

ISLE OF MAN COURTS & TRIBUNALS SERVICE

GENERAL REGISTRY

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

F	OREWORD	3
W	/HO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO	4
C	HANGE AND MODERNISATION	7
Т	HE WIDER ENVIRONMENT	9
В	USINESS RISKS	. 12
В	USINESS INFORMATION & METRICS	. 13
	CHART A: GENERAL REGISTRY INCOME	. 13
	CHART B: GENERAL REGISTRY EXPENDITURE	. 13
	CHART C: INCOME COLLECTED FROM FINES, FIXED PENALTIES ETC	. 14
	CHART D: MAINTENANCE SUMS RECEIVED & PAID ONWARD	. 14
	CHART E: NUMBER (& VALUE) OF LEGAL AID COST ASSESSMENTS	. 15
	CHART F: APPEARANCES AT WEEKLY SUMMARY CRIMINAL COURTS	. 15
	CHART G: APPLICATIONS TO THE LICENSING COURT (LIQUOR/MUSIC)	. 16
	CHART H: SUDDEN DEATHS REPORTED & INQUESTS HELD	. 16
	CHART I: NEW GENERAL GAOL CASES & NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	. 17
	CHART J: APPLICATIONS FOR (REGISTRATION OF) ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY 8	
	GRANTING OF MENTAL HEALTH RECEIVERSHIPS	. 17
	CHART K: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT – CIVIL CLAIMS	. 18
	CHART L: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT – SMALL CLAIMS	. 18
	CHART M: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT – DIVORCE	. 19
	CHART N: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT - ADOPTION & CONTACT/RESIDENCE	. 19
	CHART O: APPLICATIONS FOR NON-MOLESTATION AND/OR OCCUPATION ORDER(S)	. 20
	CHART P: APPLICATIONS TO TRIBUNALS	. 20
	CHART Q: APPLICATIONS FOR NON-CONTENTIOUS PROBATE	. 21
	CHART R: APPLICATIONS FOR AN APOSTILLE CERTIFICATE	. 21
	CHART S: APPLICATIONS MADE FOR A TEMPORARY MANX ADVOCATES LICENCE	. 22
	CHART T: PUBLISHED JUDGMENTS	. 22

FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Report from the General Registry. As with previous editions, this Report aims to give Court users, partners and the wider public an introduction to the General Registry and the important work of the Isle of Man's judiciary.

The Report provides readers with information about who we are, together with statistics about our main activities. In so doing, it gives a flavour of both the breadth and depth of what we do. Moreover, the inclusion of statistical information over a number of years, in most instances from 2018/19 to date, allows for trends to be identified and placed into a wider comparative context which we hope will be of interest to our readers.

2023 was an important year of change for the General Registry. The retirement of High Bailiff Jayne Hughes led to the appointment of a new High Bailiff, James Brooks, and a new Deputy High Bailiff, Rachael Braidwood. Both the Interim Chief Registrar and Clerk to the Magistrates also retired, prompting consequential changes within the organisation's Executive Leadership Team.

During the year, one of the main areas of focus for the organisation was on the ongoing implementation of the new Courts Case Management System. You can read more about this crucial project on page 7 of this Report, but it is undoubtedly the single most important project that we have embarked upon in living memory. We continue to be incredibly grateful to our colleagues involved in this project, together with those in our partner agencies both inside and outside the Government. 2024 will see its launch in the summary criminal and Coroner's Courts, General Gaol Delivery and various areas of court related financial management so we face an exciting year ahead.

During the past year we have also continued to modernise Rules, Procedures and Processes to give practical effect to legislative reform approved by Tynwald. The successful implementation of 'no fault' Divorce was a particularly challenging but rewarding piece of work and we also played a full part in the implementation of the new Liquor Licensing regime. Work continued in a number of other areas including capacity, adoption, civil debt recovery and ongoing justice reform amendments and all of these projects will continue during 2024.

The General Registry continues to contribute to the overall delivery of "Our Island Plan" and play a key role in the work of various cross Government fora. In so doing, our work, and that of the Island's judiciary, continues to ensure that open and equal justice is available for all in a manner that is both reputationally well respected and effectively and efficiently delivered.

We hope that you find this Report interesting and, as ever, we would warmly welcome any feedback that you may have.

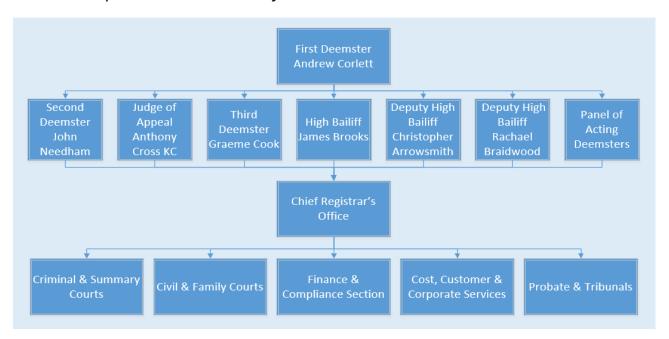
Dr Stuart Quayle Chief Registrar His Honour Andrew Corlett
First Deemster and Clerk of the Rolls



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Established in 1965, the General Registry – increasingly referred to by the more accurate description, the Isle of Man Courts and Tribunals Service – is responsible for the day to day administration of Courts and Tribunals in support of the Island's statutorily independent permanent and part-time judiciary.

