



Reference data 2022 (01/01/2022 - 31/12/2022)

Start/end date of the data collection campaign : 15/03/2023 - 01/10/2023

Objective :

The CEPEJ decided, at its 39th plenary meeting, to launch the ninth evaluation cycle 2024, focused on 2022 data. The CEPEJ wishes to use the methodology developed in the previous cycles to get, with the support of its national correspondents' network, a general evaluation of the judicial systems in the 46 member states of the Council of Europe as well as three observer states (Israel, Morocco and Kazakhstan).

The present questionnaire was developed by the Working group on evaluation of judicial systems (CEPEJ-GT-EVAL) in view of the previous evaluation cycles and considering the comments submitted by CEPEJ members, observers, experts and national correspondents. The aim of this exercise is to increase awareness of judicial systems in the participating states, to compare the functioning of judicial systems in their various aspects, as well as to have a better knowledge of the trends of the judicial organisation in order to help improve the efficiency of justice. The evaluation questionnaire and the analysis of the results becomes a genuine tool in favour of public policies on justice, in service of the European citizens.

For better understanding of the questions it is necessary to consult the Explanatory note that gives definitions and explanations on the CEPEJ evaluation questionnaire and the methodology needed for replying, You can download the Explanatory note as a whole document on the CEPEJ website. In addition to the Explanatory note, there is also the User manual that is a technical document to help you navigate through this application for data collection.

In case you have any questions related to these documents or on the use of the application, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat.

Instruction :

Explanatory note: <https://rm.coe.int/explanatory-note-2024-cycle-cepej-2023-2-en/1680aae30a>

Word version of the questionnaire - <https://rm.coe.int/evaluation-scheme-2024-cycle-cepej-2022-9rev1-en-30-march-2023/1680aae309>

CEPEJ COLLECT - User manual – you can download under Documentation tab

1. General and financial information

1.1. Demographic and economic data

1.1.1 Inhabitants and economic general information



001. Number of inhabitants (if possible on 1 January of the reference year +1)

[5 149 139]

Comments Year 2022 per Census of Population 2022 results - There were 5,149,139 people in the State on Census Night, Sunday, 03 April 2022. <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpsr/censusofpopulation2022-summaryresults/>



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003. Per capita GDP (in €) in current prices for the reference year

[99 267]

Comments Year 2022 GDP at Current Market Prices per head of population. GDP per person is calculated from Year 2022 GDP at Current Market Prices datum value of €506,282 million divided by 5,100,200, the Estimated Population for Year 2022 (Persons in April)

004. Average gross annual salary (in €) for the reference year

[45 859]

[] NA

Comments Year 2022 is the latest year for which data are available.

005. Exchange rate of national currency (non-Euro zone) in € on 1 January of the reference year +1:

[]

Allow decimals : 5

[X] NAP

Comments

A1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Question 003 Source: Annual National Accounts 2022 (ANA 2022) were published by CSO on 14th July 2023 <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ana/annualnationalaccounts2022/>. Question 004 Source: Earnings and Labour Costs Q4 2022 (Final) Q1 2023 (Preliminary Estimates) issued 31 May 2023 <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-elcq/earningsandlabourcostsq42022finalq12023preliminaryestimates/> See also <https://www.cso.ie/en/media/csoie/releasespublications/documents/ep/earningsandlabourcostsquarterly/q12023/P-ELCQ2023Q1TBL1.xlsx>

1.1.2 Budgetary data concerning judicial system



006. Annual (approved and implemented) public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts, in € (without the budget of the public prosecution services and without the budget of legal aid). If you cannot separate the budget allocated to the courts from the budget of public prosecution services and/or the one allocated to legal aid, please go to question 7. If you are able to answer this question, please answer NA to question 7.

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
TOTAL - Annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	167 614 000 [] NA [] NAP	163 568 000 [] NA [] NAP

1. Annual public budget allocated to (gross) salaries	63 316 000 [] NA [] NAP	62 953 000 [] NA [] NAP
2. Annual public budget allocated to computerisation (2.1 + 2.2)	16 342 000 [] NA [] NAP	17 897 000 [] NA [] NAP
2.1 Investments in computerisation	8 826 000 [] NA [] NAP	9 749 000 [] NA [] NAP
2.2 Maintenance of the IT equipment of courts	7 516 000 [] NA [] NAP	8 148 000 [] NA [] NAP
3. Annual public budget allocated to justice expenses (expertise, interpretation, etc.)	5 697 000 [] NA [] NAP	5 119 000 [] NA [] NAP
4. Annual public budget allocated to court buildings (maintenance, operating costs)	19 421 000 [] NA [] NAP	17 669 000 [] NA [] NAP
5. Annual public budget allocated to investments in new (court) buildings	47 273 000 [] NA [] NAP	43 853 000 [] NA [] NAP
6. Annual public budget allocated to training	325 000 [] NA [] NAP	331 000 [] NA [] NAP
7. Other (please specify)	15 240 000 [] NA [] NAP	15 746 000 [] NA [] NAP

Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided. If the annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget allocated to the functioning of all courts, please indicate the main reasons for the differences: 3. Annual public budget allocated to justice expenses (expertise, interpretation, etc.): Increase is primarily due to increased costs for Jury Minding in the Criminal Courts Of Justice due to a need for more jury minders to manage jurors during trials (2 rather than 1 per jury) and footfall management throughout the building, as a result of the Covid Pandemic.

5. Annual public budget allocated to investments in new (court) buildings: Increase is due to the inclusion for 2022 of the PPP Buildings (CCJ €23.783m and 7 regional courthouses €14.957). In 2020 this budget/expenditure was included under the "Other" category, but it would appear to be more appropriate to be included under this category. This increase is off set but a reduction in 2022 due to an additional €3.3m stimulus funding received in 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic

6. Annual public budget allocated to training (implemented budget): Increase is due to the fact that training was largely suspended during the Covid pandemic and was only recommenced in 2022.

7. Other (please specify): This reduction is due to a combination of the budget for the PPP buildings (CCJ and Regional Courthouse) of €37.441m included here for 2020, but now included in the above line "Investment in new (court) buildings", in addition to funding of €4m included for the Modernisation Program in 2022 which was not included in 2020 as the programme had not commenced at that time.

007. If you cannot answer question 6 because you cannot isolate the public budget allocated to courts from the budget allocated to public prosecution services and/or the one allocated to legal aid, please fill in only the appropriate line in the table according to your system:

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts and the public prosecution services together	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Total annual public budget allocated to all courts and legal aid together	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Total annual public budget allocated to all courts, public prosecution services and legal aid together	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided. If the annual public budget actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget, please indicate the main reasons for the differences:

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008. Are litigants in general required to pay a court fee to initiate a proceeding at a court of general jurisdiction:

	Litigants required to pay a court fee to initiate a proceeding at a court of general jurisdiction ?
for criminal cases	() Yes, at the beginning of the procedure () Yes, at a later stage (X) No
for other than criminal cases	(X) Yes, at the beginning of the procedure () Yes, at a later stage () No

Comments - If there are exceptions to the obligation to pay these court fees, could you please provide comments on those exceptions?

008-1. Please briefly present the methodology of calculation of these court fees:

- Court fees are prescribed for the various courts by statutory instruments (secondary legislation) by way of Court Fees Orders signed by the Minister for Justice with the consent of the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The Court Fees Orders currently in force are:

S.I. No. 492/2014 - Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court (Fees) Order 2014 as amended by S.I. 80/2021 Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court (Fees) (Amendment) Order 2021
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/si/492/made/en/pdf>

S.I. No. 23/2014 - Circuit Court (Fees) Order 2014
<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/si/23/made/en/pdf>

S.I. No. 22/2014 - District Court (Fees) Order 2014, amended most recently by District Court (Fees) (Amendment) No. 2 Order 2021
[S.I. 479/2022 https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2022/si/479/made/en/print](https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2022/si/479/made/en/print)

Court fee amounts are calculated in a number of ways, mainly as

- fixed amounts payable on the issuing or lodgement of a document specified in a Fees Order, e.g., the issuing of an originating document
- amounts which vary by reference to the value associated with a transaction – e.g., the court fee payable when funds are invested in, or paid out of, varies with the value of such investment or payment.
- as a percentage, e.g., the court fee payable on the taxation, measurement or adjudication of costs is calculated as a percentage of the amount taxed, measured or adjudicated.

008-2. The amount of court fees requested to commence an action for 3000€ debt recovery:

[25]

[] NA

[] NAP

Comments

009. Annual income of court fees received by the State (in €):

[33 476 000]

[] NA

[] NAP

Comments In 2020 the Courts Service had a target of €41.693m for Fee Income. This was adjusted down by €18.2m by way of supplementary due to the Covid pandemic, which closed pubs and venues, resulting in huge losses of income from licencing fees. In 2021 their Fee Income target was set at €31.693m to reflect the ongoing lost revenue due to Covid, and this target remained in 2022. The supplementary of €2.4m in 2022 was due to the increased revenue from licensing fees as a result of the easing of Covid restrictions in 2022.

Furthermore, in 2020 the Courts Service had €5.5m income due to Dormant Funds relating to the High Court. This was a once-off item for 2020 relating to dormant accounts.

012. Annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid, in €.

	TOTAL	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
TOTAL - Annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid (12.1 + 12.2)	118 117 000 [] NA [] NAP	70 200 000 [] NA [] NAP	47 917 000 [] NA [] NAP
12.1 for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
12.2 for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments In "other than criminal cases" the Legal Aid Board's budgetary allocation is not divided between 'cases brought to court' and 'cases not brought to court). Any legal advice case may progress to being a legal aid case, and the Legal Aid Board does not keep a record of what specific cases never progressed beyond advice stage. While the Board provides ADR in the form of family mediation, in some cases this may be provided as part of a case which is a legal aid case which subsequently proceeds to court.

for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation) and for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services).

012-1. Annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid, in €.

	TOTAL	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
TOTAL - Annual implemented public budget allocated to legal aid (12-1.1 + 12-1.2)	121 687 000 [] NA [] NAP	76 475 000 [] NA [] NAP	45 212 000 [] NA [] NAP
12-1.1 for cases brought to court (court fees and/or legal representation)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
12-1.2 for cases not brought to court (legal advice, ADR and other legal services)	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

If the public budget actually implemented regarding legal aid is different from the annual approved public budget allocated to legal aid, please indicate the main reasons for the differences: Other than criminal cases: Certain aspects of legal aid are “demand-led” and demand may fluctuate above or below what has been initially budgeted. This occurred in 2022 for some aspects of legal aid. A capital investment project did not go ahead, and there were challenges in recruiting additional staff during the year.

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012-3. Do legal aid budgets indicated in Q12 and Q12-1 include:

	Amount calculated/estimated included
Coverage of court fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP (Legal aid does not include coverage of court fees)
Exemption from court fees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP (Legal aid does not include exemption from court fees)

Comments

013. Annual (approved and implemented) public budget allocated to the public prosecution services, in €.

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
Total annual public budget allocated to the public prosecution services, in € (including 13.1)	51 277 000 [] NA [] NAP	50 047 000 [] NA [] NAP
13.1. Annual public budget allocated to training of public prosecution services	213 000 [] NA [] NAP	216 617 [] NA [] NAP

Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided. Moreover, if the annual public budget allocated to the public prosecution services actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget, please indicate the main reasons for the differences:

A2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Courts Service, Department of Justice (Civil Governance Unit and Service Delivery Unit) Legal Aid Board, Director of Public Prosecutions

1.1.3 Budgetary data concerning the whole justice system

015-1. Annual (approved and implemented) public budget allocated to the whole justice system, in € (this global budget includes the judicial system budget - see 15-2 and other elements of the justice system - see 15-3)

	Approved budget (in €)	Implemented budget (in €)
Total annual public budget allocated to the whole justice system in €	3 279 327 000 [] NA [] NAP	3 234 628 000 [] NA [] NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful comment to explain the figures provided above and specify if a large portion of the budget allocated to the whole justice system comes from an international organisation. Moreover, if the annual public budget allocated to the whole justice system actually implemented is different from the approved annual public budget, please indicate the main reasons for the differences:

015-2. Elements of the judicial system budget (Q6, Q7, Q12, Q13)

	Included
Courts	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Legal aid	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Public prosecution services	(X) Yes () No [] NAP

Comments

015-3. Other budgetary elements

	Included
Prison system	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Probation services	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
High Judicial Council	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
High Prosecutorial Council	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Constitutional court	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Judicial management body	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Service for legal representation of the State	() Yes () No [X] NAP

Enforcement services	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Notariat	() Yes (X) No [] NAP
Forensic services	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Judicial protection of juveniles	() Yes (X) No [] NAP
Functioning of the Ministry of Justice	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Refugees and asylum seekers services	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Immigration Service	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Some police services (e.g. : transfer, investigation, prisoners' security)	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Other	() Yes () No [X] NAP

If "Other", please specify:

A3. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Department of Justice - Financial Management Unit

2. Access to justice and all courts

2.1. Legal Aid

2.1.1 Scope of legal aid

016. Does legal aid apply to:

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Representation in court	(X) Yes () No [] NA [] NAP	(X) Yes () No [] NA [] NAP

Legal advice, ADR and other legal services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
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016-1. Please briefly describe the organisation of the legal aid system in your country.

- Criminal cases:

Fees are paid to solicitors for consultations with persons detained in Garda stations in circumstances where: • a person is detained under the provisions of the Offences against the State Act, 1939 as amended by the Offences against the State (Amendment) Act, 1998 or the Criminal Justice Act, 1984 or the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act, 1996 or Section 50 of the Criminal Justice Act ,2007, and

- the person has a legal entitlement to consult with a solicitor, and
- the person's means are insufficient to enable him or her to pay for such consultation The Garda Station Legal Advice Scheme was extended in May 2014 to include attendance of a solicitor at a formal interview between the Gardaí and the detainee. The Scheme is administered by the Legal Aid Board.

The Criminal Justice (Legal Aid) Act 1962 covers persons charged with a criminal offence. The 1962 Act is the primary legislation covering the operation of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme and provides that free legal aid may be granted by the Courts, in certain circumstances, for the defence of any persons of insufficient means in criminal proceedings. Under the Act, the courts, through the judiciary, are responsible for the granting of legal aid. An applicant must establish to the satisfaction of the court that his or her means are insufficient to enable the applicant to pay for legal representation themselves. The court must also be satisfied that, by reason of the "gravity of the charge" or exceptional circumstances", it is essential in the interest of justice that the applicant should have legal aid. Under the Act, the grant of legal aid entitles the applicant to the services of a solicitor and, in certain circumstances, up to two counsel, in the preparation and conduct of their defence or appeal.

Other than criminal cases:

The Legal Aid Board is a statutory body (i.e. a corporation established under public law) whose members are appointed by the Minister for Justice. It is responsible for the provision of legal aid generally in other than criminal cases and for family mediation services. On foot of an agreement with the Minister it also has been given non-statutory responsibility for the administration of certain aspects of criminal legal aid. These primarily relate to legal advice in police stations and certain civil matters that are connected with criminal cases (such as habeas corpus, certain judicial reviews and matters relating to recovery of the proceeds of crime). There are plans to transfer further aspects of criminal legal aid to the Board.

The Board is independent from the Minister in the performance of its duties and in particular as regards decisions regarding funding in individual cases. It employs about 550 staff (approximately 100 of whom are lawyers) in 47 offices across the State. Legal aid is provided through lawyers employed by the Board and working in 34 law centres and also through panels of private lawyers who provide services in various areas. The Board also operates a mediation service in family disputes which is free of charge and not means tested.

018. Can legal aid be granted for the fees that are related to the enforcement of judicial decisions (e.g. fees of an enforcement agent)?

Yes

No

NAP

If yes, please specify:

019. Can legal aid be granted for other costs (different from those mentioned in questions 16 to 18,

e.g. fees of technical advisors or experts, costs of other legal professionals (notaries), travel costs etc.)?

	Criminal cases	Other than criminal cases
Legal aid granted for other costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify: In other than criminal cases:

Legal aid covers the costs for technical advisers / experts, and barristers (trial advocates/specialist lawyers). In certain circumstances it may cover travel costs for these technical experts and lawyers. It does not cover the legally aided person's travel costs.

2.1.2 Information on legal aid



020. Please indicate the number of cases for which legal aid has been granted:

	Total	Cases brought to court	Cases not brought to court
TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In other than criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	16 570 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify when appropriate: Demand for Legal Aid in "other than criminal cases" was significantly down in 2020 due to lockdown, most of the Legal Aid offices were closed to the public for large portions of the year. The number of applications for legal services fell by 20% year on year. In addition the courts themselves were generally closed for large parts of the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and only urgent matters (e.g. domestic violence) and matters that lent themselves to remote hearing (e.g. personal insolvency) were being heard. Only uncontested divorces were being heard, for example. This is why we now have an increase.

020-0. Please indicate the number of recipients of legal aid:

	Total	Cases brought to court	Cases not brought to court
TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In criminal cases	81 025 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
In other than criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify when appropriate: We have data for the total criminal legal aid certificates issued, but the necessary breakdown is not available

The Legal Aid Board does not collate details as to individual numbers of recipients of legal aid in other than criminal cases. It is possible for individuals to apply to the Board in respect of more than one matter either on the same or multiple occasions. Additionally, in a very small minority of cases two or more individuals may be granted legal aid in respect of the same matter (where they are co-plaintiffs or co-

defendants in relation to the same matter) and if they are spouses/partners then this may be on foot of a single legal aid certificate. In principle Irish law does not recognise the concept of a “joint application” for legal aid but in practice they may be treated as such.

020-0-1. Are there statistical data disaggregated by gender in respect of recipients of legal aid?

- () Yes
- (X) No

Comments

020-0-2. If yes, please provide details on distribution by gender of recipients of legal aid:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of recipients of legal aid	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments

020-0-3. Is it possible to divide the number of recipients of legal aid per different categories of cases?

- (X) Yes
- () No

Comment: If yes, please specify for which categories of cases: This information is not available readily. By way of providing a breakdown of the number of applications, rather than recipients, the following is provided:

- General family law matters: 9,339
- Divorce/ separation/ nullity: 2,540
- International Protection and Human Trafficking: 6,889
- Cases involving possible State care of children: 719
- Other civil matters: 1,218

020-0-4. Are there situations where legal aid is automatically granted depending on categories of cases?

- (X) Yes
- () No

Comment: If yes, please specify: In criminal cases -To a victim of rape or sexual assault who is seek representation in relation to an application to cross examine them on their past sexual history

- To a victim or witness in rape or sexual assault cases where an application is being made to release their counselling records
- To an otherwise unrepresented defendant in rape or sexual assault cases if the court prevents them from personally cross-examining a witness and where the interests of justice so require that the cross-examination proceed. The legal aid is limited in such cases to the provision of a lawyer to conduct the cross examination of the witness concerned. (Note: We are not aware of any case where this provision has actually been availed of).

In other than criminal cases:

Legal aid is automatically granted in the following situations:

- In child abduction cases, for an applicant resident outside the jurisdiction who is seeking the return of the children to the jurisdiction of their habitual residence and who is being assisted by the Central Authority system
- In maintenance cases, for an applicant resident outside the jurisdiction who is seeking the enforcement of a maintenance order made in their home jurisdiction and who is being assisted by the Central Authority system
- To an otherwise unrepresented party to a domestic violence case if the court prevents them from personally cross-examining the other

party and where the interests of justice so require that the cross-examination proceed. The legal aid is limited in such cases to the provision of a lawyer to conduct the cross examination of the party concerned.

020-0-5. How many of the recipients of legal aid are alleged victims of domestic violence?

	Total	Males	Females
Number of recipients of legal aid who are alleged victims of domestic violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments (1) This relates to other than criminal matters only.

(2) 3 547 civil legal aid certificates were granted for domestic violence matters, and includes alleged victims as well as alleged perpetrators. It is not possible to give the number for victims only.

020-1. Please indicate the timeframes of the procedure for granting legal aid, in relation to the duration from the initial legal aid request to the final decision on the legal aid request:

	Time in days
Maximum duration prescribed in law/regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Actual average duration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify if the envisaged timeframe is set in a statutory law, or in other regulation. Furthermore, if different timeframes are envisaged for criminal and other than criminal cases, please provide more information: In other than criminal cases:

There is no legislation providing for a maximum duration from application to grant of legal aid. In practice decisions in particular cases may have to be taken within particular timeframes due to statutory deadlines to institute proceedings set out in the Statute of Limitations and other legislation. These statutory deadlines generally only apply to the party who is commencing proceedings (the Plaintiff/Claimant) and apply irrespective of whether or not the party is legally aided (i.e. they are a deadline for the summons or other document that starts proceedings to be issued in the Court office, and do not specifically relate to legal aid). They differ depending on the case type.

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021. In criminal cases, can individuals who do not have sufficient financial means be assisted by a free of charge (or financed by a public budget) lawyer?

	Assisted by a free of charge lawyer
Accused individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Victims	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Victims:

In certain cases where separate legal representation for victims is provided for – this applies mainly to rape and serious sexual assault cases where the defence proposes to cross examine the victim on their past sexual history, and to applications for the release of counselling records.

022. In criminal cases are these individuals free to choose their lawyer within the framework of the

legal aid system?

	free selection of lawyer
Accused individuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Victims	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

023-0. Does your country have an income and assets evaluation for granting full or partial legal aid?

Yes

No

Comments - Please indicate if any other criteria are taken into account for the granting of legal aid and any comment that could explain the data provided above: Other than criminal cases: The Irish system does not distinguish between “full” and “partial” legal aid. A person is either legally aided or not. The levels of legal aid in Ireland are “legal aid” (referring to representation in court) and “legal advice” (referring to the provision of advice before the start of court proceedings). The financial eligibility criteria are the same for both. The eligibility criteria for civil legal aid in Ireland are:

-The matter must be covered by civil legal aid – there are certain matters that are not including property disputes (with a fairly substantial list of exceptions to this general rule) and defamation

-The matter must be in a civil court or the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (Ireland does not generally provide legal aid at administrative tribunals). -The financial eligibility criteria which is broken into

oAn income test – a persons annual disposable income must be not in excess of €18,000 – allowances are given for income tax, national insurance, child care costs, accommodation, spouse and children (dependant/paying maintenance towards) and an “ex gratia” allowance.

oA capital test – disposable capital must not be in excess of €100,000. This does not include the house in which they live and there are allowances for loans and other other legally enforceable debts.

-The merits criteria – see answer to next Q

-Administrative criteria – e.g. is legal aid available from another source. Legal aid is refused under these criteria in a small minority of cases.

023. If yes, please specify in the table:

	Annual income value (for one person), (in €)	Assets value (for one person), (in €)
Full legal aid to the applicant for criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Full legal aid to the applicant for other than criminal cases	18 000 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	100 000 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Partial legal aid to the applicant for criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Partial legal aid to the applicant for other than criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

024. Is it possible to refuse legal aid for lack of merit of the case (for example for frivolous action or no chance of success)?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify the exact criteria for denying legal aid: In other than criminal cases: The merits criteria are broken up into an overarching principle and more specific criteria. The overarching principle states that legal aid should not be granted unless a person of modest means would be likely to take the case if they were paying for legal representation themselves and that a lawyer acting reasonably would be likely to advise them to take the case at their own expense.

More specific criteria include:

- Whether they have legal grounds to take or defend the proceedings
- The likelihood of success in the proceedings (or defending the proceedings)
- Whether the legal proceedings contemplated are the best means of resolving the dispute
- Whether it is reasonable to grant legal aid having regard to all the circumstances of the case (including weighing the cost of the proceedings to the Legal Aid Board against the benefit to the applicant for legal aid)

025. Is the decision to grant or refuse legal aid taken by:

- the judge(s) dealing with the main case
- another judge or official
- an authority external to the court
- several authorities (court and external bodies)

Comments In other than criminal cases – the decision is taken by the Legal Aid Board

027. Can judicial decisions direct how legal costs, paid by the parties during the procedure, will be shared:

	Judicial decisions direct how legal costs will be shared
in criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
in other than criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If no, please specify how legal costs are distributed: Although the courts have the power in criminal cases to make orders as to costs (e.g., the courts may direct that the costs of a successful defendant be paid by the prosecuting authorities), such costs orders are rare in criminal cases.

B1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Department of Justice, Service Delivery Unit and Civil Governance Unit
 Legal Aid Board
 Courts Service

2.2.Court users and victims

2.2.1 Rights of the users and victims

028. Are there official internet sites/portals (e.g. Ministry of Justice, Judicial Council etc.) where general public may have free-of-charge access to the following:

	Yes, internet adresse(es)	No
Legal texts (e.g. codes, laws, regulations, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Irishstatutebook.ie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case-law of the higher court/s	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courts.ie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information about the judicial system (organisation of courts, court proceedings, etc)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courts.ie	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents (e.g. forms, downloadable forms, online registration forms)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courts.ie	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment - Please specify what documents and information are included in "Other documents" Case-law of the higher courts - Bailli.org, irlii.org, ucc.ie/academic/law/irishlaw/, ucc.ie/academic/law/irlii/index.php, irish-law.com

Information about the judicial system: citizensinformation.ie

029. Is there an obligation to provide information to the parties concerning the foreseeable timeframes of their proceedings?

