

Vote Courts

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Minister for Courts (M19)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Ministry of Justice (A23)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF JUSTICE: Minister of Justice

Overview of the Vote

The Minister for Courts is responsible for appropriations in Vote Courts totalling over \$1,221 million in the 2026/27 financial year, covering the following:

- a total of nearly \$722 million for services from the Ministry of Justice that support the work of courts, tribunals, and other authorities
- a total of over \$235 million for salaries and allowances for judicial and statutory officers, as set by the Remuneration Authority
- over \$192 million for professional and administrative services provided to or directed by courts and coroners, including costs that are required to be met by legislation
- nearly \$66 million for services from the Ministry of Justice for the collection and enforcement of fines and civil debts services
- nearly \$6 million for tribunal-related fees and expenses, and
- nearly \$1 million to support other activities associated with the wider justice system, including maintaining the Justice of the Peace Association.

Nearly \$141 million of revenue from court imposed fines, offender levies, contributions towards lawyer for child costs, and penalties is expected to be received in the 2026/27 financial year.

Details of these appropriations are set out in Parts 2-4.

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Assistance to Victims of Crime (M19) (A23) Funding for the Criminal Justice Assistance Reimbursement Scheme.	40	40	40
Community Magistrates Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to the remuneration and allowances of Community Magistrates as authorised by section 60 of the District Court Act 2016.	4,762	4,762	5,596
Coroners and Associate Coroners' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to the costs related to the terms and conditions of remuneration for Coroners and Associate Coroners pursuant to Section 110 of the Coroners Act 2006.	17,142	17,142	17,137
Court and Coroner Related Costs (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to meeting the costs of services directed by or provided to courts (including coroners) and tribunals, including the costs of legal services (including settlement of claims) arising out of the exercise of judicial functions or the execution of judicial process, costs required to be met by the Crown under legislation, and remuneration of Lay Members and Visiting Justices.	169,965	169,965	192,201
Court Martial Appeal Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to the salaries and allowances of appointed Judges in the Court Martial Appeal Court as authorised by Section 3(3B) of the Court Martial Appeals Act 1953.	40	40	35
Disputes Tribunal Referees' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Principal Disputes Referee and Referees as authorised by section 9 of the Disputes Tribunal Act 1988.	9,376	9,376	10,266
District Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to the remuneration and allowances of Judges in the District Court, including the Environment Court, as authorised by section 34 of the District Court Act 2016.	111,312	111,312	111,693
Employment Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to costs related to the terms and conditions of remuneration for Judges and acting warranted Judges in the Employment Court incurred pursuant to s.206 Employment Relations Act 2000.	4,652	4,652	4,652
Environment Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Environment Commissioners and Deputy Environment Commissioners as authorised by section 263 of the Resource Management Act 1991.	3,100	3,100	3,748
Family Court Associates Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for Family Court Associates as authorised by section 7E of the Family Court Act 1980.	4,012	4,012	4,098
Human Rights Review Tribunal Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the Human Rights Review Tribunal as authorised by section 118A of the Human Rights Act 1993.	1,199	1,199	945

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Immigration and Protection Tribunal Deputy Chair and Other Members' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the deputy chair and the other members of the Immigration and Protection Tribunal as authorised by schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 2009.	5,445	5,445	5,577
Justices of the Peace Association (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to the cost of administrative services from the Royal Federation of Justices including training and rostering Justices of the Peace for court hearings, and training for Visiting Justices.	600	600	600
Māori Land Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to costs related to the terms and conditions of remuneration for Judges and acting warranted Judges in the Māori Land Court incurred pursuant to s.13 Te Ture Whenua Māori Land Act 1993.	9,141	9,141	9,579
Senior Courts Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to the remuneration and allowances of Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court as authorised by section 135 of the Senior Courts Act 2016.	52,352	52,352	53,603
Tenancy Tribunal Adjudicators' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Principal Tenancy Adjudicators, Deputy Principal Tenancy Adjudicator, and Tenancy Adjudicators as authorised by section 69 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986.	8,048	8,048	8,282
Tribunal Related Fees and Expenses (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding remuneration, allowances, or fees for the Chairs, Members, Adjudicators and Assessors of Specialist Tribunals, and expenses incurred by those Chairs, Members, Adjudicators and Assessors in relation to Tribunal work.	7,141	7,141	5,541
Weathertight Homes Tribunal Chair Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23) This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the chair of the Weathertight Homes Tribunal as authorised by schedule 3 section 6(1) of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.	248	248	248
Total Non-Departmental Other Expenses	408,575	408,575	433,841
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services MCA (M19) (A23) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to provide courts, tribunals and other authorities services, including the collection and enforcement of fines and civil debts services.	767,981	755,900	787,461
Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services</i> This category is limited to the purchase of collection and enforcement of fines and civil debts services.	65,818	65,818	65,949
<i>District Court Services</i> This category is limited to providing services that support the work of the District Court, including the Youth Court and Family Court.	440,792	434,411	454,023
<i>New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions</i> This category is limited to the provision of services that support the courts, tribunals and other authorities of international jurisdictions.	4,561	4,561	2,950
<i>Senior Courts Services</i> This category is limited to providing services that support the work of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court.	118,565	112,865	117,954

