



The Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council

Annual Report and Accounts
2024–2025





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Annual Report and Accounts 2024–2025

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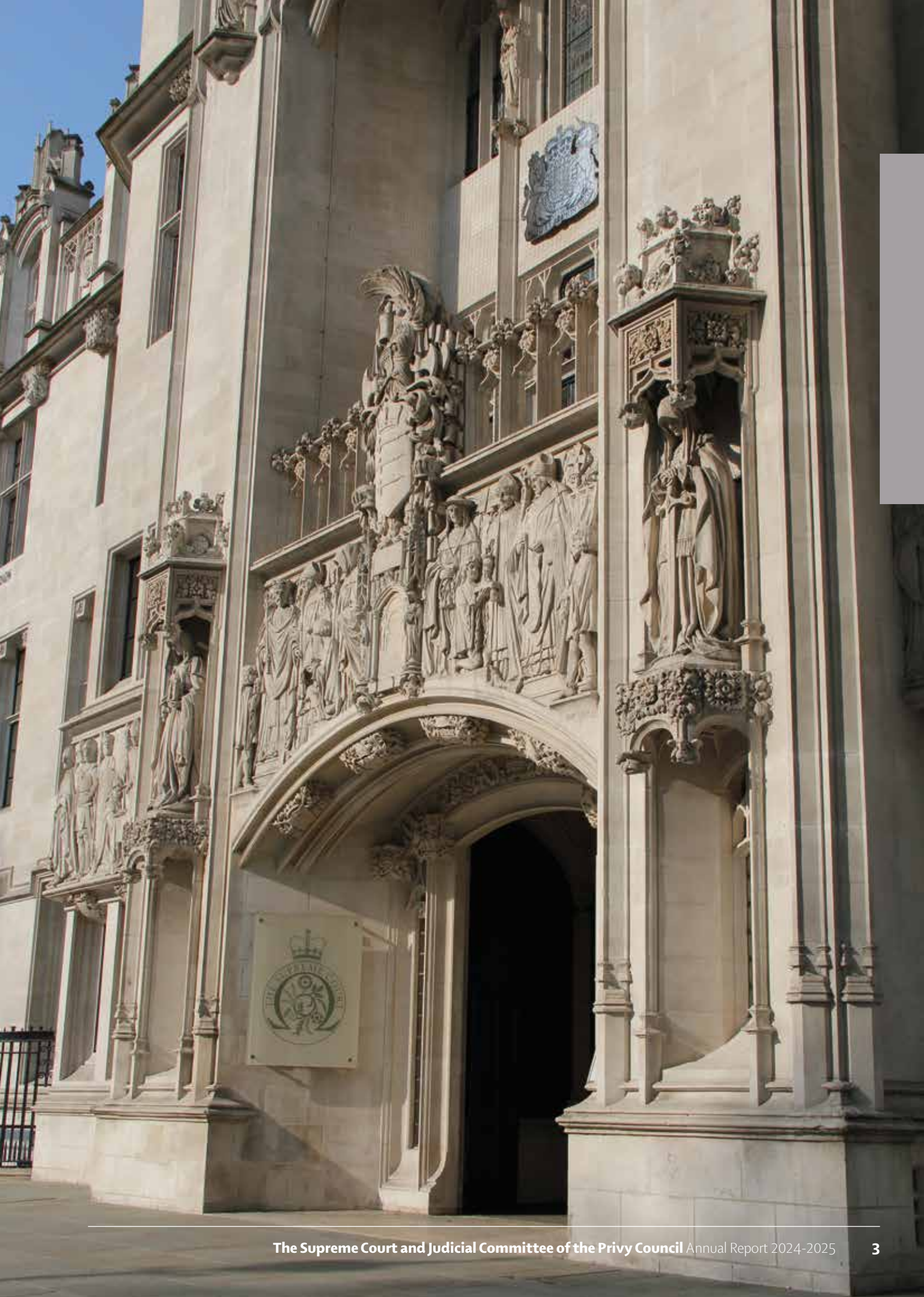
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Cover image: Justices and Dame Janice Pereira during a hearing of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Courtesy of Kevin Leighton.

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Overview

By the President of the Supreme Court

The Right Hon. The Lord Reed of Allermuir



I am pleased to introduce the Annual Report and Accounts of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (UKSC) and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) for 2024-25. The report describes the progress we have made in achieving the Court's strategic priorities over the past year. Those priorities are set out in the Court administration's [business plan](#).

In terms of the Court's core business, we have continued to process and consider permission to appeal applications (PTAs), hearings and judgments. Over the year we decided 212 PTAs. We delivered 43 UKSC judgments (down from 51 last year) and 49 judgments in the JCPC (up from 39 last year).

Amongst the appeals have been some cases of considerable interest. Notable judgments that were handed down included *R (on the application of Finch on behalf of the Weald Action Group) v Surrey County Council*, concerned with the assessment of the environmental impact of oil extraction; *El-Khoury v Government of the United States of America*, concerned with extradition where the relevant conduct occurred outside the requesting state's territory; and *SkyKick UK Ltd v Sky Ltd*, concerned with the abuse of trademarks.

The Court has an important international role. As the highest UK court, we play a critical role in developing the common law, which governs much of the world's trade. This is crucial to the UK's role as a leading centre for international legal and financial services and is accordingly of great importance to the UK economy. Every year we decide cases concerned with international trade. In the last year, these have included cases concerned with international shipping, and a case arising out of the impact of EU sanctions against Russia.

We also decide cases concerned with international law. An example was the judgment in *Argentum Exploration Ltd v Republic of South Africa*, which concerned a cargo of silver which was lost when the ship carrying it to South Africa was sunk during the Second World War. The appeal concerned whether the silver and the ship carrying it fell within the provisions of the State Immunity Act, so that the Republic of South Africa was immune from the jurisdiction of the United Kingdom in respect of Argentum's salvage claim.

Beyond its appellate functions, we continue to see a deep international interest in the Court and our ways of working. We have enjoyed bilateral exchanges with the European Court of Human Rights and with the senior judiciaries of Ireland and Sweden. My judicial colleagues have represented the Court, and the United Kingdom, at events in places as diverse as Australia, Brunei, India and Ireland. In turn we have welcomed visiting delegations from across the world. These interactions not only allow us to learn from others and share our experience to develop best practice, but also strengthen the UK's global reputation as a world-leading centre for dispute resolution.

As the UK's highest court, we also represent the UK in international judicial networks. I attend every year the meeting of the Network of Presidents of Supreme Courts of the EU, at which we remain valued participants as associate members. I also attended the J20, the meeting of the most senior judges of the G20 countries. This year's meeting in Rio focused on the role of the courts in relation to social inclusion, climate change and artificial intelligence. These are valuable opportunities to influence legal thinking outside the UK and to present the UK judiciary to the wider world.

I am continuing with my practice of inviting external judges to sit at the Court from time to time. This provides a more diverse bench and builds relationships with appellate courts across the UK and in the JCPC jurisdictions. This year, I was especially pleased to be able to invite Dame Janice Pereira to sit on the JCPC. Dame Janice is the recently retired Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and President of the Court of Appeal, and she has brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the JCPC. This was made possible by working with the Ministry of Justice and the Privy Council to enable judges from JCPC jurisdictions to sit on the JCPC.

It was a considerable pleasure during the year to mark the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Supreme Court, on 1st October 2009, with events in Belfast, Cardiff, Glasgow and London. In Belfast and Glasgow I gave lectures on the role of the Court across the UK. In Cardiff, the Deputy President, Lord Hodge, gave a lecture, and I was able to attend the opening of the legal year in St David's Cathedral. In London, we held a question and answer event in Parliament, and two events at the Court. One of those was concerned with the Court's work in the area of international law, and the other was a discussion of the meaning of public service by a panel comprising the Very Reverend Dr David Hoyle, Dean of Westminster, Professor Catherine O'Regan of Oxford University and myself, ably facilitated by Bronwen Maddox.

Over the last fifteen years the Court has become one of the most open and transparent in the world. The role of the judges remains the same as it was when they sat in the Appellate Committee of the House of Lords, but they now do their work in a much more visible setting.

One of the benefits of having a dedicated Court building has been to make it easier for visitors to attend the Court. Over the last 15 years we have welcomed over a million visitors who come to watch cases, to join a tour of the Court or to enjoy our exhibition and café areas. The Justices continue to take part in our education and outreach programme for schools and universities. The schools programme gives students across the UK, particularly in areas of deprivation, the opportunity to participate in a live question and answer session with a Supreme Court Justice directly from their classroom via a video link. Feedback has been so positive that we are increasing the number of sessions that we offer.

Lord Hodge has announced that he will be retiring at the end of December 2025. He has served as a Justice of the Supreme Court and the JCPC since 1st October 2013 and as Deputy President since January 2020. We will miss him and will be recruiting for his successor in the coming year.

This last year has been a busy and successful one. I hope you take the time to look through this Annual Report, and I commend the contents to you.

Introduction

By the Chief Executive

Vicky Fox



Throughout 2024-25 we have reflected on the first fifteen years of the Court through a series of events and moved forwards to the future with the successful completion of our Change Programme. Our vision to be a world leading Court and our values have provided the road map to navigate between the past and the future, changing the way we work but staying true to the purpose and values of the Court.

As a result of the Change Programme, we now offer a digital, customer-centric, modern service to Court users and the public. The way we work has changed enormously as we adopt the latest user-centric technology but our welcoming approach and dedication to excellence has stayed the same.

We continue to be driven by our vision to be a world-leading Court. This has been underpinned by our business plan – the second year of a three-year business cycle. The plan sets our five strategic priorities which are:

- Serving the public
- Providing a world class service
- Focusing on our people
- Engaging outwards
- Diversity, inclusion and belonging.

We have been delighted to welcome 66,104 visitors to the Court this year. This has included 496 tours and an expanded education and outreach programme. We launched an exhibition of the Court's most significant cases over the last 15 years. It has been a great pleasure to hold events for the public across the UK in Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff and London as part of marking this anniversary.

Our goal for the Change Programme was to transform the Supreme Court and Privy Council into a modern, world-leading court which focuses on what our users need, is open, transparent, inclusive and efficient, with increased levels of public awareness and trust. I am delighted that we have been able to deliver this. We have launched two new websites: one for the Supreme Court and one for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council that provide a digital and accessible way of getting more information about, and communicating with, the Court. For Court users, we have launched a new Case Management system that provides a responsive, real-time, user-led digital service. These changes are supported by our highly skilled Court staff who continue to provide support and an excellent service to Court visitors and Court users. The design of the websites and the Case Management system have been driven by, and designed for, our users. Through workshops, surveys,

interviews, and usability tests, we spoke to over 350 people that interact with the Court and ensured that every aspect of the systems' design was informed by their real-world needs and expectations. I would like to thank all the staff here and our business partners who worked so hard to ensure this programme was a success.

Alongside our education and outreach work we also work with Parliamentarians, with the aim of promoting greater understanding of the rule of law and its relationship with democracy. Following the UK General Election, in partnership with Parliament we were able to contribute to new MPs' induction, providing print and video materials on the rule of law and the role of the Supreme Court. We have invited MPs to visit the Court and enjoyed an event held in Parliament exploring the work of the Court over its first fifteen years.

Diversity, inclusion and belonging remains at the heart of our values and at the centre of how we work. We are committed to ensuring fair and open access to justice for everyone. We have worked with Counsel appearing before the Court to make reasonable adjustments. This year we have continued to offer signed tours and have piloted tactile touch tours. Our schools programme reaches students across the UK and prioritises students from areas of multiple deprivation. Our paid internship, in partnership with Bridging the Bar, for aspiring barristers from currently underrepresented groups continues to be a highlight of our year and a deep learning experience for us. The reverse mentoring programme run internally and the external judicial reverse mentoring scheme has fostered far greater understanding of the experience of lawyers and the barriers that they face in their careers. We are continuing to play our part supporting people from all backgrounds across the UK to join and progress in the legal profession.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of my colleagues whose commitment to supporting the Justices and serving the public have been the driving force behind our success this year. This year's achievements would not have been possible without their hard work, passion and dedication.

I hope this report offers an interesting and useful summary of all that the Justices and administration have achieved this year. I hope that we will be able to welcome you here in person to see the Court at work.

A financial year in the UKSC and the JCPC

Number of **judgments**:

92



Number of UKSC and JCPC **website users**:

1.408
million



Number of **tours** (in-person and virtual): **496**

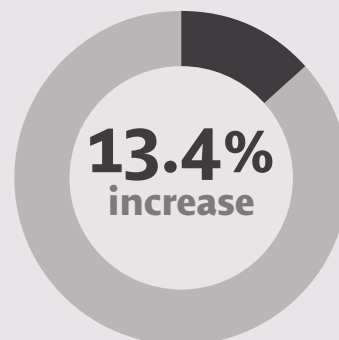


Number of **visitors to UKSC**:

66,104

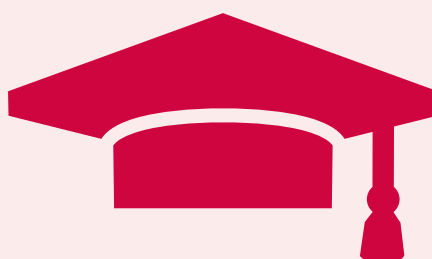


13.4%
increase



Students from schools, colleges and universities who participated in tours:

6,440



7.23%
increase



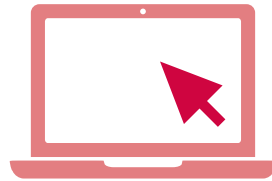
Individual
publication **titles**
available:

281,351



Library internal
queries dealt
with:

307



X (formerly **Twitter**)
followers:

288.5k



Instagram followers:

19.8k



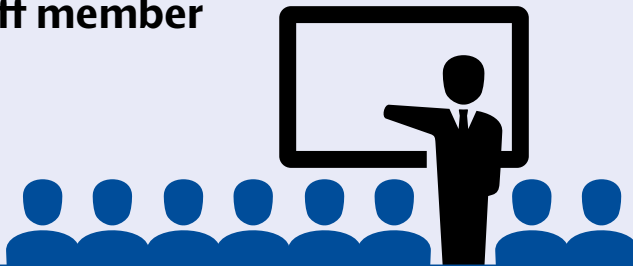
LinkedIn followers:

69,666

Number of days spent on
training activities by staff:

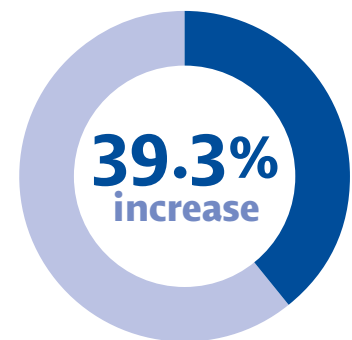
5

per staff member



Percentage of waste
sent to landfill:

0%



YouTube views:

272.7k

A financial year in the UKSC and JCPC

Overview of work delivered in the Court in 2024–25

UKSC			JCPC	
PTAs filed	177		67	PTAs filed
PTAs decided	170		42	PTAs decided
Appeals filed	59		6	Appeals filed
Appeals as of right filed	4		41	Appeals as of right filed
Appeal hearings	61		66	Appeal hearings
Judgments given	43		49	Judgments given
Procedural applications filed	240		166	Procedural applications filed
Eligibility checks	24		5	Eligibility checks
Devolution References filed	1			

Part A – Performance Report





Section 1

Performance Overview – Justices and their work



The Justices of the UKSC.

About us: who we are and what we do

The UKSC is the final court of appeal in the United Kingdom, deciding arguable points of law of general public importance arising from civil cases throughout the UK and from criminal cases in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and, in a limited number of cases, from Scotland.

The UKSC also hears cases to determine devolution issues relating to the powers of the devolved administrations, Parliaments, and Assembly.

The JCPC is a separate court from the UKSC and is the final court of appeal for the British Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies, as well as Commonwealth countries which have retained procedures for appeal to His Majesty in Council, or in the case of the Republics, to the Judicial Committee. The JCPC also has jurisdiction in some Church of England, regulatory and maritime areas.

The role of the Court's administration is to provide an environment which enables the Justices to carry out their duties in an effective, visible and accessible way.

Retirements

Lord Hodge has announced that he will retire from the UKSC and the JCPC on 31 December 2025.

2024-25 Justices' public engagement work

Lord Reed judged the London South Bank University Moot in April 2024. He judged the Lady Oliver Moot at London Metropolitan University in July 2024. He gave talks for the celebration of the Supreme Court's 15th anniversary at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow in October 2024 and at the Royal Courts of Justice in Belfast in November 2024. He took part in a 15th anniversary event at the House of Commons in November 2024 and a panel event at the UKSC in December 2024. In January 2025, he spoke at the University of Leicester Global South Network Conference.

Lord Hodge spoke at the Westminster Abbey Institute in May 2024. He gave a lecture as part of the Supreme Court's 15th anniversary celebrations at the Senedd in Cardiff in October 2024. That month he also gave the Lord Rodger Memorial Lecture in Glasgow. He took part in a 15th anniversary event at the House of Commons in November 2024. In January 2025, he spoke at the Government Legal Service for Scotland Annual Conference. He gave the Lord Toulson Memorial Lecture in February 2025. In March 2025, he took part in an Ask a Justice session with Mearns Castle High School.

Lord Lloyd-Jones gave a lecture at Swansea University in April 2024. In May 2024, he gave a response to the 3VB and NUS Arbitration Lecture. In June 2024, he attended the Law Society Cardiff reopening. He spoke at the event to celebrate the Supreme Court's 15th anniversary at the Senedd in Cardiff in October 2024. The same month he took part in the International Public Law Conference in London. He also judged the Classics for All Trial of Medea in October 2024. In November 2024, he attended the American Bar Association Conference in London. He took part in an Ask a Justice session with Bridgend College in January 2025. In February 2025, he chaired the Current Legal Problems Lecture at University College London. In March 2025 he judged The Times Moot.

Lord Briggs spoke at a Young Fraud Lawyers Association event April 2024. That same month he took part in an Ask a Justice session with Y Pant Comprehensive School and judged the University of Sheffield Moot. He spoke at the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal Publication Evening in June 2024. In November 2024, he gave a keynote address to the Professional Negligence Lawyers Association. He also took part in an Ask a Justice session with Coleg Gwent that month. He gave the XXIV Old Buildings Lecture at Cambridge Private Law Centre in February 2025. In March 2025, he took part in an Ask a Justice session with Kenilworth School.

Lord Sales judged the Coventry University moot in April 2024. He spoke at the Oxford University Undergraduate Law Journal Publication Evening in June 2024. He gave a presentation at the Oxford University and University of Notre Dame Seminar on Public Law Theory in September 2024. In November 2024, he gave the FA Mann Lecture at Herbert Smith Freehills. In January 2025, he spoke at the Landmark Cases in Charity Law conference. The same month he also gave a lecture at Aston University. In February 2025, he gave a lecture at Durham University. He also took part in Ask a Justice sessions with Blackwood Comprehensive School and Fort Hill Integrated College in February 2025. In March 2025, He gave three lectures as part of the Clarendon Law Lecture at University of Oxford. He also spoke to the Commonwealth Association of Legislative Counsel in March 2025.

Lord Hamblen judged the University of Nottingham moot in May 2024. He took part in an Ask a Justice session with Holly Lodge High School in February 2025. In March 2025, he judged the University of Salford Moot.

Lord Leggatt gave the Harris Society Annual Lecture at Keble College, Oxford in April 2024. That same month he also judged the Queen Mary University Moot.

Lord Burrows chaired a panel at the Private Law Perspectives on the Contract of Employment in June 2024. He spoke to the Oxford Union in November 2024. In February 2025, he took part in a panel discussion at Wadham College Oxford. In March 2025 he judged The Times Moot. In March 2025 he also took part in an Ask a Justice session with Coleg Gwent.

Lord Stephens spoke at the World Bar Conference in Belfast in May 2024. He spoke at the event to celebrate the Supreme Court's 15th anniversary in Belfast in November 2024. He took part in an Ask a Justice session with Sacred Heart Grammar School and judged the University of Staffordshire moot in March 2025.

Lady Rose gave the Lever Lecture at Oxford in April 2024. In May 2024, she attended the Bellamy Lecture at the Competition Appeal Tribunal. She attended the UK Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists event in June 2024. In October 2024, she gave the keynote speech at the Employed Bar Dinner and Awards. That month she also spoke at the Charnley Law Dinner. She gave a speech at Lincoln's Inn in November 2024. She also gave the Renton Lecture at University College London in November 2024. In March 2025, she took part in an International Women's Day event with the Society of English and American Lawyers. She took part in an Ask a Justice session with Huddersfield New College in March 2025.

Lord Richards took part in an Ask a Justice session with St Joseph's Catholic Comprehensive School, Port Talbot in February 2025.

Lady Simler judged the Liverpool John Moores University Moot in April 2024. She chaired a panel at the Private Law Perspectives on the Contract of Employment in June 2024. She also attended the UK Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists event in June 2024. In October 2024 she judged the Classics for All Trial of Medea. In November 2024, she spoke as part of Pro Bono Week and took part in a D&I event at the House of Lords. In February 2025, she spoke to Oxford Women in Law. She gave a lecture to the Cambridge University Law Society in March 2025. Also in March 2025, she took part in an Ask a Justice session with Macmillan Academy and judged the University of Plymouth Moot.



Court 2 at the Supreme Court .

Justices' public engagements attended throughout the UK



Case study

Events for the 15th anniversary

The Court organised a series of events to mark its 15th anniversary in 2024, affirming its position at the heart of the UK's constitutional settlement, and emphasising not just its legal work but also its educational and outreach projects.

The main highlights were the visits by Court President Lord Reed to Belfast and Glasgow, and Deputy President Lord Hodge's visit to Cardiff, where they addressed legal and university audiences on the work of the Court, and its broader role.

This focus on the nations of the UK culminated in December, where Lord Reed headed a panel of experts for a conversation and Q&A session in front of an audience at the Court, on the subject of the Meaning of public service and public trust; the Dean of Westminster Abbey the Very Revd David Hoyle, and Dr Catherine O'Regan from the University of Oxford also took part, with the Panel moderated by Bronwen Maddox, the Director of Chatham House. A summer party for staff and former Justices was held to thank those who, over the years, have made the Court a success, and in October the Court hosted an international drinks reception, launching the second edition of its booklet on International Law, coinciding with a conference on the same subject taking place at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. In early November, the House of Commons hosted the President and Deputy President, the CEO and the Head Judicial Assistant, together with Lord Anderson of Ipswich to mark the HoC Library's new publication about the Court. Other events focused on educational activities, with both an Art and Essay competition for younger people attracting a range of high-quality submissions, with the winners receiving prizes and having their work displayed in the exhibition area.

With the public as well as specialist legal audiences participating in this range of events, the Court was able to facilitate a wide-ranging reflection on its role and work at the heart of the UK's constitution.



John McManus



Lord Hodge speaks to an audience at the Senedd in Cardiff to mark the Court's 15th anniversary.

Justices' international work

International Engagement:

Through our international engagement work, we continue to build and maintain strong relationships with courts, international judicial organisations and legal professionals from across the world. In doing so, we strive to advocate for the rule of law internationally, share best practices, and promote commercial legal interests. This financial year, the Justices have taken part in 34 inward international visits, 24 outward international visits, and 3 bilateral exchanges.

Examples of Bilateral Exchanges:

Bilateral Exchange with the European Court of Human Rights

In April 2024, the judiciary of the United Kingdom met in Strasbourg for a bilateral exchange. Roundtable discussions focused on building public confidence in the judiciary, working methods, and the interplay between Strasbourg and domestic jurisprudence and the role of interim measures.



Delegates representing the United Kingdom outside the European Court of Human Rights, 11-12 April 2024 .

Bilateral Exchange between the Judiciaries of the United Kingdom and Ireland

In October 2024, the judiciaries of the United Kingdom and Ireland met in Dublin for a bilateral exchange. Discussions were held on the topics of the gig economy, the exclusion of unlawfully obtained evidence, and common law constitutionalism and statutory interpretation.

Bilateral Exchange with the Supreme Court of Sweden (Högsta domstolen)

The UKSC welcomed a delegation from the Supreme Court of Sweden in January 2025. Topics of discussion included the use of technology to support access to justice, maintaining the legitimacy of and public confidence in the judiciary, and the constitutional role of a generalist apex court.



Delegations of the UK Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Sweden, 16-17 January 2025

Other international work:

We continue to coordinate nationally to strengthen our reputation abroad. We work closely with colleagues in the Judicial Office, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), and international teams at other departments to deliver successful and productive international visits.

The UKSC and the Justices regularly welcome delegations of judges, lawyers and government officials from across the world. Regular topics of discussion include digitalisation and artificial intelligence (AI), judicial transparency and public engagement.

Through this work and our participation in supranational legal networks, we continue to champion the UK as an international centre for legal excellence.



Lord Reed attends a meeting of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts, Athens, October 2024

Examples of the Justices' international engagements:

Lord Reed met with the the California Lawyers' Association in April 2024. In May 2024, he attended the J20 Summit in Brazil. In June 2024, he met with the President of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Dominican Republic and a delegation from the Constitutional Court of Indonesia. In July 2024, he met with the Ambassador of Vietnam. In October 2024, he met the Deputy Chief Justice of Indonesia at the Court and attended the Network of Presidents meeting in Greece. He was part of the UK delegation for the bilateral exchange with the judiciary of Ireland in October 2024. In December 2024, he met with a delegation of Nigerian judges. That month he also gave a lecture at the University of Milan. He was part of the UKSC delegation for the bilateral exchange with the Supreme Court of Sweden in January 2025. In January 2025 he also welcomed the Justice Minister of Montenegro and delegates representing the government of Australia to the Court.

Lord Hodge met with a delegation of Sikh judges from the United States in April 2024. In May 2024, he met with a visiting judge from the Conseil d'Etat. In July 2024, he assisted on a research visit from the Supreme Court of South Korea. He welcomed the Chief Justice of Brunei to the Court in October 2024. He was part of the UK delegation for the bilateral exchange with the judiciary of Ireland in October 2024. In November 2024, he met with the Sentencing Commission of Korea and the Supreme Courts of Kosovo and Montenegro. In December 2024, he visited the Max Planck Institute in Germany. He attended the Opening of the Legal Year at the European Court of Human Rights in January 2025. In February 2025, he spent a week in Brunei visiting the Supreme Court of Brunei.

Lord Lloyd-Jones attended the Bar European Group conference in May 2024. He was part of the UKSC delegation for the bilateral exchange with the Supreme Court of Sweden in January 2025.

Lord Briggs gave a lecture to the University of Hong Kong in May 2024. He attended the ComBar India Round Table Conference in Delhi in September 2024. He was part of the UK delegation for the bilateral exchange with the judiciary of Ireland in October 2024.

Lord Sales attended the bilateral with the European Court of Human Rights in April 2024. In September 2024, he attended the Global Constitutionalism Seminar at Yale Law School. He met with the Deputy Chief Justice of Indonesia and the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania in October 2024. In November 2024, he attended the International Conference of Europe in Discourse and the ACA-Europe colloquium. He gave the Robin Cooke Lecture at Wellington University in December 2024. In March 2025, he attended ACA-Europe in The Hague and gave a lecture at Trinity College Dublin.

Lord Hamblen met with Justices of the Ukrainian Supreme Court in April 2024. In September 2024 he attended the Banking and Financial Services Law Association Conference in Australia. He was part of the UKSC delegation for the bilateral exchange with the Supreme Court of Sweden in January 2025.

Lord Leggatt met with a group of California judges in August 2024. He spoke at the University of Leiden in September 2024. He was part of the UKSC delegation for the bilateral exchange with the Supreme Court of Sweden in January 2025.

Lord Burrows attended the bilateral with the European Court of Human Rights in April 2024. In October 2024, he met with a Ukrainian delegation.

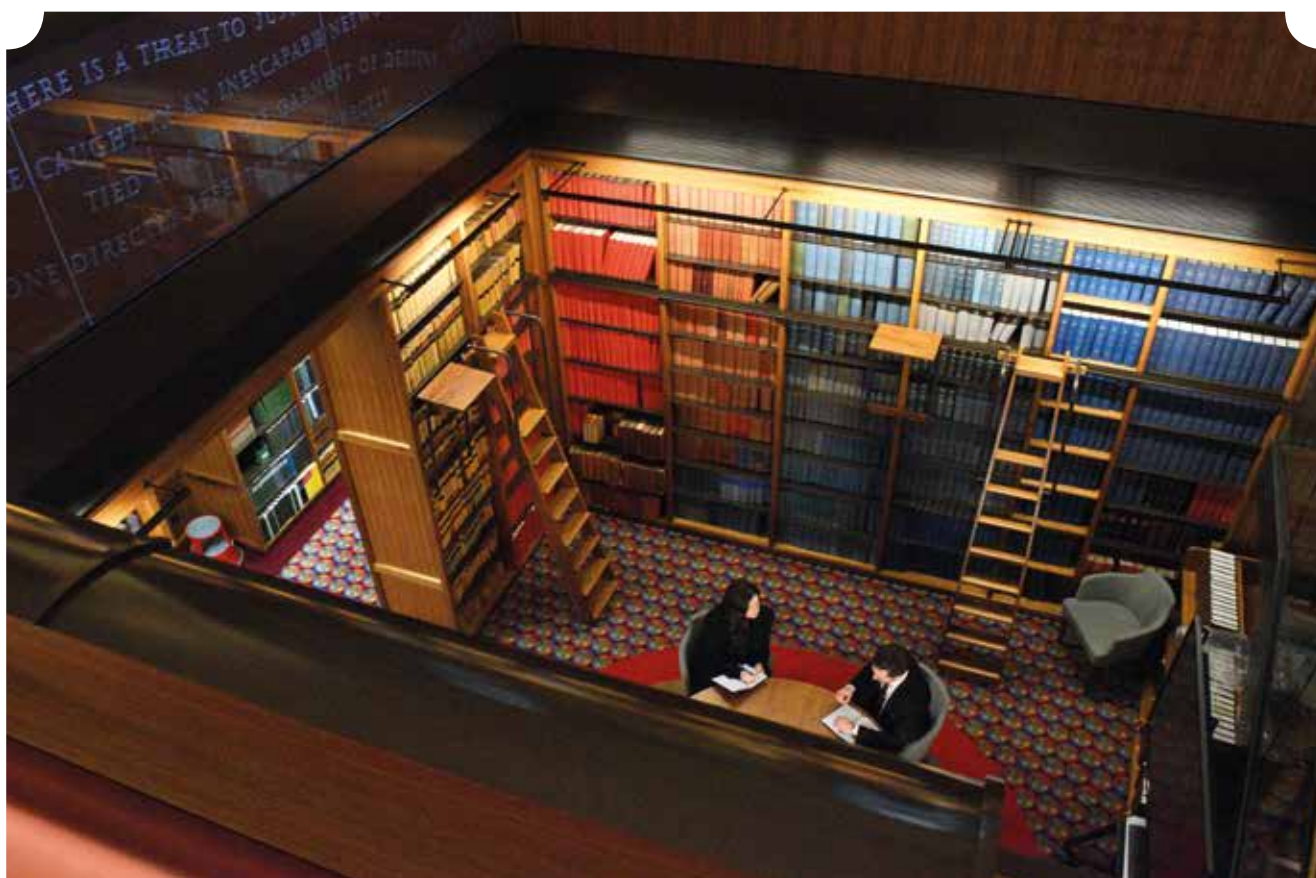
Lord Stephens met with the Supreme Court of South Korea as part of a research visit in July 2024. He was part of the UK delegation for the bilateral exchange with the judiciary of Ireland in October 2024.

Lady Rose gave the Lionel Cohen Lecture in May 2024. She met with a group of California judges in August 2024. In October 2024, she met with the American Inns of Court and a delegation from the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Albania.

Lord Richards met with a group of Norwegian lawyers in October 2024.

Lady Simler met with a delegation from the Supreme Court of Kosovo and Montenegro in November 2024. She was part of the UKSC delegation for the bilateral exchange with the Supreme Court of Sweden in January 2025. In February 2025, she met with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Countries with which the Court has engaged with during the 2024-25 financial year; both inward and outward engagement



Judicial Assistants working in the Supreme Court library

Case study

Judicial Assistant attendance at the ECtHR Superior Courts Network Forum by Victoria McGowan and Mannat Malhi

In June 2024, we travelled to Strasbourg to attend the annual forum hosted by the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) Superior Courts Network. The Network aims to improve dialogue between the ECtHR and national judicial systems by creating a practical way of exchanging knowledge on human rights and related issues. The forum brings together representatives from the member courts and the teams working at the ECtHR to discuss common issues and challenges faced by courts across the Network.



Mannat Malhi



Victoria McGowan

The first part of the forum was dedicated to presentations on this year's discussion topic: climate change litigation. Representatives from various member courts gave presentations on the legal position in their jurisdictions. As part of this exchange, we gave a presentation on the UK's Climate Change Act 2008 and the approach taken in some of the legal challenges relating to climate change in the UK to date. It was fascinating to gain an insight into the development of climate change litigation in other jurisdictions and to reflect on some of the similarities and differences in how these matters are being litigated across Europe.

The remainder of the forum focused on matters of practice and procedure, such as the strategies different member courts are adopting to foster greater transparency and accessibility through communication. We participated in a discussion group with representatives from other member courts where we learnt about the approaches they are taking to build public awareness of and trust in the judiciary. For example, it is increasingly common for courts to issue short press releases or summaries of their judgments designed for a lay audience, as we do in the UK Supreme Court. We also learnt that some courts require judges to follow a specific structure when writing their judgments to help make them easier to follow. Representatives from other courts were interested in the fact that the UK Supreme Court has a dedicated Communications team and spoke positively about our use of social media to enhance visibility.