Yes, always

No

Yes, only in some specific situations

Comment - If "Yes, only in some specific situations", please specify:

030. Is there a public and free-of-charge information system for providing information and facilitating access to justice:

	Information system
General for citizens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive chat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person (physical access on site) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No
Specific for victims of offences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interactive chat <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-person (physical access on site) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No

Specific for minors (child-friendly systems)	<input type="checkbox"/> Online information <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Interactive chat <input type="checkbox"/> In-person (physical access on site) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
---	--

Comments - Please provide more information on these systems and specify how this assistance is provided: Other than criminal cases: The Legal Aid Board has a website at www.legalaidboard.ie which provides information on its services and also an online chat facility. Law centres are open to the public to visit and they can speak to a staff member on the public counter who can provide information on the Board's services. Both head office and law centres can be contacted via telephone. The Board does not provide any specific service for minors though they are welcome to contact the Board in the same way as adults. However, in most instances, the Irish civil justice system does not allow a child take or defend legal proceedings without a responsible adult (a next friend or guardian ad litem) acting in their place and in similar manner the Board normally requires such a responsible adult to make the application for legal services on the child's behalf. There are particular arrangements where a child is a party to public law child care proceedings to provide them with State-funded representation in their own name but the Legal Aid Board is not responsible for the provision of that particular service and it arises only in exceptional cases anyway.

Information on the courts system is available on the courts website (<https://www.courts.ie>) and from court offices. This information includes helpful advice and videos, and an innovative "360 Virtual Tour" resource on preparing for and attending a court hearing. The courts website provides links to a range of support services for victims of offences and to organisations such as Free Legal Aid Centres and Citizens Information Centres which also offer assistance to court users (<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/money-and-tax/tax/income-tax/tax-return-non-payee-income/>)

031. Are there special favourable arrangements to be applied, during judicial proceedings, to the following categories of vulnerable persons:

	Information mechanism	Special arrangements in hearings	Other specific arrangements
Victims of sexual violence/rape	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Victims of terrorism	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Minors (witnesses or victims)	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Victims of domestic violence	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Ethnic minorities	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Persons with disabilities	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Juvenile offenders	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Other (e.g. victims of human trafficking, forced marriage, sexual mutilation)	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No

Comments - If "Other vulnerable person" and/or "Other specific arrangements", please specify:

031-0. If there are special arrangements for minors, what are the settings / tools / facilities / practises employed to protect them when they participate in judicial proceedings?

Special and child-adequate preparation for participation in trials / lawsuits (explaining in a child-friendly manner the proceedings)

Special room in court designated for child-friendly hearings

Special person / team of trained professional(s) (such as psychologists) to accompany a minor throughout the proceedings

Special ways to communicate and explain meaning of court decisions

Interagency/multidisciplinary structure such as “Children’s Houses”

Other, please specify In criminal matters the Court may direct that children and other vulnerable witnesses can give evidence by videolink i.e. in a special room separate from the courtroom.

NAP

Comment

031-1. What are the main criteria for a person under 18 years of age to act in court proceedings or to be a witness?

	Civil proceedings	Criminal proceedings
Capacity to initiate a proceeding and take other procedural actions in his/her own name	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
To be a witness	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Age threshold [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity for discernment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please specify if you selected “Other”. A minor can be a witness in civil or criminal proceedings. If they are under the age of 14, they are not required to give evidence under oath. The Court must be satisfied that the minor is capable of giving evidence. There is a need to differentiate here between whether a person under 18 has capacity to initiate civil proceedings (which is yes) and whether a person under 18 has capacity to give legal instruction (which is no).

There is no age threshold for initiating civil proceedings. Therefore, in the case of a person under 18, proceedings can be initiated in their own name and they would be named as the plaintiff in those proceedings. They would however, be represented in the proceedings by their next friend.

031-2. If a person under 18 years of age cannot act in court proceedings in his/her own name, who can represent him/her in judicial proceedings?

	Civil proceedings	Criminal proceedings
Parent/legal guardian	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, except in some specific situations <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, always <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, except in some specific situations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Another representative (instead of parent/legal guardian)	<input type="checkbox"/> Social care services or other public institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Social care services or other public institution
	<input type="checkbox"/> Legal professional	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Legal professional
	<input type="checkbox"/> Associations for protection of minors	<input type="checkbox"/> Associations for protection of minors
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Comment In civil proceedings it is almost always the parent or legal guardian who represents a child. In very exceptional circumstances, for example, if the child was a Ward of Court, they may be represented by a Guardian ad Litem. A Guardian ad Litem (GAL) is an independent representative appointed by the Court under Section 26 of the Child Care Act 1991 to represent the views and promote the best interests of the child in any proceedings under Part IV or VI of the Act. The Court may appoint a GAL if it is satisfied that it is necessary in the interests of the child and in the interests of justice.

031-3. What are the different criteria for the criminal liability of minors? (multiple replies possible)

- Age threshold(s)
- Capacity for discernment
- Other criteria

Comment

031-3-1. What is the age threshold for the criminal liability of minors?

Criminal liability resulting in sentence without privation of liberty (for example, educational measures)

- 12]
- NA
- NAP

Criminal liability resulting in sentence of privation of liberty

- 12]
- NA
- NAP

Comment - Please describe, briefly, the specifics of your system. Could you, please specify if the possibility of mitigation applies to the sanctions and how? The youngest age a child can be detained is 12 except for cases of murder, manslaughter, rape or sexual assault when the youngest age is 10.

-

032. Does your country allocate compensation for victims of offences?

- Yes, but only if the offender is unknown
- Yes, but only if compensation could not be obtained from the offender
- Yes, in both situations
- No

Comment

032-0. If yes, for what types of offences the compensation is allocated?

- For all types of offences

For some types of offences

NAP

Comment - Please specify: Under Ireland's Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme compensation can be provided to persons who experienced personal injury as a result of violent crime inflicted on them or in the circumstances of a fatal case to the dependents of the victim/s

Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal considers applications from people who suffer a personal injury or death as a result of a crime of violence.

032-1. Is a court decision necessary in the framework of the compensation procedure?

Yes

No

Comments

032-0. If yes, for what types of offences the compensation is allocated?

For all types of offences

For some types of offences

NAP

Comment - Please specify: Under Ireland's Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme compensation can be provided to persons who experienced personal injury as a result of violent crime inflicted on them or in the circumstances of a fatal case to the dependents of the victim/s

Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal considers applications from people who suffer a personal injury or death as a result of a crime of violence.

032-1. Is a court decision necessary in the framework of the compensation procedure?

Yes

No

Comments

032-0. If yes, for what types of offences the compensation is allocated?

For all types of offences

For some types of offences

NAP

Comment - Please specify: Under Ireland's Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme compensation can be provided to persons who experienced personal injury as a result of violent crime inflicted on them or in the circumstances of a fatal case to the dependents of the victim/s

Criminal Injuries Compensation Tribunal considers applications from people who suffer a personal injury or death as a result of a crime of violence.

032-1. Is a court decision necessary in the framework of the compensation procedure?

Yes

No

Comments

034. Is there a regular monitoring (official studies, reports etc.) allowing the evaluation of the recovery rate of the damages awarded by courts to victims?

() Yes

(X) No

Comments - If yes, please illustrate with available data concerning the recovery rate, the title of the studies, the frequency of the studies and the coordinating body:

035. Do public prosecutors have a specific role with respect to victims (protection and assistance)?

(X) Yes

() No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Yes this question is dealt with in the Director of Public Prosecutors Guidelines for Prosecutors (2019) at chapter 12 Further information is available at <https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Prosecutors-5th-Edition-eng.pdf>

035-1. Do public prosecutors have a specific role with respect to minor victims (protection and assistance)?

(X) Yes

() No

Comment - If yes, please specify: Please see Chapter 12 of the Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019). (<https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Prosecutors-5th-Edition-eng.pdf>). Please see in particular paragraphs 12.29 to 12.33 in relation to the specific measures that prosecutors can apply for to assist children in giving their evidence. Where a sexual offence is being prosecuted and the victim is a child, under section 16 (1)(b) of the Criminal Evidence Act, the prosecutor can apply to have a pre-recorded statement made to the Garda Síochána admitted as evidence in chief .The child must be available for cross examination.

036. Do victims of offences have the right to dispute a public prosecutor's decision to discontinue a case? Please verify the consistency of your answers in this question and question 105 regarding the possibility for a public prosecutor "to discontinue a case without needing a decision by a judge".

(X) Yes

() No

[] NAP

Comment - If necessary, please specify: Please see paragraphs 12.15 to 12.19 of the Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019). (<https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Prosecutors-5th-Edition-eng.pdf>).

037. Is there a system of compensation in the following circumstances:

	Number of requests for compensation	Number of compensations granted	Total amount of compensations granted (in €)
Total	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Excessive length of proceedings	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Non-execution of court decisions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Wrongful arrest/detention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Wrongful conviction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Where appropriate, please give details on the compensation procedure and the calculation method for the amount of the compensation (e.g., the amount per day for unjustified detentions or convictions):

037-1. Please specify which authorities are responsible for dealing with the requests and whether a legal time limit exists to deal with these requests:

	Responsible authorities	Legal time limit
Court concerned	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ministry of Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High Judicial Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other external bodies (e.g. Ombudsman)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments Firstly, persons have the right to issue proceedings against the State or government agencies for compensation or other remedies when their rights have been infringed. This is done through a civil action against the relevant state body for damages. Therefore, the responsible authority would be the appropriate court, which is dependent on the financial amount being sought. Secondly, the Criminal Procedure Act 1993 sets out the process, including potential compensation, for miscarriage of justice. Following a Certificate of Miscarriage of Justice being obtained from the Court of Appeal, an application for compensation must be made to the Minister for Justice. Draft legislation is being prepared to deal with cases of excessive delays in the court process. Lastly, in a general sense, any person who alleges that their lawful rights, including constitutional rights have been infringed, may issue proceedings for damages to the appropriate court, which is dependent on the amount being claimed.

037-2. Are there statistical data disaggregated by gender concerning the number of:

	Existence of statistical data disaggregated by gender
Persons who initiate a case in other than criminal matters	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, please specify for which categories of cases: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Victims recognised as such by the court	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, please specify for which types of offences: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Perpetrators of criminal offences	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If yes, please specify for which types of offences: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA
--	---

Comments

037-3. Are there statistical data on the relation between the perpetrator of the criminal offence and the victim recognised by the court?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

2.2.2 Confidence and satisfaction of citizens with their justice system

038. Does your country implement surveys to measure trust in justice and satisfaction with the services delivered by the judicial system?

	National level	Court level
Surveys for judges	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for court staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for public prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for lawyers	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for other professionals	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for the parties	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for other court users (e.g. jurors, witnesses, experts, interpreters, representatives of governmental agencies, NGOs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for victims	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Surveys for minors	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc

Surveys for the general public	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc
Other not mentioned	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual <input type="checkbox"/> Other regular <input type="checkbox"/> Ad hoc

NA

Comment - Please, indicate the references and links to the satisfaction surveys you mentioned above: The Bar of Ireland commissions surveys of its membership (barristers) on an ad hoc basis, many of which inquire into the satisfaction of members vis-à-vis the operation and performance of the justice system. In 2021, The Bar of Ireland commissioned a strategic review of the future of the profession which involved a survey of barristers and invited their perspectives on the challenges facing the justice system. The strategic review also included a Public Omnibus Survey, which invited members of the public to share their perception of the barrister profession. This report, including the survey results, was published in July 2022: https://www.lawlibrary.ie/app/uploads/securepdfs/2022/07/EY_FINAL-Report_Strategic-Review-of-the-Bar-of-Ireland.pdf

The Courts Service conducts surveys for court staff, parties, and court users. The Department of Justice conducts Criminal Justice Public Attitudes Surveys to assess public confidence in the Irish criminal justice system. The 2022 results are here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/b37b3-criminal-justice-public-attitudes-survey-2022/>

3. Organisation of the court system

3.1. Courts

3.1.1 Number of courts

042. Number of courts - legal entities.

	Number of courts
Total number of all courts - legal entities (1 + 2)	8 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1 Total number of courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities (1.1 + 1.2 + 1.3)	6 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1.1 First instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities	3 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1.2 Second instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1.3 Highest instance courts of general jurisdiction - legal entities	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2 Total number of specialised courts - legal entities	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

043. Number of specialised courts – legal entities.

	First instance	Higher instances
Total number of specialised courts - legal entities	2 [] NA [] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Commercial courts (excluded insolvency courts)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Insolvency courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Labour courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Family courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Rent and tenancies courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Enforcement of criminal sanctions courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Fight against terrorism, organised crime and corruption	2 [] NA [] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Internet related disputes	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Administrative courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Insurance and / or social welfare courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Military courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Juvenile courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Other specialised courts	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - If “Other specialised courts”, please specify: There are currently 2 Special Criminal Courts in Ireland who (in general) deal with crimes relating to terrorism and organised crime. While divisions of other courts deal with many of the matters set out in the table above, there are no specialised courts per se to deal with same.

Furthermore, while there are other tribunals or bodies outside of the court system which have powers to make determinations in some of the matters in the table (e.g., the Labour Court and Military Courts). These tribunals are not within the courts system.

044. Number of courts - geographic locations.

	Number of courts (geographic locations)
First instance courts geographic locations (this includes 1st instance courts of general jurisdiction and first instance specialised courts)	153 [] NA [] NAP
All the courts (geographic locations) (this includes 1st instance courts of general jurisdiction, first instance specialised courts, all second instance courts and courts of appeal and all Supreme Courts)	156 [] NA [] NAP

Comments There has not been an increase in venues since 2020. This answer is based on the explanatory note wherein if there are two courts, e.g. District and Circuit courts sitting in one specific location, they are to be counted separately whereas previously they were counted together.

C. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Court Service

3.2. Court staff

3.2.1 Judges and non-judge staff

046. Number of professional judges sitting in courts (if possible on 31 December of the reference year). (Please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled for all types of courts - general jurisdiction and specialised courts)

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of professional judges (1 + 2 + 3)	171 [] NA [] NAP	98 [] NA [] NAP	73 [] NA [] NAP
1. Number of first instance professional judges	146 [] NA [] NAP	85 [] NA [] NAP	61 [] NA [] NAP
2. Number of second instance (court of appeal) professional judges	16 [] NA [] NAP	7 [] NA [] NAP	9 [] NA [] NAP
3. Number of Supreme Court professional judges	9 [] NA [] NAP	6 [] NA [] NAP	3 [] NA [] NAP

Comment - Please provide any useful comment for interpreting the data above: As of 31 December 2022, the number of male judges in the Court of Appeal had dropped from 8 to 6 in comparison to 2020 due to the elevation of two male judges from the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court and the subsequent new appointment of two new Court of Appeal judges one of whom was male and the other female (-1 male judge of the Court of Appeal).

=

046-1-1. Does your system allow part-time work for professional judges with proportionally

reduced remuneration?

() Yes

(X) No

Comments

046-1-2. If yes, please specify in which situation(s) part-time work can be granted (multiple replies possible).

- Child-care
- Elderly care or other dependant persons' care
- Training
- For the purposes of early retirement
- No specific reason required
- Other reason, please specify:

Comments

046-1-3. If yes, what is the number of professional judges working part-time with reduced remuneration?

	Total	Males	Females
Total (1 + 2 + 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. At first instance level	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. At second instance (court of appeal) level	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. At Supreme Court level	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

046-1-4. Are there other possibilities (apart from part-time) for regular adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration?

	Adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration
Temporary reduction of the workload	() Yes (X) No
Temporary reduction of the working time / special leave	() Yes (X) No
Other measures	() Yes (X) No

Comment: If such possibilities for regular adjustment exist, please specify if they imply or not a reduction of the remuneration?

046-1-5. If yes, please specify in which situation(s) these possibilities can be used?

- Child-care
- Elderly care or other dependant persons' care
- Training
- For the purposes of early retirement
- As part of induction process for new judges
- No specific reason required
- Other reason, please specify:
- NAP

Comments

=

046-2. Number of judges (FTE) by case type:

	Total	Civil and/or commercial	Criminal	Administrative	Other
Total number of judges	171 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
First instance	146 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Second instance	16 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Supreme Court	9 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

If "Other", please explain which types of cases: In all courts, (First Instance, Second Instance and Supreme Court) judges are empowered to deal with all case types within their court jurisdiction. While in some courts, most notably the High Court and the Circuit Court, judges may be assigned to specific cases for a period, nonetheless, all judges can deal with all types of cases within their jurisdiction.

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047. Number of court presidents .

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of court presidents (1 + 2 + 3)	5 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	4 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Number of first instance court presidents	3 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Number of second instance (court of appeal) court presidents	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

3. Number of Supreme Court presidents	1 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
--	------------------------	------------------------	------------------------

Comments The discrepancy in the male and female numbers of Court Presidents is due to the retirement of the female President of the High Court and the consequential appointment of a new male High Court President. As there is only a total of 5 Court Presidents in the Irish systems, any changes in the gender balance are bound to be reflected by rather big jumps when looked at in percentages.

048. Number of professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis and who are paid as such (if possible, on 31 December of the reference year):

	Figure
Gross figure	[] NA [X] NAP
In full-time equivalent	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - If necessary, please provide comments to explain the answer provided:

048-1. Do these professional judges sitting in courts on an occasional basis deal with a significant part of cases?

() Yes If yes, please give specifications on the types of cases and an estimate in percentage.

() No

[X] NAP

Comments

049. Number of non-professional judges who are not remunerated but who may receive a simple defrayal of costs (if possible, on 31 December of the reference year) (e.g. lay judges or “juges consulaires”, but not arbitrators or persons sitting on a jury):

	Figure
Gross figure	[] NA [X] NAP
In full time equivalent	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments

049-1. If such non-professional judges exist at first instance in your country, please specify for which types of cases:

	Yes	No	Echevinage / mixed bench
Criminal cases (severe)	()	()	()

Criminal cases (misdemeanour and/or minor)	()	()	()
Family law cases	()	()	()
Labour law cases	()	()	()
Social law cases	()	()	()
Commercial law cases	()	()	()
Insolvency cases	()	()	()
Other civil cases	()	()	()

NAP

Comments - If "Other civil cases", please specify:

050. Does your judicial system include trial by jury with the participation of citizens?

Yes

No

Comments

050-1. If yes, for which type(s) of case(s)?

Criminal cases

Other than criminal cases

Comments Minor criminal offences are dealt with in the District Court by one judge sitting alone without a jury. Almost all civil cases are dealt with by judges without juries, but juries may be used in certain cases for defamation, assault and false imprisonment cases.

051. Number of citizens who were involved in such juries for the year of reference:

[]

NA

NAP

Comments

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052. Number of non-judge staff who are working in courts (if possible on 31 December of the reference year) (this data should not include the staff working for public prosecutors; see question 60) (please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled)

	Total	Males	Females
Total non-judge staff working in courts (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)	1 253 [] NA [] NAP	497 [] NA [] NAP	756 [] NA [] NAP
1. Rechtspfleger (or similar bodies) (see Explanatory Note)	24 [] NA [] NAP	12 [] NA [] NAP	12 [] NA [] NAP

2. Non-judge (judicial) staff whose task is to assist the judges such as registrars (case preparation, assistance during the hearing, helping to draft the decisions)	974 [] NA [] NAP	331 [] NA [] NAP	643 [] NA [] NAP
3. Staff in charge of different administrative tasks and of the management of the courts (human resources management, material and equipment management, including computer systems, financial and budgetary management, training management)	129 [] NA [] NAP	54 [] NA [] NAP	75 [] NA [] NAP
4. Technical staff	50 [] NA [] NAP	31 [] NA [] NAP	19 [] NA [] NAP
5. Other non-judge staff	76 [] NA [] NAP	69 [] NA [] NAP	7 [] NA [] NAP

Comments - If “Other non-judge staff”, please specify: 2. Non-judge (judicial) staff whose task is to assist the judges such as registrars (case preparation, assistance during the hearing, helping to draft the decisions): In 2020 the following were counted: staff in Court offices, court going staff including Judicial Assistants and Tipstaff - District, Circuit & High Court including Judicial Assistant and Tipstaff, Court of Appeal including Judicial Assistant, Supreme Court Judicial Assist and Tipstaff. In 2022, Court Operational Directorates/Regional/Judicial Assistants staff are included in this figure. It also includes Tipstaff/Service Officers and Court Messengers.

3. Staff in charge of different administrative tasks and of the management of the courts (human resources management, material and equipment management, including computer systems, financial and budgetary management, training management): for 2020 ICT Staff were including in this figure. In 2022 ICT Staff are not included in this figure.

4. Technical staff: for 2022, ICT Staff and Cleaning Staff are included in this figure.

052-1. Number of non-judge staff by instance (if possible, on 31 December of the reference year) (this data should not include the staff working for public prosecutors; see question 60) (please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled).

	Total	Males	Females
Total non-judge staff working in courts (1+2+3)	1 253 [] NA [] NAP	497 [] NA [] NAP	756 [] NA [] NAP
1. Total non-judge staff working in courts at first instance level	1 230 [] NA [] NAP	484 [] NA [] NAP	746 [] NA [] NAP
2. Total non-judge staff working in courts at second instance (court of appeal) level	14 [] NA [] NAP	10 [] NA [] NAP	4 [] NA [] NAP
3. Total non-judge staff working in courts at Supreme Court level	9 [] NA [] NAP	3 [] NA [] NAP	6 [] NA [] NAP

Comments The total non-Judge staff working in the courts includes staff of the Office of the CEO, Corporate Services staff, Strategy and Reform staff, ICT staff, Regions & C&D Operations, Superior Court Operations staff, as well as quasi-judicial and technical staff. These staff members work throughout the system, and not just in one of the district, circuit, high or supreme courts. 1. Total non-judge staff working in courts at first instance level: The FTE for 2022 is up on 2020, this figure is total staff minus staff in Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

2. Total non-judge staff working in courts at second instance (court of appeal) level: In 2020 this included Court of Appeal staff including Judicial Assist and Tipstaff. In 2022 this includes Court of Appeal staff only.

3. Total non-judge staff working in courts at Supreme Court level: In 2020 this included Supreme Court staff including Judicial Assistants and Tipstaff. In 2022 this includes Supreme Court staff only, as Judicial Assistants are included in figure for 52/Q2 and Tipstaff are included in figure 52/Q5.

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053. If there are Rechtspfleger (or similar bodies), please specify in which fields they have a role:

- Legal aid
- Family cases
- Payment orders
- Registry cases (land and/or business registry cases)
- Enforcement of civil cases
- Enforcement of criminal cases
- Non-litigious cases
- Other cases not mentioned (please describe in comment)
- NAP

Comments - Please briefly describe their status and exact duties: There are 3 such categories, 1.County Registrar – Case progression, case management, interlocutory orders, and taxation of costs and enforcement procedures
 2.Master of the High Court – a range of orders including interlocutory orders
 3.Legal Costs Adjudicators – adjudication of costs

054. Have the courts outsourced certain services under their responsibilities to external providers?

- Yes
- No

Comments

054-1. If yes, please specify which services have been outsourced:

- IT services
- Training of staff
- Security
- Archives
- Cleaning
- Other types of services (please specify):

Comments - If “Other types of services”, please specify:

NA

C1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Courts Service, Department of Justice - Civil Governance

3.3. Public prosecution

3.3.1 Public prosecutors and staff

055. Number of public prosecutors (on 31 December of the reference year). (Please give the information in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled.)

	Total	Males	Females
Total number of prosecutors (1 + 2 + 3)	137 [] NA [] NAP	49 [] NA [] NAP	88 [] NA [] NAP
1. Number of prosecutors at first instance level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. Number of prosecutors at second instance (court of appeal) level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
3. Number of prosecutors at Supreme Court level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful comment for interpreting the data above: The Office has a number of grades for prosecutors which are different from the categories above, they include Prosecutor, Senior Prosecutor, Principal Prosecutor, Senior Principal Prosecutor, Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions, Deputy Chief Prosecutor. There is one Director of Public Prosecutions and one Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions

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055-1-1. Does your system allow part-time work for prosecutors with proportionally reduced remuneration?

Yes

No

Comments

055-1-2. If yes, please specify in which situation(s) part-time work can be granted? (multiple replies possible)

Child-care

Elderly care or other dependant persons' care

Training

For the purposes of early retirement

No specific reason required

Other reason, please specify:

Comments

055-1-3. If yes, what is the number of prosecutors working part-time with reduced remuneration?

	Total	Males	Females
Total (1 + 2 + 3)	7 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP	6 [] NA [] NAP
1. At first instance level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. At second instance (court of appeal) level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
3. At Supreme Court level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments

055-1-4. Are there other possibilities (apart of part-time work) for regular adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration?

	Adjustment of working time or conditions with or without reduced remuneration
Temporary reduction of the workload	(X) Yes () No
Temporary reduction of the working time / special leave	(X) Yes () No
Other measures	() Yes (X) No

Comment: If such possibilities for regular adjustment exist, please specify if they imply or not a reduction of the remuneration? In most cases, a reduction in salary is implemented and this is done on a pro-rata basis. However, in the case of a temporary or ongoing adjustment made by way of reasonable accommodation to support an employee with a disability, this does not incur a salary reduction.

055-1-5 . If yes, please specify in which situation(s) these possibilities can be used?

- Child-care
- Elderly care or other dependant persons' care
- Training
- For the purposes of early retirement
- As part of induction process for new prosecutors
- No specific reason required
- Other reason, please specify:
- NAP

Comments

056. Number of heads of prosecution offices.

Total	Males	Females

Total number of heads of prosecution offices (1 + 2 + 3)	1 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP	1 [] NA [] NAP
1. Number of heads of prosecution offices at first instance level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. Number of heads of prosecution offices at second instance (court of appeal) level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
3. Number of heads of prosecution offices at Supreme Court level	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Please provide any useful comment for interpreting the data above: Please see Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019), paragraphs 2.4 to 2.10. (<https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Prosecutors-5th-Edition-eng.pdf>).

057. In your judicial system, do other persons have similar duties to those of public prosecutors?

(X) Yes

() No

Comments - If yes, please specify their titles and functions: Please see Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019), paragraphs 1.5 and 2.13 to 2.15. (<https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Prosecutors-5th-Edition-eng.pdf>).