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
<i>Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services</i> This category is limited to providing services that support the work of specialist courts, tribunals and other authorities.	138,245	138,245	146,585
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	767,981	755,900	787,461
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	1,176,556	1,164,475	1,221,302

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.1 - New Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Appropriation	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Improving Timeliness in the High Court: Increasing the Judicial Cap and Enabling Flexibility in Appointments	Senior Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA Non-Departmental Other Expenses	1,787	3,038	2,680	2,680	2,680
Justice Sector Victims Work Programme Funding Transfer - Increasing Engagement in Family Group Conference	Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services MCA District Court Services Departmental Output Expenses	800	800	800	800	800
Justice Sector Victims Work Programme Funding Transfer - Replacing VictimsInfo website	Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services MCA District Court Services Departmental Output Expenses	400	900	850	350	350
Justice - Demand Driven Cost Pressures	Court and Coroner Related Costs Non-Departmental Other Expenses	-	12,154	-	-	-
Resource Management Reform - Planning Tribunal Court Related Costs	Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services MCA Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services Departmental Output Expenses Environment Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners' Salaries and Allowances PLA Non-Departmental Other Expenses Court and Coroner Related Costs Non-Departmental Other Expenses	-	2,882	7,669	6,456	6,456
		-	648	1,557	1,557	1,557
		-	50	150	150	150
Total Initiatives		2,987	20,472	13,706	11,993	11,993

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		2026/27			2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
Appropriations												
Output Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	303,408	335,602	374,627	397,951	408,575	408,575	-	433,841	433,841	422,338	420,810	420,810
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	575,509	632,449	704,767	707,722	767,981	755,900	787,461	-	787,461	775,799	759,370	762,056
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	878,917	968,051	1,079,394	1,105,673	1,176,556	1,164,475	787,461	433,841	1,221,302	1,198,137	1,180,180	1,182,866
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	100,883	119,852	124,836	132,196	144,711	144,711	N/A	147,645	147,645	147,988	147,988	147,988
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	100,883	119,852	124,836	132,196	144,711	144,711	N/A	147,645	147,645	147,988	147,988	147,988

Note - where restructuring of the vote has occurred then, to the extent practicable, prior years information has been restated as if the restructuring had occurred before the beginning of the period covered. In this instance Total Appropriations for the Budgeted and Estimated Actual year may not equal Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations in the Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections.

Adjustments to the Summary of Financial Activity Table Due to Vote Restructuring

There have been no restructuring adjustments to prior year information in the Summary of Financial Activity table.

1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

Other Expenses

Over 53% of other expenses relate to permanent legislative authority appropriations for salaries and allowances for judicial and statutory officers. The Remuneration Authority sets the pay for judicial and statutory officers and increases are processed for new salary and allowances determinations issued. Additional Judges have been in place since 2021/22 to address backlogs, including caseloads affected by COVID-19 restrictions, with ongoing increases to improve and maintain timely access to justice through the Courts. An increase in Coroners was approved from 2022/23 to improve the coronial system for bereaved families and whānau.

The Court and Coroner Related Costs appropriation has increased from nearly \$124 million in 2021/22 to an estimated actual of nearly \$170 million in 2025/26. The increase in expenditure is due to heightened demand, rising service costs, and greater case complexity. Funding at this increased level is provided in 2026/27 to ensure the judiciary have sufficient information to proceed with cases and court users receive appropriate support and representation.

Multi-Category Output Expenses

The Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services MCA appropriation has increased from nearly \$576 million in 2021/22 to an estimated actual of nearly \$754 million in 2025/26. The increase in expenditure over this period is mainly due to:

- project costs relating to investments in the Ministry's property portfolio and information technology infrastructure, including seismic strengthening of current courthouses, new courthouses and Te Au Reka, a digital case management solution for courts and tribunals
- new initiatives to improve the justice system, including Te Ao Marama, a new model for the District Court to deliver services
- costs associated with high profile court events including Christchurch masjidain attack court proceedings
- increasing costs for depreciation as well as staff remuneration, and
- strengthening the health, safety and security in New Zealand Courts.