Section 2

Performance Overview – The work of the UKSC and JCPC



A hearing of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council during Dame Janice Pereira's week sitting with the Court.

Technical phrases and abbreviations used in this section:

Appeal as of right	An appeal where permission to appeal is not required or has been granted by a lower court
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
Jurisdiction	This can refer to the countries or territories from which the UKSC or JCPC can accept cases, or the extent of the legal authority of the UKSC or JCPC
Legal year	The legal year is divided into 4 'terms' which run from October to July.
Michaelmas	October to December
Hilary	January to Easter
Easter	Easter to May
Trinity	June to July
Practice directions	Practical guidance about procedures which supplement the rules
Procedural application	An application made while a case is ongoing, for example, extension of time to file documents
PTA	(Application for) permission to appeal to the UKSC or JCPC: required where the lower court has refused permission to appeal to UKSC or JCPC
Registry	The team in the Court which processes cases

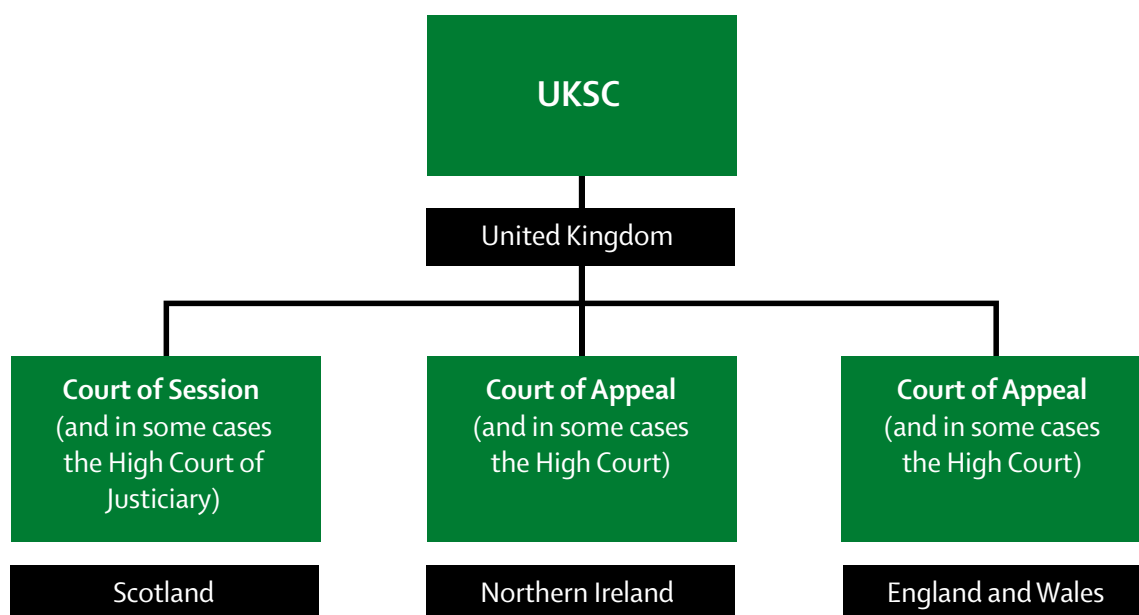
UKSC Jurisdiction

The UKSC hears civil appeals from England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland; and criminal appeals from England and Wales, Northern Ireland and in certain circumstances from Scotland. The UKSC's jurisdiction is set out more fully here:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/how-to-appeal/practice-directions#practice-direction-1>

The UKSC generally only hears appeals that involve a point of law of general public importance, or cases involving devolution. The UKSC hears appeals from the following courts in each part of the United Kingdom:

Jurisdiction of the UKSC



JCPC Jurisdiction

The JCPC is the court of final appeal for the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies and for those Commonwealth countries that have retained the procedure for appealing to His Majesty in Council or, in the case of republics, to the JCPC itself. The JCPC also has jurisdiction in a number of areas such as appeals from the Disciplinary Committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, certain maritime disputes and some Church of England matters.

Information about the different JCPC jurisdictions can be found in JCPC Practice Direction 1: <https://www.jcpc.uk/appeal-process/practice-directions#practice-direction-1> and in the **Annex 1** to this report.

The JCPC applies the law of the country or territory from which a case comes. The JCPC therefore plays an important role in the development of law in the various jurisdictions and the impact of its decisions extends far beyond the parties involved in any given case. Cases often involve constitutional questions and/or the fundamental rights and freedoms of the inhabitants of the country or territory.

Rules and Practice Directions

The UKSC has its own Rules and Practice Directions (practical guidance about procedures which supplement the rules) and it must interpret and apply the rules with a view to securing that the Court is “accessible, fair and efficient, and that unnecessary disputes over procedural matters are discouraged”. The UKSC’s Rules and Practice Directions can be found here:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/how-to-appeal/rules>

and here:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/how-to-appeal/practice-directions>

The Rules were updated in 2024 to allow users to engage with the Court’s new Case Management Portal, introduced as part of the Change Programme, and apply to all cases filed on or after 2 December 2024. There are also updated Practice Directions, issued in December, which apply to ‘Portal cases’. There was a public consultation on the new Rules, and a response to the consultation document was published in August 2024, available here: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/news/uksc-rules-consultation-response>

The JCPC’s procedures are very similar to those of the UKSC. The JCPC Rules and Practice Directions can be found here: <https://www.jcpc.uk/appeal-process/rules>

and here: <https://www.jcpc.uk/appeal-process/practice-directions>

The JCPC Rules were also updated in 2024 to allow for the introduction of the Case Management Portal and the 2024 Rules apply to all cases filed on or after 2 December 2024. There are also updated Practice Directions issued in December which apply to ‘Portal cases’. There was a public consultation on the new Rules, including multiple user groups held on Teams at the times suitable for each jurisdiction. A response to the consultation document was published in August 2024 and is available here: <https://www.jcpc.uk/news/jcpc-rules-consultation-response>

In both Courts the ‘old’ Rules and Practice Directions apply to any cases filed before 2 December 2024. These are still available for reference on the UKSC and JCPC websites.

We keep our procedures under regular review, monitoring their impact on Court users and aiming where possible to make accessing the Court easier, to benefit all parties who choose to use the Court. For example, the introduction of the Case Management Portal ensures that users across time zones can draft, review and submit applications at times which suit them. We welcome feedback from users – both through our user groups, and from other Court users and interested citizens. We flag changes to Practice Directions at user group meetings and on our website.

Case Management Portal

In December 2024, a new case management system and Case Management Portal was launched to Court users. The new systems and ways of working have streamlined the work of the Registry and provided a safe, fast and straightforward method for parties to apply to use the Courts. Registry have worked with staff, developers, Court users and other parties to create a system that is intuitive, clear, and benefits all users, but especially self-represented litigants (for whom we have provided clear guidance and a dedicated ‘Eligibility Checker’ which assists with signposting users where appropriate) or first time Court users. The system supports applications with clear and accessible information, thus facilitating use of the Courts to benefit as many users as possible. The system also supports regular Court users in the processing of applications, providing all key information clearly in one secure digital space, cutting down on email, supporting document control/data security, speeding up response times and providing clear direction to those involved in the application. We are extremely grateful to our user groups and testers for supporting us in the implementation of this system and have been supporting our Court users with this new software and changes to ways of working with the Court.

Devolution

The UKSC has a particular jurisdiction relating to devolution issues which is set out here: in [UKSC PD 10](#).

This year, one reference to the UKSC has been made under the devolution jurisdiction.

Permission to appeal (“PTA”)

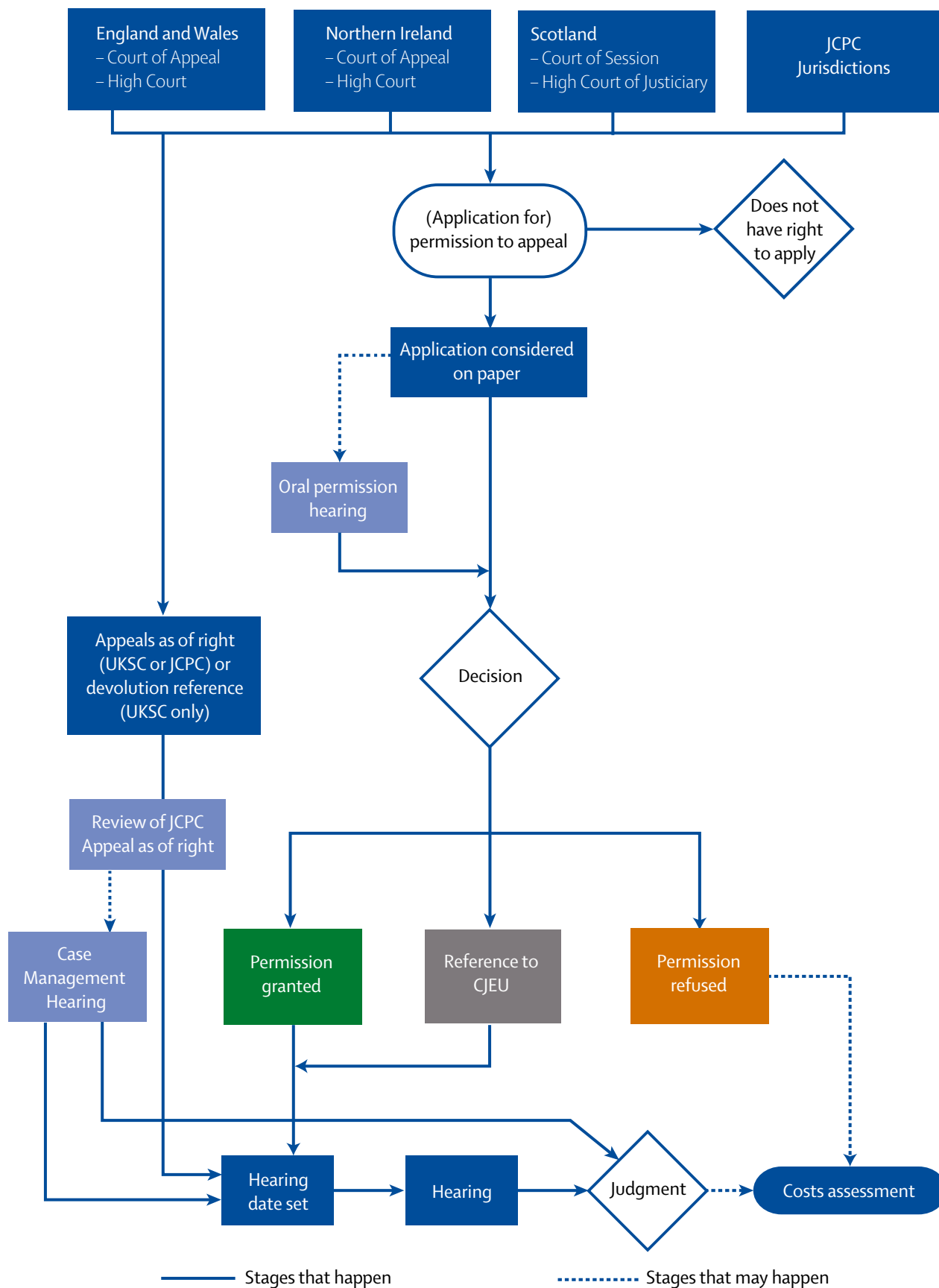
In most UKSC cases an appellant requires permission to appeal before they can bring a case to the UKSC, and these applications are generally decided on paper by a panel of three Justices.

In the JCPC, many appeals are appeals as of right. This is because the right of appeal to the JCPC is often set out in the constitution or in legislation. The JCPC may also grant PTA itself. Usually, half of the appeals heard are appeals as of right, with the rest having been granted permission by the JCPC. The review process for JCPC appeals as of right has been revised so that appeals are reviewed by a single Justice to identify the most appropriate form of hearing for that case. The Justice will confirm whether the case should be listed for a panel hearing directly, or whether a case management hearing is required in the first instance to consider why the appeal should not be dismissed on the basis that it falls foul of the rule in *Devi v Roy* [1946] AC 508, because it seeks to overturn concurrent findings of fact made by the lower courts. This is codified in [Practice Direction 4.30](#).



The public gallery and glass wall in Court 2.

Life of a Case



UKSC work filed

	PTAs	Appeals as of right	Appeal*	Devolution References	Procedural applications	Bills of costs	Eligibility checks**
2020-21	217	7	42	0	133	55	
2021-22	211	9	31	2	76	46	
2022-23	153	2	70	2	116	60	
2023-24	185	7	27	1	138	52	
2024-25	177	4	59	1	240	32	24

JCPC work filed

	PTAs	Appeals as of right	Appeal*	Procedural applications	Bills of costs	Eligibility checks**
2020-21	58	34	5	35	8	
2021-22	80	44	16	65	17	
2022-23	71	41	12	100	24	
2023-24	65	50	4	90	23	
2024-25	67	41	6	166	16	5

*Appeals where the UKSC or the JCPC have granted Permission to Appeal and the appellant indicates that they wish to proceed with the appeal. The JCPC figure includes one Mission and Pastoral Measure where the JCPC granted permission to appeal.

** New CRM only. This data covers 3 December - 31 March - as this is a new type of case.

PTAs

In 2024-25 the UKSC decided 170 PTAs. Permission to Appeal was granted in 61 of these, giving a 'grant rate' of 36.1%. In 2024-25 the JCPC decided 42 PTAs. Permission to appeal was granted in 5 of these, giving a 'grant rate' of 10.6%.

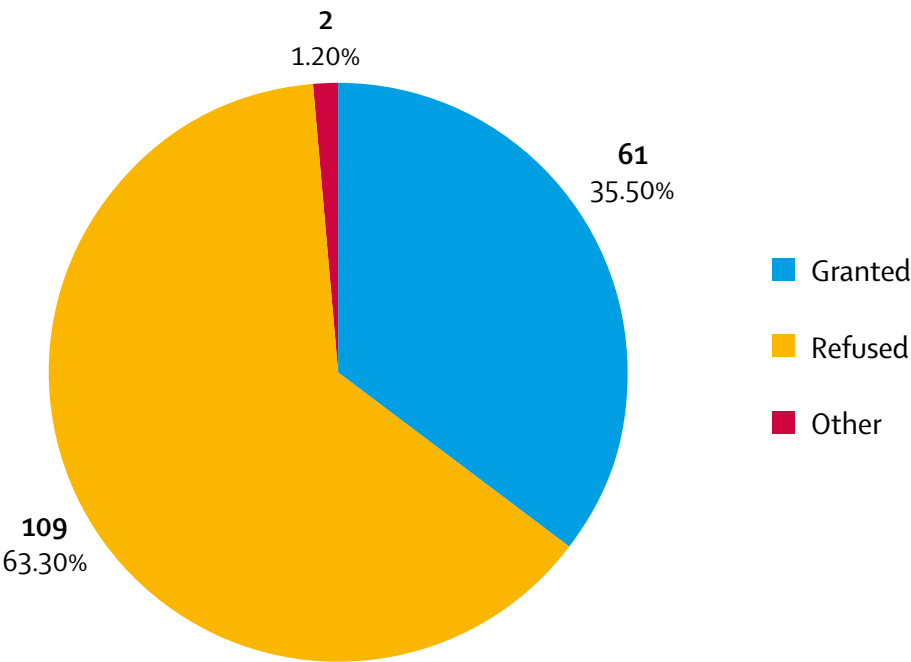
UKSC PTA results

	Other	Refused	Granted
2020-21	2	121	48
2021-22	8	150	42
2022-23	7	196	70
2023-24	2	146	48
2024-25	2	109	61

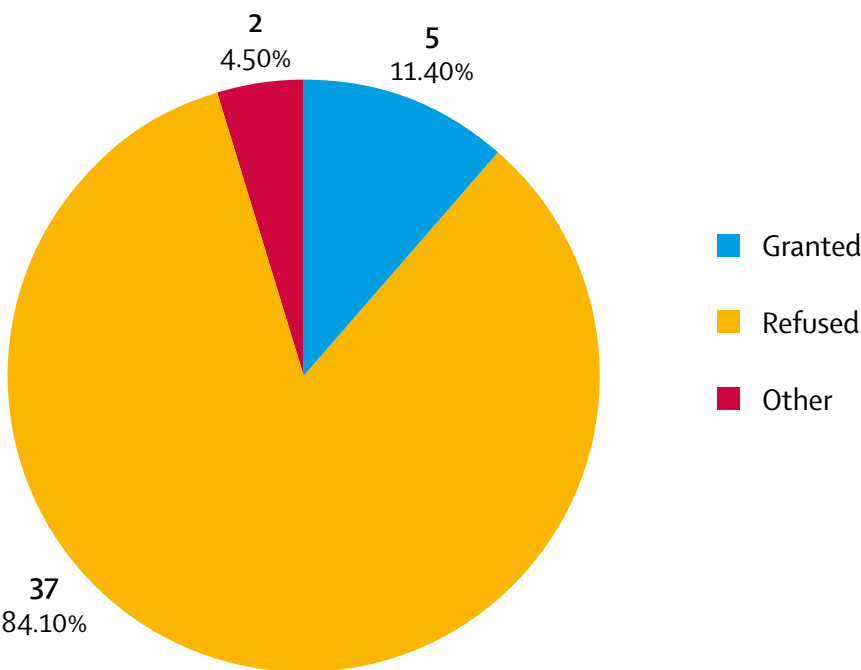
JCPC PTA results

	Other	Refused	Granted
2020-21	0	28	9
2021-22	3	55	20
2022-23	2	86	13
2023-24	2	69	7
2024-25	5	37	5

UKSC PTA results 2024-25

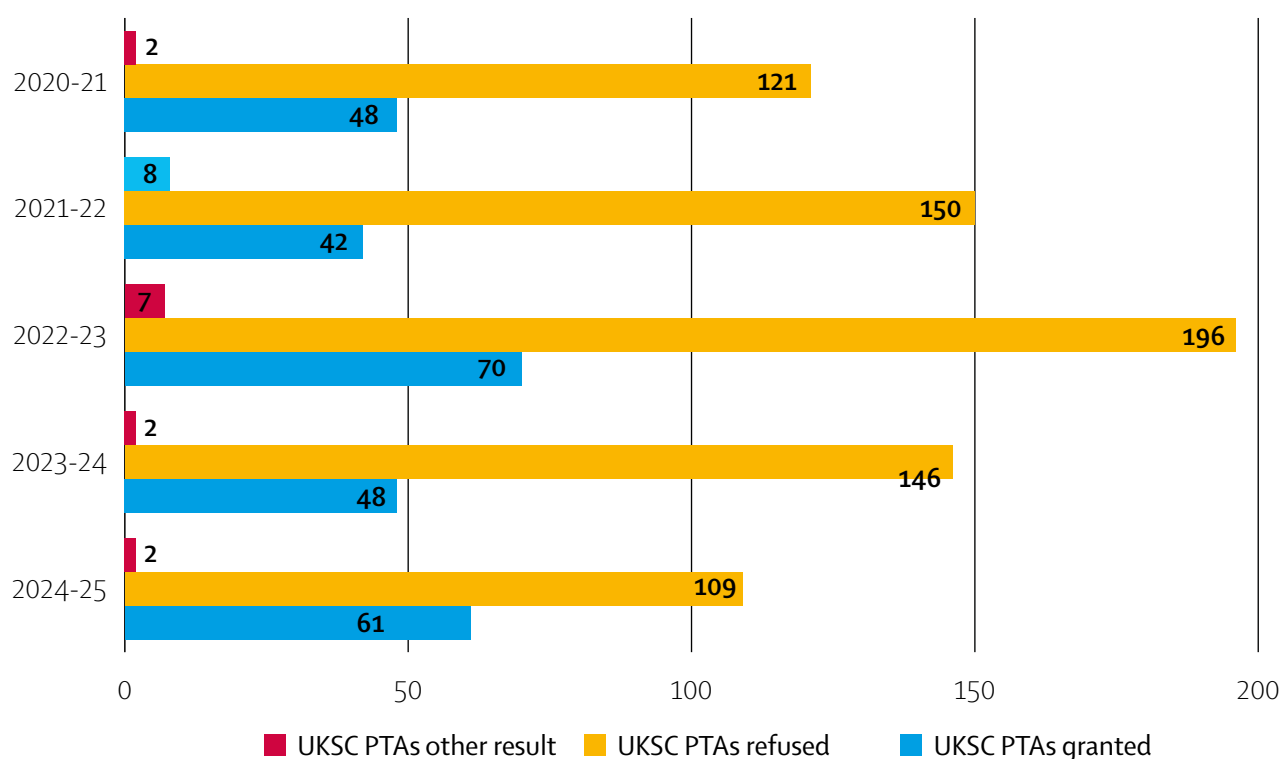
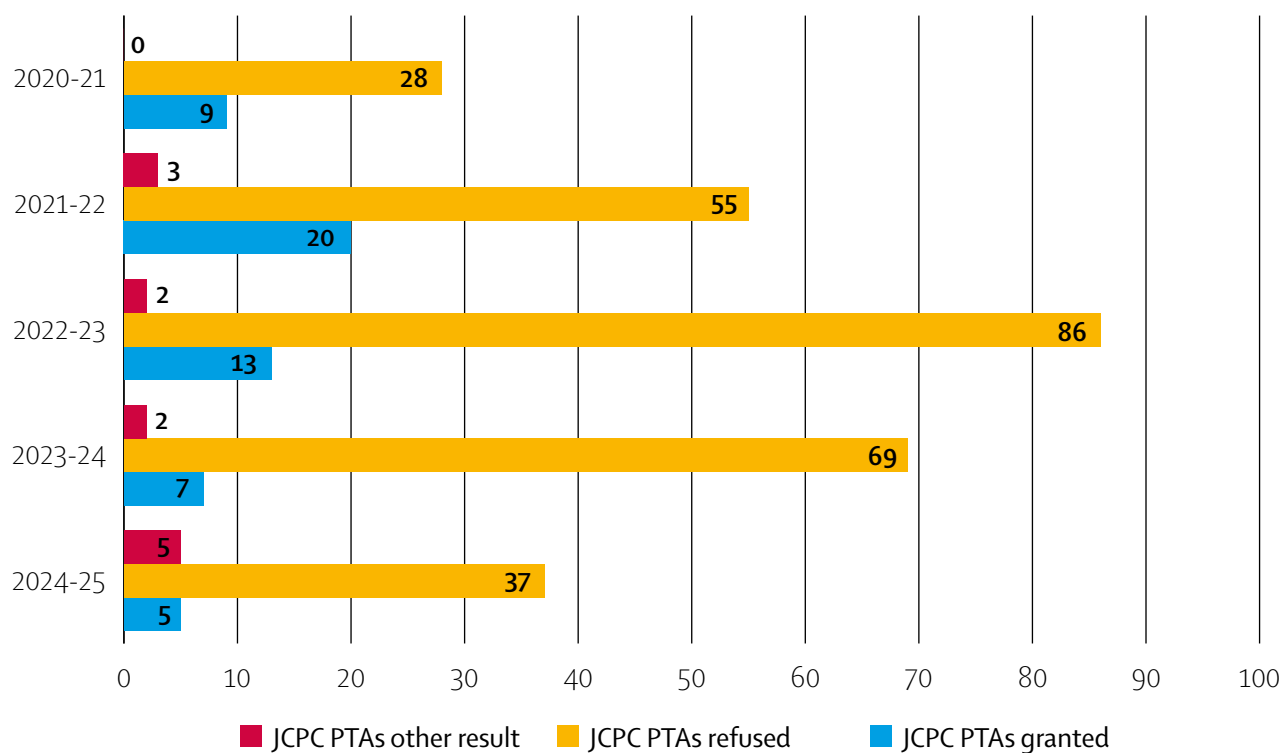


JCPC PTA results 2024-25



“Other” includes PTAs which were withdrawn or struck out for failure to comply with the Rules and Practice Directions.

Comparison with previous years

UKSC PTA results: 2020-25**JCPC PTA results 2020-25**

Appeals and judgments

Once permission to appeal has been granted, or an appeal as of right is filed (and subject to the appeal as of right review for relevant JCPC cases), we aim to set a hearing date within nine months. Wherever possible, we try to arrange hearings on a date convenient for all parties.

Size of panels hearing cases

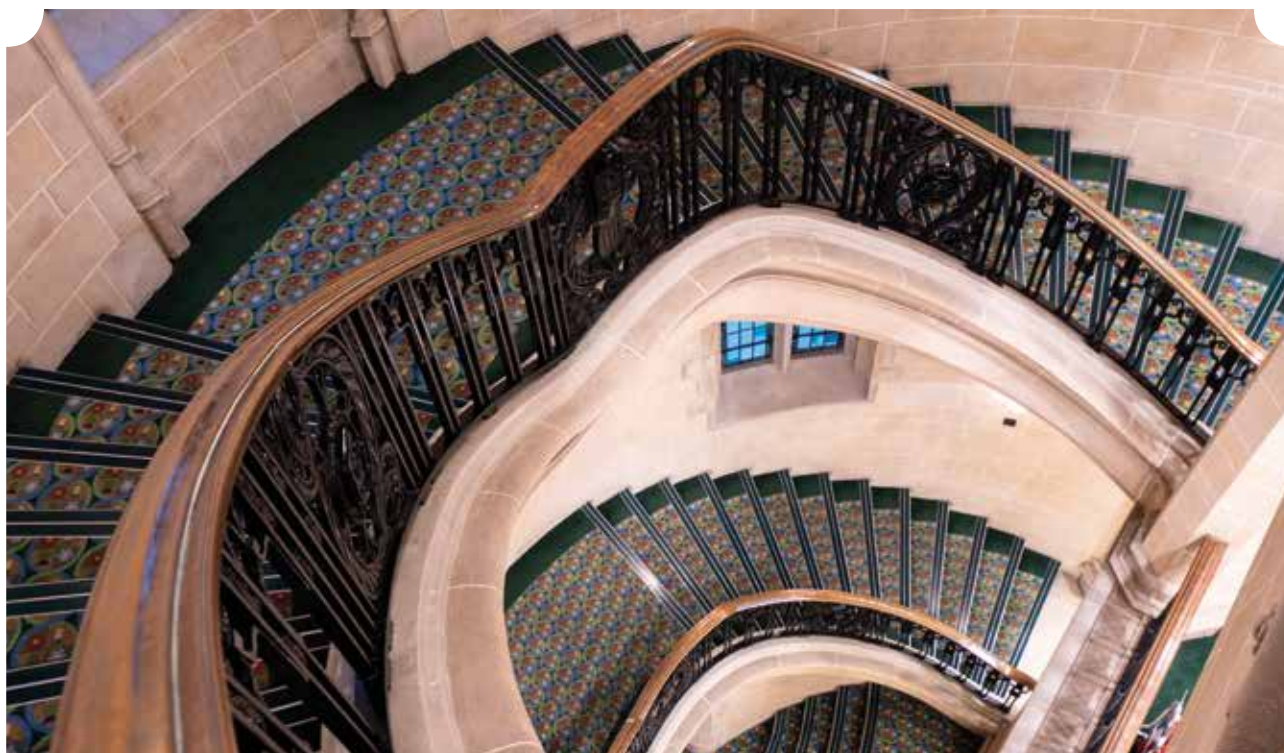
Both the UKSC and JCPC usually sit with panels of five Justices, but for particularly difficult or important appeals they can sit in panels of seven, nine or, exceptionally, eleven.

Two UKSC cases were before panels of seven in 2024–25:

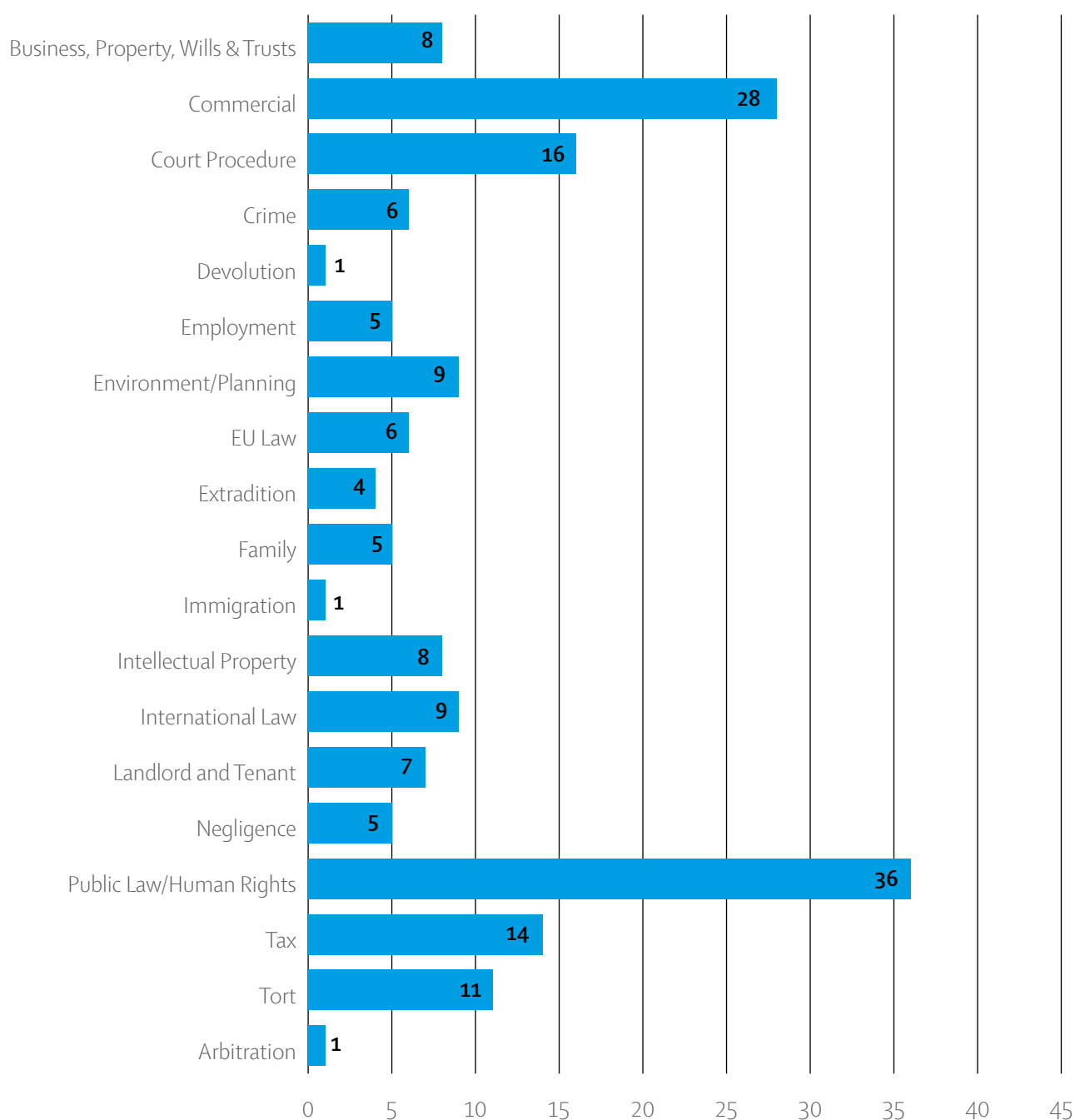
- *Rukhadze and others (Appellants) v Recovery Partners GP Ltd and another (Respondents)*
- *URS Corporation Ltd (Appellant) v BDW Trading Ltd (Respondent)*

Judgments in 2024–2025

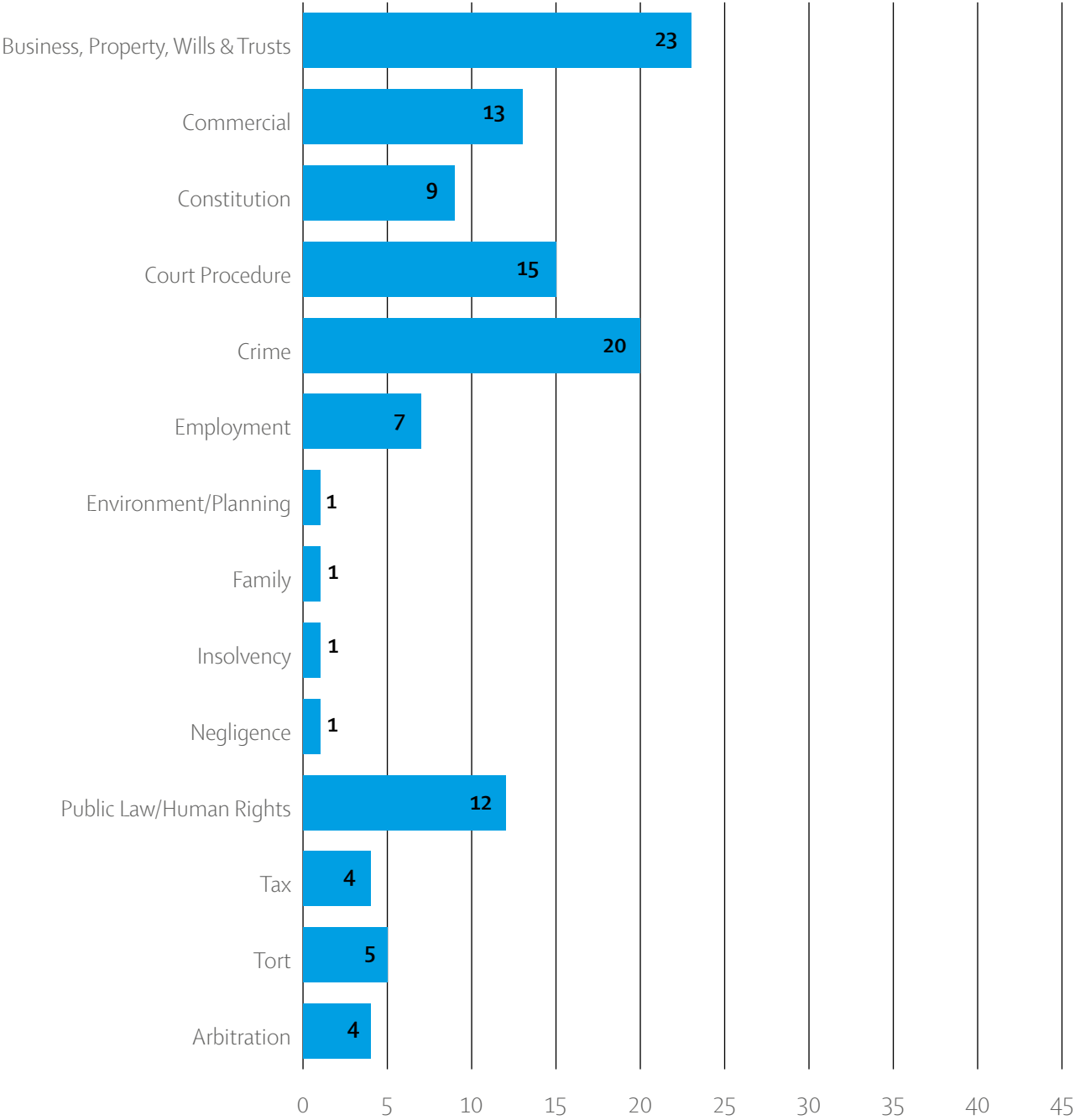
The UKSC and JCPC publish all their decided cases as soon as judgments have been handed down. Judgments are handed down or promulgated as soon as possible after completion, with time provided for law reporters attached to the Court and the parties' own legal teams to check drafts and for the Justices to consider any proposed amendments. Judgments are not always unanimous. There were 3 dissenting judgments (where one or more Justices disagree with the decision of the majority).