057-1. If yes, please provide the number (in full-time equivalent):

[31]

[] NA

059. If yes, is their number included in the number of public prosecutors that you have indicated under question 55?

() Yes

(X) No

[] NAP

Comments State Solicitors are solicitors in private practice who are employed on a contract basis to act on behalf of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Outside the Dublin area, local State Solicitors provide a solicitor service for the Director in Circuit Courts and some District Court matters. There is generally one State Solicitor per county but in certain counties, State Solicitor areas have been split to take account of factors such as population. The conduct of trials on indictment is handled by independent counsel practising at the Bar who are engaged to represent the Director of Public Prosecutions on a case by case basis. Counsel prosecute in accordance with the Director's instructions and in compliance with the Guidelines for Prosecutors. Retention on any panel is at the discretion of the Director, and is subject to satisfactory performance of work on the Director's behalf, as will be determined by the Director.

Please see: Prosecution System in Ireland (chapters 4 and 5).

059-1. Do prosecution offices have prosecutors who are specially trained in areas of domestic violence and sexual violence?

Domestic violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, specifically for minor victims <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Sexual violence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, specifically for minor victims <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify ODPP has a cohort of prosecutors who are trained in the area of domestic and sexual violence. A specialist Unit was established to deal with Sexual Offences in April 2021, dealing with the decision making function on investigation files as well as the management of the trials in those cases. That Unit is shortly due to expand to also deal with homicide cases being heard before the Central Criminal Court in Ireland which is the specialist division of the High Court dealing with cases of rape and murder. The expanded unit will continue to deal with decision making in cases of sexual offences The Office of the DPP has a Victims Unit and a cross functional group in the Office of the DPP focuses on domestic violence. There is a particular focus on knowledge management and dedicated resource links on office intranet to the latest available information on these topics.

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060. Number of staff (non-public prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution services, if possible, on 31 December of the reference year and without the number of non-judge staff, see question 52 (in full-time equivalent and for posts actually filled).

	Total	Males	Females
Number of staff (non-public prosecutors) attached to the public prosecution service	99 [] NA	36 [] NA	63 [] NA

Comment – please describe which categories of staff you have included in your reply: The non-public prosecutors include specialists in the following areas: Human resources and organisational development, finance, ICT, facilities, media and communications, corporate governance, procurement, strategic management including risk management, Freedom of Information, quality assurance and internal audit. There is a Policy and Research Unit supported by knowledge management and research function and librarian. All legal sections are supported by a team of administrative staff who are considered to be generalist.

C2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Office of the Director of Public Prosecution

3.4. Gender equality

3.4.1 Specific provisions for facilitating gender equality

061-2. Are there specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within the framework of the procedures for recruiting :

	Yes, please specify	No
judges	()	(X)
prosecutors	(X)	()
non-judge staff	(X)	()
lawyers	(X)	()
notaries	()	(X)
enforcement agents	()	(X)

[] NA

Comments - if the situation changed since the reference year, please specify in the comments. If you have additional comments please specify: Judges - There are no provisions for facilitating gender equality within the current framework for recruitment of judges.

However, Section 39(2) of the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2022, which is currently before the Houses of the Oireachtas, provides that the selection and recommendation of persons for appointment to judicial office take account “to the extent feasible and practicable, of the objectives that the membership of the judiciary in each court should

(a)comprise equal numbers of male and female members

(b)reflect the diversity of the population of the State as a whole

Link to Bill: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/bill/2022/42/eng/ver_b/b42b22d.pdf Lawyers - Completion of training at Kings Inns

gives rise to what is known as the Barrister-at-Law (BL) degree and once a student has received their BL degree they are eligible to be

‘called to the Bar of Ireland’ where they will be admitted to practice by the Chief Justice of Ireland and will be eligible to become a member of the Law Library and undertake a one-year period of pupillage, commonly referred to as ‘devilling’.

Rules of Membership of the Law Library set out the obligations imposed upon a pupil not less than 10 days before the date of admission to the Law Library. Such obligations include establishing evidence of the payment of the relevant entrance fee and annual subscription, evidence of an acceptable policy of professional indemnity insurance, evidence of registration with the Legal Services Regulatory Authority, confirmation that a Master whose name is on the approved list of Masters has committed to taking on the relevant pupil, and attendance at a prescribed pre-admission interview.

Barristers: There are no specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within this framework. However, The Bar of Ireland acknowledges that it has an important role to play in encouraging more diversity at the Bar. In June 2022 it launched an

Equality Action Plan in an effort to address the challenges faced by underrepresented, disadvantaged and minority groups in pursuing a career at the Bar. Areas of focus include, among others, gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and socio-economic

background. The Equality Action Plan also commits to supporting fair and equitable practice development and career progression opportunities.

As regards gender equality, a vital tenet of the Equality Action Plan was the launch of an Equitable Briefing Policy in

March 2023 which calls attention to unconscious bias in briefing decisions and encourages gender-equitable distribution of briefs in all

areas of practice. Link to Equality Action Plan: <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/equality-action-plan/> Link to Equitable Briefing Policy:

<https://www.lawlibrary.ie/equitable-briefing/> The Courts Service recruits in compliance with the Equal Opportunities Act and this applies

to gender. It does not apply quotas to recruitment.

Solicitors - With regard to the recruitment of solicitors, the Law Society has developed and promoted the following initiative to encourage gender equality, diversity and inclusion (GEDI). In May 2020, the Law Society launched its Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Charter, an important milestone in a programme of actions and achievements towards making the solicitors’ profession equal and

inclusive for all. The charter was developed by the Law Society’s GEDI Task Force. The key objectives of the GEDI Task Force were: (i) to facilitate and encourage more female solicitors and solicitors from diverse backgrounds to run for leadership positions in the profession,

and (ii) to provide meaningful resources to improve equality and diversity in the profession.

Solicitor firms are invited to pledge their names to the charter as a demonstration of their commitment to principles of gender equality,

diversity and inclusion (GEDI). To date, over 140 solicitors workplaces have signed the GEDI charter. These signatories range from

larger firms and smaller practices to in-house solicitors and sole practitioners. More details on the charter are available at

www.lawsociety.ie/GEDI. The Law Society’s own commitment to respecting GEDI principles, for the benefit of its employees, its

members, solicitors, trainee solicitors and the public, has been captured in the Society’s Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Statement available at www.lawsociety.ie. It outlines clear commitments to treat everyone fairly, recognise the individual needs of those we employ, represent and educate, support their development, ensure that we are mindful of the language we use, and that the way we work does not put anyone at a disadvantage.

Prosecutors - While not set by legislation, recruitment campaigns are gender neutral. The level of experience required takes into consideration those that may have taken time out of the workplace for family reasons. Selection boards have gender balance. In addition to the above, the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021 requires organisations to report on their hourly gender pay gap across a range of metrics. Organisations with over 250 employees are being asked to report on their Gender Pay Gap for the first time in 2022. The Regulations which set out the detail on how these calculations will be made are published at the link below: The Employment Equality Act 1998 (section 20A)(Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2022

061-3. Are there specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within the framework of the procedures for promoting :

	Yes, please specify	No
judges	()	(X)
prosecutors	(X)	()
non-judge staff	(X)	()
lawyers	(X)	()
notaries	()	(X)
enforcement agents	()	(X)

Comments - If the situation changed since the reference year or you have additional comments, please specify: The promotion or elevation of judges from a lower court to a superior court are appointed by the President of Ireland acting on the advice of the Government. The procedures of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board (JAAB) do not apply to serving judges. Under the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2022 however, it is proposed that serving judges participate in the same application process as all other candidates for judicial office, going forward. Section 39(2) of the Bill provides that the selection and recommendation of persons for appointment to judicial office take account “to the extent feasible and practicable, of the objectives that the membership of the judiciary in each court should

(a)comprise equal numbers of male and female members

(b)reflect the diversity of the population of the State as a whole

Link to Bill: https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/bill/2022/42/eng/ver_b/b42b22d.pdf Legal practitioners may apply to be granted a Patent of Precedence under Section 174 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015. The grant of a Patent of Precedence entitles a barrister to be called to the Inner Bar and to use the title of ‘Senior Counsel’. There are no specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within this framework.

For more information: <https://www.lsr.ie/for-law-professionals/applications-for-senior-counsel/>

The Courts Service recruits in compliance with the Equal Opportunities Act and this applies to gender. It does not apply quotas to recruitment.

The Law Society has developed a Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, which is available to members at www.lawsociety.ie/GEDI. This policy can be adopted by solicitors’ workplaces to help support and improve equality, diversity and inclusion within the workplace and profession.

The Law Society recently launched the Women in Leadership Mentoring Programme that aims to enable women to advance their careers to a more senior level, and provide the support that may contribute to their successful careers. Information on the programme is available here: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/womeninleadership>

While not set by legislation, recruitment campaigns for public prosecutors are gender neutral. The level of experience required takes into

consideration those that may have taken time out of the workplace for family reasons. Selection boards have gender balance. In addition to the above, the Gender Pay Gap Information Act 2021 requires organisations to report on their hourly gender pay gap across a range of metrics. Organisations with over 250 employees are being asked to report on their Gender Pay Gap for the first time in 2022. The Regulations which set out the detail on how these calculations will be made are published at the link below: The Employment Equality Act 1998 (section 20A)(Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2022

061-3-1. Are there specific provisions for facilitating gender equality within the framework of the procedures for the appointment of:

	Yes / No
Court president	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If “yes”, please specify:[Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Head of prosecution services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes If “yes”, please specify:[Comment] <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments The promotion or elevation of judges to Court President are appointed by the President of Ireland acting on the advice of the Government. The procedures of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board (JAAB) do not apply to serving judges. Under the Judicial Appointments Commission Bill 2022 however, it is proposed that serving judges participate in the same application process as all other candidates for judicial office, going forward. Section 39(2) of the Bill provides that the selection and recommendation of persons for appointment to judicial office take account “to the extent feasible and practicable, of the objectives that the membership of the judiciary in each court should

- (a)comprise equal numbers of male and female members
- (b)reflect the diversity of the population of the State as a whole

The JAC is also responsible for amending and extending the qualification and eligibility requirements for appointment to judicial office. Under the Bill, when making recommendations of persons for appointment to judicial office in the Ireland, the JAC should strive to ensure that each court comprises of equal numbers of male and female members.

The Director of Public Prosecutions is a government appointee and is managed centrally by the public service body responsible for recruitment at this level. Pursuant to the Prosecutions of Offences Act 1974, a committee (comprising the Chief Justice (designate Chief Justice up to 10 October), the Chairperson of the Bar Council, the President of the Law Society, the Secretary General to the Government and the Director General of the Attorney General’s Office) will select candidates for appointment and inform the Taoiseach of the candidates selected and their suitability for appointment. The Government is committed to a policy of equal opportunity.

3.4.2 At national level

061-5. Does your country have an overarching document (e.g. policy/strategy/action plan/program) on gender equality that applies specifically to the judiciary?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If the situation changed since the reference year, please indicate in the comments. Could you specify the reference or internet link of this/these document(s) or send/upload it/them to us?

061-6. At national level, is there any specific person (e.g. an equal opportunities commissioner) / institution dealing with gender issues in the justice system concerning:

Yes, please specify	No
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The recruitment of judges	()	(X)
The promotion of judges	()	(X)
The recruitment of prosecutors	()	(X)
The promotion of prosecutors	()	(X)
The recruitment of non-judge staff	()	(X)
The promotion of non-judge staff	()	(X)

Comments - Please specify the status of this person/institution and if it has a consultative function or if its opinions/decisions have legal consequences: The Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA) as established by the Public Service Management (Recruitment and Appointments) Act 2004 provides the regulatory framework for fair, transparent and merit-based recruitment and selection in the Irish public service. All public bodies who make reference to the Act in their legislation fall under the remit of the CPSA. The Act sets out the rules for recruitment and obliges public bodies to uphold the Code of Practice when making an appointment. If an appointment is required to be made under the Act, a selection process must be carried out. The Act provides for the publishing of the Code of Practice by the Commission <https://www.cpsa.ie/>. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is one of these bodies and is permitted to recruit under licence granted by the CPSA bound by the terms and condition of this licence and the CPSA Code of Practice. The Code specifically indicates that “equality and inclusion will be promoted at each stage of the selection process. Candidates will be treated equally and fairly, with individual differences valued and respected throughout. The Commission expects that equality, diversity and inclusion form part of all decisions and processes related to a competition.”

Section 13(1)(c) of the Act states that the Commission may establish procedures to audit the recruitment and selection process for appointment to positions in the Civil Service and Public Service.

3.4.3 At court/public prosecution services level

061-7. At the court or public prosecution services level, is there a person (e.g. an equal opportunities commissioner)/institution specifically dedicated to ensure the respect of gender equality in the organisation of judicial work?

	Yes	No
in courts (judges)	()	(X)
in public prosecution services (prosecutors)	()	(X)
for courts' non-judge staff	()	(X)

Comments - Please specify the details of this person/institution, in particular its titles and function: The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and in particular the statutory requirements set out in section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The 2014 Act is overseen by IHREC.

061-9. In order to improve gender balance in access to different judicial professions and gender equality in promotion and in access to functions of responsibility, what are the measures, in your country, which:

have been already implemented (please specify) :

are planned (please specify) :

Comments - If the situation changed since reference year, please specify in the comments.

NAP

061-10. Are there evaluation studies or official reports regarding the main causes of possible gender inequalities with regard to:

- Recruitment procedures, please specify:
- Appointment to the position of court president, please specify:
- Appointment to the position of head of prosecution services, please specify:
- Promotion procedures and access to the functions of responsibility, please specify:
- Other studies, please specify:

NAP

Comments - Please specify also the reference documents.

3.5. Use of information technologies in courts

3.5.1 Governance

ICT STRATEGY

062-01. Do you have an overall Information and Communication Technology (ICT) strategy in the judicial system?

- Yes
- No

Comments There is not an overarching justice sector ICT strategy. However, there is a Courts Service ICT strategy. The Courts Service ICT Strategy 2021 - 2024 is a key enabler of the Courts Service's Digital First strategic goal and plans for the modernisation of the Courts Service. It sets out how the use of technology will continue improving the services we provide Court users and the supports provided for the judiciary and staff. Link to strategy - <https://www.courts.ie/news/courts-service-publish-ict-strategy-2021-2024>.

The ICT Strategy forms part of the Courts Service Long-Term Strategic Vision 2030 (also known as the Modernisation Programme). Aswell as an ICT strategy, this strategic vision is focused on delivery of a User Centric Approach, Support for the Judiciary, Improving Facilities and Better Ways of Working. Below is a link to the Strategic Vision.

Link:<https://www.courts.ie/acc/alfresco/b1bf7300-e162-46cd-995e-abc042799b87/Strategic%20Vision%202030.pdf>

062-02. If there is an overall ICT strategy in the judicial system, who was involved in the process of its definition?

- Judges (Judicial council)
- Prosecutors (Prosecutorial or judicial council)
- Ministry of justice

- Lawyers (bar association)
- Notaries (association of notaries)
- Enforcement agents (association of enforcement agents)
- Other (please specify)
- NA
- NAP

Comments

LEGISLATION

062-03. Does a national legislation/regulation of ICT in the judicial system exist?

- Yes
- No

Comments Please see links below to relevant legislation

- <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/27/enacted/en/html>
- <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2018/act/7/enacted/en/html>
- <https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/act/30/enacted/en/html>

062-04. If yes, how is this legislation/regulation of ICT in the judicial system structured?

- Relevant norms are included in the general e-government legislation/regulation
- Relevant norms are included in specific legislation/regulation only for the judicial system
- Relevant texts are included in dedicated technical documents/specifications
- Other, please specify
- NA

Comment - If more than one of the proposed models exist in your country, please select them all and explain the details

- NA

IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ICT SYSTEMS

062-05. Have you already organised audits/evaluations/assessments of the impact of the implementation of the ICT system?

- Yes
- No

Comments

062-06. If these audits/evaluations/assessments were already organised, please specify their modalities:

Format	Last conducted audit

ICT Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Security and risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Impact on efficiency and quality of the business processes and workflow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Impact on human resources (number, workload, wellbeing)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Other, please specify in comments	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal <input type="checkbox"/> External <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> In the last 2 years <input type="checkbox"/> Between 2 and 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years ago <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - no audit has been organised <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected other area, please provide details. Please also add details on the content of the last organised evaluation. The Courts Service have introduced a range of new ICT governance, Security and Data policies – as part of the introduction of these policies, the specific areas were evaluated and assessed, and policies developed to ensure good and standard practice.

062-07. If these audits/evaluations/assessments were organised in the last 5 years, how did you apply their recommendations/results?

- Update applications
- Define new ICT projects/modules
- Adjust legislation
- Adjust working processes
- Withdraw/stop use of a module/application
- Reporting purpose only
- Other, please specify

[] NA

[] NAP

Comments The Courts Service have produced an ICT strategy, a Data strategy and a People and Organisation strategy. Each of these strategies outline a series of recommendations/measures to help improve the Court Service accordingly.

3.5.2 Electronic case processing

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF CASES

062-08. If it is possible to submit a case to a court electronically, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts

062-09. If it is possible to submit a case to a court electronically, please specify the modalities:

Electronic or paper	Possible to be submitted electronically by:	Data integration
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Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS) <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS) <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper submission is not possible anymore (electronic submission is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double submission (paper must accompany the electronic submission) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the Case Management System (CMS) <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic submission is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Other: Public Prosecutor

SENDING ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS TO COURT



062-10. If it is possible to send case-related documents to the courts electronically, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts. The categories of civil cases for which there is the possibility to add documents in a case online are Small Claims, Licencing and Personal Insolvency.

062-11. If it is possible to send electronically case related documents to the courts, please specify the modalities:

Electronic or paper	Possible to be submitted electronically by:	Data integration
---------------------	---	------------------

Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is not possible anymore (electronic delivery is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double delivery (Paper delivery must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by another person/institution <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the CMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is not possible anymore (electronic delivery is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double delivery (Paper delivery must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by another person/institution <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper delivery is not possible anymore (electronic delivery is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double delivery (Paper delivery must accompany the electronic one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by a party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Documents sent by another person/institution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The data are electronically transferred to the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The data are manually re-entered in the CMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic delivery is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Documents sent by another person/institution”, please specify details.

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATIONS

062-12. If it is possible for courts to send electronic notifications, what are the deployment and usage rates?

Deployment rate	Usage rate
-----------------	------------

Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts

062-13. If it is possible for courts to send electronic notifications, please specify the modalities:

	Electronic or paper	Type of notification	Data integration
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is not possible anymore (electronic notification is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double notification (paper notification must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications with attached official documents sent by the courts <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent to other persons/institutions <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is generated from the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is manually generated <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is not possible anymore (electronic notification is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double notification (paper notification must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications with attached official documents sent by the courts <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent to other persons/institutions <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is generated from the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is manually generated <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper notification is not possible anymore (electronic notification is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double notification (paper notification must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent by the court to the party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications with attached official documents sent by the courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications sent to other persons/institutions <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is generated from the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> The electronic notification is manually generated <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic notifications are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Notifications sent to other persons/institutions”, please specify details. Other Persons/Institutions: The Police (incoming and case outcomes are done digitally for most cases – in paper for all non-digital), the Public Prosecutor (generally paper based notifications), the Prison Service (some paper for warrants; some digital for notification of court dates)

CONSULTATION OF A CASE ONLINE

062-14. If it is possible for external users to consult a case online, what are the deployment and usage rates?

Deployment rate	Usage rate
-----------------	------------

Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts

062-15. If it is possible for external users to consult a case online, please specify the modalities:

	Content	Access	Consultation format
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case status <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notifications <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Events/calendar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Court decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic access at the court premises <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Case status <input type="checkbox"/> Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications <input type="checkbox"/> Events/calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Court decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic access at the court premises <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Case status <input type="checkbox"/> Documents <input type="checkbox"/> Notifications <input type="checkbox"/> Events/calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Court decision <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Party not represented by a lawyer <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic access at the court premises <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – online consultation is not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other”, please specify details. For Civil – the application for licences (alcohol licencing) is done online via a portal, and information related to an application and outcome is available via the online portal from anywhere.

REMOTE HEARINGS

062-16. If it is possible to organise remote hearings what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts

062-17. If it is possible to organise remote hearings, please specify the functionalities and modalities:

	Functionalities	Modalities
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated tool specially designed for the use by courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly available tools used by courts <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation of private sessions within online hearings for consultation between parties and their lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for witness protection (voice distortion, picture distortion) <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for simultaneous interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for automatic subtitling (speech-to-text) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agreement of the parties is needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The judge can impose a remote hearing <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated tool specially designed for the use by courts <input type="checkbox"/> Publicly available tools used by courts <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation of private sessions within online hearings for consultation between parties and their lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for witness protection (voice distortion, picture distortion) <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for simultaneous interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for automatic subtitling (speech-to-text) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement of the parties is needed <input type="checkbox"/> The judge can impose a remote hearing <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated tool specially designed for the use by courts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publicly available tools used by courts <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation of private sessions within online hearings for consultation between parties and their lawyers <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for witness protection (voice distortion, picture distortion) <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for simultaneous interpretation <input type="checkbox"/> Tools for automatic subtitling (speech-to-text) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement of the parties is needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The judge can impose a remote hearing <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – remote hearings are not possible <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES

062-18. If electronic archives of cases exist, what are the deployment and usage rates?

Deployment rate	Usage rate
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Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP - electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts

062-19. If an electronic archive of cases exists, please specify the modalities:

	Electronic or paper
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is not possible anymore (electronic archiving is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double archiving (paper archiving must accompany the electronic one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is not possible anymore (electronic archiving is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double archiving (paper archiving must accompany the electronic one) <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic archives do not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is still possible <input type="checkbox"/> Paper archiving is not possible anymore (electronic archiving is the only way) <input type="checkbox"/> Double archiving (paper archiving must accompany the electronic one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP – electronic archives do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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Comments

3.5.3 Tools

CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (CMS)

062-20. If one or more case management system(s) (CMS) exist, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts

062-21. If one or more case management system(s) (CMS) exist, please specify the functionalities of these system(s):

	Functionalities
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases <input type="checkbox"/> Active case management dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> Random allocation of cases <input type="checkbox"/> Case weighting <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number) <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymisation of decisions to be published <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to closed/resolved cases <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Protected log files <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases <input type="checkbox"/> Active case management dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> Random allocation of cases <input type="checkbox"/> Case weighting <input type="checkbox"/> Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number) <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymisation of decisions to be published <input type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register) <input type="checkbox"/> Access to closed/resolved cases <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Protected log files <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – CMS does not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, because of its importance please specify details.

062-22. If one or more case management system(s) (CMS) exist, please specify the functionalities of these system(s):

	Functionalities
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Centralised and/or interoperable CMS databases <input type="checkbox"/> Active case management dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> Random allocation of cases <input type="checkbox"/> Case weighting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification of a case between instances (unique or linked id number) <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic transfer of a case to another instance/court <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymisation of decisions to be published <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with prosecution system <input type="checkbox"/> Interoperability with other systems (civil register, tax register, insolvency register) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to closed/resolved cases <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Protected log files <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – CMS does not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details.

WRITING ASSISTANCE TOOLS

062-23. If writing assistance tools exist in courts, what are their deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts. The administrative cases are dealt by civil courts. Nevertheless, the answer on this question for administrative matter is NA in order not to have skewed reflection of the Irish Courts system. Approximately half of our case types and scenarios are supported in practice by templates as an order writing assistance – and where they are available they are used 100% (roughly) of the time. Close to half of Irish jurisdictions don't support templates at all (or didn't at the point of filling out the survey) – e.g., all high court cases didn't have template support in the CMS, nor does district family, nor some other systems.

062-24. If writing assistance tools exist in courts, please describe their functionalities:

	Functionalities
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Templates <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically generated text <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically suggested decision <input type="checkbox"/> Speech-to-text <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Templates <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically generated text <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically suggested decision <input type="checkbox"/> Speech-to-text <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – writing assistance tools do not exist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA

Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Templates <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically generated text <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically suggested decision <input type="checkbox"/> Speech-to-text <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic signature <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – writing assistance tools do not exist <input type="checkbox"/> NA
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Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details.

RECORDING OF COURT HEARINGS

062-25. If a tool to record court hearings exists, what are the deployment and usage rates?

	Deployment rate	Usage rate
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Ireland does not operate administrative courts. The administrative cases are dealt by civil courts. Nevertheless, the answer on this question for administrative matter is NA in order not to have skewed reflection of the Irish Courts system.

062-26. If a tool to record court hearings exist, please specify its functionalities:

	Functionalities
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio recording <input type="checkbox"/> Video recording <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic recording for all hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically indexed recording <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic transcript from recording <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibility to request a copy of the recording <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio recording <input type="checkbox"/> Video recording <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic recording for all hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically indexed recording <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic transcript from recording <input type="checkbox"/> Possibility to request a copy of the recording <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there is no tool for recording hearings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio recording <input type="checkbox"/> Video recording <input type="checkbox"/> Systematic recording for all hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically indexed recording <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic transcript from recording <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibility to request a copy of the recording <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there is no tool for recording hearings <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details.

DATABASE OF COURT DECISIONS

062-27. If there is a national database of court decisions, please provide the percentage of the decisions published at each instance.

	Percentage of 1st instance decisions published	Percentage of 2nd instance decisions published	Percentage of Supreme court decisions published
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

062-28. If there is a national database of court decisions, please specify the modalities in publishing these decisions:

	1st instance	2nd instance	Supreme court
Civil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published online (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Published in an internal database <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

- If you have selected the option “Other” because the court decisions are published online in some other way than the presented modalities, please describe.

062-29. If there is a database of court decisions at national level, what are the functionalities of this database?