The expenditure is forecasted to increase to nearly \$788 million in 2026/27 mainly due to:

- the progression of the Te Au Reka project to the build phase which has higher expected project costs
- increasing costs for frontline staff remuneration, and
- additional funding for core functions to enable a continued focus on improving timeliness in the Courts and across the justice system.

From 2026/27 to 2029/30, costs are projected to remain relatively stable as projects head towards completion and new initiatives begin to be implemented.

Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts

Over 95% of the non-tax revenue is collected through Court fines, which are subject to judicial decisions.

Part 3 - Details of Non-Departmental Appropriations

3.4 - Non-Departmental Other Expenses

Assistance to Victims of Crime (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

Funding for the Criminal Justice Assistance Reimbursement Scheme.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	40	40	40

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve effective support and services for victims, to reduce the impact of crime.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(iii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as the amount of this annual appropriation for a non-departmental output expense is less than \$5 million.

Community Magistrates Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the remuneration and allowances of Community Magistrates as authorised by section 60 of the District Court Act 2016.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	4,762	4,762	5,596

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the courts system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to Community Magistrates.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the District Court Act 2016.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Court Timeliness - Investing in Judicial Capacity	2025/26	1,228	1,428	1,428	1,428	1,428

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to:

- an increase of \$634,000 for a full year of forecasts salaries and allowances following vacancies in 2025/26, and
- an increase of \$200,000 for additional Community Magistrates to improve and maintain the timeliness of cases across the Courts.

Coroners and Associate Coroners' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the costs related to the terms and conditions of remuneration for Coroners and Associate Coroners pursuant to Section 110 of the Coroners Act 2006.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	17,142	17,142	17,137

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the coronial function by providing payment of salaries and allowances to Coroners and Associate Coroners.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under section 110 of the Coroners Act 2006.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Previous Government						
Coronial Services - Improving the Coronial System for Bereaved Families and Whānau	2022/23	3,806	3,806	3,806	3,806	3,806

Court and Coroner Related Costs (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to meeting the costs of services directed by or provided to courts (including coroners) and tribunals, including the costs of legal services (including settlement of claims) arising out of the exercise of judicial functions or the execution of judicial process, costs required to be met by the Crown under legislation, and remuneration of Lay Members and Visiting Justices.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	169,965	169,965	192,201

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Family Court Professional Services	50,779	50,779	62,508
Coroner-Directed Post-Mortems	27,633	27,633	27,633
Family Violence Professional Services	24,578	24,578	26,881
Medical and Other Professional Services	12,239	12,239	14,939
Oranga Tamariki Act Professional Services	13,170	13,170	14,670
Youth Court Professional Fees	12,371	12,371	12,714
Interpreter costs	8,888	8,888	9,138
Personal Property Protection Rights Costs	6,746	6,746	8,746
Juror Fees and Expenses	8,202	8,202	8,202

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Witness Fees and Expenses	1,982	1,982	2,793
Māori Land Court Special Aid Fund	1,847	1,847	1,847
Judicial Review Costs	957	957	957
Visiting Justices to Prisons	416	416	716
Costs in Criminal Cases	157	157	457
Total	169,965	169,965	192,201

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve effective professional and administrative services to ensure that court users receive appropriate support and representation, and the judiciary have sufficient information to proceed with cases.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Number of external professional services appointed in the Family Court (see Note 1)	>13,000	9,112	>13,000
Percentage of people who completed a safety programme and met the objectives of the programme	70%	82%	70%
Percentage of post-mortems performed within two working days following, the later of, receipt of the coroner's direction or arrival of the body at the post-mortem facility	95%	95%	95%

