invested in line with the provisions of the Trustee (Authorised Investments) Act, 1958 and subsequent orders.

At the 30 September 2025, the Accountants Office was managing €2.446 billion in a fiduciary capacity (2024: €2.499 billion) on behalf of 20,337 beneficiaries. This includes 2,455 beneficiaries are persons who have been declared Wards of Court (2024: 2,718) with funds valued at €1.844 billion as at 30 September 2025 (2024: €1.921 billion). A further 16,419 are minors (2024: 17,240) with funds valued at €351 million (2024: €370 million). The remainder mostly consist of cases pending further Court Orders, residential redress board cases and lodgements with defence case types. The total funds managed of €2.446 billion is further analysed between the 3 Court jurisdictions in Table 1 below.

The decrease in the total value of funds by €52.8 million is attributable to a decrease from net capital transactions of €118.5 million (net excess disbursements over receipts) for the year and an increase in investment performance of €65.8 million.

Table 1: Total Net Assets under Management, by Jurisdiction as at 30 September 2025

Jurisdiction	Net Assets € at 30/09/2025	%	Net Assets € at 30/09/2024	%	% Increase / Decrease in Net Assets
High Court	2,229,031,748	91.1%	2,275,571,196	91.0%	+0.1%
Circuit Court	180,114,030	7.4%	186,930,664	7.5%	-0.1%
District Court	37,310,258	1.5%	36,715,121	1.5%	0.0%
Total	€2,446,456,036	100%	€2,499,216,981	100%	

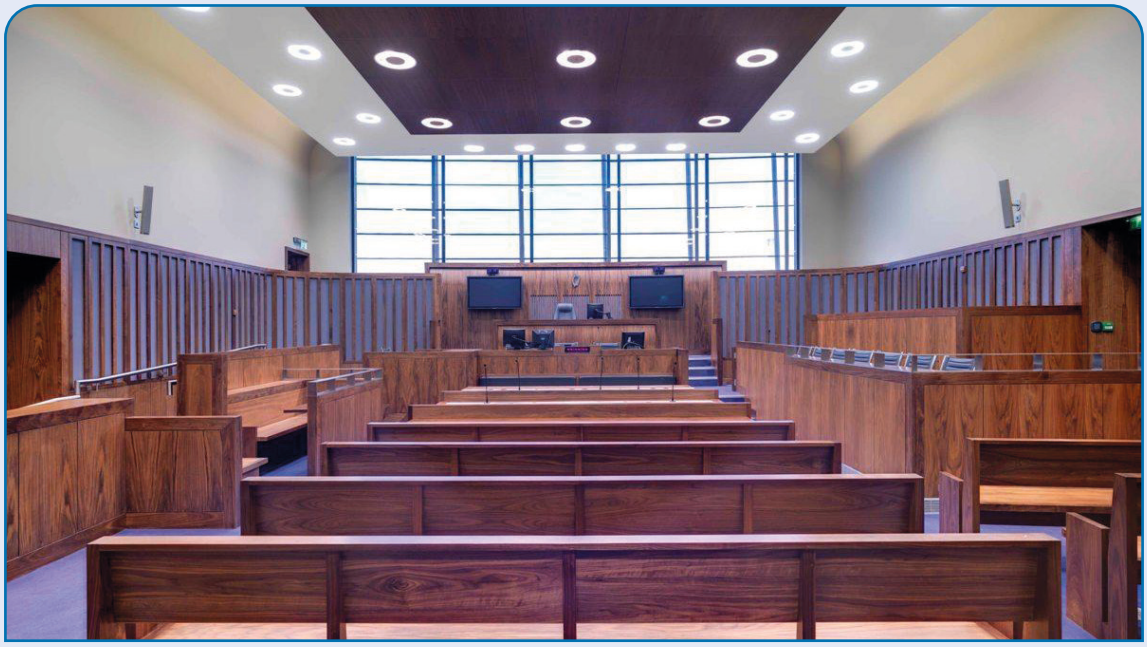
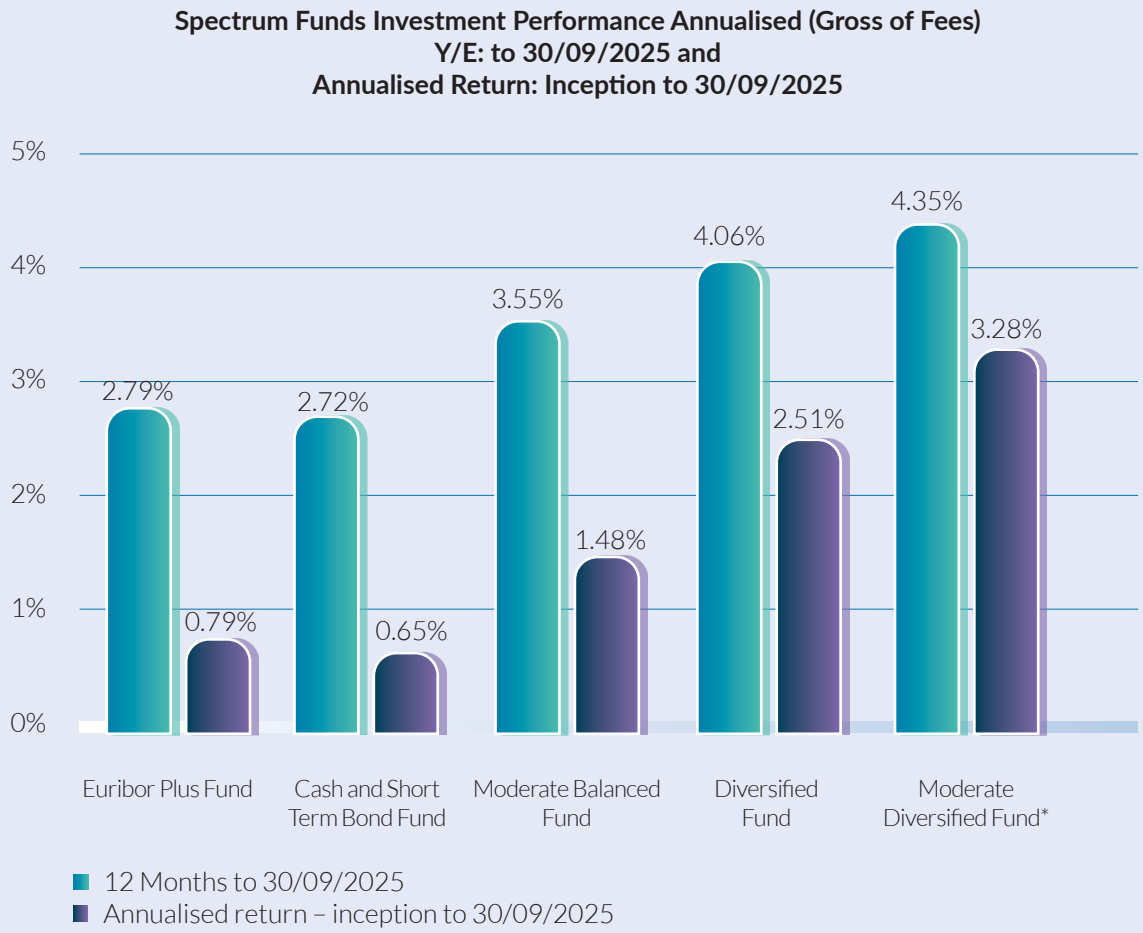