	Functionalities
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Manual anonymisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free public online access <input type="checkbox"/> Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-readable content <input type="checkbox"/> Structured content <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Manual anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Free public online access <input type="checkbox"/> Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <input type="checkbox"/> Open data <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input type="checkbox"/> Machine-readable content <input type="checkbox"/> Structured content <input type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input type="checkbox"/> European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – There is no database for these decisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Automatic anonymisation <input type="checkbox"/> Manual anonymisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Free public online access <input type="checkbox"/> Link to the case law of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advanced search engine <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Machine-readable content <input type="checkbox"/> Structured content <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metadata <input type="checkbox"/> European Case Law Identifier (ECLI) <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – There is no database for these decisions <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details.

STATISTICAL TOOLS

062-30. If there are statistical tools for analysing court case data, what is their deployment rate?

	Deployment rate
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there are no statistical tools <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> 95-100 % <input type="checkbox"/> 75-95 % <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75 % <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50 % <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-25 % <input type="checkbox"/> 0 % <input type="checkbox"/> NAP - there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments Statistical tools are available for analysing Civil, Criminal and Family data across most of the Courts. These tools, while not accessible for all staff have been deployed to management level grades.

062-31. If there are statistical tools for analysing court case data, please describe their functionalities and the data available for statistical analysis:

	Functionalities	Data available for statistical analysis
Civil	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration/connection with the CMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business intelligence software <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of predefined statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of customised statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal page and/or dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> External page with statistics (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Real-time data availability <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic consolidation of data at the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of a pending case <input type="checkbox"/> Length of proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Number of hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Cases per judge <input type="checkbox"/> Case weights <input type="checkbox"/> Number of parties in a case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicator of appeal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result of the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Administrative	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration/connection with the CMS <input type="checkbox"/> Business intelligence software <input type="checkbox"/> Generation of predefined statistical reports <input type="checkbox"/> Generation of customised statistical reports <input type="checkbox"/> Internal page and/or dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> External page with statistics (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Real-time data availability <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic consolidation of data at the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there are no statistical tools <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of a pending case <input type="checkbox"/> Length of proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Number of hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Cases per judge <input type="checkbox"/> Case weights <input type="checkbox"/> Number of parties in a case <input type="checkbox"/> Indicator of appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Result of the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– there are no statistical tools <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Criminal	<input type="checkbox"/> Integration/connection with the CMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business intelligence software <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of predefined statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Generation of customised statistical reports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internal page and/or dashboard <input type="checkbox"/> External page with statistics (public website) <input type="checkbox"/> Real-time data availability <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic consolidation of data at the national level <input type="checkbox"/> Other special functionality, please specify <input type="checkbox"/> NAP – there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Case flow data (number of incoming, resolved, pending) <input type="checkbox"/> Age of a pending case <input type="checkbox"/> Length of proceedings <input type="checkbox"/> Number of hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Cases per judge <input type="checkbox"/> Case weights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of parties in a case <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indicator of appeal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result of the appeal <input type="checkbox"/> NAP– there are no statistical tools <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comment - If you have selected the option “Other special functionality”, please specify the details

OTHER TOOLS

062-32. Is there any application for online court-related dispute resolution?

Yes

No

Comments

062-33. If yes, is there a maximum value over which online court-related dispute resolution cannot be organised?

Yes, please specify the maximum value 2000

No

Comments

062-34. If yes, can the online court-related dispute resolution be used in the following areas?

Small claim litigation

Undisputed claim

Payment order

Misdemeanour criminal cases

Enforcement of civil cases

Other, please specify

Comment: Please describe the existing online procedures: For Small Claims, the applicant must register an account with the Courts Service Online (CSOL). An application form must be completed, and the fee paid. Progress of the case can be monitored on CSOL. Small Claims cover consumer claims, business to business claims and damage to property but do not include claims for repayment of debt or personal injury claims.

062-35. Is there a computerised national record centralising all criminal convictions?

Yes

No

Comments The Courts Service does have case management systems for criminal cases but not one centralised national record.

062-36. If yes, please specify the following information:

The computerised record includes biometric data (ex. fingerprint data, picture)

The computerised record is linked to other European records of the same nature (ex. ECRIS)

The content is directly available through computerised means for judges and/or prosecutors (ex. interoperability with the CMS)

The content is directly available for purposes other than criminal (ex. civil and administrative matters)

The record contains conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons

Comments

062-37. Is there a Document Management System (DMS) in the registry of courts?

Yes

No

Comment: If yes, please provide details on the purposes and usage of this system. There are a number of document and case management systems. There are separate systems covering civil and criminal matters. Furthermore, each court jurisdiction has its own system. Also, specialised offices, for example in the High Court, also have their own systems.

062-38. In addition to the tools listed in the ICT section of this questionnaire does your judicial

system use other innovative ICT tools?

Yes

No

Comment: If yes, please list and describe these ICT tools.

3.6.Performance and evaluation

3.6.1National policies applied in courts and public prosecution services

066. Are quality standards determined for the judicial system at national level (are there quality systems for the judiciary and/or judicial quality policies)?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

067. Do you have specialised personnel entrusted with implementation of these national level quality standards?

	Yes / No
within the courts	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
within the public prosecution services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments

3.6.2 Measuring court/public prosecution services

070. Do you regularly monitor court activities (performance and quality) concerning:

- number of incoming cases
- length of proceedings (timeframes)
- number of resolved cases
- number of pending cases
- backlogs
- productivity of judges and court staff
- satisfaction of court staff
- satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the courts)
- costs of the judicial procedures
- number of appeals
- appeal ratio
- clearance rate
- disposition time
- other (please specify):

Comments These are not new or recently introduced monitoring options.

070-1. Do you regularly monitor public prosecution activities (performance and quality) concerning:

- number of incoming cases
- length of proceedings (timeframes)
- number of resolved cases
- number of pending cases
- backlogs
- productivity of prosecutors and prosecution staff
- satisfaction of prosecution staff
- satisfaction of users (regarding the services delivered by the by the public prosecution)
- costs of the judicial procedures
- clearance rate
- disposition time
- percentage of convictions and acquittals
- other (please specify):

Comments Information is published in Part 2 and Part 4 of ODPP Annual Report 2021 (<https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/02/AR2021eng.pdf>).

071. Do you monitor the number of pending cases and cases that are not processed within a reasonable timeframe (backlogs) for:

- civil law cases
- criminal law cases
- administrative law cases

Comments N/A

072. Do you monitor waiting time during judicial proceedings?

	Yes (If yes, please specify)	No
within the courts	()	(X)
within the public prosecution services	()	(X)

Comments

073. Do you have a system to evaluate regularly court performance based on the monitored indicators of question 70?

- () Yes
- (X) No

Comments

073-0. If yes, please specify the frequency:

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent

Comments - If "Less frequent" or "More frequent", please specify:

073-1. Is this evaluation of the court activity used for the later allocation of resources within this court?

- Yes
- No

Comments

073-2. If yes, which courses of action are taken (multiple replies possible)?

- Identifying the causes of improved or deteriorated performance
- Reallocating resources (human/financial resources based on performance)
- Reengineering of internal procedures to increase efficiency
- Other (please specify):

Comments

073-3. Do you have a system to evaluate regularly the performance of the public prosecution services based on the monitored indicators of question 70-1?

- Yes
- No

Comments The discrepancy with previous replies might be based on a different interpretation of what the question meant.

073-4. If yes, please specify the frequency:

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent

Comments - If "less frequent" or "more frequent", please specify: Quality Assurance measures including file reviews, counsel evaluations and state solicitor workload reviews are implemented annually

073-5. Is this evaluation of the activity of public prosecution services used for the later allocation of resources within this public prosecution service?

- Yes
- No

Comments Our Strategic Work Force Planning (SWFP) Legal Resourcing Group has Guiding Principles for the Allocation of Resources. These consider the competing demands across the Office; the changes in file levels and increase in complexity which require robust decision making in the allocation of resources. Other factors that inform the basis for decisions on the assignment of new and existing staff including, but are not limited to, caseload trends including annual and multi-annual comparators, experience of staff and numbers of staff on probation.

In relation to the Strategic Work Force Planning Principle, these were in place on an informal basis in previous years and were refined and formally adopted in 2021

073-6. If yes, which courses of action are taken (multiple replies possible)?

- Identifying the causes of improved or deteriorated performance
- Reallocating resources (human/financial resources based on performance)
- Reengineering of internal procedures to increase efficiency
- Other (please specify):

Comments The ODPP Management Board meets monthly and considers section level reports on all aspects of the work of the ODPP feeding into decisions on allocation of resources and improved efficiencies. Operational and statistical information is compiled in the ODDP Annual Reports available at <https://www.dppireland.ie/publication-category/annual-reports/#>

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079. Who is responsible for evaluating the performance of the courts (multiple replies possible)?

- High Judicial Council
- Ministry of Justice
- Inspection authority
- Supreme Court
- External audit body
- Other (please specify): Courts Service Board

Comments

079-1. Who is responsible for evaluating the performance of the public prosecution services (multiple replies possible)?

- Public Prosecutorial Council
- Ministry of Justice
- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchically superior public prosecutor
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- External audit body
- Other (please specify):

Comments There are section level file reviews. Regular periodic section level management reports are made to the monthly Management Board meetings of the ODPP. There is a case management model in place, which tracks all files received in the office. It incorporates an alert system for staff and to alert management to potential undue delay.

3.6.3 Information regarding courts /public prosecution services activity

080. Is there a centralised institution that is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding the functioning of the courts?

- Yes (please indicate the name and the address of this institution): Courts Service, 15-24 Phoenix Street North, Smithfield, Dublin 7
- No

Comments

080-1. Are the statistics on the functioning of each court published?

- Yes, on the internet (please provide the link)
- No, only internally (on an intranet website)
- No

Comments Courts Service Annual Report 2022 is not available as yet.

=

080-2. Is there a centralised institution that is responsible for collecting statistical data regarding the functioning of the public prosecution services?

- Yes (please indicate the name and the address of this institution):The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Infirmary Road Dublin 7, D07 FHN8
- No

Comments

080-3. Are the statistics on the functioning of each public prosecution service published?

- Yes, on the internet (please provide the link)<https://www.dppireland.ie/publication-category/annual-reports/#>
- No, only internally (on an intranet website)
- No

Comments

=

081. Are individual courts required to prepare an activity report (that includes, for example, data on the number of resolved cases or pending cases, the number of judges and administrative staff, targets and assessment of the activity)?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please describe the content of the report and its audience (i.e. to whom the report is primarily intended): All courts contribute material to the Courts Service Annual Report which is available for all members of the public on the courts.ie website. The Supreme Court also publishes an online annual report on supremecourt.ie.

081-1. If yes, please specify in which form this report is released:

- Internet
- Intranet (internal) website
- Paper distribution

Comments

081-2. If yes, please, indicate the periodicity at which the report is released:

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent

=

081-3. Are public prosecution services required to prepare an activity report (that includes, for example, data on the number of incoming cases, the number of decisions, the number of public prosecutors and administrative staff, targets and assessment of the activity)?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please describe the content of the report and its audience (i.e. for whom the report is primarily intended): The Office of the DPP publishes an Annual Report for the general public however this is not a requirement of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1974. The Report is published on the ODPP's website (<https://www.dppireland.ie/>). The Report includes data and information on the functions of the Office but also includes information on Office expenditure; compliance with the Freedom of Information Act 2014; compliance with Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty etc. The Report also includes a number of different sets of statistics including, for example, the number of files received; the number of files dealt with by the Solicitor's Division and a breakdown of the main reasons for a direction not to prosecute. The latest Annual Report available is from 2021 and is available here: <https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/02/AR2021eng.pdf>

081-4. If yes, please specify in which form this report is released:

Internet

Intranet (internal) website

Paper distribution

Comments

081-5. If yes, please, indicate the periodicity at which the report is released:

Annual

Less frequent

More frequent

Comments

3.6.4 Performance and evaluation of judges and public prosecutors

083. Are there quantitative performance targets defined for each judge (e.g. the number of resolved cases in a month or year)?

Yes

No

Comments

083-1. Who is responsible for setting these targets for each judge?

Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice)

Legislative power

Judicial power (for example the High Judicial Council, Supreme Court)

President of the court

[] Other (please specify):

[X] NAP

Comments

083-1-1. What are the consequences for a judge if these targets are not met?

	Consequences:
Without disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by court's president <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment]
With disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by court's president <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment]
-	<input type="checkbox"/> No consequences
-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP (no targets defined)

Comments

114. Is there a system of individual evaluation of the judges' work?

	Existence of a system of individual evaluation of the judges' work
Quantitative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Qualitative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: Please specify the criteria on which the assessment is based, the authority competent for carrying out the assessment, the purposes for which the results of the assessment are used:

114-1. Please specify the frequency of this evaluation:

Annual

Less frequent

More frequent

Different frequencies used, please specify:

[X] NAP

=

083-2. Are there quantitative performance targets defined for each public prosecutor (e.g. the number of decisions in a month or year)?

Yes

No

Comments Allocation of files happens in some divisions but not all, and not all prosecutors are assigned a specific number of files per week. Additionally, targets can be influenced by external factors such as: the number of investigation files received, or the availability of court dates in order to process cases. The main reason why prosecutors are not assigned a set number of files is because the size and complexity of files can vary significantly.

083-3. Who is responsible for setting these targets for each public prosecutor?

- Executive power (for example the Ministry of Justice)
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- Public Prosecutorial Council
- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchically superior public prosecutor
- Other (please specify):
- NAP

Comments Unit Heads assign a number of files to each Prosecutor depending on ability or grade. This might not mean that “targets” are set. The targets for the Office are ultimately greatly impacted by external factors like the amount of investigation files that are submitted to the office, the availability of court dates to process cases and the fact that the size and complexity of files varies. A Prosecutor’s ability to progress their caseload is very much impacted by these factors so within this Office we don’t usually reference “targets”.

083-3-1. What are the consequences for a prosecutor if these targets are not met?

	Consequences:
Without disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by head of prosecution <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
With disciplinary procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> Warning by head of prosecution <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary salary reduction <input type="checkbox"/> Reflected in the individual assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify: [Comment] <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
No consequences	<input type="checkbox"/> No consequences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

120. Is there a system of individual evaluation of the public prosecutors’ work?

	Existence of a system of individual evaluation of the public prosecutors’ work
Quantitative	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Qualitative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comment: Please specify the criteria on which the assessment is based, the authority competent for carrying out the assessment, the

purposes for which the results of the assessment are used: A Prosecutor's performance is individually assessed through PMDS (Performance Management and Development System). PMDS assesses how a jobholder's work performance, career and development needs are managed. It links the management of individual performance to the objectives of the Office, as set out in the Strategy of Statement and Business Plan. PMDS seeks to strike a balance between the needs of the organisation and the development needs of those who work in it. It recognises the need for continual change and improvement and for the involvement of staff in bringing this about. Individual prosecutors are responsible for carrying out their own goal setting and assessment. The PMDS form is then reviewed and assessed by the prosecutor's manager.

120-1. Please specify the frequency of this evaluation:

- Annual
- Less frequent
- More frequent
- Different frequencies used, please specify:
- NAP

Comments

C4. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, The Courts Service

4.Fair trial

4.1.Principles

4.1.1Principles of fair trial



084. Percentage of first instance criminal in absentia judgments (cases in which the suspect is not attending the hearing in person nor is represented by a lawyer)?

-
- NA
- NAP

Comments - Please add methodology for calculation used.

085. Is there a procedure to effectively challenge a judge (recusal), if a party considers that the judge is not impartial?

- Yes
- No

Comments - Please could you briefly specify:

085-1. If yes, what are:

-

The total number of the initiated procedures in the reference year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
The total number of recusals pronounced in the reference year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment - Please, could you briefly specify:

086. Is there in your country a monitoring system for the violations related to Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights?

- For civil procedures (non-enforcement)
- For civil procedures (timeframe)
- For criminal procedures (timeframe)
- NAP

Comments - Please specify what are the terms and conditions of this monitoring system (information related to acknowledged violations by ECHR at the State/courts level; implementation of internal systems to prevent other violations (that are similar) and if possible to measure an evolution of the established violations):

086-1. Is there in your country a possibility to review/reopen a case after a finding of a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights by the European Court of Human Rights?

- For civil cases
- For criminal cases
- For administrative cases
- NAP

Comments The Department of Justice engages with the Courts Service and other stakeholders and is progressing legislation that will provide remedies where Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights is breached.

D1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Department of Justice - Civil Governance
 Courts Service

4.2. Timeframe of proceedings

4.2.1 General information

087. Are there specific procedures for urgent matters regarding:

- civil cases
- criminal cases
- administrative cases
- There is no specific procedure for urgent matters

Comments - If yes, please specify:

088. Are there simplified procedures for:

- civil cases (small disputes)
- criminal cases (misdemeanour cases)
- administrative cases
- There is no simplified procedure

Comments - If yes, please specify: The District Court deals with minor offences in a summary manner i.e., without a jury. In civil cases, small claim cases where the claim does not exceed €2,000 can be commenced using the Small Claims procedure which is designed to handle consumer or business claims inexpensively without involving a solicitor. The local District Court Clerk, who is the Small Claims Registrar, processes small claims. Where possible, the Registrar will negotiate a settlement without the need for a court hearing.

088-1. For these simplified procedures, may judges deliver an oral judgement with a written order and without the full reasoning of the judgement ?

- civil cases
- criminal cases
- administrative cases

Comments - If yes, please specify: In some exceptional matters, there is a requirement for a court to give written reasons for its determination. Written judgments, giving the reasoning of those judgments are rare in the District Court and seldom used in the Circuit Court. Written judgments are more common in the High Court. Written judgments are given in almost all cases in the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

089. Do courts and lawyers have the possibility to conclude agreements on arrangements for processing cases (presentation of files, decisions on timeframes for lawyers to submit their conclusions etc.)?

	Yes	No
Agreement on general arrangements	(X)	()
Agreement in specific cases	(X)	()

Comments Negotiations on arrangements for processing cases would usually take place before the relevant court approves them.

4.2.2 Case flow management – first instance



091. First instance courts: number of other than criminal law cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)		183 615	153 977		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	102 921 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	72 937 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	80 694 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	81 040 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.1. General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, e.g. uncontested payment orders, request for a change of name, non-litigious enforcement cases etc. (if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3; without registry cases and other cases, see categories 2.2 and 2.3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	80 694 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	81 040 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.3. Other registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.3. Other non-litigious cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Administrative law cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments The COVID pandemic had an effect on the courts' ability to deal with incoming business in 2020 especially, which explains the discrepancies with number of court cases in 2022.

092. If courts deal with “civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases”, please indicate the case categories included:

. Proceedings that are not inter parties (including probate, wards of court and personal insolvency cases concerning applications by debtors in person) and certain proceedings with a cross-border element as well as non-litigious enforcement matters

093. Please indicate the case categories included in the category "other cases":

. No other cases selected

094. First instance courts: number of criminal law cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)	[X] NA [] NAP	360 029 [] NA [] NAP	291 164 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Severe criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	21 204 [] NA [] NAP	24 242 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	[X] NA [] NAP	338 825 [] NA [] NAP	266 922 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
3. Other criminal cases	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - If you cannot make a distinction between misdemeanour criminal cases and severe criminal cases (according to the CEPEJ definitions), please specify what cases are reported in those categories. If "Other criminal cases", please specify The COVID pandemic had an effect on the courts' ability to deal with incoming business in 2020 especially, which explains the discrepancies with number of resolved cases in 2022. Regarding severe criminal cases both the Circuit Criminal Courts and Central Criminal Courts showed an increase in resolved cases (offences) in 2022. Resolved cases are cases where orders are made. There may be more than one order made in some cases which is why the figure for resolved cases is higher than that for incoming cases.

4.2.3 Case flow management – second instance



097. Second instance courts (appeal): Number of "other than criminal law" cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the second instance court
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	[X] NA [] NAP	1 337 [] NA [] NAP	1 212 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)	[X] NA [] NAP	1 337 [] NA [] NAP	1 212 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.1. General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, e.g. uncontested payment orders, request for a change of name, non-litigious enforcement cases etc. (if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3; without registry cases and other cases, see categories 2.2 and 2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.3. Other registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.3. Other non-litigious cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Administrative law cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "Other cases" please specify

098. Second instance courts (appeal): Number of criminal law cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the second instance court
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	17 245 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	17 751 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Severe criminal cases	404 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	2 022 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	1 872 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	15 190 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	15 851 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Other criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If you cannot make a distinction between misdemeanour criminal cases and severe criminal cases (according to the CEPEJ definitions), please specify what cases are reported in those categories. If “Other criminal cases”, please specify: In 2020, the year in which the covid pandemic had its greatest effect on court business, the number of criminal appeals particularly in minor criminal cases was much lower than usual.

4.2.4 Case flow management – Supreme Court



099. Highest instance courts (Supreme Court): Number of “other than criminal law” cases:

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the Supreme Court
Total of other than criminal law cases (1+2+3+4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	158 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	185 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	72 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Civil (and commercial) litigious cases (including litigious enforcement cases and if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	158 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	185 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	72 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Non litigious cases (2.1+2.2+2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.1. General civil (and commercial) non-litigious cases, e.g. uncontested payment orders, non-litigious enforcement cases etc. (if possible without administrative law cases, see category 3; without registry cases and other cases, see categories 2.2 and 2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2. Registry cases (2.2.1+2.2.2+2.2.3)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.1. Non litigious land registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.2.2 Non-litigious business registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

2.2.3. Other registry cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.3. Other non-litigious cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Administrative law cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "Other cases", please specify There was an increase in 2022 over 2020.

099-1. At the level of the Highest court (Supreme Court), is there a procedure of manifest inadmissibility?

(X) Yes, please indicate the number of cases closed by this procedure: N/A

() No

Comments

100. Highest instance courts (Supreme Court): Number of criminal law cases.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the Supreme Court
Total of criminal law cases (1+2+3)	16 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	33 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	28 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	21 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Severe criminal cases	16 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	33 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	28 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	21 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Other criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comment - If you cannot make a distinction between misdemeanour criminal cases and severe criminal cases (according to the CEPEJ definitions), please specify what cases are reported in those categories. If "Other criminal cases", please specify The number of cases pending in the Supreme Court has decreased between 2020 and 2022.

4.2.5 Case flow management and timeframes – specific cases

101. Number of specific litigious cases received and processed by first instance courts.

Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court

Litigious divorce cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	5 551 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	4 941 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Employment dismissal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	5 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	8 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Insolvency	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	3 032 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	2 825 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Robbery case	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	30 692 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	28 037 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Intentional homicide	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	45 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	48 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Robbery cases - the figures recorded by the Courts Service are for larceny, theft and robbery (not robbery alone) and these figures are for offences. A defendant can of course be charged with several offences. The above figures for insolvency include those for Personal Insolvency (including Bankruptcy) and Corporate Insolvency (Examinership and Company Liquidation).

Employment Dismissal cases only reach the courts by way of appeals on points of law. The vast majority of employment dismissal cases are heard by the Workplace Relations Commission (a body outside the court system).

Divorce Cases: There has been an increase in divorce applications in recent years. In 2018 the number of applications as 3,888. In 2022 the number of applications was 5,551.

Intentional homicide: More cases were resolved in 2022 than in 2020.

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101-0. Number of cases relating to asylum seekers and to the right of entry and stay for aliens.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending cases for more than 2 years
Court cases relating to asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	336 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	369 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Court cases relating to the right of entry and stay for aliens	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments The above figures are Judicial Review (Asylum related cases) cases where an applicant is generally seeking a Court order to quash the decision of a body such as Refugee Appeals Tribunal, or injunction to stop deportation. A specific breakdown by aliens/refugees is not available.

101-1. Could you briefly describe the system in your country dealing with legal remedies relating to asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention) and the right of entry and stay for aliens:

- asylum seekers (refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention)
- the right of entry and stay for aliens
- Asylum: The International Protection Act 2015 introduced single application procedure for international protection cases. under which all grounds for protection are considered. A person (a) in relation to whom a refugee declaration is in force, or (b) in relation to whom a subsidiary protection declaration is in force, qualifies for international protection. The application is dealt with at first instance by the International Protection Office (IPO). The applicant is entitled to appeal to the International Protection Appeals

Tribunal (IPAT). Based on the recommendation of the IPO or IPAT, the Minister for Justice and Equality will decide whether to give a refugee declaration. Determinations by the IPO, IPAT or the Minister are subject to review by the High Court on limited grounds in judicial review proceedings (e.g., error of law).

•Entry into and staying in the State by not-nationals who are not otherwise entitled to enter the State – where such person is arrested and/or detained he/she may challenge their arrest or detention before the High Court. .

101-2. Number of cases relating to child sexual abuse and child pornography received and processed by first instance courts.

	Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	Incoming cases	Resolved cases	Pending cases on 31 Dec ref. year	Pending cases older than 2 years from the date the case came to the first instance court
Child sexual abuse	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
Child pornography	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments - Please explain what are the legal definitions of these categories of offences in your system:

102. Percentage of decisions subject to appeal, average length of proceedings and percentage of cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances for specific litigious cases. The average length of proceedings has to be calculated from the date the application for judicial review is lodged to the date the judgment is made, without taking into account the investigation phase in criminal cases as well as enforcement procedure.

	% of decisions subject to appeal	Average length in 1st instance (in days)	Average length in 2nd instance (in days)	Average length in 3rd instance (in days)	Average length of the entire procedure (in days)	% of cases pending for more than 3 years for all instances
Civil and commercial litigious cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	527 [] NA [] NAP	86 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Litigious divorce cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP
Employment dismissal cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 [X] NA [] NAP

Insolvency cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Robbery cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Intentional homicide cases	_____ Allow decimals : 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	_____ Allow decimals : 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments The figure for second instance courts is provided from the Court of Appeal only and for third instance courts, from the Supreme Court only. All figures are from issue to disposal.