Note 1 - The external professional services include court appointed counsel, such as lawyer for child, lawyer to assist the court and specialist report writers. These services are demand driven and professional service providers are engaged when the judge determines there is a need. An application can have more than one type of service provision appointment.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Minister for Courts in a report appended to the Ministry of Justice's Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Justice - Demand Driven Cost Pressures	2026/27	-	12,154	-	-	-
Resource Management Reform - Planning Tribunal Court Related Costs	2026/27	-	50	150	150	150
Court Timeliness - Delivering Timely Access to Justice Services	2025/26	14,786	15,411	15,411	15,411	15,411
Court Timeliness - Cost Pressures for Court and Coroner Costs	2024/25	1,668	-	-	-	-
Court and Coronial Services - Returning Funding for Initiatives with Low Demand	2024/25	(400)	(128)	(128)	(128)	(128)
Previous Government						
Maintaining Momentum Across Te Aorerekura - Improved Access to Family Violence Programmes in Court and the Community	2023/24	6,064	8,239	8,239	8,239	8,239
Extend Pay Equity Settlement for Social Workers in Community and Iwi Organisations	2023/24	1,474	1,586	1,586	1,586	1,586
Settlement of Pay Equity Claim for Social Work-Related Roles	2023/24	320	336	336	336	336
Meeting Demand for Critical Court and Justice Services	2022/23	13,607	13,607	13,607	13,607	13,607

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is mainly due to:

- an increase of \$8.500 million in 2025/26 due to reprioritisation to support the rising demand and greater complexity in administering Legal Aid Services
- an increase of \$2.175 million to improve access to the family violence programmes in courts and the community, and
- an increase of \$625,000 to maintain a continued focus on improving timeliness in the Courts and across the justice system.

This is partially offset by a decrease of \$1.668 million due to time-limited funding provided in 2025/26 for demand driven services that support the Courts ensuring the judiciary had sufficient information to proceed with cases while court users received appropriate support and representation.

Court Martial Appeal Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the salaries and allowances of appointed Judges in the Court Martial Appeal Court as authorised by Section 3(3B) of the Court Martial Appeals Act 1953.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	40	40	35

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the court system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to the Court Martial Appeal Court judiciary.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under remuneration provisions of the Court Martial Appeal Act 1953.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The decrease in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to decreased activities and number of sitting days for Court Martial Appeal Court Judges compared to 2025/26.

Disputes Tribunal Referees' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Principal Disputes Referee and Referees as authorised by section 9 of the Disputes Tribunal Act 1988.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	9,376	9,376	10,266

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of tribunals by providing payment of salaries and allowances for the Principal Disputes Referee and Referees'.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the Disputes Tribunal Act 1988.

District Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the remuneration and allowances of Judges in the District Court, including the Environment Court, as authorised by section 34 of the District Court Act 2016.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	111,312	111,312	111,693

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
District Court Judges	106,657	106,657	105,999
Environment Court Judges	5,655	5,655	5,694
Total	111,312	111,312	111,693

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the court system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to the District Court and Environment Court judiciary.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under remuneration provisions of the District Court Act 2016.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Continued Funding for District Court Judges	2025/26	1,528	1,528	1,528	-	-
Tougher Approach to Sentencing	2024/25	382	382	382	382	382
Addressing Serious Youth Offending	2024/25	382	382	382	382	382

Employment Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to costs related to the terms and conditions of remuneration for Judges and acting warranted Judges in the Employment Court incurred pursuant to s.206 Employment Relations Act 2000.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	4,652	4,652	4,652

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the courts system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to the Employment Court judiciary.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under s206 Employment Relations Act 2000.

Environment Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Environment Commissioners and Deputy Environment Commissioners as authorised by section 263 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	3,100	3,100	3,748

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the Environment Court by providing payment of salaries and allowances for the Environment Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Resource Management Reform - Planning Tribunal Court Related Costs	2026/27	-	648	1,557	1,557	1,557

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to funding of \$648,000 to establish a new specialist body under the Government's resource management reforms.

Family Court Associates Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for Family Court Associates as authorised by section 7E of the Family Court Act 1980.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	4,012	4,012	4,098

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the Family Court system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to Family Court Associates.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under section 7E of the Family Court Act 1980.

Human Rights Review Tribunal Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons of the Human Rights Review Tribunal as authorised by section 118A of the Human Rights Act 1993.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	1,199	1,199	945

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of tribunals by providing payment of salaries and allowances for the Human Rights Review Tribunal Chairperson and Deputy Chairpersons'.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the Human Rights Act 1993.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The decrease in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to a \$254,000 reduction in time-limited funding for two part-time Human Rights Review Tribunal deputy chairpersons, which concluded in 2025/26.

Immigration and Protection Tribunal Deputy Chair and Other Members' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the deputy chair and the other members of the Immigration and Protection Tribunal as authorised by schedule 2 of the Immigration Act 2009.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	5,445	5,445	5,577

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of tribunals by providing payment of salaries and allowances for the Immigration and Protection Tribunal Deputy Chairpersons' and Members.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the Immigration Act 2009.