The structure of the organisation is set out below, from both a judicial and administrative perspective. The General Registry is predominantly a front line demand driven service delivery organisation and our people take great pride in the contribution they make both individually and collectively to the administration of justice in the Isle of Man.



Our **vision** is to improve access to justice through a Courts and Tribunal administration which works better for everyone.

Our **mission** is to provide seamless and effective support to the administration of justice and the rule of law in the Isle of Man, for the benefit of the parties to legal proceedings in the Island, its economy and international reputation.

To help realise the vision and achieve this mission, the General Registry is structured in the following way:-

The Chief Registrar's Office is the main conduit for communication into the organisation, and to the Judiciary, from Government Departments, Offices and Boards. It is also primarily responsible for engagement with the Island's four Coroners. Officers sit on a number of external justice focused groups and committees.

The Executive Leadership Team is responsible for the leadership and strategic development of the organisation as well as its corporate responsibilities, compliance and governance. It comprises the Chief Registrar, Director of Performance and Change and the two Legal Officers (Research & Advice and Magistrates). Administrative support is provided by the Corporate and Project Support team, whose responsibilities also include Data Protection and leading and supporting on corporate matters and projects.

The Executive Leadership Team is assisted in its functions by a Senior Management Team, responsible for the operational delivery of day to day services across the following five sections:-

The Criminal and Summary Courts section handles all criminal matters from minor public disorder to murder. Criminal matters start in the Summary Courts with the more serious matters being transferred to the Court of General Gaol Delivery where jury trials are held.

The section is responsible for Fixed Courts and those remanded into custody, with a Court being convened every week day, Saturdays and occasionally on bank holidays.

In addition to criminal work, the section handles public law care proceedings, alcohol licensing, inquests, child maintenance, enduring powers of attorney, mental health receiverships and immigration appeals.

The various Courts are presided over by Deemsters, principally the Third Deemster; Bailiffs, led by the High Bailiff; and our 27 volunteer Magistrates. During the course of 2023, the Magistrates volunteered for over 1,200 hours of service to the Court.

The Civil and Family Courts section handles all civil cases from small claims valued at less than £100 to multimillion pound complex international litigation. The cases include, for example, breach of contract, personal injury, boundary disputes or litigation between company directors and their shareholders.

The Civil Division Courts also act as a lower level appeal Court, for example with appeals from decisions of the Employment and Equality Tribunal and the Rent and Rating Appeal Commissioners.

Within the section, the Family team deals with a range of family related matters from divorce to maintenance, complex marital financial disputes, child contact and adoption.

This section is also responsible for any criminal, civil and family cases which are appropriately appealed to the Staff of Government (Appeal) Division, the highest appeal Court on the Island.

The Courts are presided over by Deemsters, led by the First Deemster and assisted on certain matters by Bailiffs. The Staff of Government Division is presided over by the Judge of Appeal.

The Legal Costs, Customer and Corporate Services section is the first contact which many customers have with the General Registry. The section oversees all 'front of house' services and, in addition to running the public counter, is responsible for all 'physical' communications and managing the main telephone enquiry lines.

The public counter receives Court filings (and associated fees), issues Apostilles, takes payments for financial penalties and maintenance payments ordered by the Court. It provides general guidance to members of the public, where applicable. It also provides a range of support services across the organisation in relation to corporate operational issues such as maintenance of the Courthouse building.

The Costs Officer is responsible for the assessment of legal costs incurred in various Court matters from criminal legal aid assessments to the determination of recoverable costs in civil matters where the parties cannot agree.

The Finance and Compliance section is responsible for ensuring that the organisation's finances and the monies coming in to, and being paid out of, its 'accounts' are dealt with properly, including ensuring compliance with Financial Regulations and other relevant corporate compliance requirements.

In addition, the section is responsible for a variety of other functions, including managing the payment of financial penalties imposed by the criminal Courts, fixed penalty fines issued for parking offences, certain child maintenance payments, High Court accounts and ongoing oversight of mental health receivership accounts.

The section supports the Courts in taking action against individuals or entities when payment is not made in respect of some of these imposed payments. The section is headed by the Senior Information Risk Officer, contains the Freedom of Information co-ordinator and supports the organisation's use of technology via the Information Security and Systems Officer.

The Probate and Tribunals section based in Murray House is responsible for the management of proceedings before a variety of tribunals, most notably in terms of workload, Employment and Equality, Mental Health Review, Social Security Appeals, the Advocates Disciplinary Tribunal and the Rent and Rates Appeal Commissioners.

The section is responsible for dealing with all non-contentious Probate matters filed with the High Court, ensuring that any Grant of Representation issued by the Court goes to the appropriate individuals in accordance with legislative requirements.