104. How is the length of proceedings calculated for the six case categories of question 102? Please give a description of the calculation method.

. N/A

4.2.6 Case flow management – public prosecution

105. Role and powers of the public prosecutor in the criminal procedure (multiple replies possible):

- to conduct or supervise investigation
- when necessary, to request investigation measures from the judge
- to charge
- to present the case in court
- to propose a sentence to the judge
- to appeal
- to supervise the enforcement procedure
- to discontinue a case without needing a decision by a judge (ensure consistency with question 36!)
- to end the case by imposing or negotiating a penalty or measure without requiring a judicial decision
- other significant powers (please specify):

Comments

106. Does the public prosecutor also have a role in:

- civil cases
- administrative cases
- insolvency cases

Comments - If yes, please specify: Prosecutors have a role in applying for and defending judicial review (see Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019), paragraph 11.21) and habeas corpus (Article 40, Constitution of Ireland). Please find more information on the role of the DPP in civil or administrative processes at <https://www.dppireland.ie/about-us/our-organisation/> . Please note that these processes arise from the criminal process.



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107. Public prosecutors: Total number of 1st instance criminal cases.

	Number of cases
1.Pending cases on 1 Jan. ref. year	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.Incoming/received cases	11 390 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.Processed cases (3.1+3.2+3.3+3.4)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.1.Discontinued during the reference year (3.1.1+3.1.2+3.1.3+3.1.4.)	3 573 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.1.1 Discontinued by the public prosecutor because the offender could not be identified	57 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.1.2 Discontinued by the public prosecutor due to the lack of an established offence or a specific legal situation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.1.3 Discontinued by the public prosecutor for reasons of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.1.4 Discontinued for other reasons	3 516 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.2.Concluded by a penalty or a measure imposed or negotiated by the public prosecutor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.3.Cases brought to court	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4.Pending cases on 31 Dec. ref. year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

107-1. If the guilty plea procedure exists, how many cases were concluded by this procedure?

	Total	Severe criminal cases	Misdemeanour and / or minor criminal cases
Total number of guilty plea procedures	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Before the main trial	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP
During the main trial	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments Data is collected in the Office of Director Public Prosecutions but is not available in the format specifically set out in the explanatory notes.

109. Do the figures provided in Q107 include traffic offence cases?

- () Yes
- (X) No

Comments There was no discrepancy in the replies provided.

D2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Office of the Director of Public Prosecution

5. Career of judges and public prosecutors

5.1. Recruitment and promotion

5.1.1 Recruitment and promotion of judges



110. How are judges recruited?

- [] through a competitive exam (open competition)
- [] through a recruitment procedure for experienced legal professionals (for example experienced lawyers)
- [X] other (please specify):see comments

Comments Article 35.1 of the Constitution of Ireland provides that “[t]he judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and all other Courts established in pursuance of Article 34 hereof shall be appointed by President.” While the formal appointment of judges is made by the President through the presentation of warrants of appointment to those appointed, this power is, pursuant to Article 13.9, exercised “only on the advice of the Government.” So, a Judge in Ireland is appointed by the President on the advice of the Government.

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Board (hereafter “the Board”) was established pursuant to the amended Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995. The purpose of the Board is to identify persons and inform the Government of the suitability of those persons for appointment to judicial office. The Board consists of the following eleven persons:

- The Chief Justice;
- the Presidents of the High Court, Court of Appeal, Circuit Court and District Court;
- the Attorney General;
- a practising barrister;
- a practising solicitor;
- three persons identified as suitable by the Minister for Justice.

Where a judicial office stands vacant or before a vacancy in a judicial office arises, the Board, at the request of the Minister, is to submit to the Minister the names of all persons who have informed the Board of his or her wish to be considered for appointment to that judicial

office and the Board shall submit the names of at least seven persons whom it recommends for appointment. Where fewer than seven persons inform the Board of their wish to be appointed to judicial office or where the Board is unable to recommend to the Minister at least seven persons, the Board may recommend to the Minister a lesser number of persons for appointment. The Board must also provide the Minister with particulars of education, professional qualification, experience, and character of the persons whom it recommends under this Section.

In advising the President in relation to the appointment of a person to a judicial office the Government shall firstly consider for appointment those persons whose names have been recommended to the Minister.

110-1. Please briefly describe the recruitment procedure(s) for judges in your country:

. Article 35.1 of the Constitution of Ireland provides that “[t]he judges of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and all other Courts established in pursuance of Article 34 hereof shall be appointed by President.” While the formal appointment of judges is made by the President through the presentation of warrants of appointment to those appointed, this power is, pursuant to Article 13.9, exercised “only on the advice of the Government.” So, a Judge in Ireland is appointed by the President on the advice of the Government.

The Judicial Appointments Advisory Board (hereafter “the Board”) was established pursuant to the amended Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995. The purpose of the Board is to identify persons and inform the Government of the suitability of those persons for appointment to judicial office. The Board consists of the following eleven persons:

The Chief Justice;

the Presidents of the High Court, Court of Appeal, Circuit Court and District Court;

the Attorney General;

a practising barrister;

a practising solicitor;

three persons identified as suitable by the Minister for Justice.

Where a judicial office stands vacant or before a vacancy in a judicial office arises, the Board, at the request of the Minister, is to submit to the Minister the names of all persons who have informed the Board of his or her wish to be considered for appointment to that judicial office and the Board shall submit the names of at least seven persons whom it recommends for appointment. Where fewer than seven persons inform the Board of their wish to be appointed to judicial office or where the Board is unable to recommend to the Minister at least seven persons, the Board may recommend to the Minister a lesser number of persons for appointment. The Board must also provide the Minister with particulars of education, professional qualification, experience, and character of the persons whom it recommends under this Section.

In advising the President in relation to the appointment of a person to a judicial office the Government shall firstly consider for appointment those persons whose names have been recommended to the Minister.

A person who wishes to be considered for appointment to judicial office is required to so inform the Board in writing and to provide the Board with such information as it may require them to enable it to consider the suitability of that person for judicial office, including information relating to education, professional qualifications, experience, and character. To assist the Board in this regard the applicants are required to complete a detailed application form which includes questions on their practice, their professional qualifications, education, character, etc., and are also required to outline on their application form why they consider themselves suitable for judicial office. The Board can only recommend persons with the relevant qualifications which are set out in the amended Courts and Court Officers Act 2002. Applicants provide the Board with such information as it may require enabling it to consider the suitability of that person for judicial office, including information relating to education, professional qualifications, experience and character.

For appointment to the Supreme, Court of Appeal & High Court Bench, an applicant must be a practising barrister or solicitor of not less than 12 years experience. For appointment to the Circuit & District Court Bench an applicant must be a practising barrister or solicitor of not less than 10 years experience.

The Board has not to date availed of its power to arrange for the interviewing of applicants. Generally, the Board has sufficient information in particular which is provided by the applicants themselves to carry out its function in each instance. This is in the context that the Board does not have any function in deciding who should be appointed to judicial office. Moreover, the Board in

submitting the names of persons whom it considers suitable for appointment does not make a decision or give an indication with regard to the relative merits of persons so submitted.

Following a meeting of the Board where applicants are considered for recommendation for judicial office, the Secretary to the Board corresponds with the Bar of Ireland, the Law Society of Ireland, and the Legal Services Regulatory Authority as appropriate, asking them to verify that those who are to be recommended are in good standing with those professional bodies and that they meet the statutory requirements under the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961, (as amended). Once a reply has been received, the Chairperson writes to the Minister, setting out the Board's recommendations.

110-2. What are the recruitment requirements for judges (multiple replies possible)?

- Age
- Nationality
- Physical/Psychological capacity
- General studies in law
- Advanced studies in law (Master, PhD)
- Number of years of relevant experience
- Traineeship/judicial functions in courts
- Validation of a general state examination in law
- Validation of a specific examination for judges
- Clean criminal record
- Foreign languages
- Personal requirements (related to integrity)
- Other
 - NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify: The Board can only recommend persons with the relevant qualifications which are set out in the amended Courts and Court Officers Act 2002. For appointment to the Supreme, Court of Appeal & High Court Bench, an applicant must be a practising barrister or solicitor of not less than 12 years experience. For appointment to the Circuit & District Court Bench an applicant must be a practising barrister or solicitor of not less than 10 years experience. The Board shall not submit or recommend the name of a person unless that person meets the eligibility requirements laid down by statute. Further, the Board shall not recommend the name of any person unless in the opinion of the Board the person concerned has displayed in his/her practice as a barrister or solicitor, as the case may be, a degree of competence and a degree of probity appropriate to and consistent with the appointment concerned and is suitable on grounds of character and temperament. It is a requirement of the Board that applicants must certify that their tax affairs are in order. The Board is prohibited from recommending a person for judicial office unless the person has furnished to the Board a Tax Clearance Certificate that was issued to the person not more than eighteen months before the date of the recommendation, and a Statutory Declaration made by the person not more than three months before that date to the effect that, at the time of the making of the declaration, the person is, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, in compliance with the obligations specified in subsection (1) of section 25 and that nothing in subsection (2) of that section prevents the issue to him or her of a tax clearance certificate.

Retirement age of Judges in Ireland is currently 70 years of age in most instances. Applicants provide the Board with such information as it may require enabling it to consider the suitability of that person for judicial office, including information relating to education, professional qualifications, experience and character. While there is no 'validation' process of a general or specific state examination in law in place, per se, to fulfil the minimum requirements of eligibility, as set out at paragraph 1, the Board shall not submit or recommend

the name of a person unless that person meets the eligibility requirements and has practised as a Solicitor or a Barrister for the requisite periods.

In order to qualify as a solicitor in Ireland currently, you must hold a degree in any discipline and you must apply to sit the Entrance Exams (known as FE-1 exams) for the Law School at Blackhall Place www.lawsociety.ie where the professional training of solicitors takes place. Having successfully completed the Entrance Exams (in which you have to sit 8 exams consisting of Land Law, Equity, Irish Constitutional Law, Law of the European Union, Law of Tort, Criminal Law, Company Law and Law of Contract) a graduate must obtain a traineeship in a solicitor’s office and apply for admission to Blackhall Place as a Trainee Solicitor.

In order to qualify as a barrister in Ireland, students apply to the degree of Barrister-at-Law professional course at King’s Inns by Entrance Examination, which usually takes place in August in each year. To be eligible to apply to sit this examination, an applicant must hold either an approved law degree/approved postgraduate diploma or the Diploma in Legal Studies from King’s Inns. A student who successfully completes the degree of Barrister-at-Law course at King’s Inns is eligible to be admitted to the degree of Barrister-at-Law by The Honorable Society of King’s Inns and added to the Register of Member of the Society. They are also entitled to be called to the Bar by the Chief Justice of Ireland with a full right of audience before all courts in the State and to practise as a barrister independently. Further, the Board shall not recommend the name of any person unless in the opinion of the Board the person concerned: • has displayed in his/her practice as a barrister or solicitor, as the case may be, a degree of competence and a degree of probity appropriate to and consistent with the appointment concerned; • is suitable on grounds of character and temperament; • is otherwise suitable; and • complies with the requirements of Section 19 of the Act. The Board interprets these requirements as a minimum standard. A person must have these qualities to be recommended, but having these qualities is in itself not sufficient for a person to be recommended. Although there is no nationality requirement to be eligible to apply to the Board for judicial office, it is the view of the Board that practice in the capacity of a solicitor or barrister in another jurisdiction does not count towards fulfilment of the requirement for “ten or twelve years standing”, which is a requirement for “ten years’ or twelve years standing” in practice in the capacity of a solicitor or a barrister of this jurisdiction. When considering the suitability of persons for judicial office, the Board requires information to be completed on the application form in relation to ‘character profile’ including questions on whether or not applicants have been convicted of any criminal offence other than a minor road traffic offence. Questions are also asked on whether applicants have had any civil proceedings brought against them concerning debt; tax affairs; professional negligence; and/or any disciplinary matters brought against them by a professional legal body or by the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA). Applicants are also asked to confirm if they are aware of anything in their private or professional life which would be in conflict with the duties or responsibilities of a judge.

110-3. In the frame of these recruitments, please indicate the number of applicants for the position of judge and the number of recruitments actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	255 [] NA	147 [] NA	108 [] NA
Number of recruited persons	13 [] NA	7 [] NA	6 [] NA

Comments

110-4. If the number of applicants decreased in the last years did you take any remedial measures?

() Yes

(X) No

Comments

110-5. If yes, please specify what remedies you implemented:

[] Increase of salary

[] Other financial incentives

[] Improving working conditions

- Workload reduction at the beginning of career
- Other adjustments in the frame of the induction of new judges
- Other

Comments: If "other", please, specify:

=

111. Authority(ies) responsible for recruitment - are judges initially/at the beginning of their career recruited and nominated by:

- An authority made up of judges only
- An authority made up of non-judges only
- An authority/authorities made up of judges and non-judges
- Other

Comments - Please indicate the name of the authority(ies) responsible for the whole procedure of recruitment and nomination of judges. If there are several authorities, please describe their respective roles: The Judicial Appointments Advisory Board consists of the following eleven persons:

The Chief Justice;

the Presidents of the High Court, Court of Appeal, Circuit Court and District Court;

the Attorney General;

a practising barrister, who shall be nominated by the Chairman for the time being of the Council of the Bar of Ireland

a practising solicitor, who shall be nominated by the President for the time being of the Law Society of Ireland

three persons identified as suitable by the Minister for Justice.

The Board may act notwithstanding a vacancy in its membership.

Judges are appointed by the President of Ireland only on the advice of the Government. In advising the President in relation to the appointment of a person to a judicial office the Government shall firstly consider for appointment those persons whose names have been recommended to the Minister by the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board.

111-1. How many members compose this authority?

	Total	Males	Females
Members	9	6	3
	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> NA
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments – Please specify what is the status of this authority and who is proposing/appointing its members:

111-2. May non-selected candidates appeal against the decision on recruitment/appointment?

- Yes
- No

Comments – Please specify the procedure to be followed, the competent authority, the moment for exercising the right of appeal:

112. Is the same authority (Q111) competent for the promotion of judges?

- Yes
- No

Comments - No, please specify which authority is competent for promoting judges The elevation or promotion of sitting Judges does not fall under the remit of the Judicial Appointments Advisory Board or the Courts Service. Rather sitting Judges who wish to be considered

for elevation to a higher court e.g., from the High Court to the Court of Appeal, or the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court must apply by way of an expression of interest letter to the Department of Justice.

113. What is the procedure for the promotion of judges? (multiple replies possible)

- Competitive test / Exam
- Previous individual evaluations
- Other procedure(s) (interview or other)
- No special procedure

Comments - Please specify how the promotion procedure for judges is organised (especially if there is no competition or examination) and how the publicity of promotion processes is ensured: Judges submit their expressions of interest in promotion to the Attorney General and the Minister for Justice.

113-0. In the frame of the promotion procedures, please indicate the number of applicants and the number of promotions actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	27 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	17 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	10 <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of promoted persons	9 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	6 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	3 <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

113-1. Please indicate the criteria used for the promotion of a judge? (multiple replies possible)

- Years of experience
- Professional skills (and/or qualitative performance)
- Performance (quantitative)
- Subjective criteria (e.g. integrity, reputation)
- Other
- No criteria

Comments - Please specify any useful comment regarding the criteria (especially if you have checked the box “performance” or “other”):
Deliberations of the Government are confidential.

The following legislation specifies qualifications required for judicial appointments, including promotion of a judge:

- Section 5 of the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961, as amended by the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, the Courts and Court Officers Act, 2002 and the Supreme Court Act, 2014, provides qualifications required for appointment as a Judge of the Superior Courts.

- Section 17 of the Courts (Supplemental Provisions) Act, 1961, as amended by section 2(2) of the Courts Act, 1973, section 30 of the Courts and Court Officers Act, 1995, section 5 and 6 of the Court and Court Officers Act, 2002 and section 188 of the Personal Insolvency Act 2012, provides qualifications required for appointment as a Judge of the Circuit Court.

5.1.2 Status, recruitment and promotion of prosecutors

115. What is the status of public prosecution services?

- Has an independent status as a separate entity among state institutions
- Is part of the executive power but enjoys functional independence (please briefly explain how and to what extent)

- Is part of the executive power (without functional independence)
- Is part of the judicial power but enjoys functional independence (please briefly explain how and to what extent)
- Is part of the judicial power (without functional independence)
- Is a mixed model (please explain)
- Has other status (please explain)

Comments - When appropriate, please specify the objective guarantees of this independence (such as funding) and where they are enshrined (Constitution, legislation etc.). Furthermore, if “mixed model” or “other”, please specify. See paragraph 2.6 of the Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019).

115-1. Are specific instructions addressed to a public prosecutor to prosecute or not prohibited by law or other regulation?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify: See paragraph 2.6 of the Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019). See chapter 6 in The Prosecution System in Ireland (2021).

The Prosecution System in Ireland is explained in Chapter 2 of the Guidelines for Prosecutors. The Office of the DPP (“the DPP” or “the Office”) is statutorily based with a single incumbent who is assisted by “professional officers” (legal staff) appointed pursuant to open competition by the Director. Pursuant to section 4(1)(a) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1974, the Director is empowered to direct professional officers to perform, on her behalf and in accordance with her instructions, any function in relation to particular cases. Delegations to carry out the functions of the preferring, continuation or withdrawal of charges and all functions ancillary to or connected with the function of prosecuting criminal cases have been made to the legal staff in the Directing Division and they will make the decisions in specific cases to prosecute or not in relation to files submitted to the DPP and where a prosecution is directed will make decisions as necessary in relation to the trial. The Solicitors Division within the DPP’s Office and State Solicitors prepare cases for trial inside and outside Dublin respectively and the prosecution decisions in specific cases of the members of the Directing Division are communicated to the member of the Solicitors Division in the Office or the State Solicitor who has carriage of the trial. The Director has also delegated some decision-making in relation to judicial review cases, acceptance of pleas and assets seizing where these issues arise in specific cases to senior legal staff in the Solicitors Division.

The system incorporates a number of safeguards. These decisions are taken in accordance with the instructions of the Director, which includes performing the functions in accordance with the Guidelines for Prosecutors and also a system of written referrals and submissions to Unit Heads, Head of Directing Division, the Deputy Director and ultimately the Director. The referrals and submissions system applies in both pre-identified types of cases (which is subject to ongoing review) and is also available at the discretion of the professional officer where they deem necessary in a particular case. The Directions on prosecution are in writing and in cases of urgency where oral directions require to be given they are committed to writing at the earliest possible opportunity. In addition, goals are set and statistics kept on the time taken to issue directions and statistics on the time taken are available for 2021 in the DPP’s Annual Report 2021. The Annual Report also gives an overview of the system and statistics on prosecution decisions and trials.

115-2. If they are prohibited by law or other regulation, are there exceptions?

- Yes
- No
- NAP

Comments - Please describe these exceptions:

115-3. Which authority can issue such specific instructions?

- General Prosecutor
- Higher prosecutor/Head of prosecution office
- Executive power

Other

NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify:

115-4. What form these instructions may take?

Oral instruction

Oral instruction with written confirmation

Written instruction

Other

NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify:

115-5. In that case, are the instructions:

Issued seeking prior advice from the competent public prosecutor

Mandatory

Reasoned

Recorded in the case file

Other

NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify:

115-6. What is the frequency of this type of instructions:

Exceptional

Occasional

Frequent

Systematic

NAP

Comments

115-7. Can the public prosecutor oppose/report an instruction to an independent body?

Yes

No

NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify to which body/institution and please describe under which conditions.

116. How are public prosecutors recruited?

through a competitive exam (open competition)

through a recruitment procedure for experienced legal professionals (for example experienced lawyers)

other (please specify):

Comments The Director is appointed by Government following a process prescribed in the Prosecution of Offences Act 1974. The

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) is a civil servant in the civil service of the State who is appointed by the government from a selection of candidates recommended to the government by a statutory committee, consisting of the Chief Justice, the Chairman of the General Council of the Bar of Ireland, the President of the Law Society, the Secretary to the Government and the Director General of the Office of the Attorney General. Tenure is a matter to be determined by the government on appointment, the current office holder being on a 10-year non-renewable term. All other prosecutors, although not civil servants, are appointed to the office under the rules applying to civil servants on permanent contract subject to an upper retirement age. Authority to appoint prosecutors' rests with the Director of Public Prosecutions under the Prosecution of Offences Act 1974 as amended by the Civil Service Regulation (Amendment) Act 2005. The Director is responsible for the appointment and promotion of prosecutors. Recruitment is carried out in accordance with the Codes of Practice established by the Commission for Public Service Appointments and in accordance with our licence granted by the Commission for Public Service Appointment. Details of this body are provided in Question 66-1. In general prosecutors are recruited through competitive interview for which qualification as a solicitor/barrister is necessary to be eligible to complete. A very small number of appointments as prosecutor are made following training and subsequent qualification as a solicitor/barrister which is available to non-legal professionals in the Office. The initial recruitment of employees participating in this training is through open competition and the process for inclusion in the training programme is competitive. Once it has been determined that a candidate be considered for appointment to the prosecution service, a comprehensive background check is conducted by An Garda Síochána, the Irish police service. State solicitors are currently appointed by the Director, on the basis of a ten-year, renewable, contract for services. The Director is responsible for the dismissal of prosecutors at the grade of principal officer and above, while the deputy director is responsible for dismissal of prosecutors of a lower grade.

116-1. Please briefly describe the recruitment procedure(s) for prosecutors in your country:

. In general prosecutors are recruited through competitive interview, for which qualification as a solicitor/barrister is necessary to be eligible to complete. The Selection Process may include the following: i. Submission of Application form
ii. Shortlisting of candidates based on the information contained in their Application
iii. Initial/preliminary interview
iv. Presentation or other exercises v. A final competitive interview vi. Any other tests or exercises that may be deemed appropriate
A very small number of appointments as prosecutor are made following training and subsequent qualification as a solicitor/barrister which is available to non-legal professionals in the Office of the DPP. The initial recruitment of employees participating in this training is through open competition and the process for inclusion in the training programme is competitive. Once it has been determined that a candidate be considered for appointment to the prosecution service, a comprehensive background check is conducted by An Garda Síochána, the Irish police service.

116-2. What are the recruitment requirements for prosecutors (multiple replies possible)?

- Age
- Nationality
- Physical/Psychological capacity
- General studies in law
- Advanced studies in law (Master, PhD)
- Number of years of relevant experience
- Traineeship/judicial functions in courts
- Validation of a general state examination in law
- Validation of a specific examination for prosecutors
- Clean criminal record

Foreign languages

Personal requirements (related to integrity)

Other

NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify: In relation to nationality, as per the rules relating to the recruitment of civil servant, eligible candidates must be:

(a) A citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA consists of the Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; or

(b) A citizen of the United Kingdom (UK); or

(c) A citizen of Switzerland pursuant to the agreement between the EU and Switzerland on the free movement of persons; or

(d) A non-EEA citizen who is a spouse or child of an EEA or UK or Swiss citizen and has a stamp 4 visa; or

(e) A person awarded international protection under the International Protection Act 2015 or any family member entitled to remain in the State as a result of family reunification and has a stamp 4 visa; or

(f) A non-EEA citizen who is a parent of a dependent child who is a citizen of, and resident in, an EEA member state or the UK or Switzerland and has a stamp 4 visa.

116-3. In the frame of these recruitments, please indicate the number of applicants for the position of prosecutor and the number of recruitments actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	78 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	22 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	56 <input type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of recruited persons	26 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	9 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	17 <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

116-4. If the number of applicants decreased in the last years did you take any remedial measures?

Yes

No

Comments

116-5. If yes, please specify what remedies you implemented:

Increase of salary

Other financial incentives

Improving working conditions

Workload reduction at the beginning of career

Other adjustments in the frame of the induction of new prosecutors

Other

Comments: If "other", please, specify: Reduced level of post qualification experience required, broadened essential legal requirements to include other areas of law

117. Authority(ies) responsible for recruitment - Are public prosecutors initially/at the beginning of their career recruited by:

An authority composed of public prosecutors only

- An authority composed of non-public prosecutors only
- An authority composed of public prosecutors and non-public prosecutors
- Other

Comments - Please indicate the name of the authority(ies) responsible for the whole procedure of recruitment and nomination of public prosecutors. If there are several authorities, please describe their respective roles: The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions runs its competitions in compliance with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Appointments to Positions in the Civil Service and Public Service prepared by the Commission for Public Service Appointments (CPSA). Codes of practice are published by the CPSA and are available on <https://www.cpsa.ie/>. At higher prosecution grades, the competition is run for the Office by the Public Appointment Service in line with the procedures for the Top Level Appointments Commission.

With the exception of the most senior legal posts (Assistant Secretary equivalent and above), the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) does not use the Public Appointments Service nor any other external body for recruitment competitions or to sit on interview panels. All Competitions for legal positions are open to both external and internal eligible candidates. For competitions organised by the ODPP directly (i.e. all legal posts excluding Assistant Secretary equivalent and above), an interview panel is made up of 3-4 board members depending on the seniority of the post. At least one of the members on the interview panel must be external to the ODPP. There is no external authority involved in the running of these competitions. In the case of competitions for Assistant Secretary posts and above, the Public Appointments Service run a Top Level Appointment Commission (TLAC) style competition on our behalf. The Board (4-5 members in total) comprises of members of this Office (Director/ Deputy Director), other senior criminal legal experts and a member of the TLAC panel. The DPP is the appointing authority for staff recruited to the Office.

117-1. How many members compose this authority?