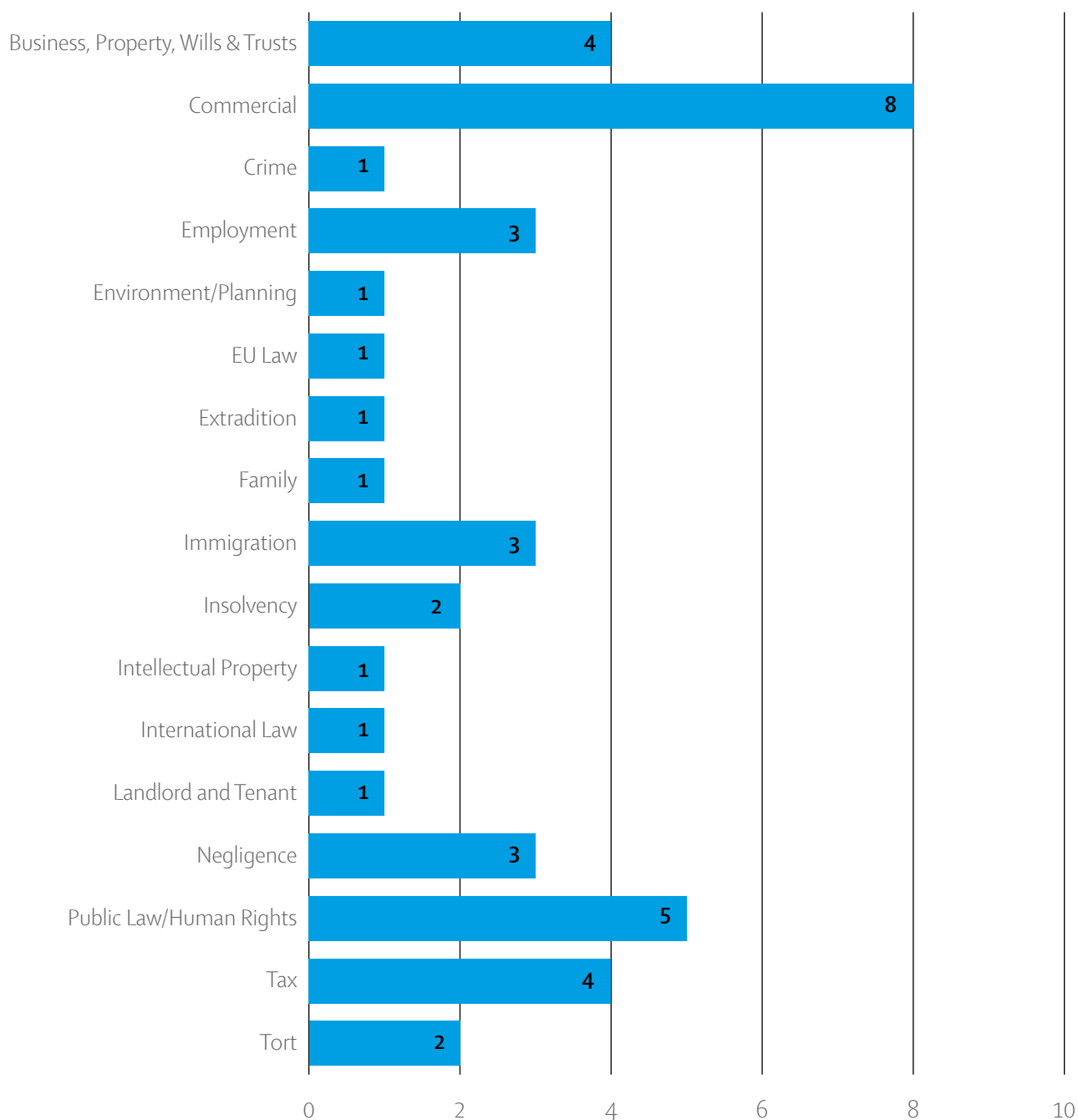


Stairs in the Supreme Court building.

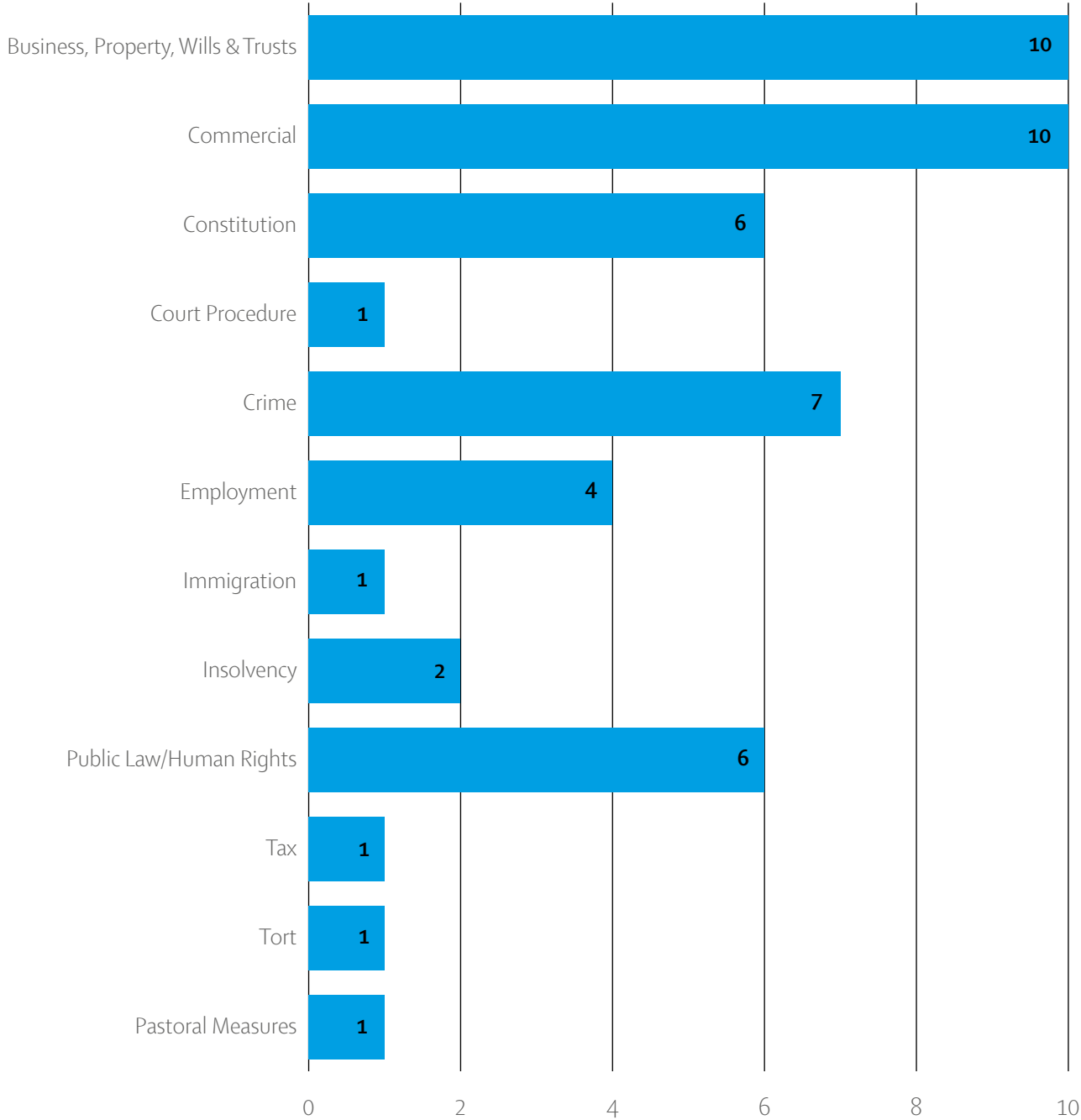
UKSC cases filed in 2024–25 by subject

JCPC cases filed in 2024-25 by subject

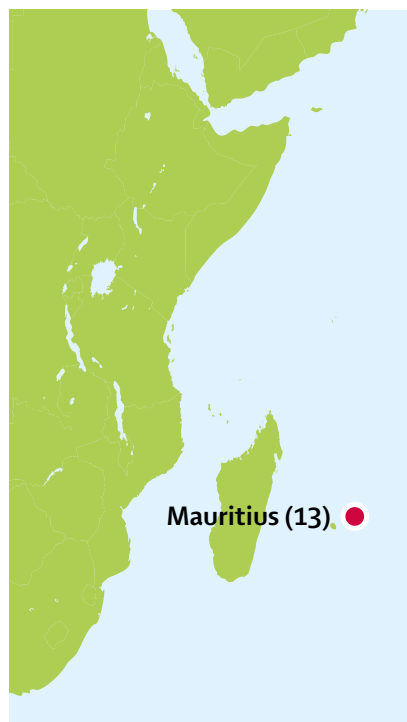
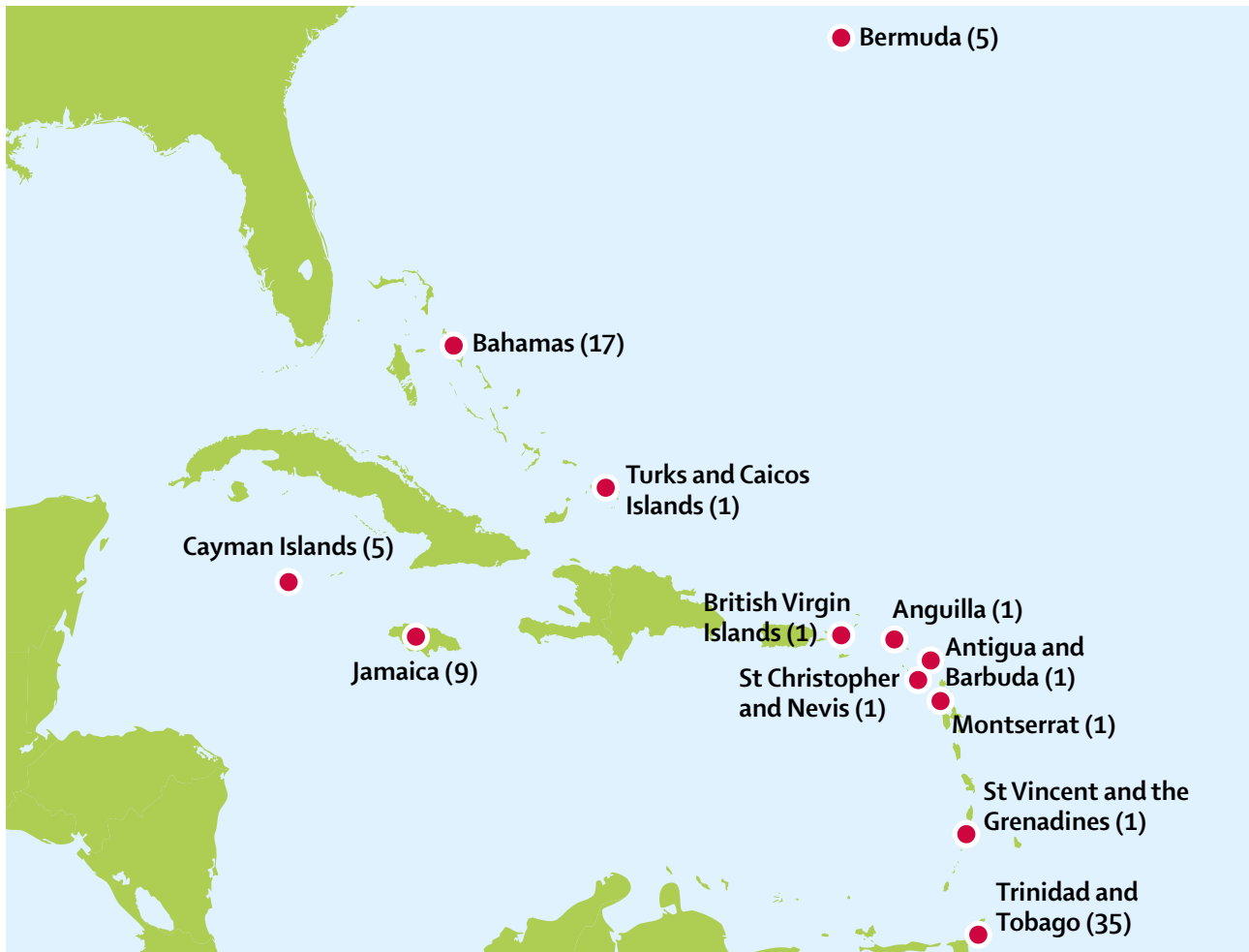


UKSC judgments by subject

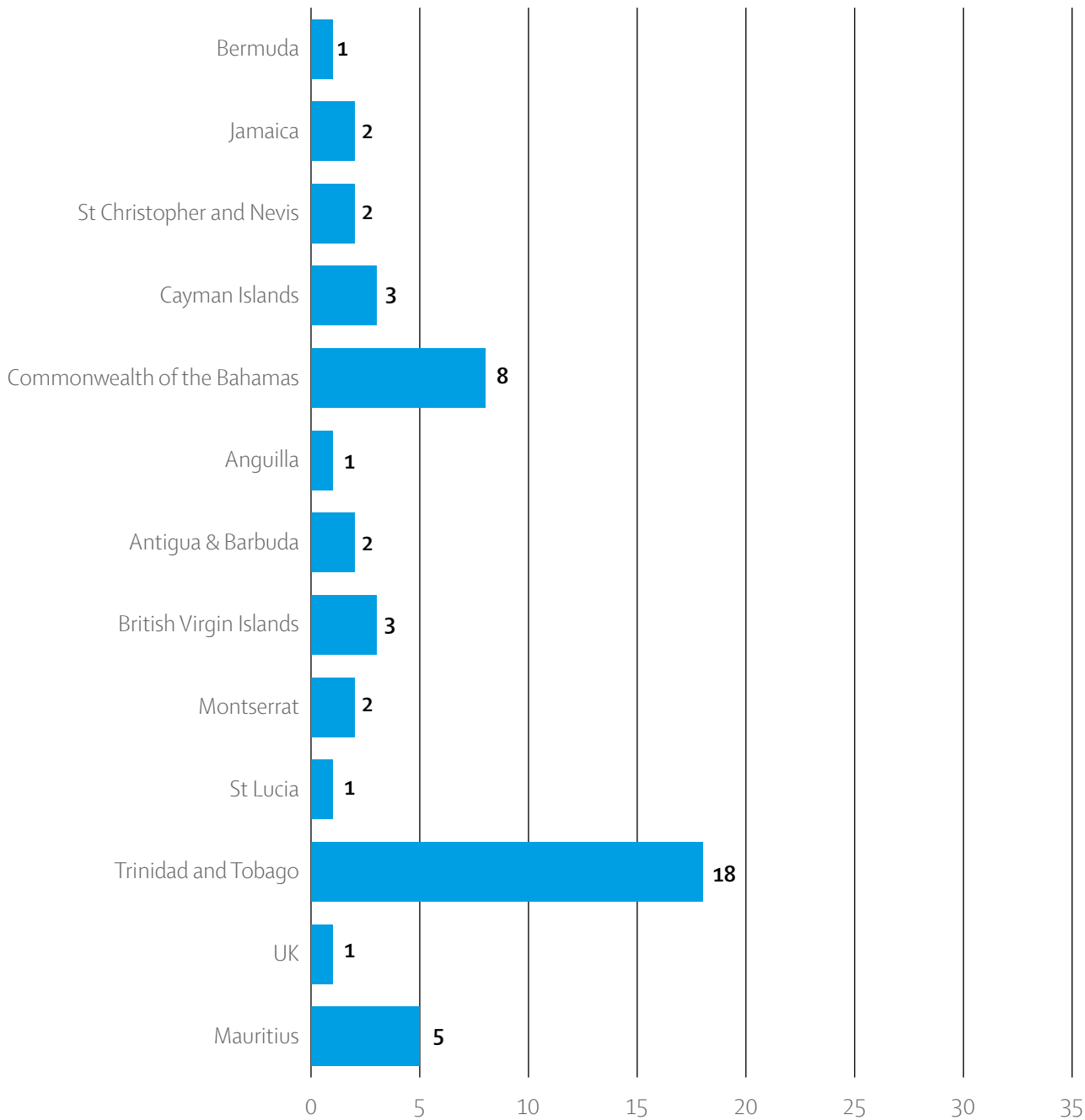
JCPC judgments by subject



JCPC filed by country of origin



JCPC Judgments by country of origin



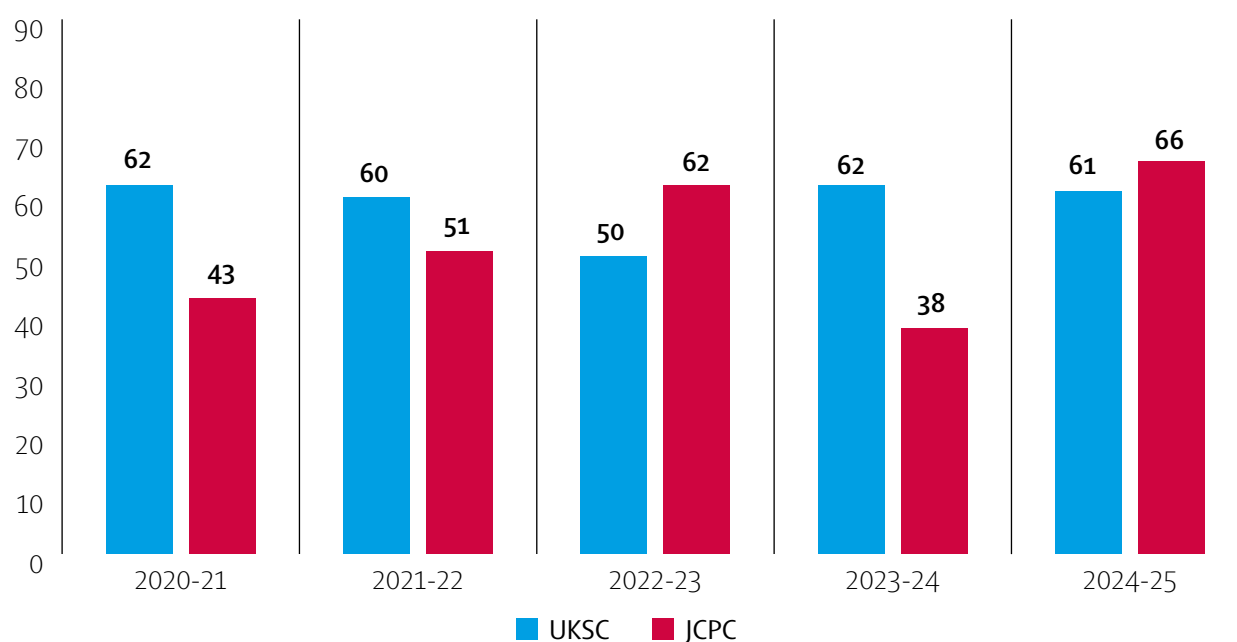
Costs

Both the UKSC and the JCPC offer the chance for parties to have their legal costs assessed. Where an order is made against a party that it must pay the other side’s legal costs and the parties cannot agree how much those costs are, the costs can be assessed, either on the papers or in the case of large or complex matters, at a hearing in front of one or two Costs Officers. The pool of Costs Officers is appointed by the President and always includes the Senior Costs Judge for England and Wales (currently acting) and now five other Costs Judges.

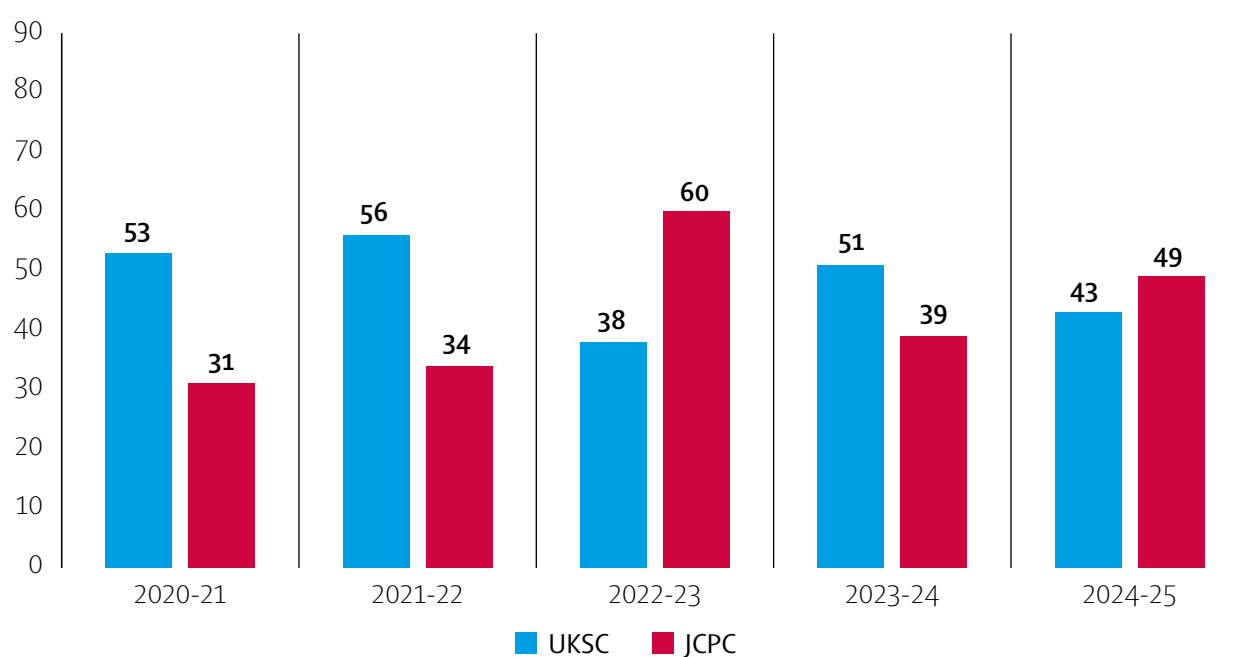
More details about the UKSC costs procedures can be found here: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/how-to-appeal/practice-directions#practice-direction-13> and JCPC procedures here: <https://www.jcpc.uk/appeal-process/practice-directions#practice-direction-9>

Comparisons with previous years

Number of appeals heard 2020–25



Judgments given 2020–25



Visiting Justices

The UKSC and the JCPC remain committed to widening the pool of judges sitting on cases. As a result, we have a more diverse bench which maintains the important relationship that we continue to have with the appellate courts. In 2024-25 we welcomed eight judges from the other jurisdictions who sat on both UKSC and JCPC cases.

From the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland

- Dame Siobhan Keegan, Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, sat on the case of *CAO (Respondent) v Secretary of State for the Home Department (Appellant)* (Northern Ireland)
- Sir Declan Morgan, former Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, sat on the case of *In the matter of an application by JR123 for Judicial Review (Appellant) UKSC (Northern Ireland)* and the case of *Department for Business and Trade and another (Respondents) v The Information Commissioner (Appellant)*

From the Court of Session (Scotland)

- Lady Wise sat on the case of *Mitoonlal Persad and another (Appellants) v Registration, Recognition and Certification Board (Respondent)* (Trinidad and Tobago)

From the Court of Appeal in England and Wales

- Baroness Carr, Lady Chief Justice of England and Wales, sat on the case of *Director of Public Prosecutions (Appellant) v Chris Durham also called Bouye (deceased) and 2 others (Respondents)* (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Lord Burnett, former Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, sat on the cases of *The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia (Cultural Bureau) (Appellant) v Constantine (Respondent)* and *Andrysiewicz (Appellant) v Circuit Court in Lodz, Poland (Respondent)*
- Sir Christopher Nugee, Lord Justice of Appeal, sat on the case of *Changyou.com Ltd (Appellant) v Fourworld Global Opportunities Fund Ltd and 7 others (Respondents)* (Cayman Islands)
- Sir Andrew Moylan, Lord Justice of Appeal, sat on the case of *Nirmal Mahadeo (Appellant) v Candice Mahadeo (Respondent)* (Trinidad and Tobago)
- Dame Philippa Whipple, Lady Justice of Appeal, sat on the case of *Marie Henri Dominique Galea (Appellant) v The Assessment Review Committee and another (Respondents)* (Mauritius)



The Rt Hon the Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill
Lady Chief Justice of England & Wales

I was invited to sit in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the case of *DPP v Chris Durham also called Bouye (deceased) and 2 others* [2024] UKPC 21, an appeal from the Court of Appeal in Trinidad and Tobago. The hearing took place in April 2024 and lasted a day, during the course of which the Board had the benefit of oral advocacy not only from the English Bar but also from advocates from Trinidad and Tobago.

The appeal concerned the circumstances in which it is appropriate for the civil courts to intervene by way of judicial review in prosecutorial decisions to continue criminal proceedings. The Board unanimously allowed the appeal, holding that leave to seek judicial review of the decision of the Director of Public Prosecution not to discontinue a criminal prosecution should not have been granted. Challenge by way of judicial review was an unwarranted interference by a civil court of concurrent jurisdiction with ongoing proceedings in a criminal court.

The judgment provided an opportunity to set out some important core principles, including that the courts must guard against the danger of unjustified collateral attacks on prosecutorial decisions. Whilst judicial review of a prosecutorial decision is available in principle, it is a highly exceptional remedy. The pursuit of judicial review is generally inappropriate where a suitable alternative remedy exists. There are important policy reasons for a restrictive approach, including the fact that prosecutorial powers are entrusted to the Director of Public Prosecutions, and the inevitable delays that judicial review would cause to ongoing criminal proceedings.

Deliberating with my colleagues on the Board, and writing the judgment following our discussions, was a very positive experience. I was made to feel welcome from start to finish, with convivial social chats over coffee before court and over lunch, and an enjoyable visit to meet judicial assistants and members of staff.

It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Privy Council.



Dame Siobhan Keegan

Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland

I was privileged to sit on one appeal from Northern Ireland during this period which was about the requirement to have regard to the safeguarding and welfare of children when making immigration decisions. The decision provided clarity as to the correct approach to assessing the best interests of children in these cases across the United Kingdom. Throughout the proceedings, the support provided to me by the UKSC justices and staff was invaluable.

I was honoured to be asked to write the judgment of the Court along with Lord Sales and I enjoyed immensely the collegiality of the decision-making and judgment-writing processes. My experience was very positive. Following this case and others I have sat on I believe that there are real benefits to the justice system from having judges from other tiers and jurisdictions sit in UKSC.



Lady Wise

President of the Scottish Tribunals

I was delighted to be able to accept an invitation to sit in the JCPC. The case, *Mitoonlal Persad and another v Registration, Recognition and Certification Board* [2025] UKPC 1, emanated from Trinidad and Tobago. It related to a worker who had been dismissed from his employment with a bank. In order to have his case for unfair dismissal heard by a specialist Industrial Court, he required to be a “member in good standing” of his trade union. The RRC Board, which had statutory responsibility to decide that issue, had determined that the relevant union had not followed sound accounting practices. As that was a requirement for membership in good standing, the test was not satisfied. The union had no bank account and so was unable to show that it had correctly accounted for its members’ contributions. A challenge to the decision had been upheld at first instance but overturned on appeal. Before us, the central issues were the interpretation by the RRC Board of its own Practice Note and whether its policy on bank accounts had the effect of fettering its discretion. There were also arguments about (i) a statutory provision that sought to oust the court’s jurisdiction to review decisions of the RRC Board and (ii) an alleged breach of the right to access justice.

Having heard argument, we were able to determine all of these matters by the application of established legal principles. It was very rewarding both to participate in the discussion that followed the hearing and to write the judgment. The generous support of colleagues on the Board was much appreciated. During my visit I was extremely well looked after by all of the staff. After I had prepared the judgment, I was impressed by the particularly thorough and efficient way in which it was checked and processed for issue. The whole experience was stimulating and enjoyable. I felt I had gained valuable insight into how the JCPC operates.

Hon Dame Janice M. Pereira DBE

“[It is] a matter of celebration that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has revived the practice of having among its membership a distinguished judge from one of its jurisdiction[s]” – Lord Hodge

The Court was thrilled to receive Hon Dame Janice M. Pereira DBE to sit with the JCPC for a week in December 2024, and again remotely in March 2025. This was made possible by the gracious decision of His Majesty The King to appoint Dame Janice to the Privy Council.

The Chairman of the JCPC, Lord Reed, has been working with the Ministry of Justice to enable judges from JCPC jurisdictions to sit on the JCPC, and was delighted with the appointment stating: “as the recently retired Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and President of the Court of Appeal, she [Dame Janice] will bring to our work a wealth of experience and expertise. Having a judge with direct experience of life in the Caribbean will strengthen our ability to serve the countries there from which we hear appeals.”

Dame Janice recently retired from the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, where she was the first female Chief Justice. In May 2013 she was awarded Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Born in the British Virgin Islands, Dame Janice attended the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus where she received her LLB (honours), and was called to the Bar in 1981. On 26th March 2018 Dame Janice was called to the Bench as an Honorary Bencher of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple. She became a High Court judge in 2003, before being appointed as a Justice of Appeal in 2009.



Dame Janice noted that including judges from JCPC jurisdictions as panellists ‘helps to bridge what is sometimes seen as a distance’ and allows the growth of understanding ‘from both ways’. The addition of distinguished judges from JCPC jurisdictions grows connections and allows knowledge sharing, building ties across the global judiciary and supporting the rule of law.



During her time in London, Dame Janice heard, with other Justices, several appeals from JCPC jurisdictions and supported the educational work of the Court, meeting with young people and answering questions from them about her work and that of the JCPC.

In March 2025 Dame Janice sat with the Court remotely, appearing via video link from her home in the Caribbean. As well as Dame Janice continuing to sit, the Court will continue to invite additional judges from JCPC jurisdictions in the future. We are delighted that His Majesty The King has recently appointed Sir Anthony Smellie KCMG KC to the Privy Council, and that Sir Anthony will visit London and sit on the Board for the JCPC in the near future. Sir Anthony is the recently retired Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands and has had a long and distinguished legal career.

Case summaries

UKSC

Appeals heard by the UKSC raise an arguable point of law of general public importance. The following examples highlight the breadth and significance of the cases decided this year.

R (on the application of Finch on behalf of the Weald Action Group) v Surrey County Council and others [2024] UKSC 20

Before planning permission can be given for certain types of projects, environmental legislation requires an assessment of the likely “direct and indirect significant effects” of the project on the environment, including the impact on climate in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. The issue on this appeal was whether, in the case of a project to extract oil, this environmental impact assessment must include not only emissions likely to occur during the process of extraction but also emissions that will occur when it is refined, and ultimately burnt as fuel (as was agreed to be inevitable).

By a 3-2 majority, the Supreme Court held that, on the correct interpretation of the legislation, the assessment must include the emissions generated when the oil is burnt.

The Court’s decision is significant because it identifies the requirement to take account of the full climate impact in deciding whether to approve projects to extract fossil fuels.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2022-0064>

Lifestyle Equities CV and another v Ahmed and another [2024] UKSC 17

This appeal concerned when directors are jointly liable with a company which under their management has sold goods that infringe a trademark. In this case, the company, Hornby Street, was found to have infringed trademarks owned by Lifestyle, because their signs were “sufficiently similar” to give rise to a likelihood of confusion. However, Hornby Street’s directors were not aware that there was a likelihood of confusion or infringement.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that the directors could not be jointly liable with Hornby Street when they had not committed infringements themselves and were not aware of the facts which made the use of the signs by Hornby Street unlawful. The Court also held that, even if they had been jointly liable, the directors could not be required to account for profits made by Hornby Street, only for profits they themselves had made (of which none had been shown).