Table 2 shows the annualised investment performance gross of fees for all strategies for the current financial year, covering the period from 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025 and the annualised return since inception. The gross returns, before management, custodian, and administration fees, for the year ending 30 September 2025 were as follows: Euribor Plus Fund 2.79%, Cash and Short-Term Bond Fund 2.72%, Moderate Balanced Fund 3.55%, Diversified Fund 4.06%, and Moderate Diversified Fund 4.35%.

Note: Full details are contained in the annual report and financial statements of The Office of the Accountant of the Courts of Justice for the year ending 30 September 2025 which are available on **courts.ie**.

Table 2: SSGA Spectrum Funds Investment Performance (Gross of Fees) to 30 September 2025 and Annualised Return: Inception to 30 September 2025



*Note all funds have an inception date of October 2013 with the exception of the Moderate Diversifed Fund which has an inception date of March 2019.

The annualised returns since inception range from 0.65% (Cash and Short-Term Bond Fund) to 3.28% (Diversified Fund). These positive rates mainly result from the European Central Bank (ECB) sustaining higher base rates over much of the financial year ended 30 September 2025.

Statement of Financial Position on 30 September 2025

	30/09/2025	30/09/2024
	€	€
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	2,401,729,048	2,458,887,923
Current Assets		
Debtors	28,467,751	27,433,422
Cash and cash equivalents	20,354,211	19,173,787
Total Current Assets	48,821,962	46,607,209
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	(4,094,974)	(6,278,151)
Total Current Liabilities	(4,094,974)	(6,278,151)
Net Current Assets	44,726,988	40,329,058
Total Net Assets	2,446,456,036	2,499,216,981
Represented by:		
Funds held for beneficiaries	2,446,456,036	2,499,216,981