	Total	Male	Female
Members	5 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments – Please specify what is the status of this authority and who is proposing/appointing its members: In the case of competitions for Assistant Secretary grades and above, the Public Appointments Service run a Top Level Appointment Commission (TLAC) style competition on behalf of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The Board (4-5 members in total) comprises of members of this Office (Director/ Deputy Director), other senior criminal legal experts and a member of the TLAC panel. The DPP is the appointing authority for staff recruited to the Office. Membership of the Top Level Appointments Commission arises from key positions held. The members are the Ceann Comhaire of Dáil Éireann (Chairperson or Speaker of Parliament), the Ombudsman, the Secretary General to the Government, the Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Chairperson of the Standards in Public Office Commission.

117-2. May non-selected candidates appeal against the decision on recruitment/appointment?

- Yes
- No

Comments – Please specify the procedure to be followed, the competent authority, the moment for exercising the right of appeal: Candidates not selected for appointment as prosecutors can request a review of the process by the Commission for Public Service Appointments.

118. Is the same authority (Q.117) competent for the promotion of public prosecutors?

- Yes
- No, please specify which authority is competent for promoting public prosecutors

Comments

119. What is the procedure for the promotion of prosecutors? (multiple replies possible)

- Competitive test / exam
- Previous individual evaluations
- Other procedure(s) (interview or other)
- No special procedure

Comments - Please specify how the promotion procedure for prosecutors is organised (especially if there is no competition or examination) and how the publicity of promotion processes is ensured: Career progression from one grade of Prosecutor to another is managed by formal promotion competitions. The competitions are advertised setting out the requirements of the grade and the experience and competencies required. Written applications are submitted by candidates which are considered by a selection board which comprise representatives of the Office and an external member. The selection board considers the applications against predetermined criteria and may shortlist the number of candidates called for interview. Panels are created in order of merit following interview and appointments are made from panels, in order of merit, as vacancies fall to be filled. Please see question 161-1 for further details.

119-1. In the frame of the promotion procedures, please indicate the number of applicants and the number of promotions actually made during the reference year:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of applicants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
Number of promoted persons	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA	1 <input type="checkbox"/> NA

Comments

119-2. Please indicate the criteria used for the promotion of a prosecutor:

- Years of experience
- Professional skills (and/or qualitative performance)
- Performance (quantitative)
- Subjective criteria (e.g. integrity, reputation)
- Other
- No criteria

Comments - Please, specify any useful comment regarding the criteria (especially if you have checked the box "performance" or "other"): Other areas in which the candidate may be required to show competence include: specialist legal knowledge, expertise and self-development; judgement and decision making; management and delivery of results; and building relationships and communications; leadership and strategic direction.

5.1.3Mandate and retirement of judges and prosecutors

121. Are judges appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?

- Yes, please indicate the compulsory retirement age:70
- No

Comments - If yes, are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify: Article 35.4 of the Constitution of Ireland states:

1. A judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court shall not be removed from office except for stated misbehaviour or incapacity and then only upon resolutions passed by Dáil Éireann and by Seanad Éireann calling for his removal.

2. The Taoiseach shall duly notify the President of any such resolutions passed by Dáil Éireann and by Seanad Éireann, and shall send him a copy of every such resolution certified by the Chairman of the House of the Oireachtas by which it shall have been passed.

3. Upon receipt of such notification and of copies of such resolutions, the President shall forthwith, by an order under his hand and Seal, remove from office the judge to whom they relate.

To date no judge has ever been removed and the phrase in Article 35.4.1 referring to “stated misbehaviour or incapacity” has never had to be judicially interpreted.

121-1. Can a judge be transferred to another court without his/her consent:

- For disciplinary reasons
- For organisational reasons
- For other reasons (please specify modalities and safeguards):
- No

Comments

122. Is there a probation period for judges (e.g. before being appointed "for life")? If yes, how long is this period?

- Yes, duration of the probation period (in years):
- No

Comments

123. Are public prosecutors appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?

- Yes, please indicate the compulsory retirement age:70
- No

Comments - If yes, are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify: The Director of Public Prosecutors is appointed for a 10-year non-renewable term.

124. Is there a probation period for public prosecutors? If yes, how long is this period?

- Yes, duration of the probation period (in years):1
- No

Comments

125. If the mandate of judges is not for an undetermined period (see question 121), what is the length of the mandate (in years)?

- []
- NA
- NAP

Comments

125-1. Is it renewable?

- Yes
- No
- NAP

Comments

126. If the mandate of public prosecutors is not for an undetermined period (see question 123), what is the length of the mandate (in years)?

[]

[] NA

[X] NAP

Comments

126-1. Is it renewable?

() Yes

() No

[X] NAP

Comments

E1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Department of Justice, Civil Governance Unit, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution

5.2. Training

5.2.1 Training of judges

127. Types of different trainings offered to judges:

	Compulsory	Optional	No training proposed
Initial training (e.g. attend a judicial school, traineeship in a court)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
General in-service training	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for specialised judicial functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for management functions of the court (e.g. court president)	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in courts	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on ethics	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on child-friendly justice	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No

In-service training on gender equality	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Other in- service training	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No

Comments

128. Frequency of the in-service training of judges:

	Frequency of the judges training
General in-service training	[X] Regularly (for example every year) [] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed
In-service training for specialised judicial functions (e.g. judge for economic or administrative issues)	[] Regularly (for example every year) [X] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed
In-service training for management functions of the court (e.g. court president)	[] Regularly (for example every year) [] Occasional (as needed) [X] No training proposed
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in courts	[X] Regularly (for example every year) [] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed
In-service training on ethics	[X] Regularly (for example every year) [] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed
In-service training on child-friendly justice	[] Regularly (for example every year) [X] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed
In-service training on gender equality	[] Regularly (for example every year) [X] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed
Other in- service training	[X] Regularly (for example every year) [] Occasional (as needed) [] No training proposed

Comments - Please indicate any information on the periodicity of the continuous training of judges:

128-1. Do you have a minimum number of compulsory trainings per judge:

Per judge

Initial compulsory training – minimum number of trainings	<p>_____</p> <p>Min numeric value allowed : 0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP</p>
Initial compulsory training – minimum number of days	<p>_____</p> <p>Min numeric value allowed : 0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP</p>
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of trainings per year	<p>_____</p> <p>Min numeric value allowed : 0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP</p>
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of days per year	<p>_____</p> <p>Min numeric value allowed : 0</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> NA</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP</p>

Comments

5.2.2 Training of prosecutors

129. Types of different trainings offered to public prosecutors:

	Compulsory	Optional	No training proposed
Initial training	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
General in-service training	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. public prosecutors specialised in organised crime)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for management functions (e.g. Head of prosecution office, manager)	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in office	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on ethics	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on child-friendly justice	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
In-service training on gender equality	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No
Other in- service training	() Yes (X) No	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No

Comments

130. Frequency of the in-service training of public prosecutors :

	Frequency of the in-service training
General in-service training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training for specialised functions (e.g. public prosecutor specialised in organised crime)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training for management functions (e.g. Head of prosecution office, manager)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training for the use of computer facilities in office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training on ethics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training on child-friendly justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
In-service training on gender equality	<input type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed
Other in- service training	<input type="checkbox"/> Regularly (for example every year) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occasional (as needed) <input type="checkbox"/> No training proposed

Comments - Please indicate any information on the periodicity of the in-service training of prosecutors: The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has an extensive internal learning and development curriculum. This is overseen and led by the Office has a Legal Training Steering Committee which is chaired by the Chief Prosecution Solicitor and includes representatives from the legal staff and management. The Committee's aim is to draw together the training requirements and to decide on the programmes for the legal staff of the Office. This is supported by the Office's Human Resources & Organisational Development Unit. The Office also conducts skills and knowledge audits which identifies learning needs. Once needs are identified an appropriate solution is implemented, this can include the following: experiential learning, peer to peer learning, formal presentations, workshops, communities of practice or policies and procedures. The Office also operates a "Refund of Fees Scheme" whereby staff can receive financial assistance to complete courses in their own time, which involve knowledge and skills deemed of relevance to the work of the Office. These courses are offered by external providers such as universities or other third level institutions, as well as the Law Society of Ireland and the Honorable Society of Kings Inns. Legal Staff can also participate in courses offered by One Learning (the learning and development provider for the Irish Civil Service). These courses include training in management and leadership skills, for example. Legal Staff also regularly attend external training and conferences e.g. with the International Association of Prosecutors and the ERA, Academy of Law. The Office also holds an annual prosecutors conference, which is attended by legal staff from the Office and includes external expert speakers. Solicitors must also

carry out 20 hours of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) per year which includes minimum requirements in the categories of “Management and Professional Development Skills” and “Regulatory Matters”).

Legal staff employed by the Office are either solicitors or barristers. To practice as a solicitor, it is required to be admitted to the Roll of Solicitors. To be admitted, it is required to carry out Professional Practice Courses organised by the Law Society of Ireland and also complete in-office training. To qualify as a barrister, it is required to complete and be admitted to the barrister-at-law degree at the Honorable Society of Kings Inns and be called to the Bar. Practising barristers must “undertake the continuing education and professional development necessary to ensure an adequate level of knowledge and competence in his area(s) of practice”. A Practising Barrister must also comply with any minimum requirements for continuing education and professional development as may be prescribed by the Legal Services Regulation Authority (see paragraph 3.32, Legal Services Regulation Authority, Code of Practice for Practising Barristers). The Legal Services Regulation Authority have made recommendations in relation to legal practitioner education and training which may be of assistance - see Setting Standards: Legal Practitioner Education and Training (2020).

130-1. Do you have a minimum number of compulsory trainings per prosecutor:

	Per prosecutor
Initial compulsory training – minimum number of trainings	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Initial compulsory training – minimum number of days	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of trainings per year	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 20 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of days per year	_____ Min numeric value allowed : 0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments In-service compulsory trainings – minimum number of trainings per year: 20hrs minimum

5.2.3 Training institutions

131. Do you have public training institutions for judges and / or prosecutors?

	Initial training only	Continuous training only	Initial and continuous training
Institution(s) for judges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Institution(s) for prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institution(s) for both judges and prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments

131-0. If yes, what is the implemented budget of such institution(s)?

	Implemented budget of the institution for the reference year, in €
Institution(s) for judges	250 000 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Institution(s) for prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Institution(s) for both judges and prosecutors	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Other body i.e. Courts Service also expends funds in this area

131-1. If judges and/or prosecutors have no compulsory initial training in such institutions, please indicate briefly how judges and/or prosecutors are trained?

. The Office of the DPP does not provide initial training. Ireland does not have a model of public training institutions for prosecutors. Initial training in order to obtain the professional qualification (solicitor/barrister) necessary in order to be recruited by the Office of the DPP as a prosecutor is provided by the relevant professional bodies – The Law Society (solicitors) and the Bar Council (barristers). In addition, some non-decision making prosecutorial work is contracted by the ODPP to barristers (advocacy work) and Solicitors (State Solicitors contracted to carry our trial management work outside Dublin). Ongoing training is provided to these legal professionals doing prosecutorial work by their professional bodes and it is also possible for them to access some of the training organised by the ODPP

5.2.4 Number of trainings

131-2. Number of in-service trainings available and delivered (in days) by the public institution(s) responsible for training.

	Number of different live (in person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings available	Number of live (in person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings delivered	Number of days of delivered live (in person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings	Number of internet-based trainings available on the e-learning platform of the training institution (not live)
Total	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
For judges	13 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	32 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	32 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
For prosecutors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
For non-judge staff	21 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	21 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	359 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	134 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

For non-prosecutor staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA
	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments For Judges: These figures should be treated as approximate as the data gathering and collation was emerging and therefore some under reporting may have occurred. These figures only relate to training offered by the Judicial Council and not training offered by other bodies within or outside the State which judges may have attended.

131-3. Number of participants in the trainings during the reference year.

	Number of participants in live (in-person, hybrid, videoconference) trainings	Number of participants in internet-based trainings provided on the e-learning platform of the training institution (not live)
Total	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Judges	294 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Prosecutors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Non-judge staff	2 216 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	4 235 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Non-prosecutor staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

E2. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Judicial Council Courts Service Office of the Director of Public Prosecution

5.3. Practice of the profession

5.3.1 Salaries and benefits of judges and prosecutors



132. Salaries of judges and public prosecutors on 31 December of the reference year:

	Gross annual salary, in €	Net annual salary, in €	Gross annual salary, in local currency	Net annual salary, in local currency
First instance professional judge at the beginning of his/her career	139 917 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court (please indicate the highest salary of a judge at this level, excluding the salary of the Court President)	257 872 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Public prosecutor at the beginning of his/her career	36 450 [] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
Public prosecutor of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Instance (please indicate the highest salary of a public prosecutor at this level, excluding the salary of the Attorney General).	[X] NA [] NAP	[X] NA [] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comment – Please describe briefly how the salaries are determined during the career of a judge/prosecutor: The judicial salary reflects that of a judge of the District Court and a judge of the Supreme Court as at 31 December 2022.

Statutory deductions such as PAYE, USC, pension contributions will vary according to personal circumstances. In every case these will be charged in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions.

Judges appointed post 1 January 2017 are placed on a three-point pay scale.

Reason for Discrepancy: The question asked in this year’s survey is slightly different than the one asked in the previous survey. This means that the replies should not be compared directly. The 2021 survey asked for “Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court (please indicate the average salary of a judge at this level, and not the salary of the Court President) as at 31 December 2020”.

The figure provided for this in 2021 – €208,854.00 – corresponded to the salary for a newly appointed Judge with less than 1 year of experience in the Supreme Court.

The current survey asked for the salaries of judges and public prosecutors on 31 December 2022, specifically, the salary for “Judge of the Supreme Court or the Highest Appellate Court (please indicate the highest salary of a judge at this level, excluding the salary of the Court President)”.

The figure provided in this year’s survey – €257,872.00 – corresponded to the highest salary point on the scale for Judge of the Supreme Court.

It should further be noted, that since 2020, the members of the judiciary had a number of pay increases in Ireland which included the restoration of pay to pre-austerity levels on 1 July 2022.

The salary of the Director of Public Prosecutions (the most senior person in the Irish Prosecution service) is linked to Irish Civil Service Secretary General Grade II. This salary is currently €243,600. As with all civil service salaries, this is subject to pension (individual and spouse and dependent contributions) and tax related deductions such Income Tax, Universal Social Charge and Pay Related Social Insurance.

133. Do judges and public prosecutors have additional benefits?

	Judges	Public prosecutors
Reduced taxation	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Special pension	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Housing	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Other financial benefit	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No

Comments Judges receive an annual allowance as well as travel (mileage) and subsistence (hotels).

134. If “other financial benefit”, please specify:

. Judges receive an annual allowance as well as travel (mileage) and subsistence (hotels). This is not a newly introduced benefit but has been the case for many years, with e.g. Circuit Court judges notably being in receipt of expenses in respect of travel from home to court venue since 1924. This seems to have been missed in the replies provided previously.

[] NAP

=

135. Can judges combine their work with any of the following functions/activities?

	With remuneration	Without remuneration
Teaching	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Research and publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Arbitrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Cultural function	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Political function	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Mediator	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Other function	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If rules exist in your country (e.g. authorisation needed to perform these activities), please specify. If “other function”, please specify.

137. Can public prosecutors combine their work with any of the following functions/activities?

	With remuneration	Without remuneration
Teaching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Research and publication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Arbitrator	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Cultural function	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Political function	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Mediator	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Other function	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If rules exist in your country (e.g. authorisation needed to perform these activities), please specify. If “other function”, please specify: As Civil servants/ public prosecutors, it is possible to participate in research and/ or teaching once it is approved internally by the Deputy Director. Arbitrator, consultant and political function are prohibited under the Civil Service Codes and Standards of Behaviour.

139. Productivity bonuses: do judges receive bonuses based on the fulfilment of quantitative objectives in relation to the number of resolved cases (e.g. number of cases resolved over a given period of time)?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify the conditions and if possible the amounts:

5.3.2 Body/institution of ethics

138. Is there in your country an institution / body giving guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of the conduct of judges (e.g. involvement in political life, use of social media by judges, etc.)?

- Yes
- No

Comment - Please specify:

138-1. If yes, who are the members of this institution/body?

- Only judges
- Judges and other legal professionals
- Other, please specify:

Comments The Judicial Council which was established in December 2019 is the statutory body responsible for inter alia, the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct among judges in Ireland. An independent committee of the Council, the Judicial Conduct Committee, drew up Guidelines on judicial conduct and ethics which were adopted by the entire Judicial Council in February 2022. These Guidelines are based on the Bangalore Principles which are internationally recognised standards for judicial conduct. Only judges are members of the Judicial Council however the Judicial Conduct Committee is made up of both judicial and lay members.

138-2. Are the guidelines and/or opinions of this institution / body publicly available?

- Yes
- No

Comments - Please describe the work of this institution / body, the frequency of the guidelines and/or opinions, etc.: On judicialcouncil.ie The principal function of the Judicial Conduct Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct among judges, having regard to the principles of judicial conduct requiring judges to uphold and exemplify judicial independence, impartiality, integrity,

propriety (including the appearance of propriety), competence and diligence and to ensure equality of treatment of all persons before the courts. Guidelines drawn up by the Judicial Conduct Committee were adopted in February 2022. Procedures for the admission of complaints about judges were finalised in September 2022 and the Judicial Council commenced receiving complaints in relation to judicial conduct for the first time in October 2022.

138-2-1. How many guidelines and/or opinions were given during the reference year?

[]

[X] NA

Comments – Please specify what were the topics addressed in these guidelines and/or opinions Guidelines were adopted in February 2022 with procedures for dealing with complaints finalised in September 2022. The Guidelines are based on the Bangalore Principles which can be summarised as dealing with judicial independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety (including the appearance of propriety), competence and diligence and to ensure equality of treatment of all persons before the courts.

138-3. Is there in your country an institution / body giving guidelines and/or opinions on ethical questions of the conduct of prosecutors (e.g. involvement in political life, use of social media by prosecutors, etc.)

(X) Yes

() No

Comment: Please specify The Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour (published by the Standards in Public Office Commission on <https://www.sipo.ie/acts-and-codes/guidelines/>) sets out the main principles which govern the behaviour of staff in a modern Civil Service. Prosecutors who are members of the Civil Service are obliged to act in accordance with that Code subject always to the statutory guarantee of the independence of the Director of Public Prosecutions and bearing in mind the status of officers of the Director as civil servants of the State rather than the Government.

Prosecutors are also obliged under section 18 of the Ethics in Public Office Act 1995 to make an annual written statement in respect of their interests and those of their spouse, civil partner, child or stepchild which could materially influence them in the performance of their official duties.

See also Part 3 of the of the Guidelines for Prosecutors (5th edition, 2019). (<https://www.dppireland.ie/app/uploads/2023/01/Guidelines-for-Prosecutors-5th-Edition-eng.pdf>).

138-4. If yes, who are the members of this institution/body?

() Only prosecutors

() Prosecutors and other legal professionals

(X) Other, please specify:Standards in Public Office Commission

Comments The Standards in Public Office Commission oversees compliance by civil and public servants and designated office holders with the Ethics in Public Office Acts. The Commission is not specifically established to oversee prosecutors but applies to public officials including prosecutors. The structure of the Standards Commission is set out in the Standards in Public Office Act 2001. The Commission must be chaired by a current or former judge of either the Supreme Court or the High Court. The Chairperson is appointed by the President of Ireland for a six-year term. Four members of the Commission are considered "ex-officio" members - that is, they are automatically members due to their "day jobs". These include the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Ombudsman, the Clerk of Dáil Éireann and the Clerk of Seanad Éireann. Finally, an "ordinary member" of the Commission is appointed by the government, following resolutions of both Houses of the Oireachtas. This member must be a former member of either the Dáil or the Seanad, and is appointed for a six-year term. See <https://www.sipo.ie/about/our-members/>

138-5. Are the guidelines and/or opinions of this institution / body publicly available?

(X) Yes

() No

138-5-1. How many guidelines and/or opinions were given during the reference year?

[]
[X] NA

Comments – Please specify what were the topics addressed in these guidelines and/or opinions

5.4. Disciplinary procedures

5.4.1 Authorities responsible for disciplinary procedures and sanctions

140. Who is authorised to initiate disciplinary proceedings against judges (multiple replies possible)?

- Court users
- Relevant Court or hierarchical superior
- High Court / Supreme Court
- High Judicial Council
- Disciplinary court
- Disciplinary body
- Ombudsman
- Parliament
- Executive power (please specify):
- Other (please specify): Judicial Council
- This is not possible

Comments The Judicial Council which was established in December 2019 is the statutory body responsible for inter alia, the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct among judges in Ireland. An independent committee of the Council, the Judicial Conduct Committee, first established in June 2020, drew up Guidelines on judicial conduct and ethics which were adopted by the entire Judicial Council in February 2022. The role of the Judicial Conduct Committee is set out in Section 43 of the Judicial Council Act 2019 and its objectives are to consider complaints in relation to the conduct of judges, take any necessary action necessary to safeguard the administration of justice and preparing guidelines concerning judicial conduct and ethics and procedures for the processing of judicial complaints.

On the 3rd of October 2022 the Minister for Justice commenced the provisions of the Act which enable a person to make a complaint about the conduct of a judge in Ireland in respect of allegations of misconduct arising on or after that date.

141. Who is authorised to initiate disciplinary proceedings against public prosecutors: (multiple replies possible):

- Citizens
- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior public prosecutor
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- Public prosecutorial Council (High Judicial Council)
- Disciplinary court

- Disciplinary body
- Ombudsman
- Professional body
- Executive power (please specify):
- Other (please specify):
- This is not possible

Comments The civil service disciplinary code provides that a relevant manager may commence a disciplinary process. A ‘relevant manager’ could be the line manager, a more senior manager or a HR Manager as appropriate to a specific situation. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against prosecutors by their professional bodies, the Law Society of Ireland and the Bar Council of Ireland. The Civil Service Code of Standards and Behaviour applies to all Prosecutors. On appointment to the ODPP, Prosecutors are asked to familiarise themselves with the Code and sign a confirmation document to confirm they have done so. Any Prosecutor in breach of the Code could be dismissed under circular 19 of 2016 Civil Service Disciplinary Code. Employees have a right to appeal a decision in accordance with the appeals process, set out in Part 4 of the Code.

142. Which authority has disciplinary power over judges (multiple replies possible)?

- Court
- Higher Court / Supreme Court
- High Judicial Council
- Disciplinary court or body
- Ombudsman
- Parliament
- Executive power (please specify):
- Other (please specify):Judicial Council

Comments Where a complaint has been admitted, the Judicial Conduct Committee of the Judicial will consider the alleged judicial misconduct. The Committee may consider whether the complaint is suitable for resolution informally. If not, the Committee will convene a Panel of Inquiry to carry out an investigation. That Panel will comprise a judge from the same court as the judge complained of, a judge from a different jurisdiction and a lay member of the Panel of Inquiry appointed by the Government. The Committee may also, in the absence of a complaint about a judge’s conduct, but where it considers it necessary to safeguard the administration of justice, refer a matter for investigation by a Panel of Inquiry. The Panel of Inquiry has various powers under the Judicial Council Act 2019. Those powers include conducting a hearing in relation to the matter. There are a number of options available to the panel in the course of the investigation but ultimately it will lead to the panel preparing a report for the committee. That report will include matters such as cooperation by the parties with the process, whether the complaint is proven, if so the reprimand which should be applied, and whether there is a concern in relation to the health of the judge arising which has become apparent. In the case of a reprimand the panel can recommend advice to the judge, a specific course of action or admonishment, as well as any further matter to safeguard the administration of justice.

The Committee, having considered the report, has further powers which may result in the complaint being referred back to the panel or leading it to a determination as to whether the complaint has been substantiated. It may decide that no action is required, adopt the recommendation of the panel or refer the matter to the Minister for Justice for the purpose of Article 35.4 of the Constitution.

On the 3rd of October 2022 the Minister for Justice commenced the provisions of the Act which enable a person to make a complaint about the conduct of a judge in Ireland in respect of allegations of misconduct arising on or after that date.

Where the judge is required to follow a course of action decided upon by the committee, the committee will monitor compliance. Failure to comply by that judge may also result in a referral to the Minister.

143. Which authority has disciplinary power over public prosecutors (multiple replies possible)?

- Supreme Court

- Head of the organisational unit or hierarchical superior
- Prosecutor General /State public prosecutor
- Public prosecutorial Council (High Judicial Council)
- Disciplinary court or body
- Ombudsman
- Professional body
- Executive power (please specify):
- Other (please specify):

Comments

5.4.2 Number of disciplinary procedures and sanctions

144. Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated during the reference year against judges and public prosecutors. (If a disciplinary proceeding is undertaken because of several reasons, please count the proceedings only once and for the main reason.)

	Judges	Prosecutors
Total number (1+2+3+4)	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Breach of professional ethics	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Professional inadequacy	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Criminal offence	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other	0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify:

145. Number of sanctions pronounced during the reference year against judges and public prosecutors:

	Judges	Prosecutors
Total number (total 1 to 10)	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Reprimand	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Suspension	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	0 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

3. Withdrawal from cases	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
4. Fine	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
5. Temporary reduction of salary	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
6. Position downgrade	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
7. Transfer to another geographical (court) location	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
8. Resignation	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
9. Other	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP
10. Dismissal	0 [] NA [] NAP	0 [] NA [] NAP

Comments - If “other”, please specify. If a significant difference exists between the number of disciplinary proceedings and the number of sanctions, please indicate the reasons. The system for dealing with judicial misconduct in Ireland was commenced in October 2022. Therefore there has not yet been a full year for receipt of complaints. To date, no complaints received have been deemed admissible.