This decision has provided clarity on the law of accessory liability. It confirms that directors are protected from a finding of accessory liability for unlawful acts of their companies, if they lack knowledge of the facts which make those acts unlawful.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2021-0150>

The Manchester Ship Canal Company Ltd v United Utilities Water Ltd No 2 [2024] UKSC 22

This appeal concerned whether the owner of the bed and banks of a canal could bring a claim in nuisance or trespass when the canal is polluted by discharges of foul water from outfalls maintained by the statutory sewerage undertaker, United Utilities Water Ltd. There was no suggestion of negligence or deliberate wrongdoing, but the polluting discharges could be avoided if United Utilities invested in improved infrastructure and treatment processes.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that the relevant statutory scheme for regulating sewerage did not authorise United Utilities to cause a nuisance or to trespass in a manner that interfered with the rights of the owner at common law. Nor did it exclude the remedies available to the owner at common law.

The Court's decision will affect not only the liability of all UK sewerage undertakers, but also regulators and public authorities more generally. In an important case study of how the common law and regulatory statutes interact, the Court drew a distinction between claims which have, as an essential ingredient, a breach of a statutory duty which is enforceable only by a regulatory authority and claims which are actionable at common law without reliance on such a breach of statutory duty. In the latter type of case, private persons retain, in principle, a right of action against public bodies.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2022-0121>

Mueen-Uddin v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2024] UKSC 21

This appeal concerned whether a claim against the Home Secretary for defamation was an abuse of process. Mr Mueen-Uddin, a prominent member of the British Muslim community, had been tried and convicted in his absence by the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal, and sentenced to death, for war crimes he was found to have committed during the war of independence in Bangladesh. The tribunal was criticised internationally for failing to respect minimum fair trial guarantees and for lacking judicial independence. In its 2019 report on challenging extremism the Home Office implied that Mr Mueen-Uddin was responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity, on the basis of the conviction.

The Supreme Court held that the claim was not an abuse of process. It did not contravene the general principle barring collateral attacks on a final judicial decision because Mr Mueen-Uddin did not have a full opportunity to contest the tribunal's decision. Nor did the claim contravene the principle barring claims where the damage to reputation was so trivial that the interference with freedom of speech could not be justified.

The Court's ruling clarifies that whether collateral attacks on foreign convictions are abusive depends on the procedural quality of the earlier foreign proceedings.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2022-0135>

Tindall and another v Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police [2024] UKSC 33

This appeal concerned the liability of the police whose negligence when attending the scene of a car accident allegedly caused a second accident in which the claimant's husband died. The tragic facts raised in acute form, the issue of where the boundary lies in the tort of negligence between actively making matters worse, where a duty of care can exist, and failing to protect a person from injury, where subject to certain exceptions there is generally no duty of care.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that, on the assumed facts, the police intervention did not make matters worse (even applying what is referred to as the "interference" principle), and that none of the possible exceptions to the general rule that there is no duty of care to protect a person from injury could be made out. The Court's decision has significant implications for the police, rescue services and public bodies generally, because it clarifies the circumstances in which they can be held liable to the public in the tort of negligence.

Read the judgment: <https://supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2023-0059>

The Father (Appellant) v Worcestershire County Council (Respondent) [2025] UKSC 1

This appeal concerned whether a father could use the writ of habeas corpus (a procedure enabling a court to order a person's release from unlawful detention), to secure the release of his two children after the Family Court made a care order placing them in the care of Worcestershire County Council.

The Supreme Court unanimously held the father could not use habeas corpus in this way. First, the children were not detained: they were simply living in a foster placement. Second, even if the children were detained, habeas corpus could not be used to challenge the lawfulness of a care order and other remedies, such as an appeal, should be used instead.

The Court's decision clarifies what remedies are available to parents who wish to challenge a care order. It makes clear that, in the vast majority of cases, the appropriate remedy will be to appeal the care order or to apply to discharge the care order. The decision also has implications for the use of habeas corpus in other areas of law. The Court explained that, although habeas corpus is of the highest constitutional importance, it cannot be used to challenge the lawfulness of court orders.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2024-0111>

El-Khouri v Government of the United States of America [2025] UKSC 3

The “double criminality” rule in extradition law requires the alleged conduct to be a crime under both UK law and the law of the state requesting extradition. The UK statutory regime applies two different tests of double criminality, depending on whether the conduct occurs in or outside the territory of the requesting state. This appeal concerned which test to apply and how to apply it when a person’s extradition to the USA was sought on charges of insider dealing but the substance of the alleged criminal conduct occurred in the UK.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that the tests are concerned with where the conduct physically occurs, not where its effects are felt. Here, all the relevant acts were done outside the USA. The test for such cases requires asking whether, on transposed facts, had all the relevant conduct occurred outside the UK, it would have constituted an offence under UK law. As it would not, the test was not satisfied and so the Court quashed the extradition order.

The Court’s decision will affect how extradition cases are categorised and assessed where the criminal conduct alleged crosses national borders.

Read the judgment: <https://supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2023-0127>

N3 and ZA v Secretary of State for the Home Department [2025] UKSC 6

These appeals concerned the lawfulness of orders made by the Secretary of State depriving individuals of their British citizenship, and the effect of the withdrawal of those orders. If N3 and E3 did not retain their British citizenship between the making of the orders and their withdrawal, they would have been stateless during that period and ZA (N3’s daughter, born during that period) would not have British citizenship by descent.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that if a deprivation order is withdrawn, it is to be treated as having no effect for the purpose of determining an individual’s citizenship status in the period between the making of the order and its withdrawal. The individual is to be treated as having retained their British citizenship throughout that period. However, the deprivation order will have effect for the purposes of determining the lawfulness of immigration enforcement action taken during that period.

The judgment underlines the importance of the right to citizenship and ensures that individuals are not rendered stateless in the period between the making and withdrawal of a deprivation order. At the same time, it protects the Secretary of State against challenges to immigration enforcement measures taken on the basis of a deprivation order.

Read the judgment: <https://supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2023-0133>

Secretary of State for the Home Department (Respondent) v Public and Commercial Services Union (Appellant) [2024] UKSC 41

This was an appeal about the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties Act) 1999. That act creates a presumption that, where a contract confers a benefit on an expressly identified third party, the third party can enforce that benefit. The presumption will be rebutted if a proper reading of the contract reveals that this was not the intention of the parties.

In this case, the third party was a trade union, and the contracts were between government departments and their employees. Those contracts provided for union subscriptions to be automatically deducted from the salaries of employees and paid over to the union. In 2014 or 2015 the departments stopped making the deductions. But the Court of Appeal held that the union could not enforce its entitlement.

The Supreme Court disagreed. On a fair reading, the contracts did not demonstrate a positive intention of the parties that the union should be unable to enforce the deductions, as would be required to displace the presumption in the statute. There was no express term to that effect, nor could one be implied. The Court's decision will have implications for similar arrangements in a range of employment situations.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2023-0077>

SkyKick UK Ltd and another v Sky Ltd and others [2024] UKSC 36

This appeal concerned whether SkyKick had infringed five of Sky's registered trademarks by using a similar mark for its email migration and cloud storage products and services. The High Court found that the Sky marks had been applied for partly in bad faith because the specifications included a wide range of goods and services which Sky had never intended to supply, and that Sky had sought this protection regardless of whether it was commercially justified. However, SkyKick had infringed the registrations so far as they were valid.

The Court of Appeal allowed Sky's appeal in part, ruling that Sky had not acted in bad faith and restoring Sky's registered trademarks in full. However, had bad faith been established, SkyKick would have only infringed Sky's registrations by providing cloud storage (called Cloud Backup).

The Supreme Court unanimously allowed the appeal in part, explaining the circumstances which may amount to bad faith, upholding the High Court's finding of bad faith but agreeing with the Court of Appeal that SkyKick had only infringed Sky's registered trademarks by providing Cloud Backup.

The case has wider implications for trademark law, particularly the risks associated with applications for overly broad specifications of good or services. It underscores that applications must be based on a genuine intent to use, or they risk partial invalidation.

Read the judgment: <https://www.supremecourt.uk/cases/uksc-2021-0181>

JCPC

Claude Gerald v Herman Sergeant and another [2024] UKPC 29

This appeal concerned whether the manager of a government-owned radio station in Montserrat contravened a guest broadcaster's right to freedom of expression under the Constitution by terminating the interview when the guest promoted the use of marijuana, an illegal substance in Montserrat.

The Supreme Court unanimously held that the guest's right to freedom of expression was not engaged. The Court distinguished between the primary right of freedom to express opinions and the ancillary right to fair consideration of applications for access to a platform from which to express them. The station manager was entitled to a level of editorial control, and the guest had exceeded the scope of his permission to speak about the medical uses of marijuana. The decision to terminate the interview was not discriminatory, arbitrary or unreasonable. Even if the guest's right to freedom of expression had been engaged, the manager's actions to prevent the impression that the station promoted the use of an illegal substance were justified and proportionate.

The Court's decision is an important clarification of the circumstances in which the right to freedom of expression is engaged in the context of broadcasting media, in particular with respect to access to a platform from which to express a view.

Read the judgment: <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2022-0084>

Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago v Tobago House of Assembly [2025] UKPC 8

This appeal concerned the spending powers of the Tobago House of Assembly ("THA"), the devolved legislative body responsible for Tobago within the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago. Specifically, the issue was whether the THA had the power to enter a specific type of financing ("BOLT") arrangement for construction projects, outside the statutory scheme through which the Government of Trinidad and Tobago controls the THA's expenditure.

The Board unanimously held that the THA could not enter a BOLT arrangement without prior approval. The statutory scheme required the THA to submit spending estimates to the Government for approval and funding. It also permitted the THA to enter contracts for the efficient discharge of its functions. But the latter power could not be divorced from or override the former obligation. Though not technically borrowing, a BOLT arrangement was akin to borrowing for a capital project. As such, the THA had no power to commit to a BOLT arrangement that had not been approved by the Government.

Although arising from a specific question of statutory interpretation, the Board's decision is an important clarification of the fiscal relationship between the different components of Trinidad and Tobago's constitutional system.

Read the judgment: <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2020-0003>

Terrisa Dhoray v Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago and another [2024] UKPC 28

This appeal concerned whether the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority Act 2021 (“the Act”) was inconsistent with the Constitution because it devolved certain revenue functions to a semi-autonomous body, the Revenue Authority. The appellant, a public officer, argued that it was unconstitutional because revenue functions, previously carried out by public officers with constitutional protections under chapter 9 of the Constitution, would now be carried out by private employees.

The JCPC held that the Act did not breach the Constitution. Since the rationale for chapter 9 protection is to protect public officers and the public from political pressure because public officers are institutionally part of government, if the function performed by such officers is put into the hands of an independent statutory body, there is no longer any need for those protections, provided the body is genuinely independent and there are effective safeguards.

The decision carries constitutional significance for Trinidad and Tobago, but its significance is of wider importance in how it approaches the question of constitutionality. Rather than seeking to identify the ‘core functions of government’ to decide what functions can be devolved, the Board focused on the rationale of chapter 9 to determine whether the divestment of tax functions contradicts its terms.

Read the judgment: <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2024-0051>

All Saints Spring Park Parochial Church Council v the Church [2024] UKPC 23

This appeal concerned a pastoral scheme by the Commissioners of the Church of England (“Commissioners”) under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 (“2011 Measure”) to dissolve the parish of All Saints Spring Park (“ASSP”). ASSP Parochial Church Council and Reverend Yvonne Clarke lodged an appeal against the scheme.

The appellants asserted that the scheme would breach s.6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 (“HRA”) by infringing their Convention rights under articles 8 (right to respect for privacy and family life), 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion), and 14 (prohibition of discrimination), as the scheme allegedly involved unlawful discrimination against ASSP parish’s minority ethnic congregants and residents.

The Board unanimously dismissed the appeal for lack of jurisdiction, as both appellants had failed to comply with requirements under the 2011 Measure.

Despite lacking jurisdiction, the Board provided its assessment of the merits. It confirmed that it would have dismissed the substantive appeal as the Commissioners are not a public authority under s.6 of the HRA. Further, the decision to make the scheme did not involve racial discrimination or any failure to consider the needs of minority ethnic communities. The Board therefore provided persuasive guidance for any future cases against the Commissioners.

Read the judgment: <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2021-0114>

Director of Public Prosecutions v Chris Durham also called Bouye (deceased) and 2 others (Trinidad and Tobago) [2024] UKPC 21

This appeal addressed whether it is appropriate to challenge a public prosecutor's decision to initiate or continue criminal proceedings by judicial review in the civil courts.

The Director of Public Prosecutions for Trinidad and Tobago (DPP) instituted criminal proceedings against the respondents for murder. Shortly before the trial, in a meeting with prosecutors, the key witness stated that the earlier evidence he had given which was central to the case had not been true.

The defence sought and was granted permission to bring proceedings for judicial review to halt the prosecution. In the judicial review proceedings, the High Court found the witness had perjured himself and ruled the DPP's decision to proceed was "unreasonable, improper, and unfair." The Court of Appeal upheld this by majority.

The Board allowed the DPP's appeal, ruling that judicial review was wrongly granted and no exceptional circumstances justified quashing the prosecution.

The Board affirmed that judicial review of a prosecutorial decision in the civil courts is an exceptional remedy. Judicial review is a remedy of last resort and permission to bring proceedings is generally inappropriate where there is an alternative remedy. The criminal trial process, which may involve the jury as finders of fact, was the appropriate forum with sufficient safeguards in which to decide what version of the witness's evidence was true. The Board considered the DPP's decision to proceed was neither irrational nor an abuse of process.

Read the judgment <https://www.jcpc.uk/cases/jcpc-2023-0007>



JCPC emblem in Court 3 at the Court.

Delivery of 2024-25 Business Plan and our Strategic Priorities

Below are the Court’s key activities and progress against delivery, all of which have been delivered whilst managing the risks identified and covered in more detail in section 4 of this report.

The following tables set out what our key strategic priorities were and how we performed throughout 2024–25.

Key: Delivered Underway Not completed

Where areas are marked as amber, these deliverables are in progress. Some deliverables have taken longer than planned or have been delayed due to in-year changes to our priorities.



Serving the public

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Marking the 15th anniversary of the Supreme Court through a series of public events throughout the UK.	The Court celebrated its 15th anniversary with events around the United Kingdom. Events were held in Cardiff, Glasgow, and Belfast, as well as in London. We engaged with over 1,000 individuals including judges, lawyers, students, and members of the public, increasing visibility of the Court across all four nations.	
Increasing understanding of the role of the Court in UK society through an exhibition of the Court's significant cases over the last 15 years.	We produced a pop-up exhibition featuring key statistics about the Court as well as 13 of the most consequential cases of the past 15 years. Topics of the cases range from Access to Justice to the powers of the devolved legislatures. The exhibition was displayed in the Court building in London and also travelled to the events around the United Kingdom.	
Continuing to deliver the Court's Change Programme which will provide new and improve ways of interacting with the Court, ensuring we recognise the diverse nature of all our users through new, accessible websites that support access to services and information quickly and easily.	The Change Programme concluded in March 2025, was user-led, and completed on time and within budget. A new case management system, Case Management Portal, and two websites with enhanced ways of contacting the Court were introduced together with a full programme of training and support for colleagues to be able to use the new tools and work in different ways. This also included a full technical handover to enable the Court to use and maintain the new tools and embed continuous improvements in their day-to-day activities.	

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Increasing access to high-quality information about current and past hearings (including facts and issues about a case and decisions made in lower courts) to increase knowledge and understanding of the work of the Court and the rule of law.	The Court began work to publish the facts and issues of a case following the launch of the new case management system and websites.	
Delivering an expanding programme of activities with schools, colleges, and universities to show the work of the Court and inspire the next generation of lawyers and judges.	The Court's education programmes expanded to new audiences in 2024-25 including piloting visits for primary schools and running half-term holiday activities for the first time. The 15th anniversary Art and Essay competitions also attracted engagement with the Court from key user groups.	
Exploring different strategies to make historic video footage more readily available and exploring providing transcripts of hearings from 2025 onwards.	From February 2025, where historic case footage was no longer available on the website, the Court began to publish this backlog on its YouTube channel. This is in addition to transferring this material to The National Archives. It is proving challenging to provide any more than a small number of transcripts as present limitations mean any inaccuracies require extensive review and checking. The length of hearings makes this difficult to achieve. Nevertheless, we shall continue to explore the potential for other solutions to this issue in the coming year.	



Providing a world class service

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Launching two new websites: one for the Supreme Court and one for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which will provide a more digital and accessible way of getting information about, and communicating with, the Court.	Two new websites, one for the UKSC and one for the JCPC, were launched in December 2024.	
Launching the Court's new case management system which will provide a responsive, user led digital service for Court users. This will be supported by our highly skilled Court staff who will provide continue to provide support and an excellent service.	Successfully delivered in December 2024. See case study on pages 60 to 63 for details about the launch of the new systems.	
Developing, consulting and putting in place new Rules and Practice Directions for the Supreme Court and Judicial Committee of the Privy Council to introduce new rules which reflect a more digital way of working, the introduction of the case management system and implementing statutory requirements.	Completed on time and in budget.	
Exploring the feasibility of the UKSC sitting outside of London in 2025 which continues our commitment to make the work of the Court accessible.	The Court explored the possibility of sitting outside London in 2025, however was unable to meet the costs that this would incur so this has been deferred to a later year.	
Considering the evolving AI landscape and its ongoing development within the legal profession, developing the Court's response.	The Court has explored the opportunities AI presents for improving efficiency, accuracy, and access to justice while also addressing ethical considerations and potential risks. It has developed an internal process to keep AI tools under continuous review.	



Focusing on our people

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Continuing to create individual development journeys in 2024-25.	We upskilled our staff by providing monthly training and development throughout 2024-25 to cover technical and behavioural skills and knowledge as part of the Change Programme. Sessions included preparation for change, keeping a positive mindset, time management, managing ambiguity through to technical skills such as writing content for the new website. The majority of employees had one or more development objectives in place.	
Delivering the second year of our People Strategy. Specifically in year 2 we will be: – Reviewing the Court’s HR policies and arrangements to ensure they are current, represent best practice and provide a high-quality framework for colleagues working at the Court. – Reviewing the employee lifecycle from recruitment to exit, ensuring that we provide the right induction, support and development to perform highly, to leave well, set up for future success, either in the Civil Service or beyond. – Embedding a refined approach to performance management.	In the second year of the People Strategy, the review of the Court’s HR policies was continued, and policies were updated in line with the latest guidance and best practice. The performance management approach was reviewed which included staff workshops to gain feedback. As a result, we amended our performance ratings to improve consistency across the court, updated the policy with clearer guidance and examples, and ran training for line managers to support the management of performance. A review of the reward and recognition policy was undertaken and, following staff feedback, we amended our process to enable managers to approve smaller in-year awards for staff without the need for a panel. Exit interviews were conducted by HR to increase consistency and enable staff to raise confidential issues.	

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Continuing to ensure that colleagues have the right tools and equipment to undertake their roles, which will include the introduction of a new telephony system.	The IT and Buildings teams remained committed to ensuring that all Justices and staff have the right tools and equipment to perform their roles efficiently. As part of this effort, we introduced a new telephony system to enhance communication and collaboration across the organisation. Additionally, we successfully deployed new printing services to improve reliability, efficiency, and accessibility. These upgrades are part of our continuing commitment to providing the best technology solutions to support our colleagues and the Justices in their daily work.	
As part of the Change Programme, we will continue to provide learning and development in behavioural skills such as change management, role specific technical skills such as how to use of the new case management software, and leadership development. This is essential for the successful delivery of the Programme, giving colleagues the skills and confidence to embrace the new tools, technologies and ways of working.	The Change Programme successfully delivered a significant programme of development and technical handover to staff. Over 130 technical handover sessions were delivered to relevant teams in 2024-25, developing role specific technical skills and ensuring effective management of programme outputs post-programme. This was in addition to the 15 all-staff upskilling sessions conducted in financial year 2023-24 which primarily focused on behavioural skills such as change management. Five full day leadership workshops were also conducted for staff at a managerial level. 100% of attendees stated that the workshops improved their understanding of how to be better managers. In the latest Programme Pulse Survey, conducted in February 2025, 91% of staff stated that they had received the right support to manage the change. Support post-programme will continue, guided by ongoing monitoring of KPIs, feedback and staff sentiment.	



Engaging outwards

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Working with Parliament to contribute to new MPs' induction following a general election, and providing events including webinars and tours for MPs, civil servants and House of Commons staff to increase understanding and awareness of the work of the Court.	The Court developed several resources for new MPs. These included a video produced in conjunction with the Speaker of the House of Commons and a leaflet about the work of the UKSC and the judicial system which were included in induction materials, and visits and tours for MPs. The Court continued to offer tours to civil servants and House of Commons staff to increase awareness of the work of the Court across government.	
Hosting the House of Lords Constitution Committee.	The Court hosted the House of Lords Constitution Committee in March 2025. The event was part of the Court's continuing commitment to work with government and Parliament to maintain and build good relationships and to increase awareness of the Court's work.	
Increasing understanding of the rule of law and the role of the Court by hosting and leading events and exhibitions including an exhibition on the most significant cases heard at the Court in its first 15 years.	An exhibition on some of the most significant cases heard by the Court over its first 15 years was launched in July 2024. The exhibition also travelled to Cardiff, Glasgow and Belfast for the anniversary events held in those cities. In addition to the exhibition and events in the four nations of the UK, the Court held an Art Competition, Essay Competition, stakeholder events, and a day of Ask a Justice sessions with secondary schools around the country.	
Continuing our international work, including supporting the Justices to attend and host international bilateral meetings, welcoming international delegations to the Court and attending international legal conferences.	The Court continued its active international engagement programme, strengthening existing relationship and forging new relationships with colleagues around the world. The programme allowed us to promote the rule of law internationally, share good practice, and enhance the reputation of the UK as a centre for legal excellence.	

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Continuing to deliver the Court’s stakeholder engagement work to build and strengthen relationships and share best practice.	We engaged with a wide range of stakeholders over the year in government, Parliament, and the legal profession. The work helped promote better understanding of the Court's work and enhance working relationships between organisations.	
Working collaboratively with JCPC jurisdictions to increase awareness of the Court’s work.	We were privileged to have Dame Janice Pereira sitting with the JCPC for a week in December 2024. Dame Janice also held a series of engagements while in London and will continue to sit with the JCPC, sitting remotely for the time being. Building on that success, we have invited Sir Anthony Smellie, retired Chief Justice of the Cayman Islands, to sit with the JCPC.	



A temporary exhibition at the Supreme Court.



Diversity, including and belonging

Deliverable	Update on progress	RAG
Delivering the final year of our Action Plan which supports the UKSC Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy. This will include: – Continuing with the D&I Working Group and hold regular meetings to challenge ourselves and adapt our action plan accordingly.. – Continuing with the Court’s reverse mentoring scheme. – Engaging and defining the next phase of the Court’s approach to Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging.	The Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy has helped to embed a culture that recognises the value of difference and the importance of learning from each other and celebrating diversity in every aspect of what we do. We continued to offer one additional day of learning and development to all staff to focus solely on Diversity & Inclusion (D&I). UKSC D&I Forum meetings continued in 2024-25 and were well attended across the Court.	
Delivering the third year of the Judicial Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. Through this we will: – Support the progression of underrepresented groups into judicial roles. – Support an increase in the number of well qualified applicants from underrepresented groups for the role of Justice. – Proactively promote the Court’s support for diversity and inclusion to the legal profession and the public.	We continued to work with partner organisations, including hosting the annual visit of the Freshfields Stephen Lawrence Scholarship Foundation and events with BVL. The Court also welcomed its fourth cohort of interns as part of the Bridging the Bar partnership. In addition to this work, the Court issued a Practice Note which took effect in April 2024 encouraging parties to give junior counsel opportunities to advance oral argument before the Court.	
Reviewing the art displayed at the Court, making changes which enable a more accurate and modern representation of society and the diversity of the people we serve.	Work continued on assessing the art displayed in the building. The first artworks will be removed from the building in the 2025-26 financial year.	



The Change Programme

Background

The Change Programme was completed in March 2025, on time and within budget. With the support of our delivery partners, Capgemini and Q5, the Programme has successfully transformed the Court into a modern, world-leading institution. By addressing challenges such as siloed operations and manual processes, the programme delivered user-centric digital services, streamlined workflows, and improved collaboration. These changes have enabled self-service for most internal and external users, enhanced efficiency, and ensured compliance with cross-government standards.



This transformation has fostered a **culture of innovation and continuous improvement**, equipping the UKSC and JCPC to scale with demand while maintaining operational excellence. The Programme's approach meant that user feedback shaped the delivery of a world-leading, inclusive, and efficient Court.



User-Led

Feedback was collected from all user groups. Internally, all members of the Court were involved in testing including Registry, Judicial Assistants, Communications and Justices. Externally, we engaged with known and new professional user, from the UK Supreme Court and the JCPC. This included lawyers, clerks, counsel and paralegals who had previously engaged with the Court as well as potential future users. We also engaged with members of the public, press and representative bodies of self-representing groups.

*'It has been a pleasure to see the Court develop its understanding of **agile ways of working** and **user-centric thinking**, while holding onto the **core values**.'*

Jacob Grantham, Capgemini Website Lead

Overall, **~1,400 pieces of feedback** were collected from testing the design and build of the case management system and websites, with **~72% of these actioned.**

Through **workshops, surveys, interviews, and usability tests**, we spoke to

over 350 users

and ensured that every aspect of the systems' design was informed by their real-world needs and expectations.

What has been delivered?

The Programme has delivered a case management portal, two new websites, new contact functionality and a programme of technical handover to staff.

Case Management Portal

The two-way case management portal provides users with a seamless end-to-end journey when filing a case with the Courts. Accessible through the websites, the portal includes features such as:

- Electronic Service
- Case Tracking
- Task Management
- Correspondence functionality with the Registry
- Electronic Payments
- Document Management



Websites

The two new websites; one for the UKSC and one for the JCPC were designed with a focus on user-friendliness and intuitiveness to allow users an exceptional insight into the Court and all its work. The websites include features such as:

- Integration with the Case Management Portal, allowing for instant case updates and information
- Subscription service
- Mobile compatibility
- Highest standards of accessibility



Contact Functionality

The new 'contact us' system is fully automated. Forms are hosted on the website and submitted without having to download and re-upload them to an email etc.

Each form has been designed with a specific theme in mind, e.g., information requests, complaints, general enquiries, etc., so that users are encouraged to only send enquiries that are relevant and can be actioned by Court staff.



Staff Technical Handover

Over 130 technical handover sessions were delivered to relevant teams in 2024-25, developing role specific technical skills and ensuring effective management of outputs post-programme.

In the latest Programme Pulse Survey, conducted in February 2025, 91% of staff stated that they had received the right support to manage the change.



Case Studies on the Change Programme



Case study

'It feels like a really exciting time in Registry.'

As Registrar, I was a product owner, so I was involved in the early stages of the design work, and the user research. There were some initial teething issues as I got used to the challenges of working with project management software and language that was unfamiliar to me, but I was guided through the process by Capgemini colleagues who supported me to become more familiar with the tools, enabling more meaningful participation. It was a steep learning curve, and it was sometimes daunting in the beginning to be leading sprint planning meetings which was unlike anything I had done before, but Capgemini took the time to really understand the Court and its users, and helped me understand my role as product owner, which made my job a lot easier. My confidence grew as the project progressed, despite the enormity of it sometimes feeling overwhelming. I went on maternity leave as we entered the main build and testing phase and when I returned, I was amazed at the progress that had been made. The impact of the new system is already evident in my day to day work. Everything feels quicker and I am able to focus more easily on case tasks because they all appear in one place, with a link to the relevant documents, rather than having to go to multiple locations to search for the documents I need to see. I can also see the relevant timeline of a case summarised in one place, so I don't have to open lots of different documents to try to make sense of the history. There is still a lot for me to learn but so far the system is even better than I thought it would be. I also see how much time it is saving the case managers to be able to point court users to our guidance documents and videos and helps our users too. It feels like a really exciting time in Registry.



*Celia Cave –
Registrar*

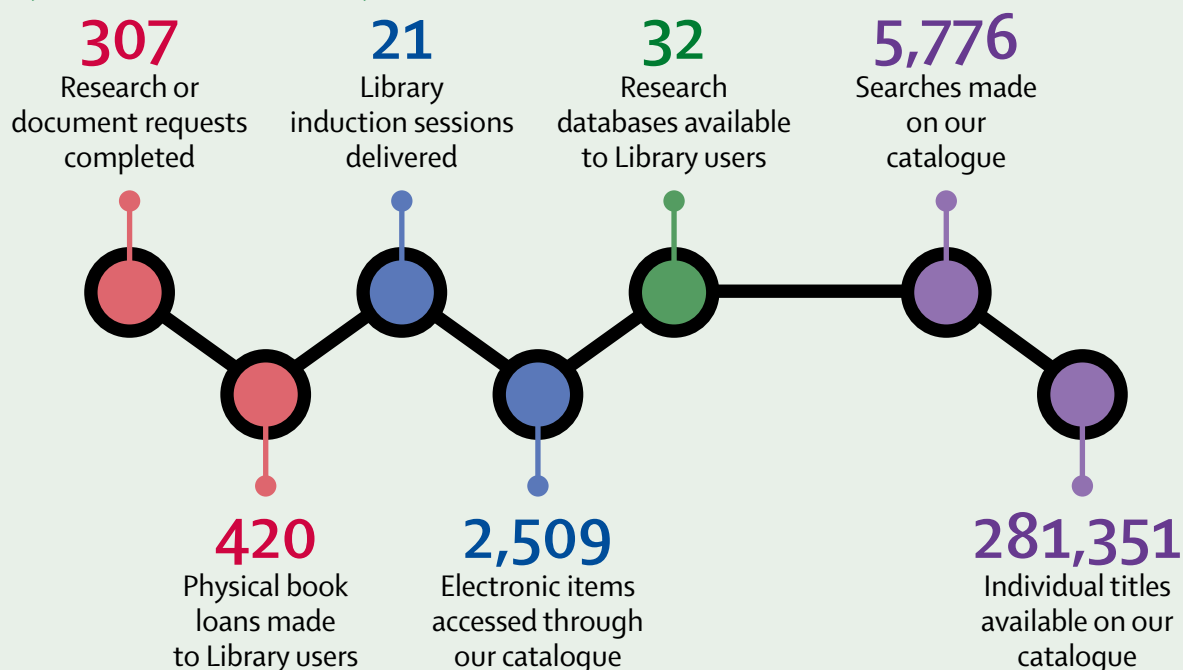
Case study

'I know that the Team listened to feedback from the Justices, which I hope was helpful and that of other users, including professionals and interested members of the public.'

I think that the Change Programme Team has done an excellent job in bringing forward the new case management system and redesigned websites. I have been impressed by the way in which the team involved each of the Justices periodically to explain how the system was developing and how it was planned to work. By enabling us to see the system in trial operations and listening to our comments, the team was able to reassure us that the case management system would be a considerable improvement on our previous methods and that we would be able to learn to operate it with ease. I know that the team listened to feedback from the Justices, which I hope was helpful, and that of other users, including professionals and interested members of the public. I have only used the case management system for the processing of Permissions to Appeal in one month so far and have found it straightforward to operate. I have no doubt that the system will reduce the risk of human error and will promptly identify cases which we may have lost sight of under the pressure of work and which need to be processed as a matter of urgency.



*The Right Hon
Lord Hodge –
Deputy President*

Key stats from the Library in 2024-25

Engaging with the media

The Court's Communications team continues to foster good working relationships with members of the media, keeping them up to date with the work of the Court and JCPC in an accurate, timely and accessible manner. The team continued to offer embargoed judgment hand-downs where possible and support journalists to attend court hearings and judgments. By doing so, we help to ensure accurate information about the Court and its judgments are reported.

Press summaries continue to be a valuable resource, providing succinct summaries of judgments.

There was widespread media coverage of many judgments of the course of the year. Particularly notable ones included:

- *R (on the application of [Finch](#) on behalf of the Weald Action Group) (Appellant) v Surrey County Council and others (Respondents)*
- *[Lipton](#) and another (Respondents) v BA Cityflyer Ltd (Appellant)*
- *The [Manchester Ship Canal Company Ltd](#) (Appellant) v United Utilities Water Ltd (Respondent) No 2*

High profile cases and judgments each have their own unique requirements. With the judgment of *R (on the application of Finch on behalf of the Weald Action Group) (Appellant) v Surrey County Council and others (Respondents)*, we understood that it would be the first time that many reporters had worked with the Court or attended an embargoed hand down here. To facilitate the process, we gave all journalists who attended paper copies of the judgment and press summary.

Over the year, the communications team also focused on improving and expanding the reach of our social media content. By posting high quality content regularly, we have increased our audiences on all platforms.

We also continued to produce more video content in order to increase our engagement. We created videos for the visit of Dame Janice Pereira, the launch of the new websites and Case Management Portal, the 15th anniversary of the Court, the JA recruitment campaign, and highlighting the Court's Diversity and Inclusion work.

Welcoming visitors, education and outreach

In 2024-25, the UKSC welcomed 66,104 visitors to the building.