The section also provides administrative support to the Appointments Commission, an independent body appointed by the Council of Ministers responsible for the recruitment and appointment of individuals to a wide range of public bodies.



Court 3 – Isle of Man Courts of Justice. Court 3 is the main Criminal Courtroom.

CHANGE AND MODERNISATION

As readers of our previous Annual Reports will be aware, the General Registry is currently progressing the single biggest ICT project that the organisation has undertaken in the last 25 years: the phased introduction of a new Courts Case Management System ("CCMS") to replace and expand our existing end of life legacy system.

Our 2019 Annual Report outlined our ambitious 3 year digital modernisation programme. Although subsequently postponed for a year because of the pandemic, after further preparatory work it re-started in April 2021 and gathered pace during 2023. It is fair to say that the past year presented some unique challenges – not least managing internal resourcing of such a significant change project whilst maintaining delivery of our day to day core services – but there are clear milestones and deliverables firmly in place which we are committed to meeting.

During the year, as officers shared their experiences and project partners undertook the discovery phase, it became obvious that the complexity and variety of Court processes that the new CCMS would need to integrate was much greater than initially envisaged. Consequently, a pro-active approach was taken to re-align the project delivery and these necessary adjustments have yielded positive results. This collaborative effort has led to project delivery having improved significantly across the Criminal and Summary Courts and we are more confident than ever that the new CCMS will bring benefits to officers of the Court, our justice partners and other lay users of our services.

Unfortunately, however, these challenges resulted in a realignment of the date for delivery of the first phase of the project across Criminal Summary, General Gaol and Finance to July 2024.

The second phase, extending digitisation to the High Court where processes are primarily manual, is now planned to commence in August 2024 and last a further 12 months. It will be exciting to realise the opportunities this phase provides for our staff to contribute to the development and improvement of existing processes: the aim for the administration and judiciary alike is to always be a Court service that is modern, more efficient, and digitally robust.

Alongside this main transformation project, we were still able to progress other modernisation initiatives within existing human and financial resources to increase flexibility and service levels for our customers. The Case Study below highlights one area where we are looking to introduce online 'intelligent' forms but there are other examples too, including within the Probate process, which was itself extensively modernised in 2020 as outlined in a previous Annual Report.

During the pandemic, and in common with others, the General Registry increased our technological capabilities to enable parties, witnesses and others to appear in Court remotely. Whilst the judiciary remains constantly mindful of technology's limitations within a Courtroom environment, particularly compared to in person interactions, the appropriate use of technology has largely been a success. As such, 2023 saw the roll out of similar technology in an additional two Courtrooms, to increase our flexibility and capacity. It is envisioned that the technology can be used for remote access where previously a physical trip to the Courtroom would have been necessary and in the case of off-Island witnesses, for example, the use of this technology will undoubtedly contribute to a reduction in our carbon footprint.

Case Study: No more blame in the legal process of getting a divorce

The Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 was the product of a Private Member's Bill introduced in the House of Keys. The Act reforms the legal requirements and process for divorce including removing the need to identify the specific cause of an irretrievable breakdown which often required parties to identify alleged unreasonable behavior. It has also introduced the ability for couples to end their marriage or civil partnership jointly.

Prior to 'go live' on 3 April 2023 the High Court Family Section of the General Registry worked closely with members of the judiciary, the Attorney General's Chambers and the Isle of Man Law Society to produce new Rules of Court, forms and customer guidance as well as the provision of internal staff training.

The uptake in the new divorce process has been comparable to the number of divorce applications received under the old procedure, however one noticeable difference is that the number of divorces applied for jointly now accounts for nearly half of new divorce applications. This, as envisaged in the legislation, brings about the benefits of reducing the need for legal representation, potentially reduces the trauma for those children of joint divorce applicants and allows the Court to process many of these joint applications with less contention.

Using feedback received from customers (since their launch), the new main divorce forms have been regularly updated to assist in their completion and the General Registry has recently begun the process of seeking the introduction of an intelligent online application form for the completion of the initial divorce application form.

There remains a strong appetite for continued modernisation within the General Registry balanced with an understanding that change will have to be proportionate to our business need, be cost effective and bring real benefits to our customers, stakeholders and people without undermining in any way the quality of the administration of justice in the Isle of Man.



Court 1 – Isle of Man Courts of Justice. Court 1 is the main Civil Courtroom.

THE WIDER ENVIRONMENT

Being responsible for the administration of Courts and Tribunals in the Isle of Man, it is vital that the General Registry does not become directly involved in the development of Government policy or legislation. As either may be subject to challenge before a Court, our administration needs to be independent both in reality and in perception.

That said, the General Registry does have a vital role to play within the public sector consultative process to ensure that new legislation and other procedural developments are effective within a justice environment. During 2023, we continued to play a full and consistent part in such developments to ensure that there were appropriate Court processes in place to achieve the desired aims of the Government's legislation.