E3. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Judicial Council Office of the Director of Public Prosecution

6.Lawyers

6.1.Profession of lawyer

6.1.1Status of the profession of lawyers

146. Total number of lawyers practising in your country:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of lawyers	14 177 [] NA	6 975 [] NA	7 167 [] NA

Comments The above figures represent members of the Law Library (barristers) and members of the Law Society (solicitors)

147. Does this figure include “legal advisors” who cannot represent their clients in court (for

example, some solicitors or in-house counsellors)?

Yes ()

No (X)

Comments Practicing solicitors are entitled to represent their clients in court. More information is available here:

•<https://mcmahonsolicitors.ie/parties/#:~:text=Originally%2C%20only%20barristers%20had%20rights,majority%20of%20Circuit%20Court%20cases>

•<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/justice/courtroom/solicitors.html>

148. Number of legal advisors who cannot represent their clients in court:

[]

[] NA

[X] NAP

Comments

=

149. Is legal representation in courts exclusively exercised by lawyers in: (multiple replies possible)

	First instance	Second instance	Highest instance court (Supreme Court)
Civil cases	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Dismissal cases	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Criminal cases – Defendant	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Criminal cases – Victim	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP
Administrative cases	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP	() Yes always () Yes in some cases (X) No [] NAP

Comments - Please indicate any useful clarifications regarding the content of lawyers' exclusive rights: There are two different types of lawyers to choose from for legal representation; both solicitors and barristers can represent clients in court. While solicitors are engaged in all cases, a barrister will appear as an advocate for the client when instructed by the client's solicitors to do so. Solicitors have had full rights of audience in all courts since the early 1970s. In addition, clients are entitled to represent themselves in court if they wish to do so.

149-0. If other than lawyers may represent a client in court, please specify who:

	First instance	Second instance	Highest instance court (Supreme Court)
Civil society organisation	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Family member	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Self-representation	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No	(X) Yes () No
Trade union	(X) Yes () No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No
Other	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No	() Yes (X) No

Comments - If "other", please specify. In addition, for the categories selected please specify the types of cases concerned by this/these representation(s): While solicitors are engaged in all cases, a barrister will appear as an advocate for the client when instructed by the client's solicitors to do so. Solicitors have the full right of audience before all courts. Revenue Officials, Trade Union Officials and family members may appear in certain types of proceedings in limited circumstances. Laypersons are entitled to represent themselves in court. In addition, people can obtain reasonable assistance from a layperson, sometimes called a McKenzie friend (MF). Litigants assisted by MFs remain litigants in person. MFs do not have an independent right to provide assistance. They do not have the right to act as advocates or to carry out the conduct of litigation. They have no entitlement to payment for their services. Former solicitors struck off the Roll of Solicitors because of professional misconduct and former barristers who have been disbarred for professional misconduct may not act as McKenzie friends in either the Court of Appeal or the High Court.

Further information is available in the CC19 Practice Direction, HC72 Practice Direction and HC77 Practice Direction.

149-1. In addition to the functions of legal representation and legal advice, can a lawyer exercise other activities?

- Notarial activity
- Arbitration / mediation
- Proxy / representation
- Property manager
- Real estate agent
- Other (please specify):

Comments While solicitors may have additional competencies with regard to some of the enumerated activities, they cannot be a solicitor and property manager or a solicitor and real estate agent at the same time as providing the functions of legal representation or legal advice.

149-2. Professional lawyers may have the status of:

- Self-employed lawyer
- Staff lawyer
- In-house lawyer

Comments TWhile barristers only can have the status of "self-employed" solicitors can practice as sole practitioners, as a partner in a solicitors firm, as an employee in a solicitor's firm or as an in-house solicitor.

150. Is the lawyer profession organised through:

- a national bar association
- a regional bar association

a local bar association

Comments Barristers are organised through the Law Library while The Law Society is the educational, representative and regulatory body of the solicitors' profession in Ireland.

151. Is there a specific initial training and/or exam to enter the profession of lawyer?

Yes

No

Comments - Please indicate if there are other specific requirements as regards diplomas or university degrees: Barristers: Completion of training at Kings Inns gives rise to what is known as the Barrister-at-Law (BL) degree and once a student has received their BL degree they are eligible to be 'called to the Bar of Ireland' where they will be admitted to practice by the Chief Justice of Ireland and will be eligible to become a member of the Law Library and undertake a one-year period of pupillage, commonly referred to as 'devilling'. Solicitors: Information on the process of qualifying as a solicitor is available here: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/education--cpd/Become-a-Solicitor>

152. Is there a mandatory general in-service professional training system for lawyers?

Yes

No

Comments Barristers: Historically termed 'devilling', Pupillage is the final stage of training to qualify as a practising barrister, in which practical training is supervised by an experienced member of the Bar who is listed on the Register of Masters maintained by The Bar of Ireland.

Members who have completed pupillage are obliged to comply with the CPD requirements for members of the Law Library. Solicitors: Trainee solicitors are required to complete in-house training prior to qualifying. More information on in-office training is available here: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/education--cpd/Trainees/In-office-Training>

153. Is the specialisation in some legal fields linked to specific training, levels of qualification, specific diploma or specific authorisations?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: While specialisation does not require specific training or qualifications, once a solicitor is qualified to practice law, the Law Society offers a variety of post-qualification professional training and qualifications in respect of many fields of legal practice.

F1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Bar of Ireland and the Law Society

6.1.2 Practicing the profession of lawyer

154. Can court users establish easily what the lawyers' fees will be (i.e. a prior information on the foreseeable amount of fees)?

Yes

No

Comments The Law Society's 'Get a Quote' service helps members of the public get quotations from solicitors' firms for the particular legal service they need. It is available at www.lawsociety.ie/Public/Get-a-Quote To get a quote, members of the public can contact participating solicitor firms and explain that they are using the 'Get a Quote' service. The solicitor firm will take their questions for the legal service they require, either over the phone or at the firm's offices, will explain the firm's terms of business and then the clients will receive the quote.

155. Are lawyers' fees freely negotiated?

Yes

No

Comments Barristers: This question would be answered yes in regards work undertaken on behalf of the State however, there are many instances where barristers undertake work at a set fee or scale; and there is little or no negotiation. For example, for work undertaken under the civil or criminal legal aid schemes barristers generally accept instructions on the understanding that fees will be paid in accordance with a set scale.

Solicitors: Some fees are set by State bodies/Government for work undertaken on their behalf but private fees are a matter for each individual solicitor or solicitors' firm. For example, legal aid rates of remuneration are set by the Department of Justice.

156. Do laws or bar standards provide any rules on lawyers' fees (including those freely negotiated)?

Yes, laws provide rules

Yes, standards of the bar association provide rules

No, neither laws nor bar association standards provide rules

Comments By law, a solicitor must provide information about legal charges – the money a client must pay them for their services. The law that deals with this matter is Section 150 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015.

The information a client must be given is as follows: •Legal costs to date

•Fixed costs– e.g. Court fees, Land Registry fees

•Likely costs - e.g. barristers' fees

•VAT to be charged

•The basis of how the costs are to be calculated

•The duty to issue a new notice once the solicitor becomes aware of factors that would likely lead to significantly greater costs

•The duty to inform the client of the likely costs of engaging a barrister or expert witness, if the need arises, and to be satisfied about the client's approval for doing so

•A period of time during which legal services will not be provided effectively (a 'cooling-off period') that cannot be longer than ten working days

6.1.3 Quality standards and disciplinary procedures for lawyers

157. Have quality standards been determined for lawyers?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, what are the quality criteria used? The Legal Services Regulation Act 2015 defines professional principles that all legal practitioners are required to maintain. The Law Society of Ireland also sets standards of practice and procedures for solicitors. Solicitors are expected to maintain high professional standards in the discharge of their professional duties. Failure to meet these standards can amount to misconduct and can be enquired into by the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA). The LSRA also has the power to issue codes of practice for legal professionals where this is necessary to set and improve standards for the provision of legal services. From 7 October 2019, complaints about a solicitor or enquiries about making a complaint are made to the LSRA. Complaints received by the Law Society prior to 7 October 2019 continue to be dealt with by the Society. The Code of Conduct for The Bar of Ireland sets out the rules by which barristers perform their work. Link: <https://www.lawlibrary.ie/app/uploads/securepdfs/2022/07/Code-of-Conduct->

Amended-by-AGM-25.7.22.pdf .In April 2021, the Council of The Bar of Ireland approved the introduction of a new Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme that commenced from 1st October 2021. The new CPD scheme is a competency based scheme which outlines the competencies practitioners should have regard for when planning and engaging in CPD.

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority has consulted on a Code of Practice for Practising Barristers. The purpose of the Code is to provide a statement of the accepted principles of good conduct and practice for all practising barristers. The code is currently in draft format. Link to draft code: <https://www.lsr.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Draft-Code-of-PB-28-Sept.pdf>

158. If yes, who is responsible for formulating these quality standards:

the bar association

the Parliament

other (please specify):Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA)

Comments The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) has the power to issue codes of practice for legal professionals where this is necessary to set and improve standards for the provision of legal services. Link: <https://www.lsr.ie/for-law-professionals/professional-codes/> The Law Society of Ireland sets standards of practice and procedures for solicitors. Link to the Society's guide to professional conduct is here: https://www.lawsociety.ie/globalassets/documents/committees/guidance/solicitors-guide-to-professional-conduct_4th-edition.pdf Information on regulations, practice notes, legislation governing the conduct of solicitors can be found here: <https://www.lawsociety.ie/Solicitors/rules-legislation>

159. Is it possible to file a complaint about:

the performance of lawyers

the amount of fees

Comments - Please specify: The LSRA deals with complaints about inadequate service, excessive fees and misconduct. See also reports of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority, found at <https://www.lsr.ie/publications/reports-and-laws/>

Where a dispute arises over legal costs an application can be made to the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator who provides an independent and impartial assessment of legal costs.

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) receives and investigates complaints about legal practitioners – solicitors and barristers. If deemed to be admissible, and not resolved by an informal resolution process, those complaints will be determined by the LSRA subject to review by a Review Committee.

Any person can make a complaint in connection with a legal practitioners conduct. If deemed admissible, those complaints are referred to a Complaints Committee for adjudication. The Committee is made up of lay members, solicitor members nominated by the Law Society of Ireland and barrister members nominated by the Bar of Ireland. The Complaints Committee has wide powers, including a power to refer serious cases to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (previously the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal) for further investigation. The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal is an independent statutory tribunal appointed by the President of the High Court to consider complaints of misconduct against solicitors.

The LRSA handles three types of complaints:

1. Inadequate legal services: when the client considers the legal service was not of a standard that someone would reasonably expect
2. Excessive costs: when the client considers the costs sought for the legal service is excessive
3. Misconduct: a range of conduct which includes fraud, dishonesty, criminal activity and other acts.

Link: <https://www.lsr.ie/make-a-complaint/what-you-can-complain-about/> Where the amount of fees is the subject of a complaint, an application can be made to the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator who provides an independent and impartial assessment of legal costs.

Link: <https://www.courts.ie/office-legal-costs-adjudicators>

160. Which authority is responsible for disciplinary procedures?

a judge

Ministry of Justice

a professional authority

[X] other (please specify):LSRA and Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (LPDT)

Comments The LSRA regulates the provision of legal services by legal practitioners. It also accepts and investigate complaints which relate to the provision of legal services by barristers and solicitors, including solicitors' firms. See also reports of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority, found at <https://www.lsr.ie/publications/reports-and-laws/>

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority. Link: <https://www.lsr.ie/> The LSRA can refer serious cases to the LPDT. The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal (LPDT) is an independent statutory tribunal appointed by the President of the High Court to consider complaints of misconduct against solicitors. The Tribunal has 33 members, with the majority being non-legal professionals along with solicitor and barrister members. Applications about the alleged misconduct of a legal practitioner must come through the Law Society of Ireland or the Legal Services Regulatory Authority. An application to the Tribunal concerning a solicitor or barrister may ultimately result in that legal practitioner being sanctioned by the Tribunal or by the President of the High Court. The LPDT's operations commenced in November 2020. More information on the LPDT is available here.

161. Disciplinary proceedings initiated against lawyers. (If a disciplinary proceeding is undertaken because of several reasons, please count the proceedings only once and for the main reason.)

	Number of disciplinary proceedings
Total number of disciplinary proceedings initiated (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)	32 [] NA [] NAP
1. Breach of professional ethics	26 [] NA [] NAP
2. Professional inadequacy	6 [] NA [] NAP
3. Criminal offence	[X] NA [] NAP
4. Other	[X] NA [] NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify: In Ireland - Disciplinary proceedings initiated against lawyers - is in the primary jurisdiction of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA). The Commission will recall that since 7 October 2019 the State's statutory regulator oversees the consumer disciplinary protections for legal services clients and their work to date is detailed in their biannual reports published on their website www.lsr.ie

In 2022, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal* ('the SDT') received 3 applications from the Law Society. The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal ('the LPDT') received a total of 29 applications, of which 6 came from the LSRA and 23 from the Law Society. The referrals from the Law Society relate, to failures to comply with solicitor undertakings, to multiple apparent breaches of the Solicitors Accounts Regulations, to include the dishonest misappropriation of client funds and to failures to file reporting accountant's reports in a timely manner (this is an integral part of the Society's financial regulatory toolkit, provided for in the Solicitors Accounts Regulations). Referrals to these tribunals are made alleging professional misconduct. A breach of professional ethics is not in and of itself a basis for referring a matter to either tribunal. However, a serious breach of professional ethics may constitute conduct that tends to bring the solicitor's profession into disrepute, which is a ground of professional misconduct. It is also fair to say that breaches of undertakings and accounts regulations may also be described as breaches of professional ethics, so, to that extent, all referrals made by the Society to the SDT and LPDT in 2022 amounted to breaches of professional ethics.

It is unclear whether the term 'professional adequacy' is meant to capture the adequacy of legal services provided or the capacity/competence of the solicitor. Complaints relating to the adequacy of legal services now go to the LSRA, and, in the event of a high degree of inadequacy, a referral may be made to the LPDT. In relation to capacity/competence, the Law Society has a number of statutory powers available to it to protect the interests of clients, to include applying to the High Court to suspend a solicitor from practice and/or obtain orders securing clients files and funds. However, these are quite separate from the disciplinary process and a solicitor will

not be referred to either tribunal on the basis of professional competence as distinct from professional misconduct. The Law Society has limited powers of prosecution. It has various reporting obligations to the police when it becomes aware of potential criminal conduct. Criminal matters are not prosecuted through the SDT or LPDT, as these bodies deal exclusively with regulatory rather than criminal offences. Of course, certain conduct may constitute both a criminal and regulatory offence, but the investigative processes run in parallel rather than jointly.

162. Sanctions pronounced against lawyers.

	Number of sanctions
Total number of sanctions (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5)	19 [] NA [] NAP
1. Reprimand	9 [] NA [] NAP
2. Suspension	1 [] NA [] NAP
3. Withdrawal from cases	[] NA [X] NAP
4. Fine	9 [] NA [] NAP
5. Other	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. If a significant difference between the number of disciplinary proceedings and the number of sanctions exists, please indicate the reasons. As the LPDT has only recently begun to hear applications, there are a number of cases yet to be heard. 11 cases have been concluded from which the 19 sanctions arose, and the sanctions imposed in those cases or recommended to be imposed are include in table 162. In Ireland - Sanctions pronounced against lawyers - is in the primary jurisdiction of the Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA). The Commission will recall that since 7 October 2019 the State's statutory regulator oversees the consumer disciplinary protections for legal services clients and their work to date is detailed in their biannual reports published on their website www.lsra.ie The Chairman's report of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) (on its website) provides details of sanctions imposed on solicitors until 2021.

The LSRA established the Complaints Committee in 2020 to consider and investigate complaints of alleged misconduct about legal practitioners referred to it by the LSRA. If the Complaints Committee considers that the complaint does not warrant referral to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, but is one that warrants the imposition of a sanction, it can impose sanctions including the following directions to the legal practitioner to:

- Complete the legal service or arrange for the service to be completed by a legal practitioner nominated by the complainant at the expense of the legal practitioner;
- Participate in a professional competence scheme;
- Waive or refund fees; •Take other action in the interest of the complainant; •Comply with undertaking(s); •Withdraw or amend an advertisement made by the legal practitioner; •Pay compensation to the complainant not exceeding €5,000; •Pay costs to the LSRA; •With the consent of the legal practitioner, (failing which the matter will proceed to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal) impose a specified restriction or condition on the practising certificate or the practice of the legal practitioner.

The Legal Services Regulatory Authority (LSRA) publishes bi-annual reports on complaints received regarding solicitors and barristers, available here: <https://www.lsra.ie/publications/reports-and-laws/>

7. Court related mediation and other alternative Dispute Resolution

7.1. Court related mediation

7.1.1 Details on court related mediation

163. Does the judicial system provide for court-related mediation procedures?

Yes

No

Comments

163-1. In some fields, does the judicial system provide for mandatory mediation with a mediator?

Before/instead of going to court

Ordered by the court, the judge, the public prosecutor or a public authority in the course of a judicial proceeding

No mandatory mediation

Comments - If there is mandatory mediation, please specify which fields are concerned:

163-2. In some fields, does the legal system provide for mandatory informative sessions with a mediator?

Yes

No

Comments - If there are mandatory informative sessions, please specify which fields are concerned:

164. Please specify, by type of cases, who provides court-related mediation services:

	Private mediator	Public authority (other than the court)	Judge	Public prosecutor
Civil and commercial cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Family cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Administrative cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Labour cases including employment dismissals	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Consumer cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

165. Is there a possibility to receive legal aid for court-related mediation or receive these services free of charge?

Yes

No

NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify:

=

166. Number of accredited or registered mediators for court-related mediation:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of mediators	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

166-1. Could you please describe what are the requirements and what is the procedure to become an accredited or registered mediator in your country (educational requirements, working experiences, accrediting procedure etc.)?

. There is currently no statutory body for mediators in Ireland. There is a plan to designate a body by Ministerial Order as a Mediation Council which satisfies the criteria set out in the relevant legislation, published in 2017, to support the development of the mediation profession as an important supplement and alternative to traditional judicial processes.

167. Number of court-related mediations:

	Number of cases for which the parties agreed to start mediation	Number of finished court-related mediations	Number of cases in which there is a settlement agreement
Total (1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Civil and commercial cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Family cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Administrative cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Labour cases including employment dismissal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
5. Criminal cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

6. Consumer cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
7. Other cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - Please indicate the source:

=

168. Do the following alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods exist in your country?

- Mediation other than court-related mediation
- Arbitration
- Conciliation (if different from mediation)
- Other ADR (please specify): Collaborative Law

Comments

G1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Source: Courts Service

8. Enforcement of court decisions

8.1. Execution of decisions in civil matters

8.1.1 Number of enforcement agents, status and mandate

169. Number and type of enforcement agents in your country.

	Total	Male	Female
Total (1+2+3+4)	28 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	16 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	12 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Private professionals under the authority (control) of public authorities	13 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	11 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	2 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Enforcement agents working in a public institution (civil servants paid by state)	15 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	5 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	10 <input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Judges	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If other, please specify their status and competences: County Registrars had been included as "private professionals under the

authority (control) of public authorities” in the previous questionnaire, however, they should instead be classified as “enforcement agents working in public institution (civil servants paid by the state)” in this year’s questionnaire. This change in classification accounts for the discrepancy in numbers in the breakdown compared to the last questionnaire.

170. What are the requirements to access the profession of enforcement agent (multiple replies possible)?

- diploma
- professional experience
- specific exam
- appointment procedure by the State
- initial training
- other

Comments - If “other”, please specify: County Registrars are solicitors and barristers so will be subject to the qualification criteria for those professions before a competitive process through the Public Appointments Service for appointment by Government to the role. This is why the additional criteria was selected in this cycle.

171. Are enforcement agents appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?

- Yes, please indicate the age of retirement: 70
- No, please specify the duration of the appointment:

Comments - If yes, are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify:

8.1.2 Activities/scope of competence

171-1. Which debtor’s information can the enforcement agent access at the beginning of the enforcement procedure?

	Access to information	Direct electronic access to information
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Date of birth	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Civil status	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Cohabitant	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Employer	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Motor vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Movable property	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Immovable property	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Bank account	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Other enforcement proceedings underway	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Insolvency proceedings (bankruptcy, judicial reorganisation, collective debt settlement etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments - If "other", please specify:

171-2. Can the enforcement agent carry out the following civil enforcement proceedings:

	Option
Seizure of movable tangible properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Preventive seizure of movable tangible properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Seizure of immovable properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Preventive seizure of immovable properties	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Seizure from a third party of the debtor claims regarding a sum of money	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Seizure of remunerations	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Seizure of motorised vehicles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Eviction measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Seizures of boats and ships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Seizure of aircrafts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Seizure of electronic assets (e.g cryptocurrency)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Enforced sale by public tender of seized properties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Sale of shares	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by enforcement agents <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

171-3. Apart from the enforcement of court decisions, what are the other activities that can be

carried out by enforcement agents?

- Service of judicial and extrajudicial documents
- Debt recovery
- Voluntary or public auctions of moveable or immoveable property
- Custody of goods
- Recording and reporting of evidence
- Court hearings service
- Provision of legal advice
- Bankruptcy procedures
- Performing tasks assigned by judges
- Representing parties in courts
- Drawing up private deeds and documents
- Building manager
- Other

Comments

8.1.3 Training and ICT

172-1. Is there a system of mandatory general continuous training for enforcement agents?

- Yes
- No

Comments

172-2. Do you have an e-learning training system established for enforcement agents?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

172-3. Does the content of the continuous training system also include ICT (related to enforcement procedures)?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

172-4. Have an electronic service of documents or electronic notifications been introduced in your country?

- Yes
- No

Comments

172-5. Does the development of new technologies have an effect on the different stages of the enforcement procedure?

Yes

No

Comments - Please explain:

8.1.4 Fees

174. Are enforcement fees easily established and transparent for parties?

Yes

No

Comments

175-1. Are the fees charged in case of successful enforcement proceedings freely negotiated?

Yes

No

Comments

175-2. Who has to pay these fees if the enforcement proceedings are successful?

The debtor

The creditor

Other – please specify

Comments

176. Do laws provide any rules on enforcement fees (including those freely negotiated)?

Yes

No

Comments

H0. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Source: Department of Justice and Court Service

8.1.5 Organisation of profession and efficiency of enforcement services

177. Is there a body entrusted with supervising and monitoring the enforcement agents' activity?

Yes

No

Comments

178. Which authority is responsible for supervising and monitoring enforcement agents?

- professional body
- judge
- Ministry of Justice
- public prosecutor
- other (please specify):

Comments

181. Is there a specific mechanism for executing court decisions rendered against public authorities, including supervising such execution?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

182. Is there a system for monitoring how the enforcement procedure is conducted by the enforcement agent?

- Yes
- No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

183. What are the main complaints made by users concerning the enforcement procedure? Please indicate a maximum of 3.

- no execution at all
- non execution of court decisions against public authorities
- lack of information
- excessive length
- unlawful practices
- insufficient supervision
- excessive cost
- unethical behaviour of enforcement agent
- other (please specify):

Comments

185. Is there a system measuring the length of enforcement procedures:

	Existence of the system
for civil cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
for administrative cases	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

186. Regarding a decision on debt collection, please estimate the average timeframe to serve and/or notify the decision to the parties who live in the city where the court sits (one option only):

- between 1 and 5 days
- between 6 and 10 days
- between 11 and 30 days
- more (please specify):
- NA

Comments

187. Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated against enforcement agents. (If a disciplinary proceeding is undertaken because of several reasons, please count the proceedings only once and for the main reason.)

	Number of disciplinary proceedings initiated
Total number of initiated disciplinary proceedings (1+2+3+4)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. For breach of professional ethics	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. For professional inadequacy	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. For criminal offence	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4. Other	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify:

188. Number of sanctions pronounced against enforcement agents:

	Number of sanctions pronounced
Total number of sanctions (1+2+3+4+5)	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1. Reprimand	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2. Suspension	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
3. Withdrawal from cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

4. Fine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
5. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. If a significant difference between the number of disciplinary proceedings and the number of sanctions exists, please indicate the reasons:

H1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Source: Department of Justice

8.2.Execution of decisions in criminal matters

8.2.1Functioning of execution in criminal matters



189. Which authority is in charge of the enforcement of judgments in criminal matters? (multiple replies possible)

- Judge
- Public prosecutor
- Prison and Probation Services
- Enforcement agent
- Other authority (please specify):Court Offices

Comments - Please specify his/her functions and duties (e.g. initiative or monitoring functions). Court Offices, who issue notices where fines are unpaid. Where fines remain unpaid the matter can be listed again before the relevant judge. There are circumstances where judgements are enforced by an agent e.g. penalty points which are enforced by the Road Safety Authority

190. Are the effective recovery rates of fines decided by a criminal court evaluated by studies?

- Yes
- No

Comments

191. If yes, what is the recovery rate?

- 80-100%
- 50-79%
- less than 50%

Comments - Please indicate the source for answering this question: Courts Service
The reported recovery rate in the 2020 cycle of 50-79% was, as far as we can ascertain based on an artificially low number of fines imposed in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

9.Notaries

9.1. Profession of notary

9.1.1 Number, status and mandate of notaries

192. Number and status of notaries in your country.

	Total	Males	Females
TOTAL (1+2+3+4)	381 [] NA [] NAP	283 [] NA [] NAP	98 [] NA [] NAP
1. Private professionals (without control from public authorities)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
2. Holders of public offices appointed by the State	381 [] NA [] NAP	283 [] NA [] NAP	98 [] NA [] NAP
3. Civil servants (paid by the State)	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP
4. Other	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP	[] NA [X] NAP

Comments - If "Other", please specify the status, or if "holder of a public office appointed by the State", please indicate which ministry is mainly engaged in the appointment procedure:

192-1. What are the access conditions to the profession of notary (multiple replies possible):

- diploma
- professional experience
- specific exam
- appointment procedure by the State
- initial training
- other (please specify):

Comments

192-2. Are notaries appointed to office for an undetermined period (i.e. "for life" = until the official age of retirement)?