Our education and outreach programmes inspire and engage students of all ages across the UK. Through these programmes, students learn about the work and the role of the UKSC and JCPC. Schools have the option to select in-person or virtual tours of the Court, and we continue to offer three education programmes: Moots, Debate Days and Ask a Justice. Dame Janice Pereira's visit to the JCPC also allowed for two schools to be included in a 'JCPC Ask a Justice' session in December 2024.

This year, the Court offered additional education activities as part of the UKSC 15th anniversary celebrations. Art Competition entrants aged 15-18 were invited to submit work for inclusion in the exhibition. Over 120 submissions were received to the 15th anniversary Essay Competition. The winner of the essay competition was invited to the UKSC for a tour and tea with Lady Simler.

The number of in-person tours has decreased slightly this year. 6400 students have attended 271 free educational tours. However, the number of tours conducted for members of the public and overseas groups increased from 106 in 2023-24 to 122 in 2024-25.

We are entering the final year of an extended five-year access strategy. This year the education team produced a tactile touch tour script designed for visitors with visual impairment. This provides information about the Court building, the work of the UKSC and JCPC and its facilities.



Lord Leggatt judges the Queen Mary University of London Moot final.



Lady Simler and Essay Competition winner Jude D'Alesio

8

Moots (mock trials in the education programme) delivered in person

"Thank you again for the opportunity on Wednesday. We all appreciated it so very much!"

University of Plymouth

"I just want to say a huge thank you for everything that you have done. The University of Salford had an amazing time at the mooting competition yesterday.

Liam and Liz were fantastic, and we had such a fantastic time during the tour as well.

We also want to express our gratitude to Lord Hamblen and his legal assistant not only for his judging but for answering the questions that the students had."

University of Salford

"London South Bank University's students all had a great time, the tour with Matthew was incredibly well put-together and very engaging. Matthew was very helpful in keeping contact with us and replying to all queries we had. Lord Reed and his judicial assistant Rebecca, acted excellently as judges and interjected with appropriately challenging questions."

London South Bank University

"Thank you very much for the opportunity. We were all very impressed with the smooth execution of the event."

Queen Mary, University of London



Ask a Justice

Beginning in 2018, the Ask a Justice programme is open to all schools across the UK. It provides students in Years 11 to 13 in England and Wales; years 12 to 14 in Northern Ireland and S5 and S6 in Scotland with the opportunity to learn more about the work of the Court. Schools who may face barriers in travelling to London to visit the Supreme Court in person, such as schools located in areas of multiple deprivation, are offered the opportunity to talk to UK Supreme Court Justices and ask 10 questions online from their classroom. **Since its inception, 80 schools have taken part in the Ask a Justice programme.**

This year, **26** schools from across Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England have taken part in an Ask a Justice. The 4 schools who took part in the final sessions for 2023-24 Ask a Justice were all state schools.

For the **15th anniversary Ask a Justice** events, schools who had previously participated in the programme were invited back to take part in Ask a Justice:

2 from **areas of multiple deprivation in England (25%)**, 2 from other areas in England **(25%)**; 3 schools from Wales **(37.5%)**, and 1 school from **Northern Ireland (12.5%)**.

Free school meals:

Free school meals eligibility is a common measure for understanding deprivation.

75 % of schools taking part in the 15th anniversary event reported **higher than average** free school meals; 12.5% average **free school meals**, 12.5% **below average** free school meals.

During Dame Janice Pereira's visit to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, 2 schools from the London Borough of Newham were invited to take part in an Ask a Justice Session. Both schools reported higher than average free school meals metrics.

One of the schools that took part was London Academy of Excellence. Following the session, the school provided feedback on how their Ask a Justice session had benefited their students:

"Thank you very much for inviting LAE, it was really exciting for our students to meet and talk with a judge. She was very gracious and reflective and there was a lot in what she said that we will use for teaching and Law careers content.

[Curriculum objectives were for] Year 12 students to learn about judiciary, work of [the Supreme Court] and to meet a judge. It was particularly interesting given Dame Pereira's career that students learned something about the international work of the Court in Commonwealth jurisdictions."

For the 2024-25 core programme of Ask a Justice events, **13 schools** have been offered the opportunity to participate. **11 schools** will take part in the programme before April 2025. This includes **5 schools** from **England** (all from target areas), **3** schools from **Wales**, **2** schools from **Northern Ireland**, and **1 school** from **Scotland**.

7 schools reported **higher than average** free school meals uptake (63%); **2 schools** reported **average free school meals** (18%); 2 schools reported Below Average Free school meals uptake.

Complaints

The Court deals with two types of complaints:

- Level 1: complaints made in person/at the point where the complaint arose (these typically involve issues with visitor experiences);
- Level 2: formal complaints made in accordance with the Court's Judicial or administrative complaints policies. Those with an issue to raise can make a written complaint which is investigated by the Complaints and Data Protection Team. If the person complaining is dissatisfied, they can ask for an internal review of the way the complaint was handled.

The Court does not record Level 1 complaints, which are resolved at the point of contact. Anyone not satisfied with an outcome can make a formal complaint (Level 2).

In 2024-25 the UKSC dealt with 4 Level 2 complaints. Of these, 4 were not upheld.

Anyone who remains dissatisfied after the investigation and review stage can complain to the Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman. The Court believes that no complaints have been made in 2024-25.

Managing the risk of fraud, bribery and corruption

The UKSC has zero tolerance of fraud, bribery and corruption. We have in place clear policies and procedures which are commensurate with the size of the department and ensure that we take a continuous improvement approach to managing risks in this area. The Counter Fraud, Bribery and Corruption Policy was reviewed and updated in 2022-23 which outlines the responsibilities of the Accounting Officer, senior management and staff on how to identify and respond to fraud. This includes fraud with deliberate intent to acquire money or goods dishonestly through the falsification of records or documents. This Policy was approved by the Management Board, who are charged with governance regarding management's processes for identifying and responding to the risks of fraud.

There were no reported incidents of fraud, bribery or corruption in the financial year 2024-25.

Section 3

Performance Analysis



Lord Lloyd-Jones with current and former members of staff at the launch of 'Public International Law in the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, 2nd edition.

Annual Report on Sustainability 2024-25

The Court is committed to playing its part when it comes to sustainability and has put a series of measures in place to abide by the 2021-25 Government Greening Commitments (GGCs) which set the benchmark on actions to be taken by government departments to reduce their impact on the environment. These measures have been achieved by relevant members of staff within the department being proactive in working towards sustainability as well as working closely with the Court's contractors and suppliers.

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom has reported on climate-related financial disclosures consistent with HM Treasury's TCFD-aligned disclosure application guidance, which interprets and adapts the framework for the UK public sector. The UKSC does not consider climate to be a principal risk, and has therefore complied with the TCFD recommendations and recommended disclosures around [sic]:

- Governance - recommended disclosures (a) and (b)
- Risk Management - recommended disclosures (a) to (c)
- Metrics and Targets - recommended disclosures (b)

The UKSC plans to provide disclosures for Strategy recommended disclosure in future reporting periods in line with the central government implementation timetable.

Recommendation for Governance

The UKSC recognises that climate change and wider environmental emergencies present significant risks to society and the planet and will continue to monitor climate-related impact on the Court through its governance framework.

Governance Oversight of climate-related risks and opportunities sits within the Court's existing risk management framework (see Governance Report) Climate change has been included as a long-term risk in the UKSC risk register meaning it is reviewed regularly at key milestones throughout the year.

Board's Oversight

The UKSC has in place control processes commensurate with the size of the organisation to provide the Chief Executive Officer with assurance over financial and operational risks, including those arising from Climate Change. See Governance statement on risk management.

Management's role

The governance of climate-related risks follows the existing risk management framework for risk reporting within the Court which is described and illustrated in the Governance Report section of this Annual Report.

As climate risk is not a principal risk for the Court, the Court does not have a designated individual responsible for overseeing this risk but climate risk is monitored regularly and its oversight, including assessing and managing the risk, sits with Management Board at the first instance in line with all other risks.

Risk Management activities

Climate change is not currently considered an active risk on the UKSC risk register but the UKSC continues to monitor climate related risks and any impact of this on the delivery of the Court's principal objectives.

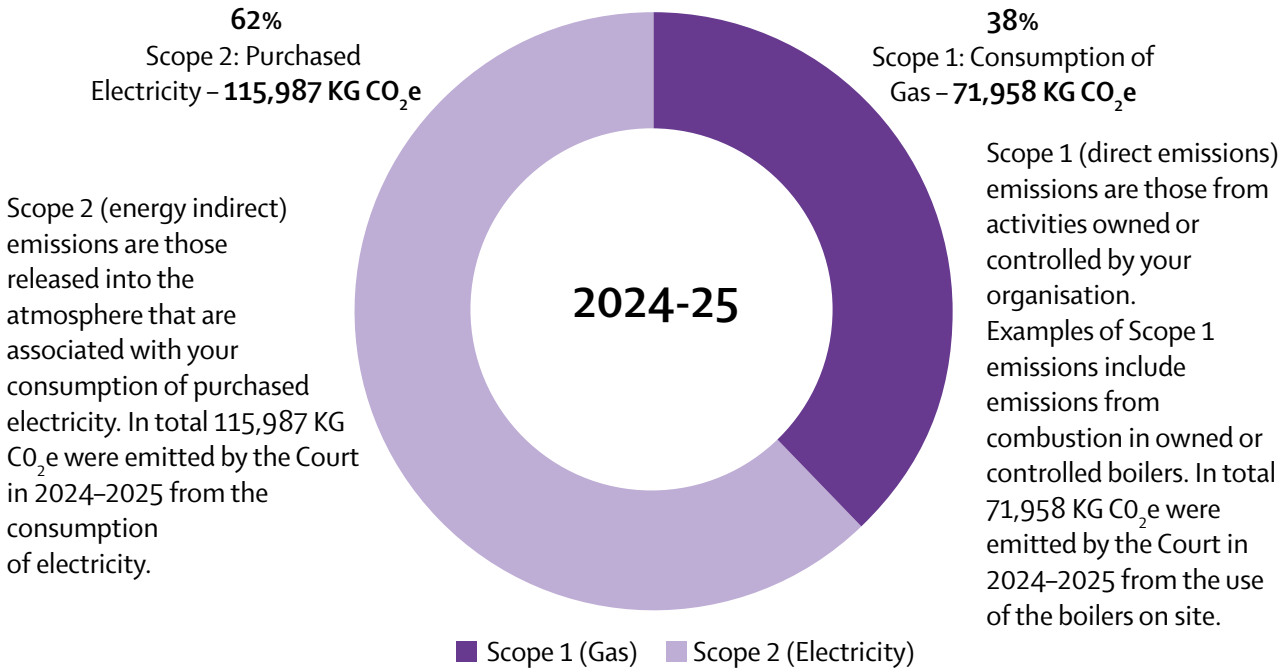
Risk Management recommended disclosures (a) to (b) are therefore covered in the Governance section of this report.

TCFD recommended disclosures – Risk Management	Additional information can be found in the Governance Report section of this Annual Report
(a) Risk identification and assessment	The Risk Reporting and Risk Escalation Framework in the Governance Report section demonstrates the framework for identifying risks
(b) Risk management	The Risk Management section in the Governance Report outlines the risk management process for all risks, including climate risk.
(c) Overall integration	As discussed above, the UKSC does not recognise climate risk as a principal risk. The rationale for this has been provided above, within the Compliance Statement. At present the processes for identifying, assessing, and managing climate-related risks fall within the current risk management framework. If climate risk is identified as a specific risk in future, the Court would prioritise this against other risks on the risk register using the scoring methodology for likelihood and impact, as it does for all other risks.

Scope 1, Scope 2, and GHG Emissions Metrics

The governance of climate-related risks follows the existing risk management framework for risk reporting within the Court which is described and illustrated in the Governance Report section of this Annual Report.

Metrics: UKSC total emissions of CO₂e in 2024 – 2025



Sustainability Performance and Measures

This section of the report aims to give an in-depth overview of how the UK Supreme Court has performed both in the 2024-25 period and since the 2017-18 baseline came into play by illustrating each sustainability metric the Court is measured on. The table below gives an indication of the relevant GGC targets and the performance of the UKSC as compared with these targets in the form of a RAG rating before delving into further detail. The Court will seek to take the results of the 2024-25 performance and address the areas where targets have not been met, these will be set out in the 2025-26 ambitions at the end of this section.

RAG RATINGS: Overall GGC performance 2024-25 (against the updated 2017-18 baseline)

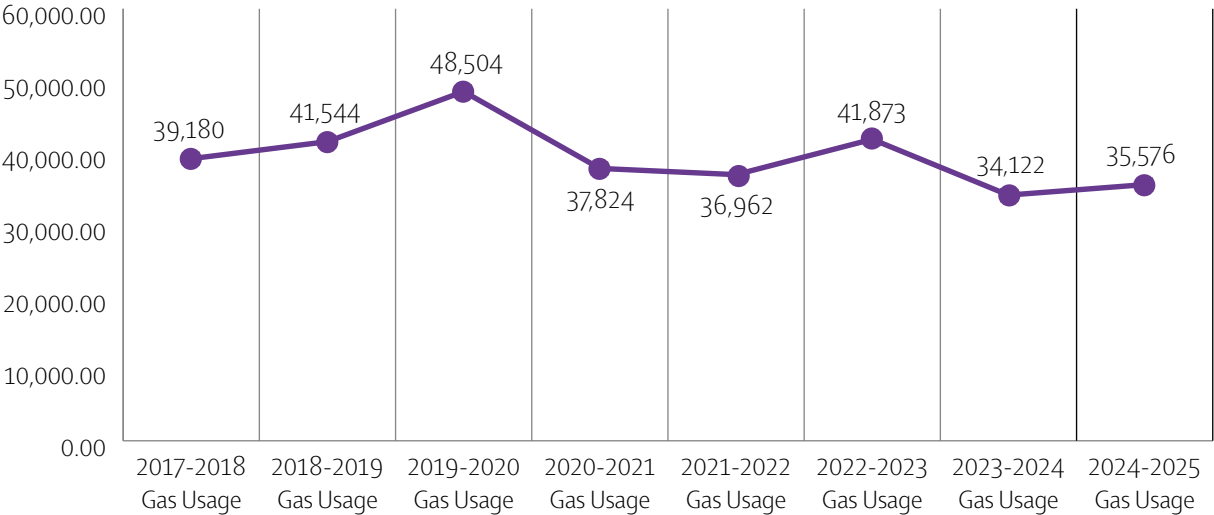
Requirement by 2025	2024-25 performance	RAG status
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 41%	31.7% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions	
Reduce overall waste by 15%	12% overall waste reduction	
Landfill waste to be less than 5%	0% waste to landfill	
Increase recycling to at least 70%	57% recycling rate	
Reduce paper use by 50%	70% reduction in paper use	
Reduce water consumption by at least 8%	73% decrease in Water consumption	

Mitigating climate change: working towards Net Zero by 2050

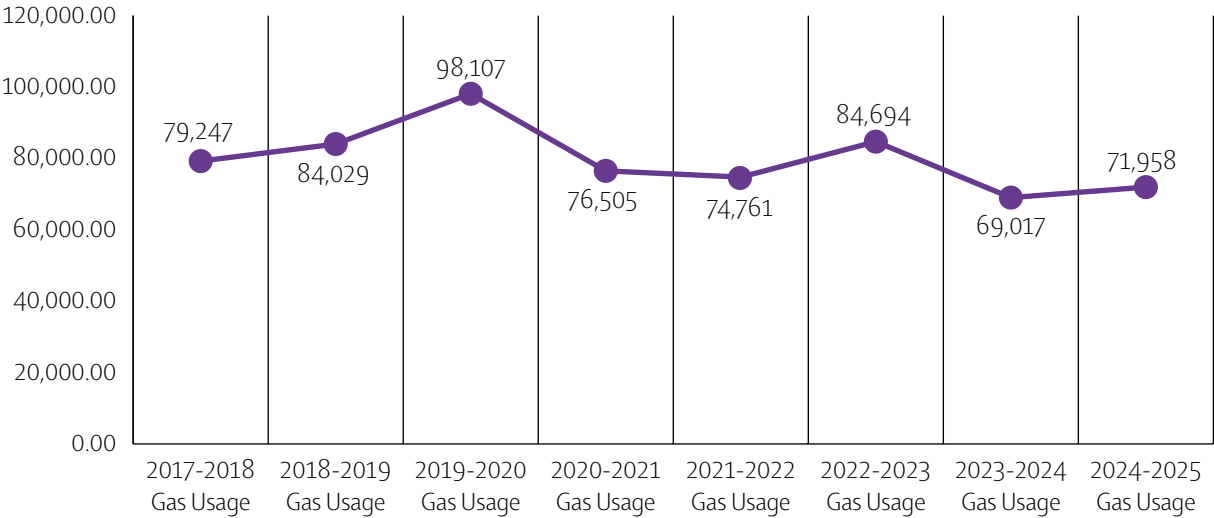
The Court has continued to monitor its greenhouse gas emissions and has made efforts to reduce the amount of gas, electricity and water used year on year when compared with the 2017-18 baseline. The onset of the pandemic in early 2020 saw a notable decrease in the Court’s gas emissions due to the lack of footfall in the building. However as this has returned back to pre pandemic levels in recent years the Court has still been able to reduce these emissions through various projects to maximise the energy efficiency of the building. The tables below outline the performance of the Court in terms of meeting its Greenhouse gas emission targets:

Gas Usage

Total Gas m³

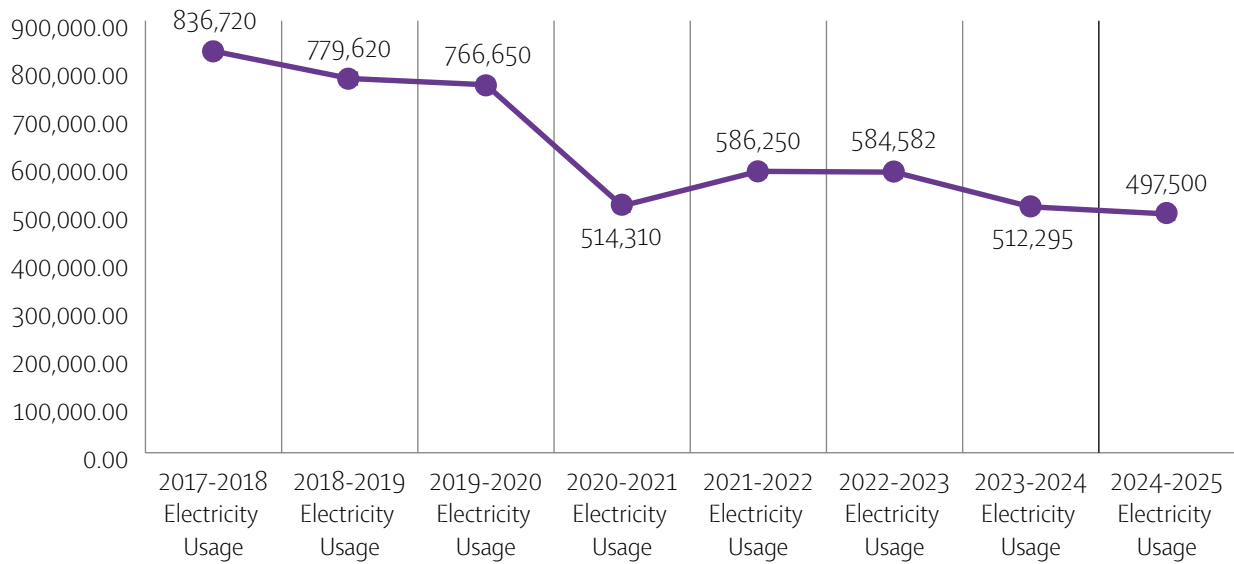


Total Gas CO₂

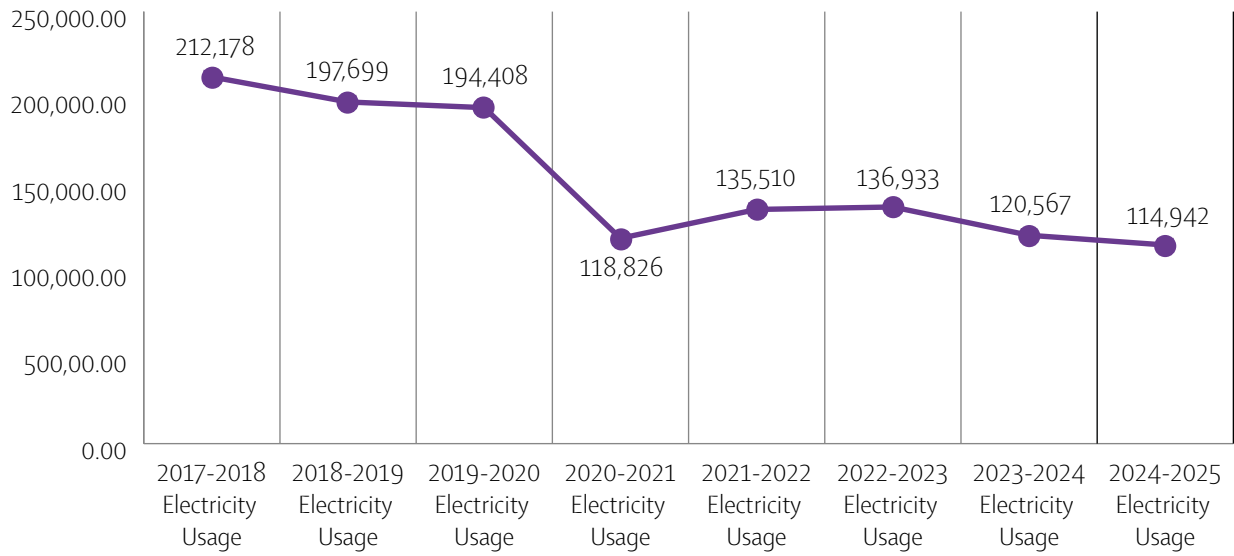


Electricity Usage

Total Electric KWH

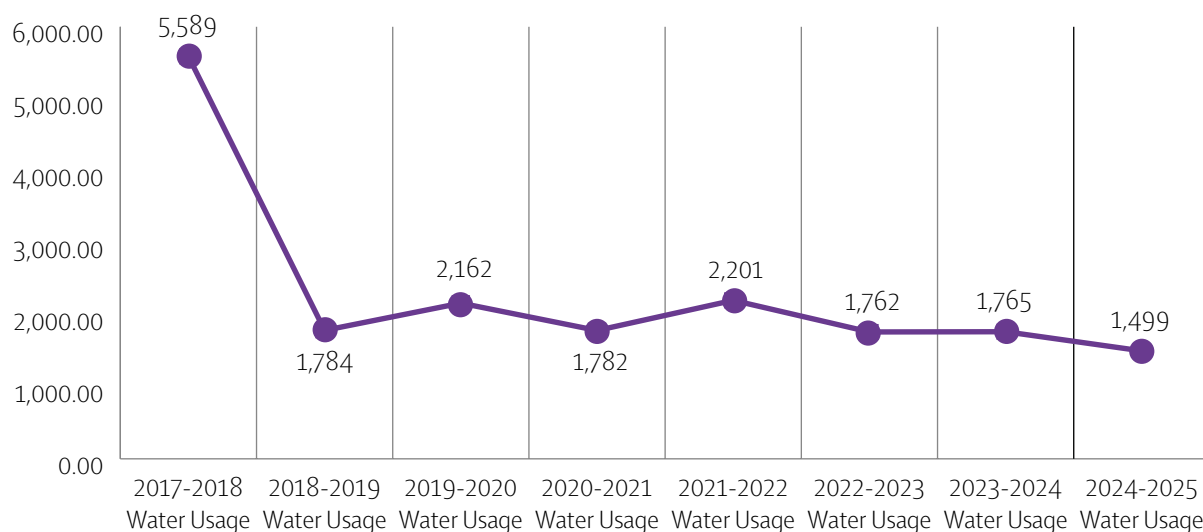


Total Electric CO₂



Water Consumption

Total Water Usage m³



Waste minimisation and management

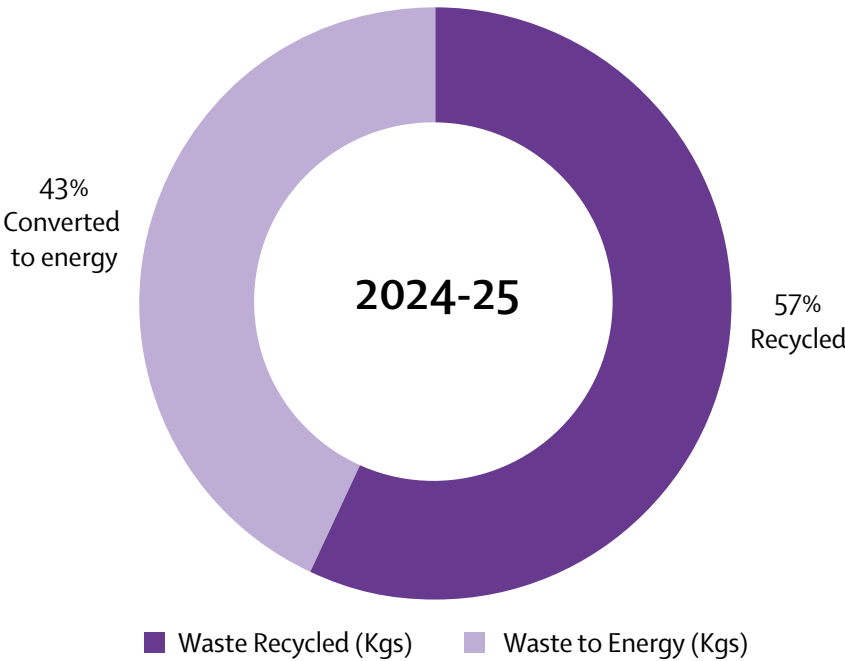
The UKSC's cleaning contractors continue to supply the Court with its waste management services. The GGC target on recycling is that a department should seek to achieve a 70% recycling rate. In the period 2024-25 the Court managed to achieve a recycling rate of 57% which is below the target required; however as our cleaning contractors have a zero-to-landfill policy as a key component of their waste management strategy, the remaining 33% was sustainably disposed of. This policy ensures that all waste produced by the Court is diverted from landfills through the following methods:

- **Recycling:** Materials such as paper, cardboard, plastics, metals, glass, and electronic waste are recycled.
- **Reuse:** Where possible, materials and equipment are reused to extend their lifecycle.
- **Anaerobic digestion:** Organic food waste is composted to produce valuable soil amendments.
- **Safe Disposal:** Hazardous waste such as EEEs, batteries and lamps is disposed of safely through certified hazardous waste management services.
- **Energy-from-Waste:** As a last resort, non-recyclable waste is converted into energy, providing a useful byproduct and reducing the volume of waste.

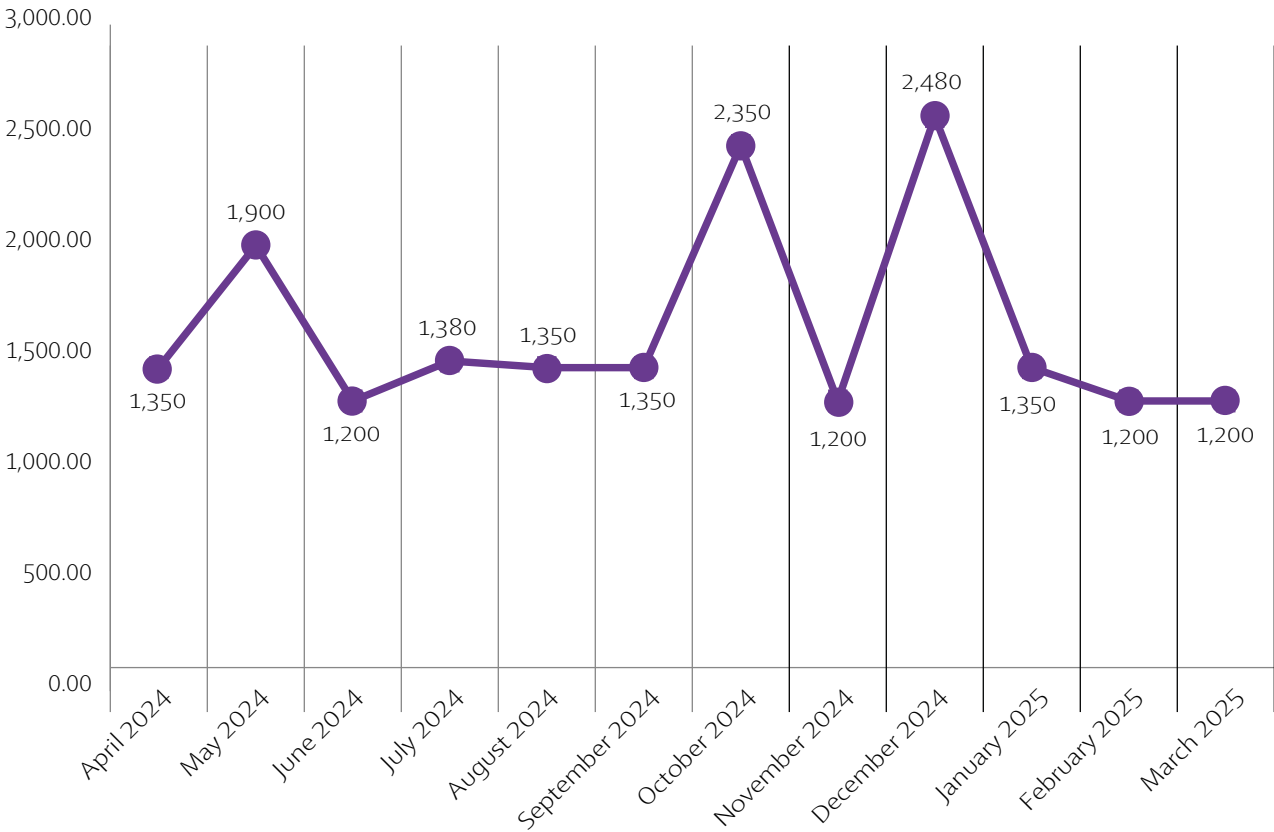
Our IT team also make a contribution to waste minimisation with their respective partners. There is an eco-box recycle scheme that the Court has signed up to with its printer suppliers in which they recycle all used toners and cartridges. With the same supplier the Court has also signed up to the Arbor Day print relief scheme in which they replant a tree when we use a tree worth of paper and the trees are replanted in Ireland. Further to this, IT work with a disposal company that disposes of all our electronic waste by recycling and reusing everything we give them to dispose, ensuring that they are disposed of following the industry best practice WEEE etc. In total, 926kg of IT waste was recycled and 216kg of equipment was reused.

The total expenditure on all waste disposal for the 2024-25 financial year was £3,475.96.

Waste recycled v incinerated



Total waste produced kg



Paper Usage

As per GGC targets on minimising waste, the UKSC has achieved the target of reducing its paper use by at least 50% from the 2017 to 2018 baseline. The reduction, which has been aided by Court business increasingly moving online, has seen the overall number of reams printed per year drop from 1592 in 2018 to 486 reams in 2024 which constitutes a 70% decrease.

Procuring sustainable products and services

As per previous years, sustainability remains a part of the Court's procurement and contract management. Sustainable procurement is the process whereby organisations meet their needs for goods, services, works and utilities in a way that minimises damage to the environment and helps achieve long-term environmental benefits for the organisation, society and the economy.

GGC targets are built into our procurement processes and subsequent contracts that are awarded. In our cleaning contract we specify the need to provide information to the UKSC on the methods of disposal of waste. Those who bid for the cleaning contract were also asked to show clear evidence of using disposal methods which were environmentally preferable. The terms of this contract also ensure the use of sustainable cleaning products that are non-hazardous, 100% biodegradable, and made from 100% recycled plastic. The containers for such products are then reused through a closed-loop scheme which helps us as a Court eliminate single-use plastics. In addition to procuring sustainable products, our cleaning contractors minimise equipment impact through the ongoing repair of malfunctioning machinery, extending the lifespan of our cleaning machines and ensuring adequate disposal when necessary.

Additionally, the procurement for our catering contract asked for “food-miles” and local sourcing to be considered to minimise damage to the environment. Our security contractors also maintain standards in sustainability by informing and training their staff in understanding and fulfilling their environmental responsibilities and those of the company as well as supporting the re-use and recycling of materials and ensuring the safe and legal disposal of all waste arising from the activities of the business.

Air Travel

Table: International and domestic business travel distance and greenhouse gas emissions 2024-25

	Distance (km)	t CO ₂
Domestic Flight	8,800	2
International flight	164,503	21
<i>International flight – Short Haul economy</i>	4,054	1
<i>International flight – Long Haul economy</i>	147,049	16
<i>International flight – Long Haul Business</i>	13,400	4

Change Programme

Based on our calculations, the estimated initial carbon footprint of this programme will be 26.7tCO₂e. We have leveraged our partnership with Capgemini to capture these emissions, as part of our commitment to sustainability and to reduce the negative environmental impact caused by the Change Programme.