The Chief Registrar is a member of the Criminal Justice Board and sits on the Council of Ministers sub-committee on Justice. Currently these bodies are advising on and are responsible for delivering key reforms across the Island's justice framework including in response to the "Wooler" Report on the role of the Attorney General; the "Garnier" Report on Legal Services in the Isle of Man and the Attorney General's review of Legal Aid provision. The General Registry remains committed to playing a full part in any collective response to all three reviews drawing upon, where appropriate, the expertise of the Island's judiciary.

General Registry officers also attend regular meetings across various working groups considering legislative developments in areas such as licensing, families and children, insolvency and trusts.

Although in need of a revision, a Memorandum of Understanding remains in place with the Cabinet Office (Link Here) to formalise the working relationship between the two bodies. Following the creation of the post of Minister for Justice and Home Affairs in 2020, there are regular structured meetings between the Minister and the First Deemster and other members of the judiciary. These meetings, accompanied by officers, provide the opportunity to share views on key matters facing the Isle of Man and link the General Registry into the wider "Our Island Plan" delivery framework.

It is worth noting that whilst the General Registry will progress implementation of these initiatives as efficiently as possible, there is no doubt that the volume – unprecedented in the immediate past – continues to place a considerable strain on the resources of what is effectively a front line service delivery organisation at a time when we are also undergoing significant digital transformation.

There are regular Court user groups across all jurisdictions which bring together our main partners to discuss matters of concern, mutual interest and areas for improvement.

The General Registry and, indeed, the judiciary, stand ready to contribute appropriately to any initiatives in the Isle of Man which contribute to the rule of law and the effective administration of justice.

Legislation

"Our Island Plan" sets out the Government's vision and establishes a firm direction of travel during the current administration. Although not directly mandated by its initiatives, the General Registry continues to play a full part, where appropriate, in the implementation of the Plan's aspirations and this section highlights some of the cross Government initiatives that impact upon us.

For example, in 2023 we completed the necessary Court Rules to support the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Act 2020 ensuring that applications for Domestic Abuse Protection Orders were properly received and processed by the Court. We worked closely to instruct, draft

and review the considerable Court Rules to allow the implementation of 'No Fault Divorce' for marriages and civil partnerships. We also provided instructions on the technical amendments required to the Justice Reform Act 2021 and continued to contribute to the ideas of where that legislation might be improved.

Throughout the year we worked on various other projects from introducing permission to appeal for the Island's Appeal Court, continuing to liaise closely with the Department of Home Affairs on the introduction of the new licensing regime and provided consultation responses to various primary and secondary legislation.

2024 looks to be a busy year for bringing in and implementing legislative change but we are ready to assist by ensuring that Court Rules and procedures are in place to make sure the use of the legislation is effective. Areas of focus in the coming year in this regard include continuing the work already undertaken in respect of the successful implementation of the Adoption Act 2021, the Capacity Act 2021 and the Sexual Offences and Obscene Publications Act 2021.

Case Study: The Manx Bar Examinations

Throughout 2022 and 2023 we continued to work closely with the Deemsters and the Isle of Man Law Society to bring about changes to the route to qualification for becoming a Manx Advocate.

This work involved legislative change in the form of the Advocates Admission Regulations 2022 and a wholesale redraft of the syllabus underpinning the exams. The 'old' system, in place since 1987 and largely unchanged for many years before then, was also noted by Lord Garnier in his review of Legal Services.

In 2023, we facilitated the last sittings of the 'old' Manx Bar Examinations with the Deemsters acting as Examiners. Trainee Advocates now have far greater information and resources available to them to undertake their training, with desktop portfolio exercises for civil and criminal litigation which more accurately reflect the day to day practice of an Advocate.

Judicial Training

One of the recommendations in the "Garnier" Report on Legal Services, was that the Isle of Man judiciary should try to attend the training and other judicial studies available to both full-time and part-time judges in England and Wales.

One of the priorities during 2023 was to re-invigorate our engagement with the Judicial College of England and Wales to increase the opportunities for additional judicial training beyond that already available. All members of the permanent judiciary routinely undertake training however, having established an informal agreement with the Judicial College, they are now able to benefit from the vast array of training offered to judges in England and Wales. Throughout 2023 the judiciary undertook training in areas focused on their main specialisms and we remain committed to continuing, where appropriate, off-island judicial training during the coming year.

Community Engagement

Throughout 2023, with support of the First Deemster and assistance from our volunteer Magistrates, the General Registry intensified our efforts to increase engagement with the local community, specifically the Island's young people. We recognise the important role which the Courts play in the Isle of Man. For our younger audiences, we aimed to help them understand the role and work of the Court. Over the year, children from St Thomas' Primary School and from 2nd Onchan Scout Group visited the Courts, they took a tour of the building, met the judges and took part in a mock trial to learn about the functions we undertake.



For those interested in legal careers we welcomed sixth form students from schools across the Island to tour the Courts and meet members of the judiciary. They learnt about pathways into law, legal practice on the Isle of Man and were able to gain a valuable insight into the life of a judge. We organised and hosted the inaugural Schools Advocacy Competition seeing students from across the Island taking part in a Mock Bail Application competition.



Following the success of such visits in 2023, we are looking to expand these popular efforts in the coming year.