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 September 2025

	30/09/2025	30/09/2024
	€	€
Net Realised and Unrealised Gains		
Net realised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	35,265,351	24,844,184
Net change in unrealised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	31,503,109	89,309,804
Net gains realised on transfers of assets	793,401	-
Net Realised and change in Unrealised Gains	67,561,861	114,153,988
Investment income	81,870	96,244
	67,643,731	114,250,232
Expenses	(1,872,268)	(1,972,293)
Increase in Net Assets from Operations	65,771,463	112,277,939

Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended 30 September 2025

	30/09/2025	30/09/2024
	€	€
Increase in Net Assets from Operations		
Investment income less expenses	(1,790,398)	(1,876,049)
Net realised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	35,265,351	24,844,184
Net change in unrealised gains on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	31,503,109	89,309,804
Net gains / losses realised on transfers out during year	793,401	-
Increase in Net Assets from Operations Capital transactions	65,771,463	112,277,939
Receipts	173,757,165	165,718,673
Disbursements	(292,289,573)	(265,689,233)
(Decrease) / Increase in Net Assets from Capital transactions	(118,532,408)	(99,970,560)
Total increase in net assets for the year	(52,760,945)	12,307,379
Net assets at beginning of year	2,499,216,981	2,486,909,602
Net Assets at end of year	2,446,456,036	2,499,216,981

Court Funds Office – Court Accounts Section

The Courts Accounts Section of the Courts Funds Office operates as a shared service centre for the processing of all financial transactions for the Combined Court Offices of the Courts Service. In 2025, the total volume of transactions (both receipts and payments) was 402,637 (2024, 442,573) with a monetary value of €88.2m (2024, €84.8m).

Court Funds Financial Operations	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Fines collected	11,392	10,140
Family law receipts	11,687	12,591
Bail receipts	3,762	4,157
Court fees collected through Court Offices*	14,845	14,255
Poor box receipts	1,395	1,566
Civil court and small claims receipts	583	472
Total	**43,507**	**43,181**

*Excludes miscellaneous income, the pension levy and DSP benefits

Family Law

We process Family Law payments for maintenance debtors and creditors.

Family Law receipts and payments

Family Law Receipts and Payments	2025		2024	
	€'000	Volume	€'000	Volume
Receipts	€12,224	131,513	€13,102	176,583
Payments	€11,803	150,141	€12,900	167,661

We continue to encourage users to avail of electronic funds transfer (EFT). EFT was the preferred method of payment for Family Law maintenance creditors at 93% of all payments made in 2025, up by 1% on prior years.

Poor Box

The Court may direct that money be paid into the Court Poor Box in lieu of, or in conjunction with, another penalty. Payments can be made via us for onward payment to a charity as directed by the Court.

Our primary responsibility for the Poor Box is to ensure that:

- all monies paid into, and payments made from the Poor Box are carried out in accordance with the direction of the judge, and
- there are adequate and effective systems and procedures in place for recording court orders and accounting for Poor Box receipts and payments.

Dublin Poor Box returns 2025

Poor Box	Balance as at 01/01/25	Receipts	Payments	Balance as at 31/12/2025
District Court	€463,983	€1,395,915	€1,541,493	€318,405

Fines

We manage receipts and fines imposed by the courts. Court Fines received are transferred to the Exchequer and a number of other Government Departments and Agencies, net of approved deductible expenses. Court fines transferred for 2024 and 2025 are set out in the table below.

Court Fines collected and transferred to other Public Bodies

Court Fines Transferred	2025	2024
	€'000	€'000
Exchequer (motor fines)	5,659	5,815
Exchequer (general)	5,830	1,438
The Office of the Revenue Commissioners	276	570
Department of the Climate, Energy and Environment	0	45
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	0	12
Total	**11,765**	**7,880**

Fines (Payments and Recovery) Act 2014

The Fines (Payment and Recovery) Act 2014 allows for the payment of fines by instalment over a twelve-month period, subject to certain conditions. Where a person defaults in making payments, the matter will be brought back to court. This may result in the making of an attachment of earnings order or a community service order. Where the unpaid fine is in excess of €500, the court may appoint a receiver.

Number and value of fines imposed and recorded on CCTS* in 2025 and 2024

Fines imposed & Reported on CCTS*	2025	2024
Number of fines imposed	57,336	58,392
Value of fines imposed	€21,064,777	€20,362,460

*Criminal Case Tracking System

Glossary of terms

Appeal – a proceeding, taken by a party to a case who is dissatisfied with a decision made, to a court having authority to review or set aside that decision.

Barring Order – an Order preventing the person against whom the Order is made ('the respondent') from entering the family home or using or threatening violence against the person who applied for the Order ('the applicant') or other family members.

Care Order – an Order placing a child in the care of the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) until they reach the age of eighteen or a shorter period as determined by the Court.