In collaboration with Ecologi, Capgemini has planted 1000 trees on behalf of the UKSC. These trees are all planted in forests throughout the UK. Information about their impact is available via the Capgemini Forest on the Ecologi website, under 'UK Supreme Court'. More information is available at:

<https://ecologi.com/capgemini/capgemini282>

- As an estimation, for 1,000 trees planted at these UK sites, the estimated carbon sequestration (captured) over a 10-year period, accounting for tree maturity, would be ~125 metric tons of CO₂ or 125 tCO₂e
- This means that we will be able to counteract the CO₂ produced over the Change Programme as well as a proportion of the CO₂ produced by the new systems

2025-26 ambitions

With the 2021-2025 Government Greening Commitments (GGCs) coming to a close, the Court awaits the publication of the next set of GGCs in order to direct its important work of meeting sustainability targets. In preparation for this the Court has several ambitions for the coming year:

- The UKSC plans to focus on further reducing energy usage during the forthcoming year. We will undertake a comprehensive replacement of light fittings throughout the building. New very low wattage light fittings will replace the LED lights that are currently in place. This process should be completed by the end of the 2025-26 financial year.
- In addition, the UKSC has recently installed new dry air coolers and will monitor their impact and adjust settings to ensure energy usage benefits are realised throughout the next year. Other projects that may take place should also have the effect of reducing energy consumption in the building. These works include the replacing of regulating valves throughout the building, the re-balancing of the Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning System to ensure optimal usage, fine tuning of the lighting system's timings and the trimming of timings and set points on our Fan Coil Units and Air Handling Units.
- The Court will continue to engage with Project SWAN, a long-term project to supply local businesses and homes in the Westminster area with low carbon heating and hot water. The Court stands ready to take action as advised by Project leads.
- The Court will also work with its cleaning contractors to ensure that it complies with the Simpler Recycling legislative reforms that will come into effect at the end of March 2025. The new rules state that the Court must separate specific materials from general waste and ensure they are either recycled, anaerobically digested, or composted.

Our vision, priorities and values for 2025-26

Our Vision

We will be a world leading court.

This means we will

- Deliver the highest quality judgments.
- Deliver an excellent, efficient service to our users and Justices, through our highly skilled staff who live our values and are equipped with high-quality tools and training.
- Serve the public by ensuring that our work is visible and accessible and that our role in applying the law is understood as an essential part of a healthy democracy.
- Ensure our culture and building are fully inclusive, respecting and valuing the diversity of our court users, visitors, Justices and staff.
- Build strong relationships with Parliament, the Government, the devolved institutions and the courts in all the jurisdictions in the UK.
- Enhance the international reputation of the UK as a global legal centre.

Our Priorities and Values

Read about what we will be delivering in the 2025-2026 financial year in our [Business Plan](#).

Our priorities continue to be:

- Serving the public
- Providing a world class service
- Focusing on our people
- Engaging outwards
- Diversity, inclusion and belonging

Financial Review

This section provides an overview of the Court’s financial performance during 2024-25, considering income and expenditure against Estimates and the year-end Statement of Financial Position. Full details of the financial position are provided in the Financial Statements section.

In the year ended 31 March 2025, the UKSC net resource outturn was £6.5m, £2.8m less than the Estimate of £9.3m. £1m of this variance was due to non-utilisation of the Resource AME provision for diminution in the value of the building; £1.4m was from changes to accounting for lease (the budget position was effectively overstated) and £0.4m results from additional income. The underspend in administration budget resulted from staff vacancies, which was offset by higher programme costs.

Capital spend of £2.1m is £0.8m less than the Estimate of £2.9m. The spend includes the final year of the Court’s Change Programme which has delivered a new case management systems, plus capital renewal of IT and building assets. The underspend reflects provision in the Estimate for future lease liabilities which was not required.

The table below summarises financial performance at year-end against Estimate.

The Court’s activities are funded by contributions from various jurisdictions, fees paid by users, income from room hires and tours, with the balance voted by Parliament.

Performance against parliamentary control totals

	Estimate	Outturn	Variance Under/ (Over)
	£m	£m	£m
Resource DEL	9.328	6.519	2.809
Of which:			
Administration	0.850	0.597	0.253
Non voted	3.000	3.693	(0.693)
Resource AME*	1.000	0	1.000
Capital DEL	2.910	2.097	0.813

** AME is demand led spending, where budgets are not fixed in advance. Expenditure in AME is generally less predictable and controllable than expenditure in DEL. AME is split between resource and capital expenditure. Resource AME covers costs that may be unpredictable, such as provisions and pensions and benefits, and capital AME covers unpredictable costs which also give rise to an asset in the financial statements.*

The UKSC’s Statement of Financial Position consists primarily of assets transferred from the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) at the inception of the UKSC on 1 October 2009. The current value of land and buildings is £38.0m.

There is a liability of £40.7m representing the minimum value of the lease payments for the UKSC building until March 2039.

During 2024-25 £1.7m was spent on the last part of the Change Programme - a project to transform the Court's case management and user interface systems. Upon completion, an intangible asset with a cumulative value of £5.6m was recognised.

A reconciliation of resource expenditure between Estimate, Accounts and Budgets can be found below.

Reconciliation of Resource Expenditure between Estimates, Accounts and Budgets	2024-25
	£
Net Resource Outturn (Estimates)	2,826
Adjustments to additionally include: non-voted expenditure in the SCNE	3,693
Net Operating Cost (Accounts)	6,519
Adjustments to additionally include: resource consumption of non-departmental public bodies	0
Resource Budget Outturn (Budget) of which	6,519
Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)	6,519
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	0



Vicky Fox
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
4 July 2025



Part B – Governance Report



The reception hall at the Supreme Court.

Section 4

Governance Report



Main entrance to the UK Supreme Court building.

Corporate Governance Report

Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities

Under the Government Resources and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury has directed the UK Supreme Court (the Department) to prepare, for each financial year, resource accounts (the Accounts) detailing the resources acquired, held, or disposed of during the year and the use of resources by the Department during the year.

The Accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Department, its income and expenditure, Statement of Financial Position, and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the Accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by HM Treasury, including relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis.
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis.
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed and disclose and explain any material departures in the Accounts.
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis, and
- confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable, and take personal responsibility for the Annual Report and Accounts and the judgments required for determining it is fair, balanced and understandable.

HMT has appointed the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer for the Department. The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Department's assets, are set out in Managing Public Money published by HM Treasury.

As the Accounting Officer, I have taken all the steps that I ought to have taken to make myself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Department's auditors are aware of that information. So far as I am aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. I also confirm that the Annual Report and Accounts as a whole is fair, balanced and understandable.

Governance statement

As Chief Executive, and within the directions given by the President, I work with the UKSC Board and the Management Board, which consider both the strategic and the day-to-day administrative direction of the Court respectively.

The UKSC Board meets on a quarterly basis and supports me in focusing on our strategic priorities and provides scrutiny of my duties in carrying out the non-judicial functions of the Court. The UKSC Board is chaired by a Non-Executive Director. The Management Board meets on a monthly basis and monitors the operational performance of the administration. The Management Board is chaired by me and its members constitute the Executive Team.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is an advisory body that supports me and the UKSC Board in its responsibilities for risk management, control and governance. The Remuneration Committee is an advisory body that supports me and the Management Board in its responsibilities for staff pay, terms and conditions and performance management.

The Director of Corporate Services and Change, as Senior Responsible Officer for the Change Programme, worked with the Change Board. The Change Board met monthly in 2024-25 and oversaw the delivery of the Programme and managed the contract relationship with external contractors. The Change Board was chaired by the Director of Corporate Services and Change and will cease to meet in 2025-26 as the Change Programme concluded on 31 March 2025.

As Accounting Officer, and working with my management team, I have responsibility for maintaining effective governance in all parts of the organisation as well as a solid system of internal controls that supports the achievement of UKSC policies, aims and objectives whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which I am personally accountable.

The UKSC takes a three-lines-of-defence approach to assurance which makes clear the key UKSC management functions, roles and responsibilities.

The three lines are:

- first line of defence: operational day-to-day management
- second line of defence: management oversight and internal review
- third line of defence: independent review

We continue to review and continuously improve the assurance around the activities we undertake.

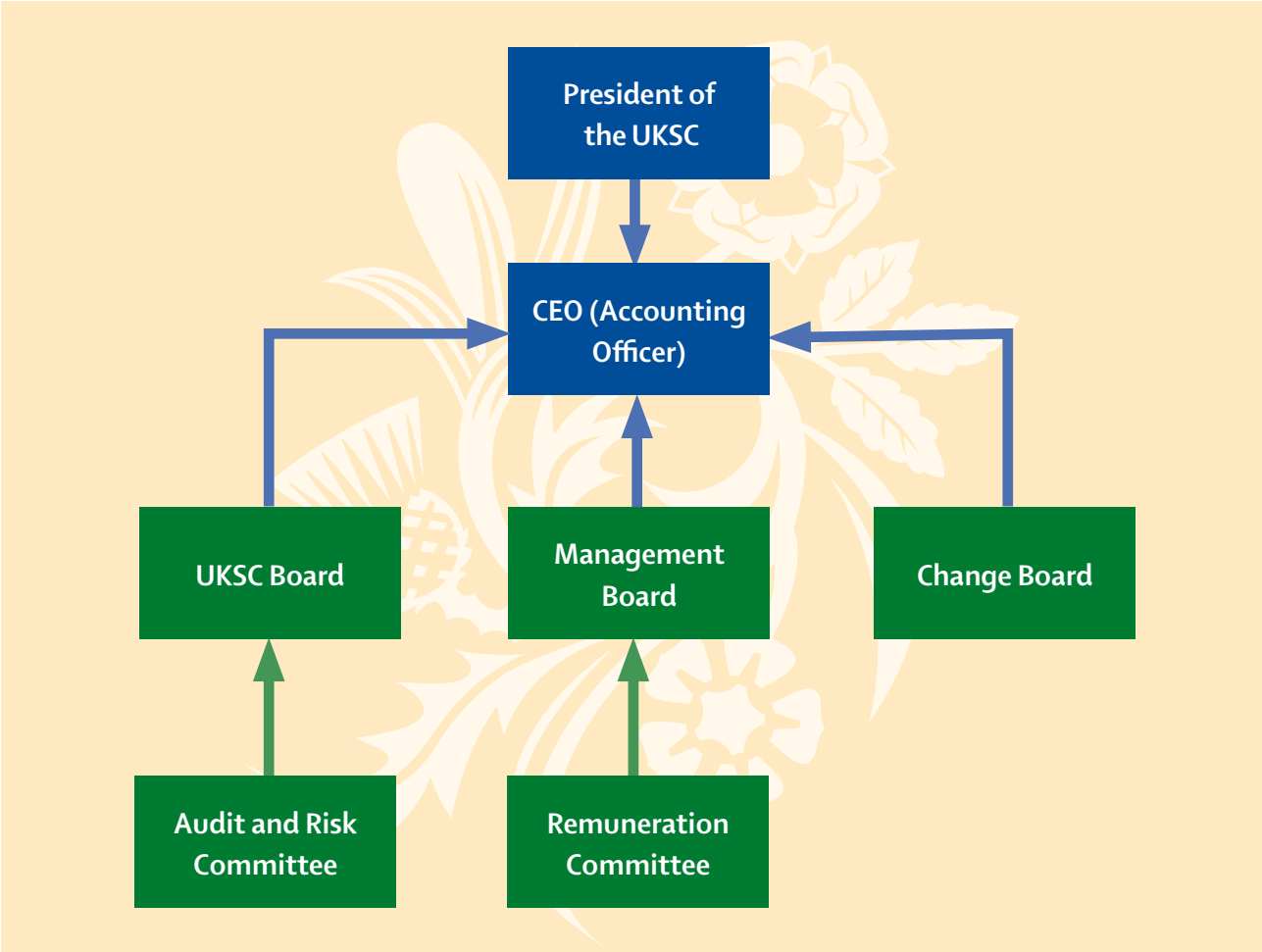
The UKSC promotes a supportive risk environment culture which encourages openness and transparency. Our policy is updated on an annual basis to ensure the risk management framework and approach to risk tolerance is clearly defined and remains effective with a particular focus on risk tolerance and embedding risk management in leadership and decision-making.

Risks are managed at two levels within the UKSC. There is an established process whereby risks and issues are escalated to the corporate risk register which is reviewed by the UKSC Board quarterly, by the Management Board monthly, and by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee three times a year.

On a day-to-day basis, senior managers are responsible for ensuring risk management is in place across their business area by providing leadership and direction and ensuring the management of risk is seen as good governance and embedded in all our activities.

The Governance Framework

The UKSC has in place control processes to provide me, as Accounting Officer, with assurance over financial and operational risks. This Governance Framework is commensurate with the size of the organisation and complements our approach to risk management. The framework and the processes are subject to continuous improvement and review to ensure that they remain current, effective, and relevant.



HM Treasury corporate governance in central government departments – code of good practice

This code applies to the UKSC and the UKSC has adopted key principles as best practice. Governance arrangements for the organisation are overseen by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and the UKSC Board, as well as by the Executive Team on a day-to-day basis. We remain compliant with material requirements with the exception of the Nominations Committee. Instead, the Accounting Officer, following advice from the Remuneration Committee, considers the performance, talent, development and succession planning of the UKSC's leadership.

The 2022 Governance Review determined the current board structure. After open recruitment, the Lead NED also chairs the Audit and Risk Committee. It is recognised that whilst it is not best practice corporate governance, it is currently considered appropriate given the size of the UK Supreme Court Board and that the boards are advisory as opposed to fiduciary, with decisions made by the CEO. The Board will consider its continued appropriateness.

	UK Supreme Court Board
Terms of Reference	These were agreed in September 2022. The Board meets quarterly and has met four times in 2024-25.
Roles and Responsibilities	The Board has responsibility for providing advice, support to and scrutiny of the Chief Executive and management on strategy, performance, and governance of the UKSC and seeks to assure itself of the proper management of the UKSC by the Chief Executive.
Chair	Iain Lanaghan, Lead Non-Executive Director
Issues	● Discussion of risk register and strategic risks ● Received updates on business area performance reports ● Discussed change programme and the importance of transition planning ● Results of the Board Effectiveness Review were discussed
	Management Board
Terms of Reference	These were agreed in September 2022, with minor amendments agreed in November 2023. The Board meets monthly and has met 11 times in 2024-25.
Roles and Responsibilities	The Board assists the Chief Executive in the running of the administration by overseeing and monitoring the delivery of the business plan and performance, and by providing collective leadership of the administration. The Board supports the Chief Executive in their statutory responsibilities as an Accounting Officer.
Chair	Vicky Fox, Chief Executive
Issues	● Received updates from each business area on their performance ● Discussed the risk register ● Received updates on the Court's financial performance as well as updates on the NAO audit and the GIAA audit ● Discussed the launch of the new case management system and transition planning ● Results of the Board Effectiveness Review were discussed

	Change Board - closed on 31 March 2025
Terms of Reference	These were agreed in December 2022. The Board met monthly and has met 13 times in 2024-25 including an additional meeting in November 2024.
Roles and Responsibilities	The Board sits alongside the UKSC Board and is focused solely on the delivery of the Change Programme.
Chair	Sam Clark, Director of Corporate Services and Change
Issues	● Discussed overview of programme activity ● Discussed change risks, including closing down risks and identifying new risks ● Quarterly plans approved ● Updates provided on user testing ● Received updates on the Case Management system ● Discussed the transition strategy ● Financial Closedown report and Contract Closedown reports reviewed and approve
	Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
Terms of Reference	These were agreed in September 2022. The Committee meets quarterly and has met four times in 2024-25.
Roles and Responsibilities	The Committee is a committee of the UKSC and supports the Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, and the Management Board in their responsibilities for risk management, control and governance, and production of the annual report and accounts.
Chair	Iain Lanaghan, Lead Non-Executive Director
Issues	● Received updates on financial position ● Discussed the risk register ● Spending Review phase 1 settlement outlined and phase 2 approach discussed ● Audit Completion Report received
	Remuneration Committee
Terms of Reference	These were agreed in July 2023. The Committee meets annually and met once in 2024-25.
Roles and Responsibilities	The Committee is a committee of the UKSC Board and supports the Chief Executive and the Management Board in their responsibilities for staff pay, terms and conditions and performance management.
Chair	Jane Furniss, Non-Executive Director
Issues	● Approval of 5% pay award ● Impact of London Living Wage on junior bands discussed and agreed to review this in the next 12 months

UKSC Board Membership and Declaration of Interests

There are seven members of the UKSC Board who are senior members of the Executive Team and Non-Executive Directors. In addition to Non-Executive Directors, the work of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is supported by three independent members representing the court jurisdictions in the United Kingdom.

The UKSC Executive Team can be found here:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/about-the-court/executive-team>

and the UKSC Non-Executive Directors can be found here:

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/about-the-court/nonexecutive-team>

UKSC Board members are asked to declare any personal, business, or related party interests that may, or may be perceived by a reasonable member of the public to, influence their judgments in performing their obligations to the organisation. The below table outlines any declared interests:

Name (Role)	Interests
Vicky Fox (Chief Executive)	Joint Chair of Board of Trustees – New North London Synagogue Director – Vapstar Ltd
Sam Clark (Director of Corporate Services and Change)	None
Laura Angus (Registrar)	None
Celia Cave (Registrar)	None
Paul Strang (Finance Director)	Treasurer – London Mets Baseball and Softball Club
Iain Lanaghan (Non-Executive Director)	Non-Executive Director – North Sea Transition Authority (to 30.04.26) Non-Executive Director – Scottish Water (to 30.09.25) Non-Executive Director – Scottish Water Business Stream Holdings Limited (to 30.09.25) Non-Executive Director – Scottish Water Horizons Holdings Limited (to 30.09.25) Member – Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) Audit and Risk Committee. Iain M Lanaghan (occasional consultancy)

Name (Role)	Interests
Julie Nerney (Non-Executive Director)	NED and Audit Chair- UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Limited Board Adviser – Altrad UK, Ireland and Nordics Senior Independent Director and Audit Chair – Sussex County Football Association. Managing Director – Julie Nerney Limited Director – Morphology Limited Shareholder – SomeoneWho Limited Shareholder- Eargym Limited Business Mentor – The King’s Trust
Jane Furniss (Non-Executive Director)	Trustee – Cumberland Lodge Member and Board Mentor – Criticaleye

Attendance at Board Meetings

The below table outlines the attendance of members of the Executive Team, Non-Executive Directors and Independent Members at the Boards and Committees which they are entitled to attend. Attendance is provided as a measure of how many meetings a member attends out of the maximum number they were entitled or invited to attend.

Table of Attendance

Name (Role)	UKSC Board	Management Board	Change Board	Audit & Risk Assurance Committee	Remuneration Committee
Vicky Fox (Chief Executive)	4/4	10/11	11/13	4/4	1/1
Sam Clark (Director of Corporate Services and Change)	4/4	9/11	11/13	4/4	
Laura Angus (Registrar)	2/4	9/11	4/13		1/1
Celia Cave (Registrar)	3/4	5/11	6/13		1/1
Paul Strang (Finance Director) – Joined October 2024	2/2	6/6	5/5	2/2	1/1
Sanj Bhumber (Finance Director) – Left June 2024		2/2	2/2		
Ben Yallop (Assistant Director Corporate Services)		9/11			

Name (Role)	UKSC Board	Management Board	Change Board	Audit & Risk Assurance Committee	Remuneration Committee
Alex Hughes (Acting Head Judicial Assistant) – from August 2024		8/11			
Rebecca Fry (Head Judicial Assistant) – On Maternity leave as of September 2024		2/5			
John McManus (Head of Communications)		8/11			
Pejman Ghasemzadeh (Head of IT and Digital)		10/11	9/13		
Chris Maile (Head of HR) – left January 2025		8/8	7/7		1/1
Martha Rowe (Head of HR) – joined January 2025		3/3	2/2		
Iain Lanaghan (Non-Executive Director)	4/4			4/4	1/1
Julie Nerney (Non-Executive Director)	3/4		12/13		
Jane Furniss (Non-Executive Director)	2/4		9/13	3/4	1/1
Sarah Wallace (Independent Member for England and Wales) – to September 2024				1/2	
Catherine Blair (Independent Member for England and Wales) – from October 2024				2/2	
Noel Rehfisch (Independent Member for Scotland)				4/4	
Glyn Capper (Independent Member for Northern Ireland)				4/4	

Quality of Information and Board Effectiveness

The UKSC ensures that the UKSC Board, the Management Board, the Change Board, and sub-committees receive high-quality management information, analysis, and sound advice to support informed decision-making and provide effective guidance to the Chief Executive as Accounting Officer.

During 2024-25 effective and efficient operations of the Boards was enabled by members receiving an agenda and papers ahead of each meeting, with a continued focus on highlighting risks and resource implications. This approach helped drive meaningful engagement and challenge during discussions.

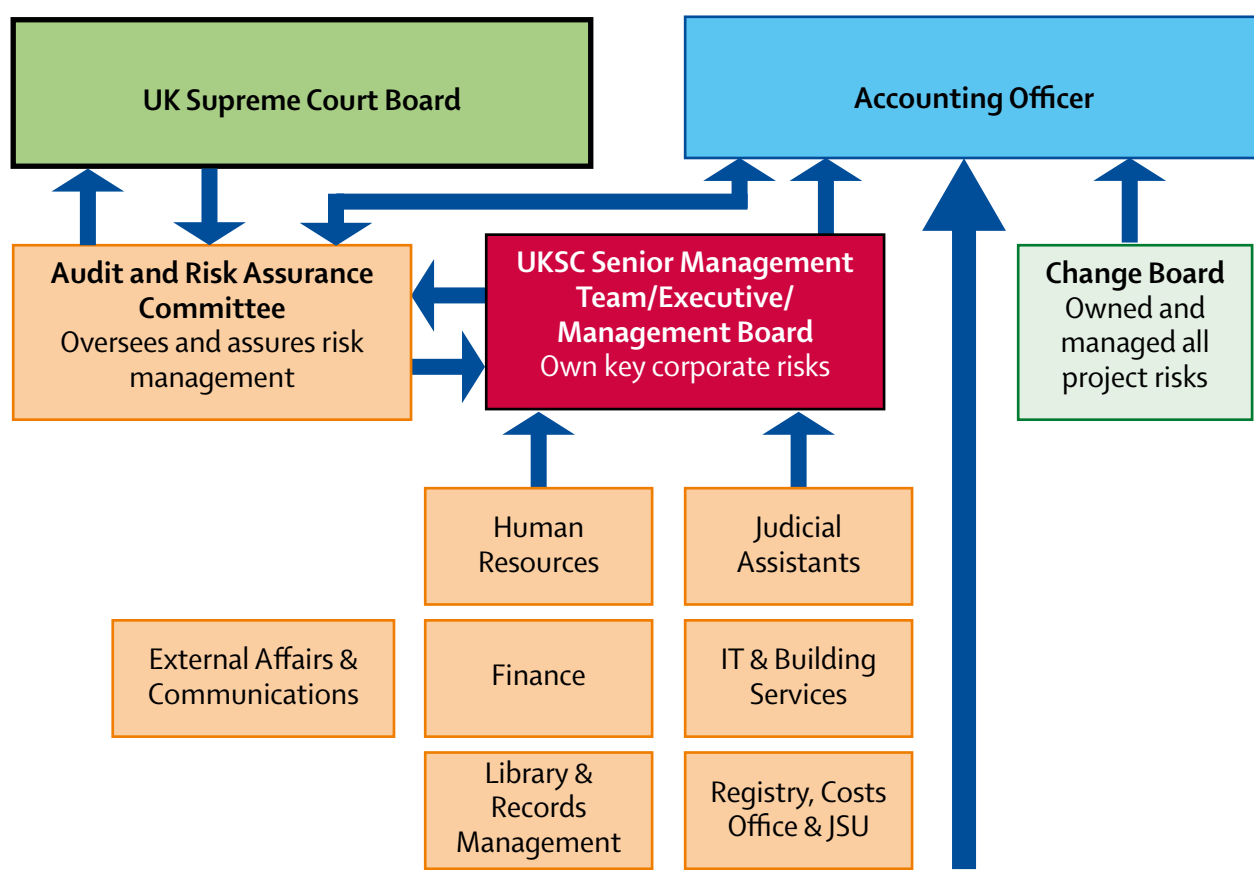
Board effectiveness continued to be assessed. An in year survey provided assurance that members were clear on their role and felt empowered and supported in carrying them out. No need for major change was identified. A priority for 2025-26 will be to have an independent review to provide enhanced assurance and challenge.

Risk management and risk assessment 2024-25

The UKSC Risk Strategy was introduced in 2019 and is reviewed annually and is embedded across the organisation. It conforms to the Orange Book government standard. The Strategy sets out how the UKSC should manage the risks associated with the delivery of our strategic priorities and objectives as well as supporting the organisation to manage risks associated with the delivery of business-as-usual activities.

Risk Reporting and Risk Escalation Framework

The following diagram defines the UKSC's risk reporting and risk escalation process and the expectations of our managers' and how we will practically manage our risks and adopt this strategy.



All UKSC managers are responsible for :

- Risk identification
- Effective use of risk management tools (risk register)
- Application of timely and proportionate controls
- Regularly reviewing risks
- Escalating risks when beyond the remit of the immediate business layer
- Effective and appropriate Risk Ownership when designated
- Providing and reporting assurance over management of key risks
- Using Risk Management effectively and appropriately.

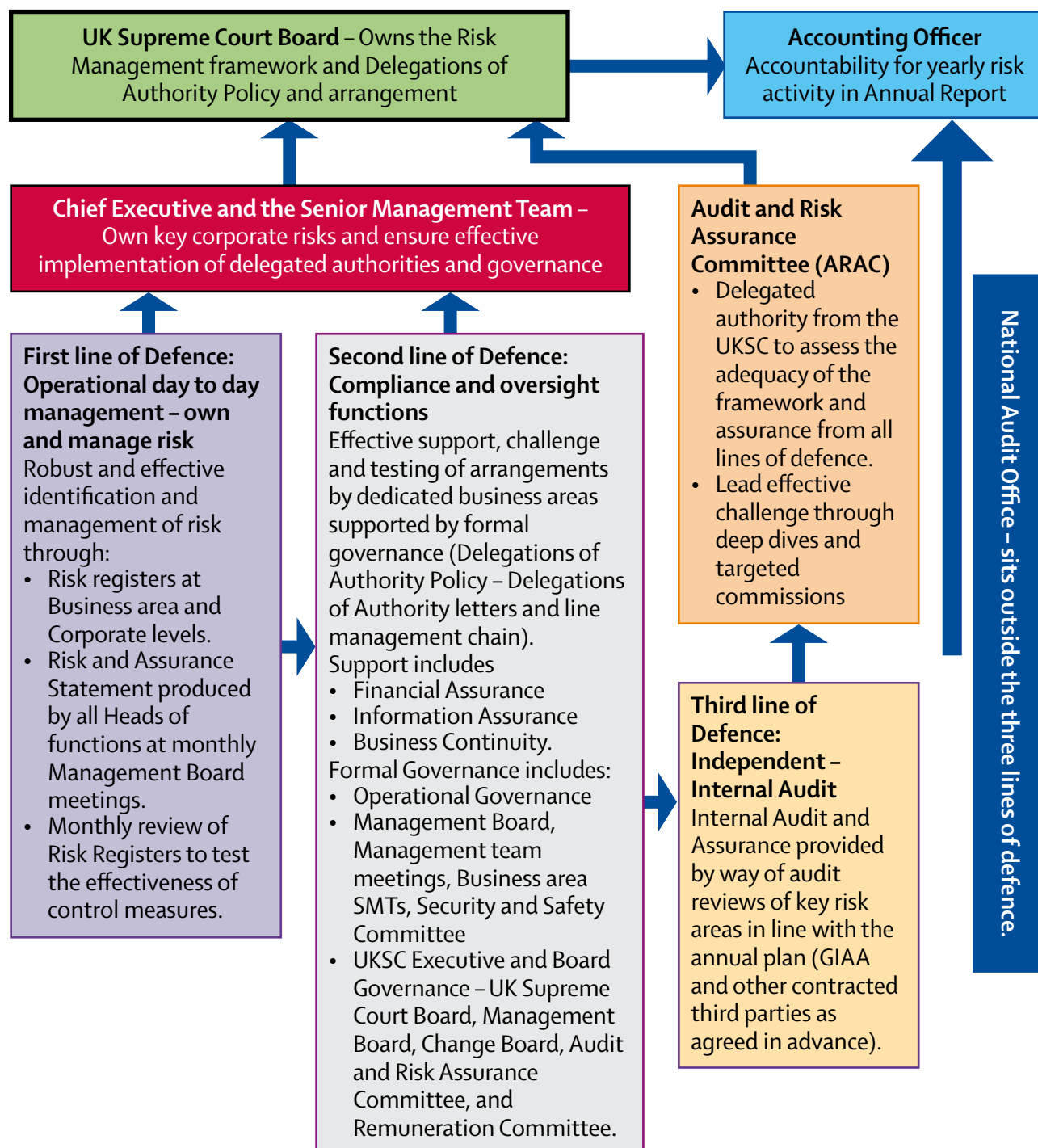
The Management Board reviewed the risks for 2024-25 to identify the risks to our strategic priorities and objectives and to consider what controls and mitigation would need to be in place to manage those risks. We use a scoring methodology for impact and likelihood to determine the level of risk.

The strategy provides a 'very high, high, medium and low' risk rating which ensures we assess our risks in a consistent way and focuses resources on the most significant risks to delivery. Through this process of reviewing the risks in light of the strategic priorities and objectives, the risks were either refocused or new risks were identified. Due to its size and structure, the UKSC has one risk management strategy, and any new risks identified are embedded into the existing risk management strategy. This includes any climate-related risks.

Risk Management Strategy

To demonstrate how risk management is an essential part of the governance and leadership of the UKSC and how it is directed, managed, and controlled at all levels, the UKSC has in place the “Three Lines of Defence” Model. This has been incorporated within this the Risk Management Strategy and makes clear the key UKSC management functions, roles and responsibilities.

The diagram below describes UKSC’s three lines of defence arrangements.



The UKSC Board reviewed the risk register quarterly, the Management Board reviewed the risk register monthly, and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee regularly reviewed the risks including deep dives on specific risks.

The UKSC adopts a minimalist to cautious approach to core business activities, and this includes any climate risks identified as a risk in the future. For Change activities, the UKSC adopts a cautious to open approach to reflect a greater willingness to be brave and creative in the pursuit of a genuinely transformational improvements in how the Court serves its users.

Any new risks, including any climate risks identified in the future, that are not related to the Change Programme will adopt a minimalist to cautious approach in line with all BAU risks.

Details of the specific risks managed via this process during 2024-25 are in the following table.

The risk scores are a based-on Likelihood versus Impact. They are both broken down on a 1 to 5 scale. The highest being 5. The Likelihood (L) then multiplied by Impact (I) giving an overall risk score with a maximum L x I of 25. The range is 1- 25.

2024-25 Risk Register

Risk theme	Strategic priorities	Key activities to manage the risk	Risk movement	31 Mar 2025 Score	Target Score
Financial Sustainability – The UKSC is not financially sustainable to continue business as usual or change.	Diversity, World Class and Serving the public)	The UKSC has managed the monthly financial position and managed risks and opportunities outside the forecast.	This was a new risk for 2024-25 at high and moved to medium over the year. This risk will continue on the 2025-26 Risk Register.	8	8
Trust & Impartiality – Trust in the Court’s independence and impartiality is damaged	(Diversity, World Class and Serving the public.	Daily monitoring of press to identify and address critical themes. Greater focus on relationship-building with MPs, Select Committee members, and members of the House of Lord as well as members of the press.	This risk was refocused in 2024-25 but remained at medium through the year. At year end it reached target and a new risk will be introduced in 2025-26	9	6

2024-25 Risk Register

Risk theme	Strategic priorities	Key activities to manage the risk	Risk movement	31 Mar 2025 Score	Target Score
People and Planning – The UKSC does not have the right specialist knowledge or resources to support our business objectives.	Resilience/ Recovery, Diversity, World Class and Serving the public.	Existing staff have been offered opportunities to develop and upskill by stepping into staffing gaps. Key systems and processes have been mapped, with contingency planning in place. The People Strategy has been working to review performance management and reward as well as reporting on exit interviews to understand key themes. The UKSC has continued to review and update policies throughout 2024-25.	This risk continued from 2023-24 and remained at medium throughout the year. At year end it reached target and a new risk will be introduced in 2025-26	9	9
Change – The UKSC does not effectively manage the Change Programme to deliver to time and to budget and Programme benefits (quantitative and qualitative) are not realised	Serving the Public, Providing a world class service, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, Focusing on our people, Engaging outwards	The Change Programme was delivered on time and within budget. The UKSC commenced transition planning for the Change Programme with upskilling, handovers, and key documentation and oversight in place.	This risk continued from 2023-24 at medium and moved to low and at target by the end of the year. As the Change Programme has now concluded this risk will be closed and not continue into 2025-26	9	9

2024-25 Risk Register

Risk theme	Strategic priorities	Key activities to manage the risk	Risk movement	31 Mar 2025 Score	Target Score
Cyber Security – The UKSC does not effectively manage cyber security and ensure appropriate measures are in place.	Serving the Public, Providing a world class service	There has been ongoing work with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) to implement security measures that are appropriate for the Court. The UKSC implemented GIAA recommendations to enhance security as well as updating key security policies.	This risk continued from 2023- 24 and remained at medium through the year. Although it reached its target by year end this is still a key operational risk for the Court so will continue into 2025-26	9	9
Security and Safety – The UKSC does not manage safety and security effectively resulting in harm or damage to people or property.	Serving the public, Providing a world class service	The Safety and Security Committee has been refreshed to enable more effective monitoring of risks and developed a collaborative relationship between the administration and security providers to ensure business as usual, corporate, and other events are safeguarded.	This risk continued from 2023-24 and remained at medium through the year. Although it reached its target by year end this is still a key operational risk for the Court so will continue into 2025-26.	9	9

Current control challenges

Throughout 2024-25, the UKSC had appropriate governance in place to mitigate control challenges and issues.