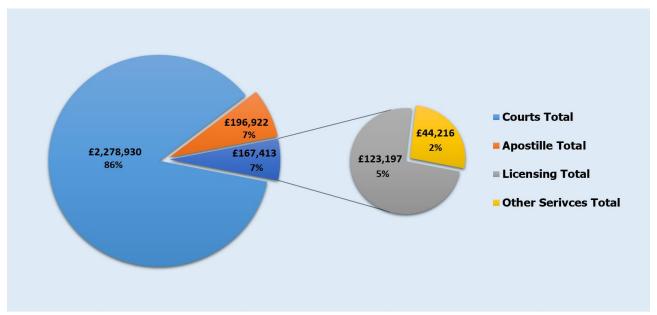
BUSINESS RISKS

The General Registry faces a number of business risks which are mitigated as far as possible through a variety of measures and active monitoring. In headline terms, the main risks our business faces include:

- The implementation of both phases of the new case management and finance system within the allocated timeframe and budget allocation;
- Increases in the size and complexity of matters before the Courts and Tribunals;
- Legislative amendments which will require changes to Rules, Practices and Procedures (and how to properly resource these changes);
- Information security and management requirements;
- Recruitment and retention both judicially and administratively; and
- Potential threats to the independence of the functions which we perform.

BUSINESS INFORMATION & METRICS

CHART A: GENERAL REGISTRY INCOME



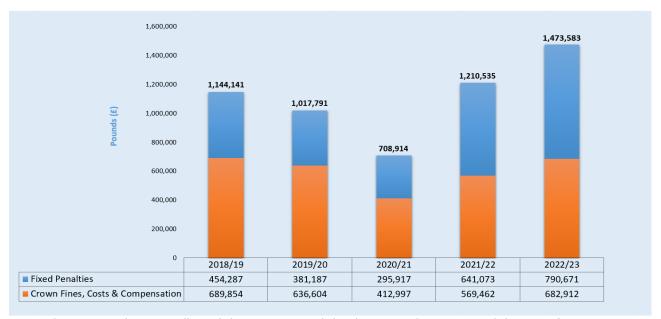
The income attributable to Licensing is higher than in previous years. This is owing to the introduction of a new licensing regime under the Liquor, Licensing and Public Entertainments Act 2021 which was enacted in December 2022.

CHART B: GENERAL REGISTRY EXPENDITURE



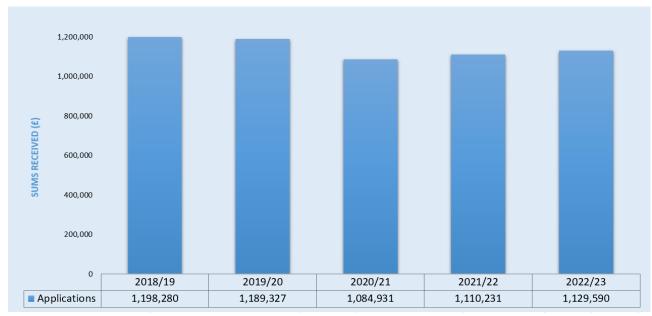
Note: The above figures will not correspond with those published in the Isle of Man Government Pink Book due to the method of accounting used in relation to certain matters, for example, failed prosecution costs.

CHART C: INCOME COLLECTED FROM FINES, FIXED PENALTIES ETC.



Note: The income above is collected, but not retained, by the General Registry and does not feature in its accounts.

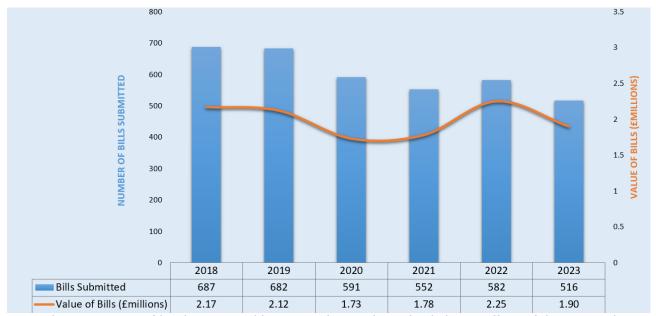
CHART D: MAINTENANCE SUMS RECEIVED & PAID ONWARD



Note: Child maintenance is regular financial support that contributes towards a child's everyday living costs. The parent without the main day-to-day care of the child often pays child maintenance to the other parent. These payments are generally made via the Chief Registrar who provides an automatic enforcement process should payments not be made.

The remaining figures, Charts E to T provide statistical information and an explanatory note for many of our areas of business from 2018 onwards, where possible. In many cases, although the information presented provides overall numbers, it does not take account of the length, size or the complexity of the matter.

CHART E: NUMBER (& VALUE) OF LEGAL AID COST ASSESSMENTS



Note: The assessment of legal costs payable is carried out independently by an officer of the Court. The object in all cases should be to achieve a fair assessment of the costs incurred which are reasonable and proportionate to the case. The need for an assessment arises out of a Court Order, a Legal Aid Certificate and certain other circumstances.