Certified list – a list of cases certified by counsel as being ready for hearing.

Civil Bill – a document used to commence a civil case in the Circuit Court, it gives details of the parties to the case and details of the claim being made.

Claim Notice – a document used to commence a civil case in the District Court, it gives details of the parties to the case and details of the claim being made.

Debt relief notice – one of three debt resolution mechanisms introduced by the Personal Insolvency Act, 2012 to help mortgage-holders and others with unsustainable debt to reach agreements with their creditors. It allows for the write-off of qualifying debt up to €20,000, subject to a three-year supervision period.

Debt settlement arrangement – one of three debt resolution mechanisms introduced by the Personal Insolvency Act, 2012 to help mortgage-holders and others with unsustainable debt to reach agreements with their creditors. It applies to the agreed settlement of unsecured debts, usually over a period of five years.

Defence – a document delivered by the defendant to the plaintiff in response to a civil bill in the Circuit Court or a plenary summons in the High Court.

Defendant – a person against whom an action is brought; a person charged with a criminal offence.

Emergency Care Order – an Order placing a child under the care of the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) for a maximum period of eight days if the Court considers that there is a serious risk to the health or welfare of a child.

Indictment – (a) a formal document setting out certain kinds of charges against an accused person or (b) the process by which those charges are presented against the accused.

Indictable offence – an offence which, if committed by an adult, is triable on indictment.

Injunction – an order of the court directing a party to an action to do, or to refrain from doing, something.

Interim Barring Order – an immediate Order, requiring the person against whom the Order is made ('the respondent') to leave the family home, pending the hearing of an application for a Barring Order.

Interim Care Order – an Order, granted when an application for a care Order has been or is about to be made, requiring that the child named in the Order be placed in the care of the Child and Family Agency (Tusla).

Intestate – dying without making a valid will.

Judicial Review – a legal remedy available in situations where a body or tribunal is alleged to have acted in excess of legal authority or contrary to its duty.

Judicial separation – a decree granted by the court relieving spouses to a marriage of the obligation to cohabit.

Jurisdiction – (a) the power of a court or judge to hear an action, petition, or other proceeding, or (b) the geographical area within which such power may be exercised.

Liquidated debt – a claim for a specified amount of money.

Mortgage suit – a form of proceeding to recover a debt owed to the holder of security on property – by forcing the sale of the property (usually on foot of a judgment mortgage or an equitable mortgage).

National Development Finance Agency - The NDFA is an integrated finance, procurement and project delivery model established within the National Treasury Management Agency to bring a unified commercial approach to the procurement and project management of new public sector projects, including Public Private Partnerships.

Noelle prosequi – the entering by the prosecution of a stay on criminal proceedings (not to be confused with an acquittal).

Personal insolvency arrangement – one of three debt resolution mechanisms introduced by the Personal Insolvency Act, 2012 to help mortgage-holders and others with unsustainable debt to reach agreements with their creditors. It applies to the agreed settlement and/or restructuring of secured debts up to a total of €3 million (as well as unsecured debts) over a period of six years.

Petition – document used to commence certain civil proceedings in the High Court (for example application to wind up a company, have a person adjudicated bankrupt).

Plaintiff – a person who brings a legal action against another.

Plenary summons – document used to commence certain civil proceedings (for example claims for non-specific damages, libel, nuisance) in the High Court where pleadings and oral evidence are required.

Protection Order – an interim Order, granted when an application for Safety/Barring Order has been made, prohibiting the person against whom the Order is made ('the respondent') from committing further acts of violence or threatening violence.

Safety Order – an Order prohibiting the person against whom the Order is made ('the respondent') from committing further acts of violence or threatening to do so. It does not prevent the respondent from entering the family home.

Special Exemption Order – an Order allowing a licensee to sell alcohol outside the normal licensing hours subject to certain conditions.

Special summons – document used to begin certain civil proceedings (such as equity claims, mortgage enforcement, administration of trusts) in the High Court to be heard on affidavit (not oral evidence).

Specific performance - an order of a Court which requires a party to perform a specific act, usually what is stated in a contract such as, contracts for the sale, purchase, or lease of land. It is an alternative to awarding damages and is a discretionary equitable remedy.

Summary judgment – judgment for a claim in respect of a debt or specific monetary demand. The judgment is given to the plaintiff against the defendant in a court office without the need to bring the claim to court.

Summary summons – document used to commence certain civil proceedings (such as claims for a specific amount of money, recovery of possession by a landlord) in the High Court, to be heard on affidavit.

Supervision Order – an Order allowing the Child and Family Agency (Tusla) to monitor a child considered to be at risk. The child is not removed from his or her home environment. A Supervision Order is for a fixed period of time not longer than 12 months initially.

An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service