Internal Audit and annual audit opinion

There were no significant findings from the internal audits undertaken by the Government Internal Audit Agency. The UKSC has received a Moderate audit opinion from the Government Internal Audit Agency which is an acceptable level of assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of governance, risk management and internal control.

External Audit

The financial statements are audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in accordance with the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000. He is the head of the National Audit Office. He and his staff are wholly independent of the UKSC, and he reports his findings to Parliament.

The audit of the financial statements for 2024-25, resulted in an audit fee of £71k. This fee is included in non-cash item costs, as disclosed in Note 3 to these accounts. The C&AG did not provide any non-audit services during the year.

Whistleblowing Policy

The UKSC Whistleblowing Policy was reviewed in 2022 and updated in 2023. The Policy allows staff to raise any concerns confidentially regarding the conduct of others in relation to any potential suspected fraud, security or risk of personal data disclosure. Two Non-Executive Directors are the named nominated officers who will take forward any required investigation, with alternative routes outlined and explained.

No concerns have been raised in this reporting period.

Information assurance

The Policy was updated in 2023.

All staff have received information assurance training throughout the year. All staff and new starters are required to complete an annual training course on information security and data protection to ensure our staff have an up-to-date understanding of their responsibilities to manage information appropriately.

This assessment includes considering how the UKSC:

- secures its internet connections
- secures devices and software
- controls access to data and services
- protects from viruses and other malware
- keeps devices and software up to date

The assessors were content that clear processes exist to ensure any information security breaches are identified promptly and reported appropriately.

It was noted that there were no reported successful incidents. The UKSC will continue to monitor and review the measures we have in place to ensure that they are kept up to date and under constant review. The IT team continued to work with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and the Government Digital Service to ensure we keep our system as safe as is possible.

Remuneration and staff report

Service contracts

The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010 requires Civil Service appointments to be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition. The Recruitment Principles published by the Civil Service Commission specify the circumstances when appointments may be made otherwise. Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended. Early termination of employment, other than for misconduct or poor performance, may result in the individual receiving compensation as set out in the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. Further information about the work of the Civil Service Commission can be found at: <https://civilservicecommission.independent.gov.uk/>

Remuneration policy

The remuneration of senior civil servants is set by the Prime Minister following independent advice from the Review Body on Senior Salaries. The Review Body also advises the Prime Minister from time to time on the pay and pensions of Members of Parliament and their allowances; on Peers' allowances; and on the pay, pensions and allowances of Ministers and others whose pay is determined by the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975.

In reaching its recommendations, the Review Body has regard to the following considerations:

- the need to recruit, retain and motivate suitable able and qualified people to exercise their different responsibilities.
- regional/local variations in labour markets and their effects on the recruitment and retention of staff.
- government policies for improving the public services including the requirement on departments to meet the output targets for the delivery of departmental service.
- the funds available to departments as set out in the government's departmental expenditure limits.
- the Government's inflation targets.

The Review Body takes account of the evidence it receives about wider economic considerations and the affordability of its recommendations. Further information about the work of the Review Body can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/review-body-on-senior-salaries>

Judicial salaries are decided by the Lord Chancellor following the recommendation of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB) and are a matter of public record. The SSRB provides independent advice to the Lord Chancellor on the remuneration of the UK Judiciary. The Justices' pay is paid out from the Consolidated Fund, and the UKSC has no control over Justices' pay and pension policy.

Staff/Justices numbers and related costs (Audited)

Staff/Justices costs comprise:	2024-25					2023-24
	Permanent			Others	Total	Total
	Justices	Front line staff	Administrative staff	Judicial assistants		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	3,244	1,566	287	506	5,603	5,430
Social security costs	433	170	33	57	693	657
Apprentice Levy	16	0	0	0	16	15
Supplementary Judges	70	0	0	0	70	31
Other pension costs	2,030	425	77	71	2,603	2,103
Sub-Total	5,793	2,161	397	634	8,985	8,236
Inward secondments	0	167	0	0	167	49
Agency staff	0	0	55	0	55	17
Voluntary exit costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,793	2,328	452	634	9,207	8,302
Less: recoveries in respect of outward secondments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total net costs	5,793	2,328	452	634	9,207	8,302
Head count	12	38	6	13	69	73

Judicial Pension Scheme (JPS) (Audited)

The JPS 2022 was introduced on 1 April 2022. It is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme which prepares its own Accounts, but for which UKSC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. Details can be found in the Resource Accounts of the Judicial Pension Scheme at:

<https://www.gov.uk/official-documents>

Judicial pension contributions are paid by the UKSC. Contributions to the JPS is at a rate of 62.55% (2023-24, 51.35%). The UKSC makes employer contributions to the JPS in respect of this scheme as service is incurred. The amount of these contributions is included in the table shown above.

Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Service and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS)

The Principal Civil Service Pension Schemes (PCSPS) and the Civil Service and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS) – known as ‘Alpha’ – are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes, therefore, the UKSC is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. Details can be found in the resource accounts of the Cabinet Office (Civil Superannuation): www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/about-us/resource-accounts

The PCSPS closed to new members on 31 March 2015. On 1 April 2015, most existing civil servants moved to the Alpha scheme and, from that date, all newly appointed civil servants became members of that scheme. Following the McCloud judgment, all civil servants moved to the Alpha scheme on 1 April 2022. Those staff that were previously in the PCSPS between specified dates prior to April 2015 will have options at retirement to decide how their service from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022 should be treated. Annual pension statements explaining these choices started from 2024.

For 2024-25, employer’s contributions totalling £535,951 were payable to the Civil Service pension arrangements (2023-24, £515,325) at a rate of 28.97% (2023-24, 26.6% to 30.3%) of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The scheme’s actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. The contribution rates are set to meet the costs of the benefits accruing during 2024-25, to be paid when the member retires and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account; this is a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution that provides greater flexibility for those employed on a fixed term basis. Employers’ contributions of £45,667 (2023-24, £42,114) were paid to the appointed stakeholder pension provider. Employer contributions are age-related and range from 8% to 12%, (2023-24, 8% to 12%) of pensionable pay.

Employers also match employee’s contributions up to 3% of pensionable pay. Contributions due to the partnership pension providers at the balance sheet date were nil (2023-24, nil). Contributions prepaid at that date were nil (2023-24, nil). There were no early retirements on ill health grounds in 2024-25.

Full details about the Civil Service pension arrangements and the partnership pension account can be found at the following websites:

<https://www.civilservicepensionscheme.org.uk/>

<https://www.legalandgeneral.com/workplace/c/csp-partnership/>

Salary and pension entitlements for Directors

Full details of the remuneration and pension interest of the UKSC Board are detailed below and are subject to audit.

Single Total Figure of Remuneration (Audited)

Name	Title	Salary (£'000)		Performance Related Pay (£'000)		Pension Benefits (£'000)		Total (£'000)	
		2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24
Vicky Fox	Chief Executive	120-125	115-120	0-5	0-5	70	42	195-200	160-165
Sam Clark	Director of Corporate Services and Change	80-85	75-80	0-5	0-5	54	24	135-140	105-110
Laura Angus*	Registrar (job-share)	40-45	40-45	0-5	0-5	18	18	60-65	60-65
Ceilia Cave*	Registrar (job-share)	40-45	55-60	0-5	0-5	17	23	55-60	80-85
Sanj Bhumber**	Finance Director	10-15	70-75	n/a	0-5	42	47	55-60	120-125
Paul Strang***	Finance Director	30-35	n/a	n/a	n/a	14	n/a	45-50	n/a
Iain Lanaghan	Non-Executive Director	5-10	5-10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5-10	5-10
Julie Nerney	Non-Executive Director	5-10	5-10	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5-10	5-10
Jane Furniss	Non-Executive Director	5-10	0 - 5	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5-10	0-5

* These directors are part-time and therefore the bands shown in the salary and total columns represent the amounts actually paid. For Laura Angus, the full-time equivalent band in 2024-25 for salary is £70,000 - £75,000 (2023-24, £65,000 - £70,000). For Ceilia Cave, the full-time equivalent band in 2024-25 for salary is £75,000 - £80,000 (2023-24 £65,000-70,000).

** This director left on 7th June 2024 and the bands shown in the salary and total columns represent the amounts actually paid. Full-year equivalent band in 2024-25 for salary is £75,000-£80,000.

*** This director joined on 18th October 2024 and the bands shown in the salary and total columns represent the amounts actually paid. Full-year equivalent band in 2024-25 for salary is £75,000-£80,000.

Accrued pension benefits included in this table for any individual affected by the Public Service Pensions Remedy have been calculated based on their inclusion in the legacy scheme for the period between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022, following the McCloud judgment. The Public Service Pensions Remedy applies to individuals that were members, or eligible to be members, of a public service pension scheme on 31 March 2012 and were members of a public service pension scheme between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022. The basis for the calculation reflects the legal position that impacted members have been rolled back into the

relevant legacy scheme for the remedy period and that this will apply unless the member actively exercises their entitlement on retirement to decide instead to receive benefits calculated under the terms of the Alpha scheme for the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2022.

Salary

‘Salary’ includes gross salary; overtime; reserved rights to London weighting or London allowances; recruitment and retention allowances; and any other allowance to the extent that it is subject to United Kingdom taxation. This report is based on accrued payments made by the UKSC and thus recorded in these accounts. The Non-Executive Directors supply their services under the terms of a contract and are remunerated monthly. There are no entitlements to pension or other contributions from the UKSC.

Benefits in kind

There were no benefits in kind.

Bonuses

Bonuses are based on performance levels attained and are made as part of the appraisal process. Bonuses relate to the performance in the year in which they become payable to the individual.

Fair pay disclosures (Audited)

In 2024-25, the banded remuneration (excluding pension benefits) of the highest paid director in the UKSC was £120,000 – £125,000 (2023-24, £115,000 – £120,000).

Table 1 shows the annual percentage change from the previous year in total salary and performance-related pay of highest paid director and employees. Table 2 outlines the ratio of the highest paid director’s remuneration to the remuneration of employees at the lower quartile, median and upper quartile. Table 3 outlines the lower quartile, median and upper quartile values for total staff remuneration and the salary component of remuneration.

Total remuneration includes salary, non-consolidated performance-related pay and benefits-in-kind. It does not include severance payments, employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions. All references to employees exclude the highest paid director, except where otherwise stated.

Table 1	Annual percentage change from previous year in total salary and performance-related pay of the highest paid director and employees	
	Total amount of salary and allowances	Total amount of performance-related pay
	%	%
Highest paid director	4.26	0.00
Employees	1.97	4.35

Table 2 Ratio between the highest paid director's total remuneration and employees in the lower quartile, median and upper quartile			
Financial Year	Lower quartile	Median	Upper quartile
2024-25	4.05:1	3.2:1	2.91:1
2023-24	3.75:1	3.02:1	2.85:1

Table 3 Lower quartile, median and upper quartile for total staff remuneration, and the salary component of remuneration						
	Lower quartile		Median		Upper quartile	
	2024-2025	2023-24	2024-2025	2023-24	2024-2025	2023-24
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Salary						
Salary component	29,993.54	27,786.76	38,010.87	37,832.53	41,489.65	39,205.66
Total remuneration	30,889.36	31,368.54	39,049.44	38,905.35	42,952.08	41,229.25

The median total remuneration for 2024-25 was £39,049.44 (2023-24: £38,905) and the ratio of the highest paid director's total remuneration to the total remuneration of the median employee was 3:2:1 (2023-24, 3.02:1).

The change in the pay ratios for the lower quartile and median employees, and the percentage increase in the salary and allowances of employees as a whole, can be attributed to the 2023-24 comparator including a non-consolidated cost of living support payment of £1,500 to all non-SCS members of staff. These changes are not attributable to any changes to the remuneration of the highest paid director or to the UKSC's employment ratio. The UKSC believes the median pay ratio remains consistent with the pay, reward and progression policies of the UKSC.

In 2024-25, 0 (2023-24, 0) employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid director. Full-time equivalent remuneration of all employees, including the highest paid director, ranged from £22,945.03 to £126,149.25 (2023-2024 - £21,051.09 - £117,500). The percentage change in the total remuneration of the highest paid director from 2023-24 was 4.26%. The average percentage change in overall employee remuneration from 2023-24 was 1.97%.

Exit packages (Audited)

No payments were made as part of an exit package in 2024-25 (2023-24, £0)

Pension benefits (Audited)

Name	Title	Accrued pension at pension age as at 31/03/2025 and related lump sum (£'000)	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age (£'000)	CETV at 31/03/2025 (£'000)	CETV at 31/03/2024 (£'000)	Real increase in CETV
Vicky Fox	Chief Executive	50-55 plus a lump sum of 70-75	2.5-5 plus a lump sum of 2.5-5	1004	891	57
Sam Clark	Director of Corporate Services and Change	30-35 plus a lump sum of 75-80	2.5-5 plus a lump sum of 2.5-5	642	573	41
Laura Angus*	Registrar (job-share)	0-5	0-2.5	39	25	10
Ceilia Cave*	Registrar (job-share)	0-5	0-2.5	29	16	9
Sanj Bhumber (left 07 June 2024)	Finance Director	30-35	0-2.5	575	536	35
Paul Strang (from 18 Oct 2024)	Finance Director	5-10	0-2.5	94	83	9

Civil Service pensions

For information on the Civil Service pension arrangements, please refer to 'Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Service and Others Pension Scheme (CSOPS)' on pages 97-98.

Cash equivalent transfer values

A cash equivalent transfer value (CETV) is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies.

The figures included the value of any pension benefit in another scheme or arrangement which the member has transferred to the Civil Service pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit

accrued to the member as a result of their buying additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are worked out in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV that is funded by the employer. It does not include the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Off-payroll engagements and consultancy costs

There were zero off-payroll engagements in 2024-25 (2023-24, zero). The UKSC incurred £1,733k in consultancy costs in 2024-25 (2023-24, £3,618k). The UKSC used consultancy in 2024-25 for delivering the journey to transform the Court into a modern, world leading court as part of the Change Programme, to deliver new outward facing services (websites) and internal infrastructure (case management). Due to the delivery of assets, this consultancy cost is capitalised.

Trade Union facility time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 came into force on 1 April 2017. These Regulations place a legislative requirement on relevant public sector employers to collate and publish, on an annual basis, a range of data on the amount and cost of facility time within the financial year by relevant union officials. There was one employee who was a relevant union official in 2024-25. The relevant union official did not spend any time on paid union activities in 2024-25 (2023-24, nil).

Table 1 sets out the number of employees (actual and full time equivalent) who were relevant union officials in 2024-25. Table 2 sets out the percentage of working hours employees who were relevant union officials spent on facility time. Table 3 sets out the total cost of facility time as a percentage of the total staff pay bill (excluding Judicial and agency pay). All tables have prior-year comparisons.

Table 1	Number of employees who were trade union officials in 2024-25	
	Total number	Full time equivalent
2024-25	1	1
2023-24	1	1

Table 2	Percentage of working time spent on facility time			
	Number of employees			
	0%	1 – 50%	51 – 99%	100%
2024-25	–	1	–	–
2023-24	–	1	–	–

Table 3	Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time		
	Total cost of facility time	Total pay bill (excluding Judicial and agency pay)	Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time
	£'000	£'000	%
2024-25	0.286	3,359	0.01%
2023-24	0.272	3,251	0.01%

Our people

On 31 March 2025 the Court employed 57 staff (55.1 Full Time Equivalents), and had 4 approved open vacancies (so 61 staff when all in post). Our new staff include 10 New Judicial Assistants (JAs) on fixed term contracts from September 2024 to August 2025, 2 temporary members of staff providing maternity cover, one member of staff on loan from HMCTS and one secondee from DIT. We have several staff with ongoing successful flexible working patterns such as staff working compressed hours, part time hours and job sharing. We have supported one fast stream employee in the Finance team. In addition, this year we have supported 2 career breaks.

We have continued to support the Change Programme with one ongoing fixed term position created.

The Court recruited 24 new starters (including 10 Judicial Assistants and one Civil Service Fast Streamer) between 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.



London Legal Walk.

Diversity, Inclusion & Belonging

The Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy for 2021-25, linked to the Judicial Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, is in its final year.

<https://www.supremecourt.uk/corporate-information/diversity-and-inclusion>

This Strategy continues to help the Court to realise our vision to be a true reflection of the society we live in, to respect our differences and support equal opportunity for everyone. We want every single member of staff to feel a sense of belonging at the Court, to know that everyone can contribute their views and that these will be valued.

The Strategy sets out how we intend to deliver on this ambition and builds on the good work we have done previously. It also shares the Civil Service ambition to be recognised as one of the UK's most inclusive employers and supports the actions and activities that deliver the Civil Service Diversity and Inclusion Strategy.

The Strategy focuses on becoming a Court that truly reflects our diverse society in every way possible by:

- Creating and maintaining a culture of respect for diversity, inclusion and belonging.
- Attracting, developing, retaining and fully engaging staff, making the most of our unique backgrounds and differences
- Taking responsibility for creating that inclusive environment and working with respect and empathy for colleagues and everyone else that we work with.
- Challenging all inappropriate behaviour and feeling supported when we do.
- Regular events for staff including training and forum events.

We continue to offer one additional day of learning and development to all staff to focus solely on Diversity & Inclusion (D&I). The aim of this is to share knowledge amongst teams and across the Court so each member of staff has responsibility for their own D&I development.

The D&I forum events progressed to specialist topics, led by staff (at all levels) with knowledge and research on the subject matter. Listening circles were formed in a safe and supportive environment so sensitive topics could be discussed to raise awareness and to learn.

Our commitment to Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging is not only for the benefit of staff but helps us to provide the best possible service to Court users in the United Kingdom and the jurisdictions of the JCPC.

UKSC D&I Forum meetings have continued in 2024-25 and are some of the most well attended meetings across this Court. These forum events focus on specialised topics that are often guided by our staff, with expertise and research on the subject. Guest speakers included representatives from Black Talent Charter and Bridging the Bar.

The Court marked Violence Against Women and Girls annual international campaign by holding a special D&I Forum. It was led internally, with specialist speakers who had researched the topic. Forum members discussed their own experiences in breakout groups and participated in open and respectful conversations. The aim of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for staff to learn more about the subject and how to make a difference.

Other events include marking the 80th Anniversary of Holocaust Memorial Day with the Holocaust Educational Trust. The International Day of Charity was marked with an event to collect donations for two employment charities – Suited & Booted, and Smart Works.

Our social impact

Many of our staff support their local communities by volunteering in schools, charities such as the Samaritans and The Passage, and third sector organisations in public duty roles, such as being school governors or magistrates.

In 2024-25, our people have invested 26 days volunteering in their communities.

The Passage

Various teams across the Court, including the Change Team, Capgemini, and Q5 completed 2 days of volunteering at The Passage. This charity supports people experiencing or at risk of becoming homeless. Over those days there were 165 lunches, and 79 breakfasts prepared and served.



Case study**Reverse Mentoring – Jade Akinyele**

Jade worked for the Court as a Registry Support Officer for careers experience whilst working towards a degree in History and International Relations at Lancaster University. During her time at the Court she had regular mentoring sessions with the Court's Chief Executive, Vicky Fox.

Before Jade left the Court to complete her university course, we spoke to her about her experience participating in the Court's reverse mentoring programme.

On what inspired her to join the reverse mentoring scheme, Jade explained:

"I wanted to take every opportunity my year at the Court afforded me, I saw this as a great development opportunity and a chance to challenge myself by mentoring someone more senior than me."

The UK Supreme Court set up their Reverse Mentoring scheme in 2022. This type of mentoring aims to help people in senior positions learn from the perspective of people in less senior roles.

The key role of the mentor (more junior member of staff) is to provide an insight into the difficulties and barriers they may have faced in life and during their career. This gives the senior leader (as the mentee) an opportunity to learn from and understand their perspective.

Jade and Vicky met at regular intervals discussing their career paths and aims, their roles at the Court and getting to know each other in a more informal setting. Jade said that a particular benefit of her pairing with Vicky was a shared commitment to the programme and desire to make the most of their sessions and learn as much from each other as possible.

The first session focused on understanding each other's role. Jade was particularly interested in Vicky's engagement work and how she promotes the role of the Court externally. In following sessions, they spoke about their routes to the Supreme Court, discussing career paths and studies. Jade expressed surprise at Vicky's legal background as her role as CEO focuses on the non-judicial functions of the Court. Jade shared about her studies, plans following graduation and career aims.

Jade concluded: "This was a really positive experience for me, I learnt a lot from Vicky and I know she feels like she learnt a lot from me."



*Jade Akinyele and
Vicky Fox*

Staff Engagement



In November 2024, we completed our 15th annual staff engagement survey and achieved a 98% response rate. The overall engagement score increased to 74%.

Following the results from the previous year, the Court developed an action plan and prioritised several areas including Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, the upskilling and development of staff, and the communication of the vision and purpose of the Court.

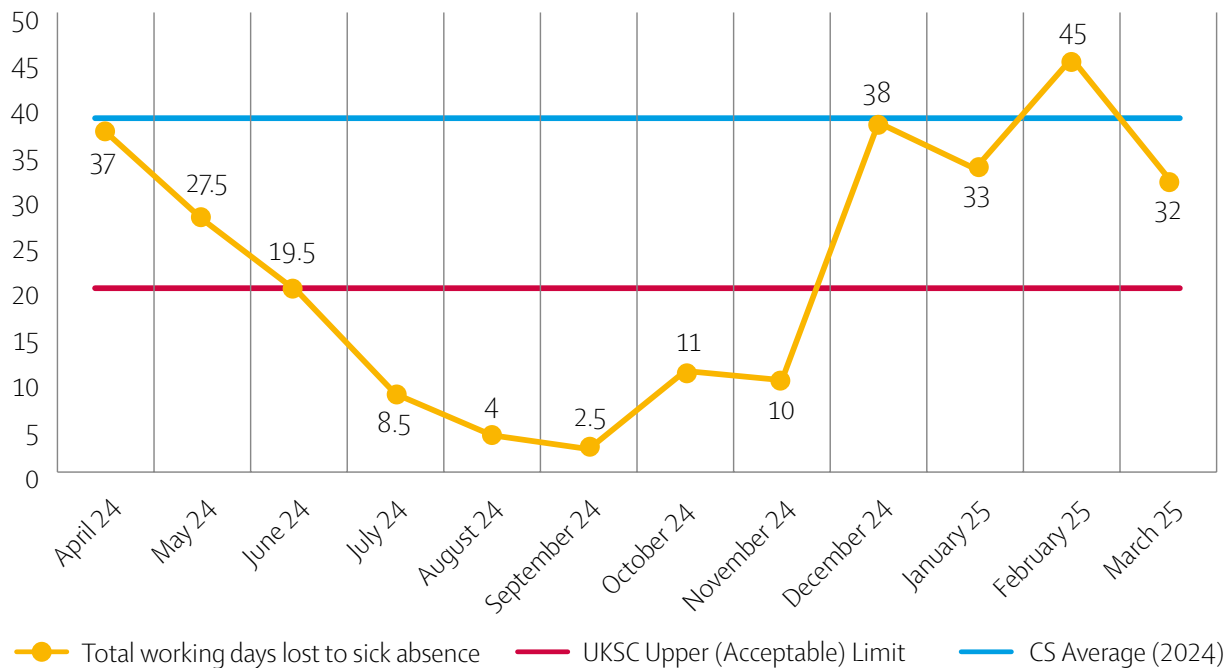
The results of the 2024 survey were presented at one of our regular all staff meetings and then considered in more depth at the February 2025 Management Board meeting. We have

developed an action plan to understand the responses and assess what the Court needs to do to ensure further improvements, aligned to our People Strategy.

The Court held an all-staff engagement day in September 2024 which focused on celebrating 15 years at the Court and the progress of the Change Programme. We continue to monitor our action plan to understand the responses in relation to the Change Programme and assess what the Court needed to do to ensure further improvements, aligned to our People Strategy. This includes continuing to support collaboration across teams and understanding of different roles through workshops and actively promoting the work of business areas in Staff Meetings and training sessions. The development of our staff and engagement with the Change Programme continued to be a priority so everyone could recognise what was required for the organisation to improve on its past performance. For our managers, we continued to organise successful Leadership Sessions focussed on consistency of approach and adapting to new ways of working.

Sickness Absence

In 2024-25 the Court experienced a number of short-term sickness absences, as well as some long-term sickness absences that were managed appropriately. The Court has on average reported a sickness absence rate that is lower than the CS average of 7.8 days at 4.7 days absence per member of UKSC staff.

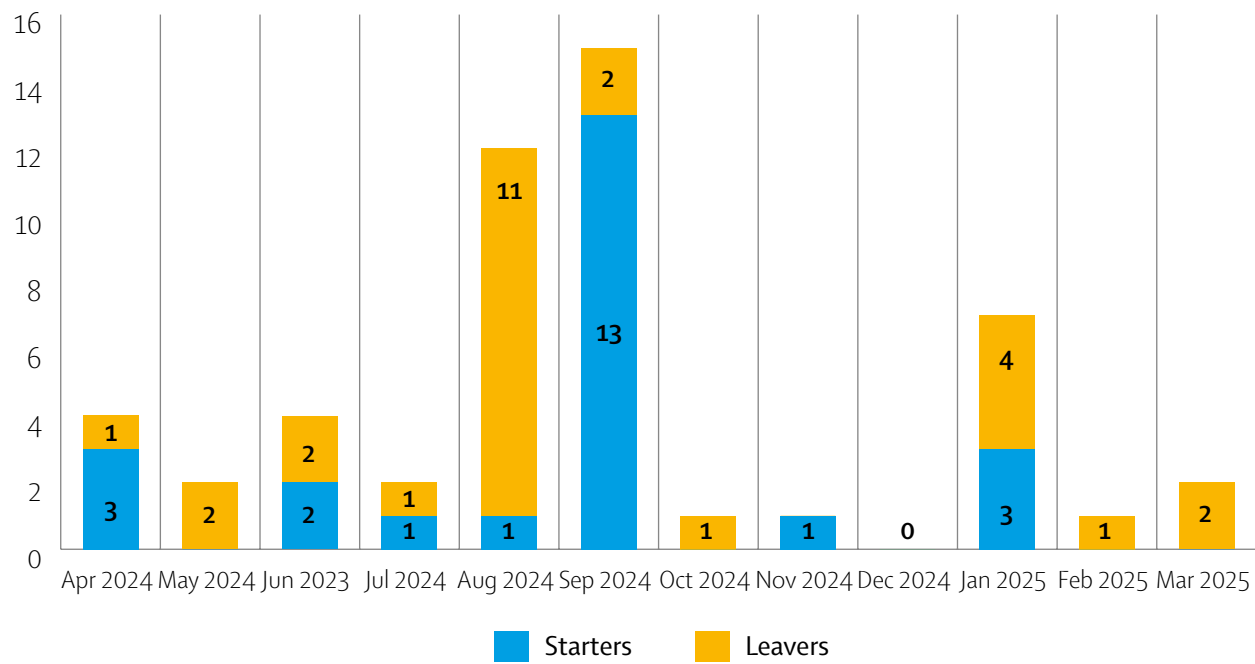
UKSC Staff Monthly Sick Absence Monitoring – Past 12 months

Staff turnover and redeployment

Excluding staff employed on fixed term contracts, the UKSC had 16 leavers in 2024-25, indicating a staff turnover percentage of 26%. Of these 16 leavers, 6 were transfers to other government departments, and 2 were staff going on career breaks..

We appointed 10 new Judicial Assistants who started in September 2024 to support the Justices in researching cases, preparing speeches and bench memos and assisting with our education and outreach programme. Two of our Judicial Assistants from the previous year remained with us, one to take on the role of Head Judicial Assistant covering maternity leave. Other recruitment included a new roles such as a Programme Transition Lead to further embed the developments of our Change Programme.

Monthly starters/leavers



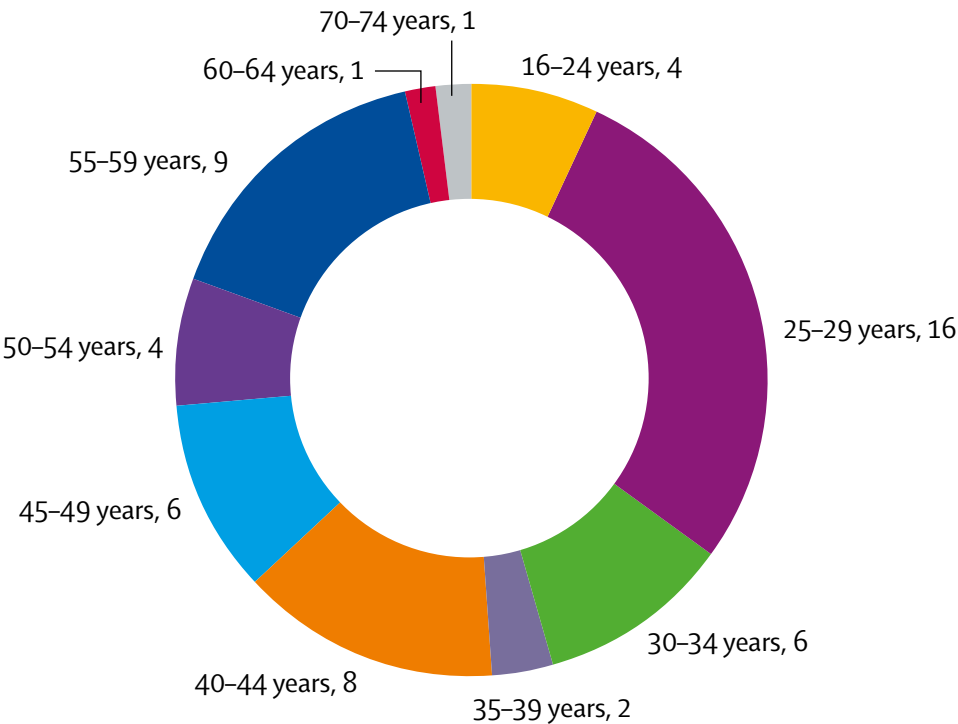
Staff composition

The table below shows the split by gender for staff employed by UKSC at the end of 31st March 2025.

Gender	2024-25	2023-24
Female	31	30
Male	26	31
TOTAL	57	61

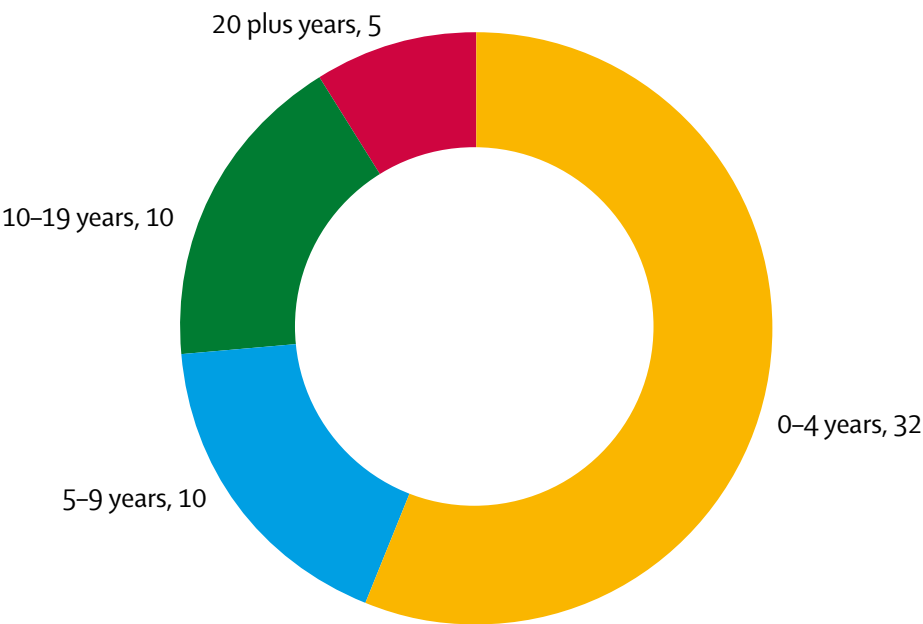
The pie chart below shows the split by age for staff employed by UKSC at the end of 31st March 2025.

Staff age distribution:



The pie chart below shows the service distribution split for staff employed by UKSC at the end of 31st March 2025.

Service distribution:



Parliamentary Accountability Report

In addition to the primary statements prepared under IFRS, the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) requires the UKSC to prepare a Statement of Outturn Against Parliamentary Supply (SoPS) and supporting notes.

The SoPS and related notes are subject to audit, as detailed in the Certificate and Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons.

The SoPS is a key accountability statement that shows, in detail, how an entity has spent against their Supply Estimate. Supply is the monetary provision (for resource and capital purposes) and cash (drawn primarily from the Consolidated fund), that Parliament gives statutory authority for entities to utilise. The Estimate details supply and is voted on by Parliament at the start of the financial year.

Should an entity exceed the limits set by their Supply Estimate, called control limits, their accounts will receive a qualified opinion.

The format of the SoPS mirrors the Supply Estimates, published on GOV.UK, to enable comparability between what Parliament approves and the final outturn.

The SoPS contain a summary table, detailing performance against the control limits that Parliament have voted on, cash spent (budgets are compiled on an accruals basis and so outturn won't exactly tie to cash spent) and administration.