- yes, please indicate the age of retirement: For life, no set retirement age
- no, please specify the duration of the appointment:

Comments - are there exceptions (e.g. dismissal as a disciplinary sanction)? Please specify:

9.1.2 Activities/scope of competences

194. What kind of activities do notaries perform (multiple options possible)?

Please select one option

Authentication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Certification of signatures	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Mediation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Taking of oaths	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Non-contentious judicial procedures (e.g. acting as court commissioner in a successions file, performing divorce, division of estate, please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Act as civil servant (for example performing marriage, please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Other judicial functions (for example, payment orders)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Public auctions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, exclusively performed by notaries <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Other (for example collect taxes, run registers etc.)

- Yes, exclusively performed by notaries
 Yes, but not exclusively performed by notaries
 No
 NAP

Comments - If "other", please specify. Please indicate any useful clarifications regarding the content of the notaries' exclusive rights or, on the opposite, other bodies that also have competences for the listed activities.

194-2. In which areas of law do notaries perform their activities (multiple replies possible)?

- Real estate transaction
 Family law
 Succession law
 Company law
 Legality control of gambling activities
 Protection of vulnerable persons
 Other

Comments The Irish Notary is generally involved in a transaction where there is a multi-jurisdictional element.

9.1.3 ICT, organisation of the profession and training

194-3. Do notaries use specialised ICT systems in their activity?

- In their relations with the State (e.g. courts, registries, chambers of commerce, tax authorities)
 In their relations with their clients
 In their relations with other notaries (e.g. videoconferencing, system to exchange documents)

Comments None of the above

194-4. Which computerised registries can notaries consult?

- Land registry
 Business registry
 Civil status / Population registry
 Succession / Family law registry

Any other registry (please specify) As Designated Persons – Notaries Public have access to the Register of Beneficial Owners and the Central Register of Beneficial Ownership of Trusts (CRBOT)

- None

Comments

194-5. Are there registries/ registry infrastructures run by the notaries?

- Yes
 No

Comments - If yes, please specify:

194-6. In which computerised registries can notaries modify data (either directly or by submitting

an online request)?

	Directly modifying	Indirectly modifying by submitting an online request
Land registry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Business registry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
Civil status/ Population registry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Succession / Family law registry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
Any other registry (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
None	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments Other Registry: Register of Beneficial Owners

=

194-7. What ICT tools are used by notaries in their relations with clients?

- Videoconferencing (e.g. digital advice)
- Digital act
- Digital identification
- Digital archiving
- Other, please specify
- None

Comments

194-8. Who is responsible to run the digital archives?

- Notariat / Professional body
- Other public authority
- Another entity (please specify)The individual Notary

Comments

195. Is there an authority entrusted with supervising and monitoring the notaries' work?

- Yes
- No

Comments

196. If yes, which authority is responsible for supervising and monitoring notaries (multiple options possible)?

- professional body
- court
- Ministry of Justice
- public prosecutor
- other (please specify):

Comments

196-1. Is there a system of general continuous training for all notaries?

- Yes
- No

Comments

196-2. Do notaries have training on:

	Yes	No
European law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law of another Member State (cross-border training programmes)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments - If yes, please indicate the types (e.g. traditional courses, e-learning, webinar) and the major topics of the training activities: E-learning and webinar, Hague Treaty, Apostille, AML Regulations, Sanctions

11. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Faculty of Notaries Public Ireland

10. Judicial experts

10.1. Profession of judicial expert

10.1.1 Status of judicial experts



202. In your system, what types of judicial experts can participate in judicial procedures (multiple replies possible):

- Experts designated by the parties in support of their arguments but bound by a duty of independence and impartiality to the court
- Experts appointed by the court or other authority independent of the parties
- Other system of judicial expertise, please specify

Comments - Please specify who is proposing and appointing experts in an individual case. N/A. There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

202-1. Are there lists or any other form of official registration for judicial experts?

Yes

No

Comments There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

202-1-1. If yes, at which level is the list established (multiple replies possible):

national

administrative district or federal entity

judicial district

other

Comments - Please, indicate any other comment regarding these lists or databases of experts, if they do exist (e.g. does the expert take an oath? How are his/her skills evaluated? By whom?):

202-1-2. Are these lists publicly available?

Yes, available on the internet

Yes

No

Comments

202-2. Which authority is competent for the registration of judicial experts?

Ministry of justice

Courts

Administrative body

Independent body (association of judicial experts)

Other

Comments - Please also specify the registration criteria: There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

202-3. Is the registration of judicial experts limited in time?

Yes, for how long

No

Comments There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

202-4. Can an expert who is not on the list or not registered be appointed in a case?

Yes

No

Comment - If yes, please specify in which cases: There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

203. Is the title of judicial experts protected?

Yes

No

Comments - If appropriate, please explain the meaning of this protection: There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

203-1. Does the judicial expert have an obligation of training?

	Obligation of training
Initial training	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Continuous training	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Comments There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

203-2. If yes, does this training concern:

judicial proceedings

the profession of expert

other

Comments There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

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204. Is the function of judicial experts regulated by legal norms?

Yes

No

Comments Case law sets out the general principles for expert evidence and the duties and responsibilities of expert witnesses in civil cases in Ireland. Rules of Court for Ireland's Superior Courts (High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) also set out guiding principles and requirements for expert witnesses. See Order 39, Rule 57: <https://www.courts.ie/rules/evidence>

204-1. On the occasion of a task entrusted to him/her, does the judicial expert have to report any

potential conflicts of interest?

Yes

No

Comments - If yes, please specify: Yes in the Superior Courts but no such obligation is provided for in the Rules of the Circuit or District Court. Rules of Court for Ireland’s Superior Courts (High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court) set out that every report of an expert shall “disclose any financial or economic interest of the expert, or of any person connected with the expert, in any business or economic activity of the party retaining that expert, including any sponsorship of or contribution to any research of the expert or of any University, institution or other body with which the expert was, is or will be connected, other than any fee agreed for the preparation by the expert of the report provided or to be provided in the proceedings concerned and any fee and expenses due in connection with the participation of the expert in the proceedings concerned.” (Order 39, Rule 57(2)).

205. Number of accredited or registered judicial experts:

	Total	Males	Females
Number of experts	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments N/A. There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

206-1. Number of cases where an expert opinion was ordered by a judge or requested by the parties

	Number of cases
Total (1+2+3+4)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
1.Civil and commercial litigious cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
2.Administrative cases	<input type="checkbox"/> NA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP
3.Criminal cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP
4.Other cases	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA <input type="checkbox"/> NAP

Comments

205-1. Who defines the amount of the expert remuneration?

	In civil/administrative cases	In criminal cases
Defined by law/by-law or a special regulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NAP

Defined by the court/judge	(X) Yes () No [] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Defined by the Ministry of Justice or another ministry (setting a tariff for example)	() Yes () No [X] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP
Salary of public official (in case of forensic or another specialist – who is public employee)	() Yes () No [X] NAP	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Freely agreed between expert and the parties	(X) Yes () No [] NAP	(X) Yes () No [] NAP
Other	() Yes () No [X] NAP	() Yes () No [X] NAP

Comments - If other, please specify: There is no single or overriding method of setting remuneration payable to experts. 1. In some criminal cases expert evidence is given by public officials whose remuneration is set by way of salary. 2. In many cases especially in civil cases, remuneration is agreed between the expert and parties. 3. In wardship cases the amount payable to certain experts including media visitors is set by the court

206. Are there binding provisions for judicial experts regarding:

	Yes	No
Deadlines to provide expertise	()	()
Quality of expertise	()	()
Other	()	()

[X] NAP

Comments - If yes, please specify, and provide details in case there are possible sanctions: N/A. There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

207-1. Does the judge or another body control the progress of the expertise?

() Yes

(X) No

If yes, please specify: N/A. There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

207-2. Are judicial experts' associations involved in:

[] Selection processes

[] Initial or continuous training

[] Disciplinary procedures

[X] NAP

Comments N/A. There is no registration authority. While experts can be relied upon to provide reports or evidence in proceedings experts are usually though not always, designated by one of the parties in support of their arguments. However, there is no structured system of registration or oversight of expert witnesses or persons who give expert reports to the courts.

K1. Please indicate the sources for answering the questions in this part

Sources: Court Service
For Q204, Q204-1 Department of Justice

11.Reforms in judiciary

11.1.Foreseen reforms

11.1.1Reforms

208. Can you provide information on the current debate in your country regarding the functioning of justice? Are there undergoing or foreseen reforms? If possible, please observe the following categories:

208-1. (Comprehensive) reform plans

- Yes (planned)
 Yes (adopted)
 Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
 No
 NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Civil Justice Reform:

The Review of the Administration of Civil Justice (Kelly Review) was published in 2020 and made over 90 recommendations in a wide range of areas to strengthen and streamline the future administration of civil justice in Ireland, including reform of court practices and procedures, a new system of discovery and changes to the non-statutory judicial review process, with a view to achieving improved access to justice for the public. An Implementation Plan was published in May 2022 which identified 7 work streams designed to reflect the major themes emerging from the Kelly Review; (1) Civil Procedure in the Courts, (2) Discovery, (3) Judicial Review, (4) Multi-Party Litigation, (5) Litigation Costs, (6) Facilitating Court Users, and (7) Technology and e-Litigation. Key enablers to implement the recommendations under the identified work streams include policy development, legislation, rules of court and operational matters. An Implementation Group meets quarterly to oversee the implementation of the recommendations and is comprised of representatives of the Department of Justice, the Department of An Taoiseach, Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, the Courts Service and the Judiciary.

Link to Plan here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/cb6f0-implementation-plan-on-civil-justice-efficiencies-and-reform-measures/Family Justice>:

The publication of the first National Family Justice Strategy in 2022 marked the beginning of the reform process to develop a family justice system, which is flexible and responsive to the needs of those who most need it and which places children at the heart of the system. The Strategy is foundational in nature: implementation of the actions it contains will establish the core structures and processes for a reformed family justice system. The delivery date for each one is set out in the strategy, which runs until the end of 2025.

Delivery of the Family Justice Strategy's over 50 actions is overseen by the Family Justice Implementation Group (FJIG), which meets once a quarter to monitor and review progress. It provides leadership across the system and within the respective member organisations, to embed reforms and drive their implementation – all with the aim of enhancing the user experience. FJIG agreed its terms of reference and

held its first meeting in December 2022. Link to Strategy here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/4790f-family-justice-strategy/>

208-2. Budget

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

208-3. Courts and public prosecution services (e.g. powers and organisation, structural changes - e.g. reduction of the number of courts (geographic locations), competences of the courts, management and working methods, information technologies, backlogs and efficiency, court fees, renovations and construction of new buildings)

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2023, amongst other provisions, will provide for centralised court offices, the use of electronic registers and the amendment of the qualification period for certain court officers, such as the Master and Deputy Master of the High Court. The Act also provides that the Courts Service can realise the dormant accounts of the Circuit and District Court for provision on courts ICT and court buildings. In 2022, the Judicial Planning Working Group undertook to consider the number and type of judges required to ensure the efficient administration of justice over the next five years as well as the longer term, aided by the Courts Service, as a member of the Group, which provided data and analysis to demonstrate the need for extra judges and adequate support services. The recommendations of the JPWG were published in 2023 and the passing of the Courts Act 2023 in March paves the way for the appointment of 44 judges to the courts in Ireland by the end of 2024.

The Courts Service Civil Reform and Innovation teams in 2022 developed a new and innovative “360 Virtual Tour” resource to help people prepare for coming to Court. The tours were developed as a direct response to user feedback highlighting how many people find going to Court intimidating and challenging.

The Courts Service Estates Strategy 2022 – 2025 involves an estate which consists of 103 individual buildings, with an average age of 162 years old, many of which are protected structures presenting unique challenges. In 2022 the task of refurbishing and modernising a number of court buildings nationwide continued. The strategy sets out how the Courts Service intends to develop the estate and respond to digitisation, modernisation and new ways of working for staff, the Judiciary and court users and aims to ensure that the Courts Service buildings and facilities are fit-for-purpose and continue to properly serve all users. A new complex is being designed with the specific needs of family law court users in mind - the “Hammond Lane project” will provide a modern, purpose-built court facility where family law cases can be held in a dignified and secure environment, with a range of support services at hand. In 2022, the Courts Service focused on delivering on the key actions set out in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy published in November 2021. Actions completed include:

- Completion of a Gap to Target analysis in preparation for publication of the first Climate Action Roadmap in Q1 2023. •Collaboration with the OPW and SEAI in a Pathfinder project for two protected Courthouses to identify appropriate technical solutions and funding mechanisms to achieve 2030 decarbonisation targets.
- Investment of €1.5 Million in upgrades to thermal plant and systems, smart building controls, migration to electric heating, energy-efficient lighting and fuel monitors. •Expansion of Court Service staff engagement programs and green team activities. The Courts Service participated in the ‘Reduce Your Use’ campaign in the winter of 2022/23, a Public Sector-wide energy-efficiency initiative developed by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and the Office of Public Works. This included twice-weekly emails to all staff,

weekly webinars and the provision of Courts Service fleeces to all staff in late 2022 to align with the campaign messaging.

208-4. Access to justice and legal aid

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Reforming the legal system and improving access to justice are core elements of the Programme for Government and the Justice Plans 2022-2023. A central aspect of promoting access to justice in Ireland is through the civil legal aid scheme, which aims to provide legal advice and legal representation to eligible individuals. The Minister for Justice announced a review of the scheme in June 2022 and a Review Group, led by an independent chair, was established that month to commence the review. Membership includes those who work with marginalised groups, legal practitioners, academics from the legal, sociological and economics disciplines, as well as officials, including from the Department of Justice, the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform, and Legal Aid Board.

Capturing the views of those who have unmet legal needs is specifically set out in its terms of reference so a comprehensive consultation process was conducted in 2022 and 2023 to ensure that a wide range of views and insights regarding the operation of the Scheme and how best to support those of limited means with legal needs is captured. The Group is progressing with its review of eligibility, scope and a future framework for civil legal aid provision, which is expected to conclude in 2024.

In 2023, the General Scheme of the Criminal Justice (Legal Aid) Bill 2023 was published. This Bill will modernise the operation of the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme, transferring administrative responsibility from the Department of Justice to the Legal Aid Board and introducing strengthened oversight and governance structures for the Scheme. The Bill will introduce a number of reforms to safeguard the operation of the Criminal Legal Aid scheme, and to formalise existing procedures and strengthen controls where that is warranted.

208-5. High Judicial Council (competent for judges and/or prosecutors)

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Modernising the operation of the judiciary to enable it to work more effectively and reforming the process for appointing judges is an aim set out in the Justice Plan 2022. This includes the publishing of the Judicial Appointments Commission Act 2023, signed into law on 8th December 2023. The purpose of the Act is to reform the arrangements leading to appointments of persons to judicial office. The Act proposes the establishment of the Judicial Appointments Commission that will replace the existing Judicial Appointments Advisory Board with the functions of selecting and recommending persons for appointment, or nomination for appointment, to judicial office in the State or outside the State.

The Commission will have an equal number of lay and judicial members and will be chaired by the Chief Justice. The JAC will set out best practice selection procedures, including interviews, and the knowledge, skills and attributes required of judges. Applications may be received from eligible applicants, including judges, practicing barristers and solicitors, and legal academics.

208-6. Legal professionals (judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, notaries, enforcement agents, etc.): organisation, education and training, etc.

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: A necessary legislative amendment to allow the introduction of Legal Partnerships (partnerships between barristers and between solicitors and barristers) was included in the Courts and Civil Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2023, representing a key development in the modernisation of how legal services can be provided to consumers, private or enterprise, on a more competitive basis. Barristers and solicitors will be able to jointly provide legal services for the first time, increasing the range of services and expertise available to their clients.

Embedding gender equality, human rights, diversity and inclusion in the legal profession is a key objective for the Irish government. In 2020, the Legal Services Regulatory Authority commenced work on a report into the economic and other barriers to entry into the legal professions, with particular attention given to equity of access and entry into the legal professions and the objective of achieving greater diversity within the professions. On 31 March 2022, the Authority submitted a report to the Department outlining the findings of its research in this area. A further Recommendations Report will be submitted to the Minister on this topic in 2023.

208-7. Gender equality

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

208-8. Reforms regarding civil, criminal and administrative laws, international conventions and cooperation activities

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015 and Amended Act 2022 commenced on the 26th of April 2023. The Act will make significant changes to the law relating to capacity and decision-making arrangements. It provides for the repeal of the legislation regulating wardship and the replacement of wardship with a new regime of decision-making assistance, support and representation. Jurisdiction under the Act will be exercised primarily by the Circuit Court, with certain jurisdiction being reserved to the High Court. In 2022 the Courts Service started developing a new system to support the procedures to be introduced with the commencement of these Acts. The introduction of the new system, developed for all Circuit Court offices across the country receiving the new 'Capacity applications' for the appointment of a decision-making representative, will be the Courts Service's first case type to move into the unified case management system.

Reform of Defamation Law

On 1 March 2022, the Cabinet approved plans to publish the Review of the Defamation Act 2009, and to prepare new defamation legislation. The major proposals arising from the Review include an end to juries in defamation cases, providing easier access to justice for individuals whose reputation is unfairly attacked and clearer protection for responsible public interest journalism. The review also proposes reducing legal costs and delays and incorporating measures to encourage prompt correction and apology, where mistakes are made.

In May, the Court Proceedings (Delays) Bill 2023 was published which provides for statutory compensation for breach of the right to a hearing within a reasonable time in both civil and criminal matters. The Bill provides for the appointment of a Chief Court Delays Assessor and Court Delays Assessors to assess such applications. The Bill also provides for the making of an application to the Circuit Court, in certain circumstances, for such a declaration and compensation, and for related matters

208-9. Enforcement of court decisions and in particular regarding decisions against public

authorities

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify:

208-10. Mediation and other Alternative Dispute Resolution

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Plan to designate a body by Ministerial Order as Mediation Council which satisfies the criteria set out in the relevant legislation, published in 2017, to support the development of the mediation profession as an important supplement and alternative to traditional judicial processes

208-11. Fight against crime

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Criminal Procedure Act 2021, was commenced on 28 February 2022 and provides for changes in the courts system through the introduction of preliminary trial hearings. Its commencement, together with the necessary rules of court drawn up by relevant courts, allows pre-trial hearings to take place. The Act will have a significant benefit to the trial processes for a range of offences. This includes sexual offences, where the impact on victims will be reduced as they are less likely to be subject to stressful delays after preparing themselves mentally for a trial. It will also improve trials for white collar crimes, organised crime and other complex offences. The Criminal Justice Sectoral Strategy was launched on 7 March 2022 and sets out a vision of a joined-up criminal justice system that safeguards human rights and builds public confidence and trust. The strategy sets out a detailed programme of work to deliver a 'whole-of-sector' approach to problem solving and information sharing. The aim is to deepen the trust and confidence of the public in the criminal justice system, and deliver practical measures to support the re-use and sharing of high quality data.

Link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/ca8bf-criminal-justice-sectoral-strategy-2022-2024/>

208-12. Prison system

- Yes (planned)
- Yes (adopted)
- Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)
- No
- NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: On 31 August 2022, a Review of Policy Options for Prison and Penal Reform 2022-2024 was published by the Minister for Justice. Including 21 actions, the Review identifies six priority actions, to reduce reoffending, support

desistance from offending, avoid overcrowding in prisons, and reduce reliance on custodial sentences as the primary criminal sanction except where determined necessary and proportionate to the suffering of the victim, particularly in relation to serious crimes which may result in life sentences. Link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/00924-review-of-policy-options-for-prison-and-penal-reform-2022-2024/> In line with this review, a report on the Review of Prison Visiting Committees was published on 24 April 2023 containing recommendations to allow for the reform of Prison Visiting Committees in line with today's rehabilitation focussed practices. The report provides 22 legislative recommendations and 27 non-legislative recommendations, the majority of which are focused on the structure, membership and appointment process of the Committees. Reform of the legislation underpinning Prison Visiting Committees will be advanced alongside legislation to achieve compliance with the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT) which the State signed in 2007 and continues to work towards full ratification of.

Link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/2f0cf-report-on-a-review-of-prison-visiting-committees-2023/>

208-13. Child friendly justice

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The publication of the first National Family Justice Strategy in 2022 marked the beginning of the reform process to develop a family justice system, which places children at the centre of the system. The first goal of the strategy - Supporting Children aims to ensure that the needs of children are at the centre of the family justice system, their voices are heard and considered, and that they are supported in their own individual journey through the system. Actions planned under this goal commencing in 2022 and 2023 include:

- Establishing a Working Group to review the effectiveness of the current arrangements for hearing the voice of the child in private family law cases and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes (if appropriate).
- Developing and delivering child friendly information to explain family justice processes to children, enabling them to understand the nature of the decisions that can be made concerning them and how their voice can contribute to these decisions and processes.
- Developing protocols and guidance to assist judges when speaking to or interviewing children in family law cases.
- Engaging with the Judicial Council and professional bodies to identify and deliver common and standardised child-focused training to all professionals working within the family justice sector

208-14. Domestic violence

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: Zero Tolerance: The Third National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence was published on 28 June 2022 with an accompanying implementation plan containing 144 detailed actions to combat DSGBV. The Strategy provides for the establishment of a statutory DSGBV agency as well as the introduction of statutory domestic violence leave, increasing the maximum sentence from five years to ten years for assault causing harm –one of the most common charges in cases of domestic abuse and engagement with the judiciary to consider the creation of specialised judges for domestic, sexual and gender based violence cases. Annual action plans will be published in each subsequent year of the lifetime of the strategy. Legislation to establish the statutory agency, Cuan, was signed into law on 28 November 2023.

Link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/fb746-zero-tolerance/>

The Criminal Justice Bill 2022, introducing new orders to restrain stalking behaviour was approved by Government on 4 August 2022. The new offence of stalking covers “any conduct that either puts the victim in fear of violence, or causes the victim serious alarm and distress that has a substantial adverse impact on their usual day-to-day activities”. The proposed legislation will also increase the maximum sentence for assault causing harm from five years to ten years, allow life sentences for conspiracy to murder, make stalking and non-fatal strangulation stand-alone offences, and expand the existing harassment offence.

208-15. New information and communication technologies

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Courts Service Modernisation Plan for 2020 – 2030 Supporting Access to Justice in a Modern Digital Ireland provides for a courts system with the aid of IT that is based on the following principles: it should be just, user-centric, simplified, provide for timely access to justice, provide integrated services, be collaborative and efficient and effective. 2022 culminated in the end of the second phase of the Modernisation Programme (Transition Phase) which was marked by completing the transitioning of Courts Service staff over to a new desktop ICT solution. The Modernisation Programme and Cyber Security Programme continue to be the primary drivers for improvement in the Courts Service provision of user-centric services to citizens, practitioners, and other Justice sector partner bodies. The Courts Service's second strategic business case submission in 2022 was successful for the Transform Phase. Amongst other projects, 2023 will see:

- Continuation of the multi-year program to expand the number of courtrooms that are technology-enabled, facilitating remote and hybrid hearings. Delivery of 17 more technology courtrooms is planned for 2023 bringing the total to 135 nationwide by the end of the year.
- Citizens across the country benefiting from the nationwide rollout of a Digital Jury system that permits digital responses to a Jury Panel summons, uploading of supporting documents, followed by ongoing notifications from the Courts Service for that Panel.
- Replacement of the back office High Court Civil and Circuit Court Family case management systems with a new modern digital solution that will be able to support the provision of online services for users.
- Development of a digitally enabled user centric services by progressing a digital services portal, launching initially for Debt (High Court) and Divorce (Circuit Court) and expanding to other case types in subsequent years. This online portal will be used by legal practitioners and lay litigants for filing applications to the Courts and tracking existing cases including court dates, orders, and judgements.
- Commencement of a project to replace legacy systems for criminal case types with an integrated Case Management System to streamline tracking of cases across jurisdictions and better support our justice agencies with improved data sharing.

The Courts Service Data Strategy outlines a series of initiatives that will enhance the organisation's capacity to manage and appropriately use data generated from Courts Service activities.

The Courts Service successfully completed the eCharge sheets project which automatically pulls charge sheet and station bail data from An Garda Síochána's system into the Courts Service system (up to 2021, all data had to be manually typed in). The new system is being used to process 95% of all charge sheets and has resulted in 77% reduction in the time taken to process a charge sheet. This has resulted in improved turnaround times and better quality of data, leading to improved process efficiencies.

September 2023 saw the launch of a new automated data sharing system whereby the Courts send driver disqualification data to the Road Safety Authority for processing. This initiative streamlined a previously manual process while improving data quality.

208-16. Other

Yes (planned)

Yes (adopted)

Yes (implemented during year of reference +1)

No

NA

Comments - If yes, please specify: The Courts Service also launched their first Innovation Education programme, tailored specifically to the Courts Service. This programme will be delivered with their Learning and Development Unit to build innovation capabilities across the organisation which are seen as key to the success of the Modernisation Programme.

The Courts Service prioritises the issues of equality and human rights and its obligations under section 42 of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014. The Courts Service Inclusion Group was established in 2022 by combining the existing Human Rights and Equality group within the Courts Service and managers involved in the People and Organisation strategy implementation, who saw the potential to bring consideration of the subjects of inclusivity and equality together. In 2022 the Inclusion group's work focused on

building awareness amongst staff, access to Justice and collaborating with court user groups. The group are dedicated to creating an environment where equality, diversity and inclusion are at the centre of how the Courts Service operates, works together and delivers their services.