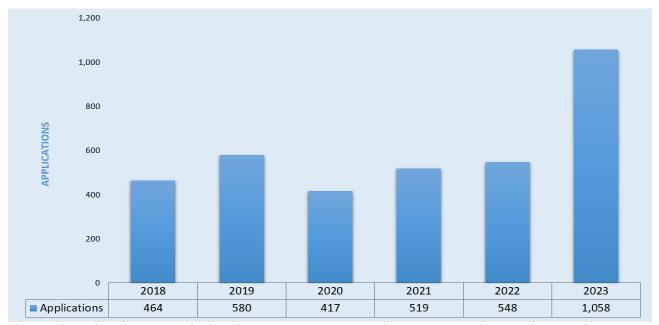
CHART F: APPEARANCES AT WEEKLY SUMMARY CRIMINAL COURTS



Note: Definitions of abbreviations within this chart are as follows:

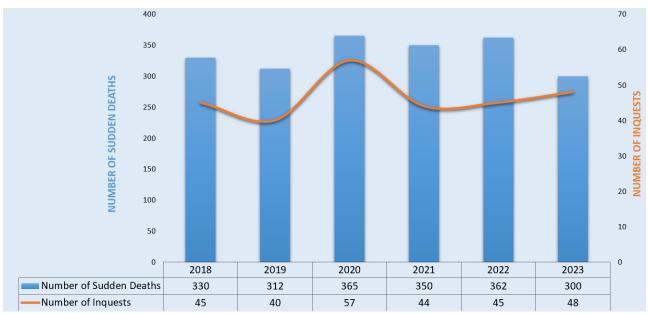
- DHB = Deputy High Bailiff
- HB = High Bailiff

CHART G: APPLICATIONS TO THE LICENSING COURT (LIQUOR/MUSIC)



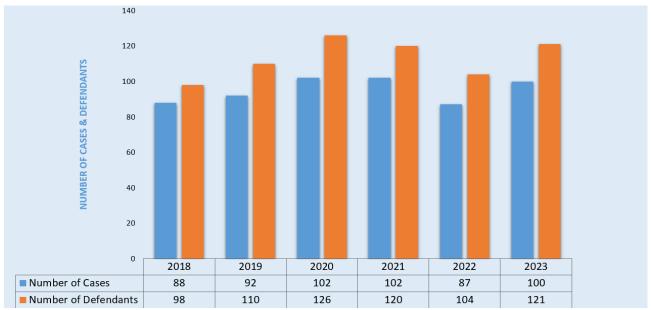
The number of applications is higher than in previous years. This is owing to the introduction of a new licensing regime under the Liquor, Licensing and Public Entertainments Act 2021 which was enacted in December 2022.

CHART H: SUDDEN DEATHS REPORTED & INQUESTS HELD



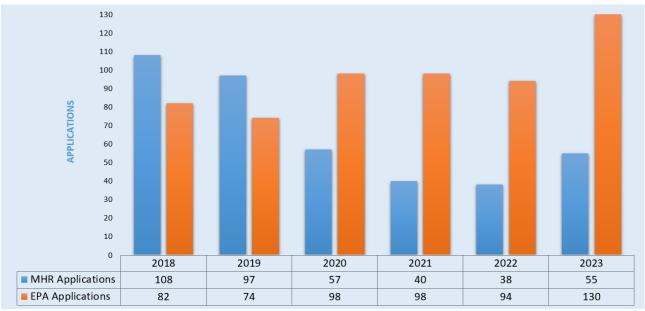
Sudden deaths are reported to the Coroner of Inquests. In many cases the cause of death is clear and there are no circumstances that require further investigation. In a number of instances, the Coroner of Inquests is required to hold an Inquest to determine certain information about the deceased and how they died. The Coroner of Inquests can make recommendations to assist in preventing a reoccurrence of such death.

CHART I: NEW GENERAL GAOL CASES & NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS



Note: The Court of General Gaol Delivery is broadly equivalent to the England & Wales Crown Court and deals with the most serious of crimes where an individual could be sentenced to a long period of immediate custody. There is a higher number of Defendants than cases because some cases will have 2 or more Defendants who are jointly charged together.

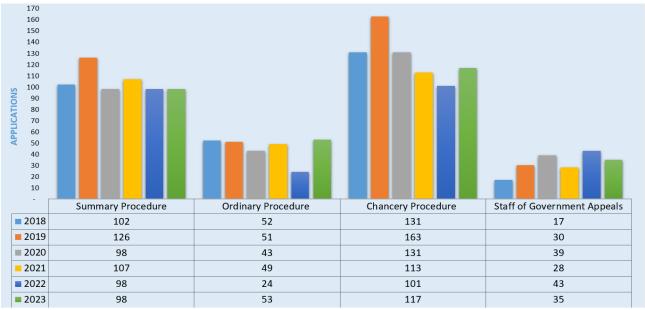
CHART J: APPLICATIONS FOR (REGISTRATION OF) ENDURING POWERS OF ATTORNEY & GRANTING OF MENTAL HEALTH RECEIVERSHIPS



Note: An Enduring Power of Attorney is a legal document in which 'the donor' appoints someone else ('the attorney') to look after their financial affairs in the event that they lose mental capacity. An ordinary Power of Attorney loses its validity when the donor loses the mental capacity to manage his or her own affairs. However, if an Enduring Power of Attorney has been drawn up then it should be registered in the High Court in order that the attorney may continue to act on the donor's behalf when the donor loses capacity.