The supporting notes detail the following: Outturn by Estimate line, providing a more detailed breakdown (note 1); a reconciliation of outturn to net operating expenditure in the SCNE, to tie the SoPS to the financial statements (note 2); a reconciliation of outturn to net cash requirement (note 3) and analysis of amounts payable to the Consolidated Fund (note 4).



Statement of Outturn Against Parliamentary Supply for the year ended 31 March 2025

Summary of Resource and Capital Outturn 2024-25

		2024-25							2023-24
		Estimate			Outturn				Outturn
Request for resources	SoPs Note	Voted	Non-Voted	Total	Voted	Non-Voted	Total	Voted Outturn compared with Estimate: saving/ (excess)	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Departmental Expenditure Limit									
– Resource	1.1	5,328	3,000	8,328	2,826	3,693	6,519	2,502	5,865
– Capital	1.2	2,910	–	2,910	2,097	–	2,097	813	3,908
Annually Managed Expenditure									
– Resource	1.1	1,000	–	1,000		–	–	1,000	–
Total Budget		9,238	3,000	12,238	4,923	3,693	8,616	4,315	9,773
Non Budget		–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Total Budget and Non-Budget		9,238	3,000	12,238	4,923	3,693	8,616	4,315	9,773
Total Resource		6,328	3,000	9,328	2,826	3,693	6,519	3,502	5,865
Total Capital		2,910	–	2,910	2,097	–	2,097	813	3,908
Total		9,238	3,000	12,238	4,923	3,693	8,616	4,315	9,773

Figures in the areas outlined in thick line cover the voted control limits voted by Parliament.

Refer to the Supply Estimates Guidance Manual, available on gov.uk, for detail on the control limits voted by Parliament.

Net cash requirement 2024-25

	SoPS Note	2024-25			2023-24
		Estimate	Outturn	£000 Outturn compared with Estimate: saving/(excess)	Outturn
	2	6,768	6,403	365	6,963

Administration Costs 2024-25

		2024-25			2023-24
		Estimate	Outturn	£000 Outturn compared with Estimate: saving/(excess)	Outturn
	1.1	1,115	598	517	629

Although not a separate voted limit, any breach of the administration budget will also result in an excess vote.

Figures in the areas outlined in thick line cover the voted control limits voted by Parliament. Refer to the Supply Estimates guidance manual, available on gov.uk, for detail on the control limits voted by Parliament.

Explanations of variances between Estimate and Outturn

Explanations of variances between Estimates and Outturn are given in Note 1 and in the Financial Review.

SOPS Note 1: Net Outturn**SOPS 1.1 Analysis of resource outturn by Estimate line**

								2024-25	2023-24	
Outturn								Estimate	Outturn	
Administration				Programme				Net Total compared to Estimate Net Total Estimate £000	Total £000	
Gross £000	Income £000	Net £000	Gross £000	Income £000	Net £000	Total £000				
Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)										
Voted Expenditure										
A – United Kingdom Supreme Court	643	(46)	597	11,068	(8,839)	2,229	2,826	5,328	2,502	2,418
Non-voted expenditure:										
B – United Kingdom Supreme Court Non-Voted	0	0	0	3,693	0	3,693	3,693	3,000	(693)	3,447
Annually Managed Expenditure										
Voted Expenditure										
A – United Kingdom Supreme Court	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0
Total Spending in DEL	643	(46)	597	14,761	(8,839)	5,922	6,519	9,328	2,809	5,865

Administration budgets capture any expenditure not included in programme budgets. They are controlled to ensure that as much money as practicable is available for front line services. Programme budgets capture expenditure on front line services.

SOPS 1.2 Analysis of capital outturn by Estimate line

	2024-25					2023-24
	Outturn			Estimate		
	Gross £000	Income £000	Net £000	Net Total £000	Net Total compared to Estimate £000	Outturn Net £000
Spending in Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL)						
Voted Expenditure						
A – United Kingdom Supreme Court	2,097	–	2,097	2,910	813	3,908
Total Spending in DEL	2,097	0	2,097	2,910	813	3,908

SOPS Note 2: Reconciliation of Outturn to Net Operating Expenditure

The total resource outturn in the SOPS is the same as net operating expenditure in the SoCNE therefore no reconciliation is required.

SOPS Note 3: Reconciliation of Net Resource Outturn to Net Cash Requirement

		2024-25			2023-24
	SoPS Note	Estimate £000	Outturn £000	Net total outturn compared with Estimate: saving/ (excess) £000	Outturn £000
Resource Outturn	1.1	9,328	6,519	2,809	5,865
Capital Outturn	1.2	2,910	2,097	813	3,908
Accruals to cash adjustments					
Adjustments to remove non-cash items:					
Depreciation		(1,470)	(1,448)	(22)	(1,223)
Other non-cash items		(1,000)	(71)	(929)	(58)
Adjustments to reflect movements in working balances:		–	–	–	–
Decrease in inventories		–	(1)	1	–
Increase/(Decrease) in receivables		–	294	(294)	(121)
(Increase)/Decrease in payables		–	527	(527)	(102)
Changes in payables falling due after more than one year		–	–	–	–
Change in IFRS 16 Lease liability		–	2,179	(2,179)	2,141
Removal of non-voted budget items:					
Non-Voted Expenditure		(3,000)	(3,693)	693	(3,447)
Net cash requirement		6,768	6,403	365	6,963

As noted in the introduction to the SoPS above, outturn and the Estimates are compiled against the budgeting framework, not on a cash basis. Therefore, this reconciliation bridges the resource and capital outturn to the net cash requirement.

Parliament accountability disclosures

The following sections are subject to audit.

Losses and Special Payments

No losses payments have been incurred (2023-24: nil). There were no special payments incurred (2023-24: nil) that requires separate disclosure in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money.

Fees and Charges

	2024-25			2023-24		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Income	Full Cost	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Income	Full Cost	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Total Court Fees	(1,580)	15,358	(13,778)	(1,106)	14,062	(12,956)
Wider Market Initiatives	(46)	46	0	(73)	73	0
	(1,626)	15,404	(13,778)	(1,179)	14,135	(12,956)

These are provided for fees’ & charges’ purposes & not for IFRS 8.

The UKSC does not recover its full cost of operations from Court fees as this might impede access to justice.

Any changes to the UKSC fee structure is dependent on the Lord Chancellor (MOJ) for the laying of the necessary fees orders in Parliament and the consultation exercise that should precede it.

The deficit is covered by the Spending review settlements with HMT.

The Fees and Charges disclosure reflects the full cost for criminal and civil cases, as the number of criminal applications received were immaterial.

The UKSC continues to monitor the number of criminal applications and will take the necessary steps where there is a material change, to ensure full compliance with the cost allocation and charging requirements set out in HM Treasury and Office of Public Sector Information guidance.

SOPS 4: Amounts of income to the Consolidated Fund

	2024-25			2023-24
	Estimate	Outturn	Excess returned to Consolidated fund	Excess returned to Consolidated fund
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income generated	8,509	8,885	376	–

A one off additional payment was received from HMCTS as part of a settlement to fund the Judicial pay increase.

The Scottish Government and Northern Ireland Court and Tribunal Service provided increased funding to reflect historic inflation.

Conclusion

I am satisfied that we have effective governance, risk management and assurance arrangements in place as set out in this report.

Our arrangements are subject to regular review at a variety of levels: internally through our governance arrangements; through our Non-Executive Board Members and independent Members: and through external audit. This meets the changing needs of the court and the environment in which we operate.

I agree there are no significant control issues within the UKSC and the JCPC at the current time and we strive to continually improve our arrangements to ensure that any matters which do come to light are responded to proportionately and effectively.



Vicky Fox
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
4 July 2025



Section 5

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



Opinion on financial statements

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

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

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

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

In my opinion, the financial statements:

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

Opinion on regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects:

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

Basis for opinions

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

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

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

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

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

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

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

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

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

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

Matters on which I report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Accounting Officer for the financial statements

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

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Audit response to identified risk

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

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

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

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

Other auditor's responsibilities

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

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

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

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Gareth Davies

Comptroller and Auditor General

7 July 2025

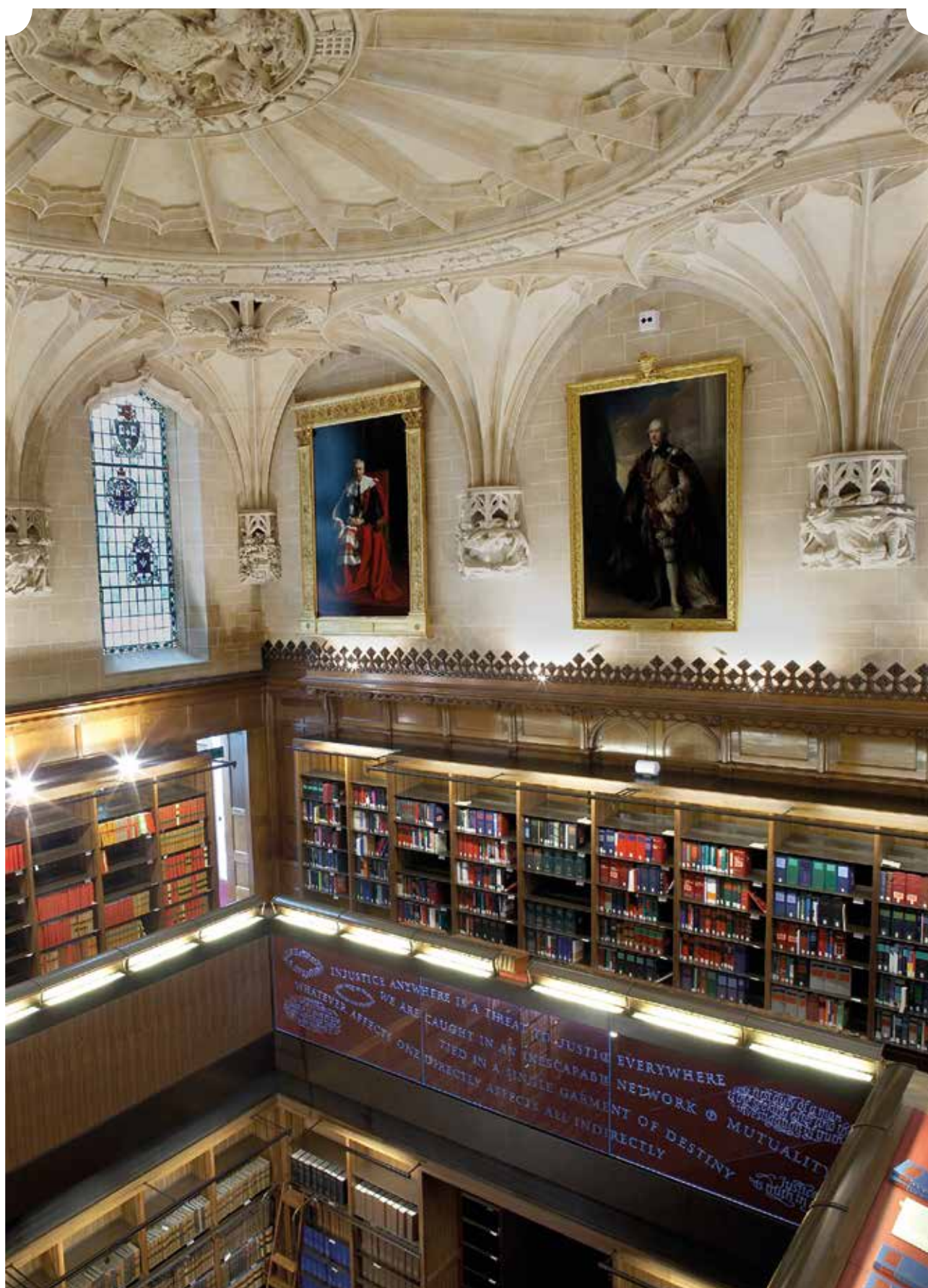
National Audit Office

157-197 Buckingham Palace Road

Victoria

London

SW1W 9SP



Part C – Financial Statements



View of the Supreme Court's exhibition area.



Section 6

Financial Statements



Law reports in the Supreme Court library.

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2024-25	2023-24
	Note	£000	£000
Income from sale of goods and services	4	(8,839)	(8,197)
Other operating income	4	(46)	(73)
Total operating income		(8,885)	(8,270)
Staff costs	2	9,207	8,302
Purchases of goods and services	3	4,749	4,610
Depreciation and amortisation charges	3	1,448	1,223
Total Expenditure		15,404	14,135
Net Operating Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025		6,519	5,865
Other Comprehensive Net Expenditure			
Net (gain)/loss on revaluation of property, plant and equipment		(509)	788
Total Comprehensive Net Expenditure for the year ended 31 March		6,010	6,653

The notes on pages 144 to 157 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 March 2025

		as at 31 March 2025	as at 31 March 2024
	Note	£000	£000
Non-current assets:			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	39,135	39,551
Intangible assets	6	5,428	3,853
Total non-current assets		44,563	43,404
Current assets:			
Inventories		–	1
Trade and other receivables	8	1,253	959
Cash and cash equivalents	9	293	91
Total current assets		1,546	1,051
Total assets		46,109	44,455
Current liabilities:			
Trade and other payables	10	(1,297)	(1,339)
Lease liabilities	10	(2,317)	(2,223)
Total current liabilities		(3,614)	(3,562)
Total assets less current liabilities		42,495	40,893
Non-current liabilities:			
Lease liabilities	10	(38,373)	(40,552)
Total non-current liabilities		(38,373)	(40,552)
Total assets less liabilities		4,122	341
Taxpayers' equity and other reserves			
General fund		(20,768)	(24,040)
Revaluation reserve		24,890	24,381
Total equity		4,122	341

The notes on pages 144 to 157 form part of these accounts.

The Accounting Officer authorised these financial statements for issue.



Vicky Fox
Chief Executive and Accounting Officer
4 July 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 March 2025

		2024-25	2023-24
	Note	£000	£000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net operating expenditure		(6,519)	(5,865)
Adjustment for non-cash transactions	3	1,519	1,281
Interest payments against leases		542	427
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other receivables		(294)	121
Decrease in Inventories		1	0
Increase/(Decrease) in current trade payables		(42)	(264)
Less movements in payables relating to items not passing through the SCNE		(203)	(112)
Net Cash outflow from operating activities		(4,996)	(4,412)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	5	(323)	(290)
Purchase of intangible assets	6	(1,774)	(3,209)
Net cash outflow from investing activities		(2,097)	(3,499)
Cash flows from financing activities			
From the Consolidated Fund (Supply)		6,230	7,074
From the Consolidated Fund (non-Supply)		3,693	3,447
Capital payments against leases		(2,086)	(2,150)
Interest payments against leases		(542)	(427)
Net cash inflow from financing activities		7,295	7,944
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the period before adjustment for receipts and payments to the Consolidated Fund	9	202	33
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	9	91	58
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		293	91

The notes on pages 144 to 157 form part of these accounts.

Statement of Changes In Taxpayers' Equity

for the year ended 31 March 2025

		General Fund	Revaluation Reserve	Total Reserves
	Note	£000	£000	£000
Balance as at 31 March 2023		(28,642)	25,169	(3,473)
Balance at 1 April 2023		(28,642)	25,169	(3,473)
Net Parliamentary Funding – drawn down		7,074		7,074
Net Parliamentary Funding – deemed		313		313
Consolidated Fund Standing Services		3,447		3,447
Supply (payable)/receivable adjustment		(425)		(425)
Net Operating cost for the year		(5,865)		(5,865)
Non-Cash Adjustments				
Non-cash charges – external auditors remuneration	3	58		58
Movement in Reserves				
Movement in Revaluation Reserve	5	–	(788)	(788)
Balance at 31 March 2024		(24,040)	24,381	341
Balance as at 1st of April 2024		(24,040)	24,381	341
Net Parliamentary Funding – drawn down		6,230		6,230
Net Parliamentary Funding – deemed		425		425
Consolidated Fund Standing Services		3,693		3,693
Supply (payable)/receivable adjustment		(252)		(252)
CFERs payable to the Consolidated Fund		(376)		(376)
Net Operating cost for the year		(6,519)		(6,519)
Non-cash charges – external auditors remuneration	3	71		71
Movement in Revaluation Reserve	5	–	509	509
Balance at 31 March 2025		(20,768)	24,890	4,122

The notes on pages 144 to 157 form part of these accounts.

Notes to the Departmental Resource Accounts

1 Statement of Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 2024-25 Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adapted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which is judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (UKSC) for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. The particular policies adopted by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom are described below. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material to the accounts.

1.2 Accounting Convention

These accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis under the historical cost convention modified to account for the revaluation of property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and inventories.

1.3 Going Concern

The financial statements for the UKSC have been prepared on the basis that the Department is a going concern. Financial provision for its activities is included in the 2025 Phase 1 Spending Review which set out budgets for 2024-25 until 2025-26 and Parliament has authorised spending for 2025-26 in the Central Government Main Supply Estimates. The Constitutional Reform Act 2005 sets out the purpose and role of the Supreme Court and there is no intention to abolish the Court. Therefore, the UKSC can continue to operate and carry out its commitments, obligations, and objectives.

1.4 Property Plant and Equipment

The minimum level for the capitalisation of Property, Plant & Equipment is £5,000.

i. Land & Building

The UKSC Land & Building were deemed to be specialised operational properties and fair value was arrived at using Direct Replacement Cost methodology. This was based on the assumption that the property could be sold as part of the continuing enterprise in occupation. On the basis of the above assumption, Fair Value for such assets under the FReM is the equivalent of Existing Use Value according to guidance from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). The year end valuation was carried out by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), using professionally qualified valuers, who are also members of the RICS; using 31 March 2025 as valuation date. The VOA and its staff are independent of the UK Supreme Court. The Revaluation Surplus balance at year end was £25M; with £330k increase in the land value and a decrease of £748k in the building value during the financial year.

ii. Other Plant & Equipment

These were valued at depreciated cost. The Department has decided not to apply Modified Historic Costs Accounting for Other Plant & Equipment as the adjustments would be immaterial.

1.5 Intangible Fixed Assets

Computer software licences with a purchased cost in excess of £5,000 (including irrecoverable VAT and delivery) are capitalised at cost. The Court has added £5.6m of Intangible Fixed Assets relating to the development and deployment into beneficial use of a new customer and case management portal and integrated front-end website.

1.6 Depreciation and Amortisation

Freehold land and assets in the course of construction are not depreciated. All other assets are depreciated from the month following the date of acquisition. Depreciation and amortisation is at the rates calculated to write-off the valuation of the assets by applying the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives.

Property, Plant and Equipment:

- Building 40 years
- Office Equipment 3-7 years
- Furniture and fittings 4-7 years
- Robes 50 years

Intangible assets:

- Computer software and software licences 7 years

1.7 Inventory

Closing stocks of gift items for re-sale are held at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of consumables stores held by the Department are not considered material and are written off in the operating cost statement as they are purchased.

1.8 Operating Income

The UKSC has three distinct streams of income, namely: 1) contributions from His Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service, the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Courts Service 2) Wider Market Initiatives which includes fees from courtroom hire, tours and from justices sitting in other jurisdictions; and 3) Court fees.

The contributions are fixed income payments paid quarterly. The contributions are for the ongoing operation of the court and are recognised in full in the year to which the funding relates.

For the Wider Market Initiatives, contracts are issued for courtroom hire and the income is recognised in the financial period of the event. Similarly, income from tours and from justices sitting in other jurisdictions are recognised when the performance obligation has been fulfilled. Court fees are charged at the point they are

accepted through the defined system of processing cases. The condition under which fees are paid are based on legislation and regulation.

Therefore for all streams, income is recognised under Revenue from Contracts and Customers (IFRS 15).

1.9 Pensions

UKSC employees are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) and the Civil Service and Other Pension Scheme (CSOPS), which are multi-employer defined benefit schemes. UKSC's share of any assets and liabilities are not separately identifiable and accordingly UKSC accounts for the pension schemes in the same manner as defined contribution schemes, recognising contributions payable for the year.

1.10 Value Added Tax

The net amount of Value Added Tax (VAT) due to or from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs is shown as a receivable or payable on the Statement of Financial Position. Irrecoverable VAT is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, or if it is incurred on the purchase of a fixed asset it is capitalised in the cost of the asset.

1.11 Significant Accounting Estimates and Assumption

Other than the valuation of the Land and Building, there are no significant estimates or accounting judgements used in the preparation of these accounts.

1.12 Third Party Assets

The UKSC holds, as custodian, certain assets belonging to third parties. These assets are not recognised in the Statement of Financial Position and are disclosed within note 13 as the UKSC or HM Government does not have a direct beneficial interest in them.

1.13 Leases

The UKSC currently only has one lease that falls under IFRS 16, the lease for the land and building. All other contracts have no lease component; therefore, no exemptions have been applied. This lease is represented on the balance sheet as a right-of-use asset and a lease liability. It is discounted over the life of the contract at the standard HMT rate of 0.95%, the same as was used in 2023/24. The value of the asset at 31 March 2025 is £37,989k.

1.14 International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 17: Insurance Contracts – future change to standard

IFRS 17: Insurance Contracts replaces IFRS 4: Insurance Contracts and is to be included in the FReM for mandatory implementation from 2025-26. It establishes the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts within the scope of this Standard.

IFRS 17 requires insurance contracts, including reinsurance contracts, to be recognised on the statement of financial position as the total of the fulfilment cashflows and the contractual service margin (CSM).

The fulfilment cashflows consist of the present value of future cash flows calculated using best estimate assumptions with an explicit risk adjustment for non-financial risk. The risk adjustment is released to the SCNE as risk expires. The CSM is the unearned profit on insurance contracts and is released to the SCNE over the insurance contract period as insurance services are provided. Where an insurance contract is onerous, it will have no CSM and the onerous element of the insurance contract will be recognised immediately in the SCNE.

The management assessment of IFRS 17 on the UKSC accounts is there will be nil impact.

1.15 Non-investment asset valuations – future change to standard

Changes to the 2025-26 FReM will be made in respect of non-investment asset valuations.

In December 2023 HM Treasury released an exposure draft on potential changes to make to valuing and accounting for non-investment assets (e.g. PPE, intangible assets). The following changes to the valuation and accounting of non-investment assets is to be included in the 2025-26 FReM for mandatory implementation: References to assets being held for their 'service potential' and the terms 'specialised/ nonspecialised' assets are being removed from the FReM. Non-investment assets are instead described as assets held for their 'operational capacity'. This change has no impact on the valuation basis of non-investment assets, which remains Existing Use Value (EUV).

An adaptation to IAS 16 will be introduced to withdraw the requirement to revalue an asset where its fair value materially differs from its carrying value. Assets are now valued using the one of the following processes:

- A quinquennial revaluation supplemented by annual indexation.
- A rolling programme of valuations over a 5-year cycle, with annual indexation applied to assets during the 4 intervening years.
- For non-property assets only, appropriate indices.

In rare circumstances where an index is not available, a quinquennial revaluation supplemented by a desktop revaluation in year 3.

The option to measure intangible assets using the revaluation model is withdrawn. The carrying values of intangible assets at 31 March 2025 will be considered the historical cost at 1 April 2025.

1.16 Social benefits – future change to standard

The 2025-26 FReM will include new guidance on accounting for social benefits. The 2025-26 FReM will define social benefits as 'current transfers received by households (including individuals) intended to provide for the needs that arise from certain events or circumstances, for example, sickness, unemployment, retirement, housing, education, or family circumstances.'

The 2025-26 FReM clarifies that expenditure in respect of social benefit payments should be recognised at the point at which the social benefit claimant meets the eligibility requirements to receive the benefit. Only the expenditure for the period of entitlement that falls within the accounting year should be recognised.

Management assesses there will be no impact of adopting social benefits guidance on the UKSC accounts.

2. Staff/Justices related costs

	2024-25	2023-24
	Total £000	Total £000
Wages and Salaries	5,603	5,430
Social security costs	693	657
Apprentice Levy	16	15
Supplementary Judges	70	31
Other pension costs	2,603	2,103
Sub Total	8,985	8,236
Inward secondments	167	49
Agency Staff	55	17
Voluntary exit costs	0	0
Total	9,207	8,302
Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments	0	0
Total Net Costs	9,207	8,302

The salary costs of one Programme Manager supporting the Change Programme was capitalised. Judicial Salaries and Social Security costs are paid directly from the Consolidated Fund while the Pension costs are paid for by the UKSC. Further details are provided in the Remuneration and Staff Report from pages 96-112.

3. Purchases of Goods and Services

		2024-25	2023-24
	Note	£000	£000
Accommodation Costs		2,459	2,291
Finance Costs		953	927
Library Costs		302	308
IT Costs		245	265
Publicity & Communications		123	94
Broadcasting Costs		300	240
Repairs & Maintenance		87	163
Recruitment & Judicial Appointment Costs		11	41
Transportation Costs		29	45
Other Staff Costs		64	79
Hospitality & Events		9	5
Printing, Postage, Stationery & Publications		14	26
Internal Audit & Governance Expenses		33	27
Other Costs		28	27
International Judicial Travel		21	14
Sub Total		4,678	4,552
Non-cash items:			
Depreciation	5	1,249	1,223
Amortisation	6	199	–
External Auditors' Remuneration*		71	58
Total Non-Cash		1,519	1,281
Total Costs		6,197	5,833

* No remuneration has been received by the external auditors in respect of non-audit services.

4. Income

Operating income, analysed by classification and activity, is as follows:	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Contribution from HMCTS	(6,493)	(6,373)
Contribution from Scottish Government	(511)	(478)
Contribution from Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service	(255)	(239)
Total Contributions	(7,259)	(7,090)
Court Fees – UKSC	(1,158)	(715)
Court Fees – JCPC	(422)	(392)
Wider Market Initiatives	(46)	(73)
Total Income	(8,885)	(8,270)
Total income earned	(8,885)	(8,270)
Income authorised to be retained	(8,509)	(8,426)
Payable to the consolidated fund: Excess income (Consolidated Fund Extra Receipt (CFER))	376	0

5. Property Plant and Equipment

2024-25	Furniture and Office and Fittings Robes Total					
	Land	Building	Equipment	Fittings	Robes	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2024	16,770	21,637	2,674	3,793	155	45,029
Additions	–		136	187	–	323
Revaluations	330	(748)	–	–	–	(418)
Disposals	–	–	–	–	–	–
Reclassification			–	–		–
Donations	–	–	–	–	–	–
At 31 March 2025	17,100	20,889	2,810	3,980	155	44,934
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2024	–	–	(2,314)	(3,118)	(45)	(5,477)
Charged in year	–	(927)	(126)	(193)	(3)	(1,249)
Revaluations	–	927	–	–	–	927
Disposals	–	–	–	–	–	–
At 31 March 2025	–	–	(2,440)	(3,311)	(48)	(5,799)
Carrying amount at 31 March 2025	17,100	20,889	370	669	107	39,135
Of which:						
Owned	1,146					
Right of Use Assets	37,989					
On-balance sheet	39,135					
PFI contracts	–					

Land and Building is Right of Use Asset. Office equipment, furniture and fittings & robes are owned for both 2024-25 and 2023-24.

2023-24						
	Land	Building	Office Equipment	Furniture and Fittings	Robes	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 April 2023	18,100	22,001	2,538	3,649	155	46,443
Additions	–	–	117	173	–	290
Revaluations	(1,330)	(364)	–	–	–	(1,694)
Disposals	–	–	–	(10)	–	(10)
Reclassification	–	–	19	(19)	–	–
At 31 March 2023	16,770	21,637	2,674	3,793	155	45,029
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2023	–	–	(2,180)	(2,938)	(42)	(5,160)
Charged in year	–	(906)	(134)	(180)	(3)	(1,223)
Revaluations	–	906	–	–	–	906
Disposals	–	–	–	–	–	–
At 31 March 2023	–	–	(2,314)	(3,118)	(45)	(5,477)
Carrying amount at 31 March 2024	16,770	21,637	360	675	110	39,552
Of which:						
Owned	1,145					
Right of Use Assets	38,407					
On-balance sheet	39,552					
PFI contracts	–					

Land and Building is Right of Use Asset. Office equipment, furniture and fittings & robes are owned for both 2023-24 and 2022-23.

6. Intangible non-current assets

Intangible fixed assets comprise software licences, content management and website development costs. All intangible assets are owned by the UKSC for 2024-25.

2024-25	Purchased software licences	Asset Under Construction	Case management system and portal	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation			–	
At 1 April 2024	210	3,852	–	4,062
Additions	–	1,774	–	1,774
Revaluations	–	–	–	–
Impairment	–	–	–	–
Donations	–	–	–	–
Reclassification		(5,626)	5,626	–
At 31 March 2025	210	–	5,626	5,836
		–		
Amortisation				
At 1 April 2024	(209)	–	–	(209)
Charged in year	–	–	(199)	(199)
Revaluations	–	–	–	–
Impairment	–	–	–	–
At 31 March 2025	(209)	–	(199)	(408)
Net book value at 31 March 2025	1	–	5,427	5,428

2023-24	Purchased software licences	Asset Under Construction	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation			
At 1 April 2023	210	234	444
Additions	–	3,618	3,618
Revaluations	–	–	–
Impairment	–	–	–
Donations	–	–	–
At 31 March 2024	210	3,852	4,062
Amortisation			
At 1 April 2023	(209)	–	(209)
Charged in year	–	–	–
Impairment	–	–	–
At 31 March 2024	(209)	–	(209)
Net book value at 31 March 2024	1	3,852	3,853

7. Financial instruments

As the cash requirements of the Department are met through the Estimates process, financial instruments play a more limited role in creating and managing risk than would apply to a non-public sector body of a similar size. The Department does not hold any financial instruments.

8. Trade and other receivables

	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade Receivables	2	11
VAT Recoverable	194	357
Staff Receivables	14	9
Prepayment & Accrued Income	1,043	582
Total	1,253	959

9. Cash and cash Equivalents

	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	91	58
Net changes in cash and cash equivalent balances	202	33
Balance at 31 March	293	91
The following balances at 31 March were held at:		
Government Banking Service (RBS)	293	91
Balance at 31 March	293	91

10. Trade and other payables and finance lease liabilities

	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Analysis by type		
Amounts falling due within one year		
Other taxation and social security	(125)	(125)
Trade payables	(267)	(289)
Amounts issued from the Consolidated Fund for supply but not spent at year end	(252)	(425)
CFERs payable to the Consolidated Fund	(376)	
Accruals and Deferred Income	(277)	(500)
Lease liabilities	(2,317)	(2,223)
Total	(3,614)	(3,562)
Amounts falling due after more than one year		
Lease liabilities	(38,373)	(40,552)
Total	(41,987)	(44,114)

11. Commitments under leases**Right Of Use Assets**

Total future minimum lease payments under leases are given in the table below for each of the following periods.

	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Obligations under leases comprise:		
Land and Building		
Not later than 1 year	2,695	2,629
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	11,471	11,191
Later than 5 years	29,451	32,426
Sub-total	43,617	46,246
Less: Interest Element	(2,926)	(3,471)
Net Total	40,691	42,775

12. Related-Party Transactions

None of the Non-Executive Board Members, President, key managerial staff or related parties have undertaken any material transactions with UKSC during the year other than the pay information disclosed in the Remuneration Report.

UKSC had a number of significant transactions with the Ministry of Justice and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

13. Third Party Assets

In all civil cases where an appeal lay to the House of Lords under the provisions of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876, Appellants must provide security for the costs of such appeals. This payment was made to the House of Lords Security Fund Account which recorded the receipt, payment and disposition of the lodgements for each financial year. The balance on this Security Fund Account was transferred to the Supreme Court on 1st October 2009 and is now operated as the Supreme Court Security Fund Account. No interest is paid on the lodgements, nor are any fees deducted. Security Fund monies are payable to the relevant party, usually on the issue of the Final Judgement or Taxation of the Bill of Costs.

Securities held on behalf of third parties are not included in UKSC's Statement of Financial Position.

	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Balance as at 01 April	605	430
Add; receipts – Lodgements by Appellants	–	175
Less: Repayments to Appellants/Respondents	–	–
Balance as at 31 March	605	605

There were no transactions on this account during 2024/25.

14. Events after the reporting period date

In accordance with the requirements of IAS 10 'Events after the Reporting Period', events are considered up to the date on which the financial statements are authorised for issue, which is interpreted as the date of the certificate and report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. There are no subsequent events to report.



Stained glass window in the lobby outside Courtroom 1.

Annex

Jurisdictions where the JCPC is the final court of appeal



Annex

Jurisdictions where the JCPC is the final court of appeal

Anguilla

Antigua and Barbuda

Ascension

Bahamas

Bermuda

British Antarctic Territory

British Indian Ocean Territory

Cayman Islands

Cook Islands and Niue

Falkland Islands

Gibraltar

Grenada

Guernsey

Isle of Man

Jamaica

Jersey

Kiribati

Mauritius

Montserrat

Pitcairn Islands

Saint Christopher and Nevis

St Helena

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia

Trinidad and Tobago

Tristan da Cunha

Turks and Caicos Islands

Tuvalu

Virgin Islands

United Kingdom

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Church Commissioners

Arches Court of Canterbury

Chancery Court of York

Prize Courts

Court of the Admiralty of the Cinque Ports

Power to refer any matter to the Judicial Committee under section 4 of the Judicial Committee Act 1833.

Brunei

Civil Appeals from the Court of Appeal to the Sultan and Yang di-Pertuan for advice to the Sultan.