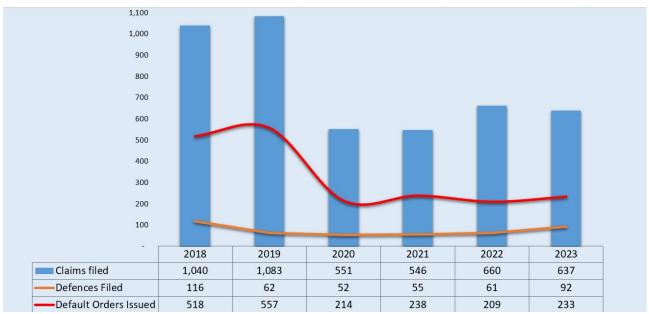
Note: Mental Health Receiverships are granted following an application to the court for the appointment of a Receiver where a person becomes incapable, by reason of mental disorder, of managing his or her property and affairs.

CHART K: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT – CIVIL CLAIMS



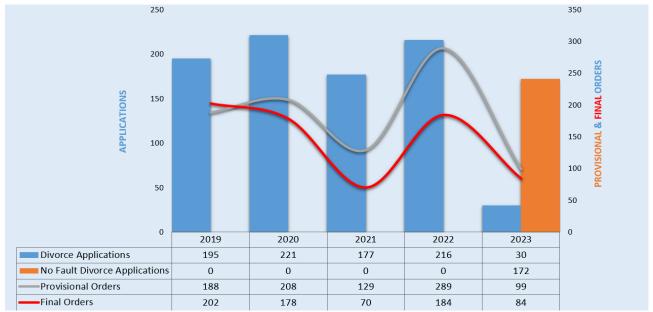
Note: In general, a claim in the summary procedure is one where the value of the claim falls between £10,001 and £100,000 (£5,001 - £100,000 if the claim is for personal injuries). The ordinary procedure is one where the value of the claim is higher than £100,000 or where the financial value of a claim is to be decided by the Court. The chancery procedure is the usual procedure where the cases does not have a financial value and the claimant is asking the Court to make a decision on a question which is unlikely to involve a substantial dispute of fact. The figure for Appeals refers to all appeals to the Staff of Government (Appeal) Division, not just in civil matters.

CHART L: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT - SMALL CLAIMS



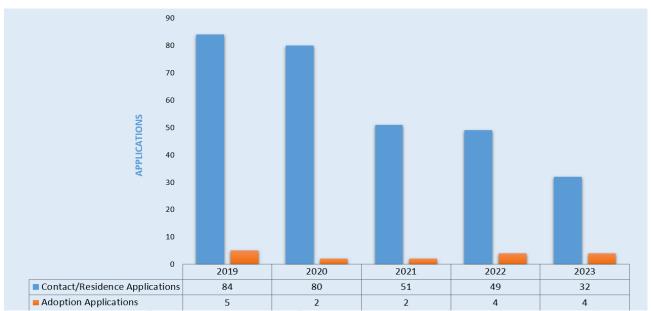
Note: The Small Claims procedure is a Court procedure which provides a simple and informal way of resolving disputes. In general, a small claim is one where the value of the claim is for £10,000 or less (£5,000 or less if the claim is for personal injuries). There is no lower limit.

CHART M: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT – DIVORCE



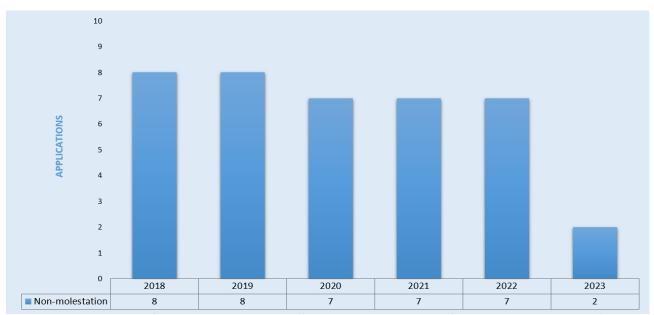
Note: No Fault Divorce was introduced on 1 April 2024 and replaces the old system of divorce where one needed to identify grounds for divorce (usually unreasonable behaviour). The Divorce, Dissolution and Separation Act 2020 reforms the legal requirements and process for divorce. Divorce proceedings issued by the Court on or before the 31 March 2023 will continue to progress under the old law and procedures.

CHART N: APPLICATIONS TO THE HIGH COURT – ADOPTION & CONTACT/RESIDENCE



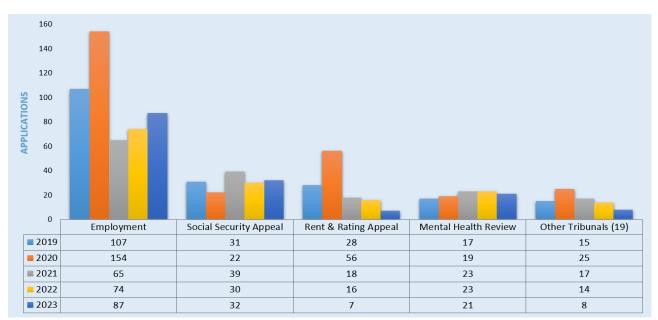
Note: An Order for adoption gives full parental rights and all legal responsibilities to the adoptive parents as if the child concerned were born to them. The Order severs all legal ties with the birth family who will then cease to have any legal rights over the child. Contact Orders require the person with whom a child lives to allow that child to visit, stay or have contact with a person named in the order. Residence Orders decide where and with whom the child is to live.

CHART O: APPLICATIONS FOR NON-MOLESTATION AND/OR OCCUPATION ORDER(S)



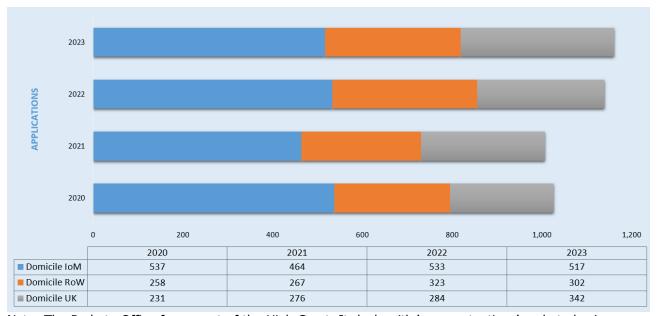
Note: A Non-Molestation Order is typically sought by an applicant when they wish to prohibit an individual from using or threatening physical violence, intimidating, harassing, pestering or communicating with them. Occupation Orders are made by the Courts to enforce, declare or restrict rights to occupy the matrimonial home. The Domestic Abuse Act 2020 was enacted on 4 January 2023 and introduces Domestic Abuse Protection Orders which can be obtained by the Isle of Man Constabulary or made by the Court during criminal, civil or family proceedings. The effect of such an Order is identical to a Non-Molestation Order and this is why we believe we have seen a decrease in 2023. The number of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders granted was 14.

CHART P: APPLICATIONS TO TRIBUNALS



Note: The number of applications to the Employment & Equality Tribunal in 2020 includes a significant number of complaints from a group of employees against the same employer.

CHART Q: APPLICATIONS FOR NON-CONTENTIOUS PROBATE



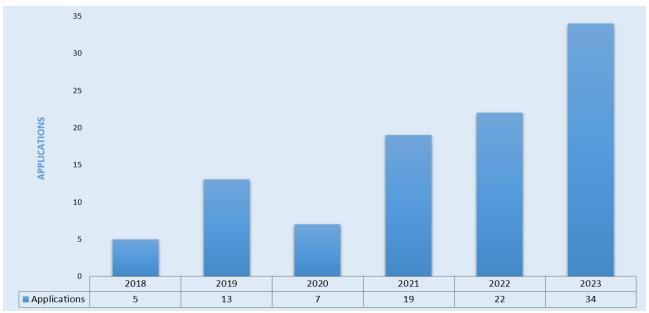
Note: The Probate Office forms part of the High Court. It deals with 'non-contentious' probate business, that is where there is no dispute about the validity of a will or entitlement to take a Grant of Representation. This area of business within the Court contributes most to the income figure, with the annual average across the past 4 years being £1,551,455

CHART R: APPLICATIONS FOR AN APOSTILLE CERTIFICATE



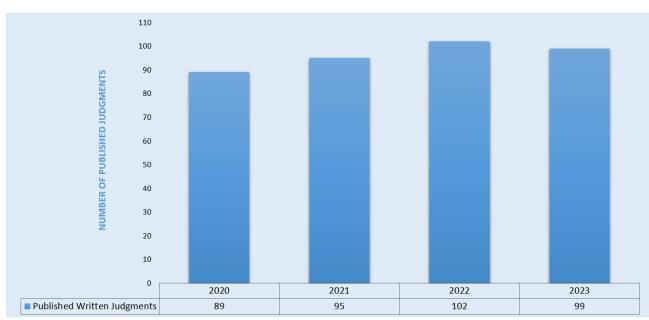
Note: An Apostille is an official Government issued certificate added to documents in order for them to be recognised as genuine when presented in another country. Once a document has had an Apostille Certificate attached confirming the authenticity of signatures and seals, it can be presented to any country that recognizes the Apostille. The authority receiving the document should then accept the seals or signatures as true and valid without requesting further evidence or proof.

CHART S: APPLICATIONS MADE FOR A TEMPORARY MANX ADVOCATES LICENCE



Note: A temporary Advocate's Licence may be issued to persons qualified in other jurisdictions in certain prescribed circumstances. The majority of such Licenses are issued in relation to complex commercial litigation matters.

CHART T: PUBLISHED JUDGMENTS



A link to the published judgments can be found at - Isle of Man Judgments Online