Justices of the Peace Association (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the cost of administrative services from the Royal Federation of Justices including training and rostering Justices of the Peace for court hearings, and training for Visiting Justices.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	600	600	600

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient provision of Justices of the Peace services by providing funding for the work performed by the Royal Federation of New Zealand Justices' Associations.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(iii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as the amount of this annual appropriation for a Non-Departmental other expense is less than \$5 million.

Māori Land Court Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to costs related to the terms and conditions of remuneration for Judges and acting warranted Judges in the Māori Land Court incurred pursuant to s.13 Te Ture Whenua Māori Land Act 1993.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	9,141	9,141	9,579

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the courts system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to the Māori Land Court judiciary.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under s13 Te Ture Whenua Māori Land Act 1993.

Senior Courts Judges' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the remuneration and allowances of Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court as authorised by section 135 of the Senior Courts Act 2016.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	52,352	52,352	53,603

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
High Court	38,513	38,513	39,434
Court of Appeal	8,275	8,275	8,472
Supreme Court	5,564	5,564	5,697
Total	52,352	52,352	53,603

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the courts system by providing payment of salaries and allowances to Judges in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the Senior Courts Act 2016.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Improving Timeliness in the High Court: Increasing the Judicial Cap and Enabling Flexibility in Appointments	2025/26	1,787	3,038	2,680	2,680	2,680
Court Timeliness - Investing in Judicial Capacity	2025/26	1,382	1,382	1,382	1,382	1,382

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to additional funding of \$1.251 million to increase the statutory cap for High Court Judges, supporting coverage for unexpected long-term absences, and enabling effective transition planning between incoming and retiring High Court judges.

Tenancy Tribunal Adjudicators' Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the Principal Tenancy Adjudicators, Deputy Principal Tenancy Adjudicator, and Tenancy Adjudicators as authorised by section 69 of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	8,048	8,048	8,282

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of tribunals by providing payment of salaries and allowances for Tenancy Tribunal Adjudicators'.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under the remuneration provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act 1986.

Tribunal Related Fees and Expenses (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding remuneration, allowances, or fees for the Chairs, Members, Adjudicators and Assessors of Specialist Tribunals, and expenses incurred by those Chairs, Members, Adjudicators and Assessors in relation to Tribunal work.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	7,141	7,141	5,541

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of the tribunals administered by the Ministry of Justice through the payment of remuneration, allowances, fees and expenses for Chairs, Members, Adjudicators, and Assessors of Specialist Tribunals.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for funding remuneration, allowances or fees, and expenses.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Previous Government						
Charities Act 2005 - Implementation of Changes	2023/24	110	110	110	110	110
Increasing fees paid to Judicial Officers	2022/23	1,299	1,299	1,299	1,299	1,299

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The decrease in this appropriation for 2026/27 is due to a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$1.600 million in 2025/26 to increased fees in accordance with the Cabinet Fees Framework.

Weathertight Homes Tribunal Chair Salaries and Allowances PLA (M19) (A23)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to funding salaries, allowances, or fees for the chair of the Weathertight Homes Tribunal as authorised by schedule 3 section 6(1) of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.

Expenses

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	248	248	248

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the efficient running of tribunals by providing payment of salaries and allowances for the Weathertight Homes Tribunal Chair.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

An exemption was granted under s15D(2)(b)(ii) of the Public Finance Act 1989 as the appropriation is one from which resources will be provided to a person or an entity other than a department, a functional chief executive, an Office of Parliament, or a Crown entity, and as additional performance information is unlikely to be informative because this appropriation is solely for payments under schedule 3 section 6(1) of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.

Part 4 - Details of Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services, including the Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services (M19) (A23)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to provide courts, tribunals and other authorities services, including the collection and enforcement of fines and civil debts services.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services

This category is limited to the purchase of collection and enforcement of fines and civil debts services.

District Court Services

This category is limited to providing services that support the work of the District Court, including the Youth Court and Family Court.

New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions

This category is limited to the provision of services that support the courts, tribunals and other authorities of international jurisdictions.

Senior Courts Services

This category is limited to providing services that support the work of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court.

Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services

This category is limited to providing services that support the work of specialist courts, tribunals and other authorities.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	767,981	755,900	787,461
Departmental Output Expenses			
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services	65,818	65,818	65,949
District Court Services	440,792	434,411	454,023
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions	4,561	4,561	2,950
Senior Courts Services	118,565	112,865	117,954
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services	138,245	138,245	146,585

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	696,770	696,770	714,698
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services	53,804	53,804	52,034
District Court Services	417,529	417,529	430,398
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions	213	213	-
Senior Courts Services	105,630	105,630	104,746
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services	119,594	119,594	127,520
Revenue from Others	71,055	71,055	72,548
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services	12,014	12,014	13,915
District Court Services	23,263	23,263	23,625
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions	4,348	4,348	2,950
Senior Courts Services	12,935	12,935	13,208
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services	18,495	18,495	18,850

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Departmental			
<i>Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Service</i>			
Collection and Enforcement of Fines	54,960	54,960	55,069
Collection and Enforcement of Civil Debt	10,858	10,858	10,880
Total	65,818	65,818	65,949
<i>District Court Services</i>			
Criminal Court	269,772	269,772	276,494
Family Court	140,123	133,742	145,683
Civil Court	30,897	30,897	31,846
Total	440,792	434,411	454,023
<i>New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions</i>			
Pacific Regional Justice Sector Programme	4,561	4,561	2,950
<i>Senior Court Services</i>			
High Court - Criminal	48,878	45,601	49,641
High Court - Civil	36,131	33,708	36,695
Supreme Court - Criminal	11,284	11,284	11,473
Supreme Court - Civil	10,736	10,736	10,916
Court of Appeal - Criminal	7,255	7,255	4,876
Court of Appeal - Civil	4,281	4,281	4,353
Total	118,565	112,865	117,954

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
<i>Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services</i>			
Māori Land Court and Māori Land Information	43,812	43,812	44,531
Other Tribunals and Authorities	28,778	28,778	32,221
Coroner Services	15,698	15,698	19,055
Disputes Tribunal	14,252	14,252	14,486
Waitangi Tribunal Services	13,497	13,497	13,719
Environment Court	9,734	9,734	9,894
Tenancy Tribunal	9,441	9,441	9,596
Employment Court	3,033	3,033	3,083
Total	138,245	138,245	146,585

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve an efficient and accessible system of courts, tribunals and other authorities, which is trusted by New Zealanders.

How Performance will be Assessed for this Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Satisfaction of court users with court services and facilities (see Note 1)	80%	80%	80%
Percentage of juror survey responses that rate overall juror satisfaction as "satisfied" or better (see Note 1)	90%	90%	90%

Note 1 - The Court User Survey and the Juror Satisfaction Survey have been consolidated into a single survey, which will be administered annually from 2026 rather than biennially. As a result, the court satisfaction and juror satisfaction performance indicators will now be reported on an annual basis.

What is Intended to be Achieved with each Category and How Performance will be Assessed

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Departmental Output Expenses			
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services			
This category is intended to achieve efficient, accessible and responsive collections of fines, reparations and civil debt services that are trusted by the public.			
Total amount of fines collected	>\$180 million	\$240 million	>\$180 million
Civil enforcement applications processed in six days	90%	70%	90%

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Percentage of Offender Levy collected or placed under arrangement within four months	80%	76%	80%
Percentage of fines collected or placed under arrangement within 4 months	80%	80%	80%
Percent of reparation collected or placed under arrangement within 4 months	80%	80%	80%
Average time to answer calls to the Collections Contact Centre (mm:ss)	01:30	01:02	01:30
District Court Services			
This category is intended to achieve efficient, accessible and responsive District Courts services that are trusted by the public.			
Percentage of Care of Children Act cases disposed of within 12 months in the Family Court	75%	67%	75%
Percentage of criminal cases disposed of within category-based timeliness thresholds (see Note 2)	90%	83%	90%
Number of District Court criminal cases (including youth) disposed of	>110,000	117,072	>110,000
Number of civil cases disposed of	>16,000	16,376	>16,000
Number of Family Court substantive applications disposed of (see Note 3)	>55,000	67,216	>55,000
Percentage of calls answered by the 0800 Victims of Crime Information Line answered within 30 seconds	80%	80%	80%
Dissolution of marriage applications processed within six days	90%	96%	90%
Applications to commence civil proceedings processed within six days	90%	78%	90%
Average time to answer calls to the Registry Contact Centre (mm:ss)	2:00	1:46	2:00
Phase 1 of the Te Au Reka programme (Family Court) build is aligned to agreed programme milestones (see Note 4)	Achieved	Achieved	Measure replaced
The Te Au Reka programme is operating within the approved funding allocation (see Note 4)	Achieved	Achieved	Measure replaced
Phase 1 of the Te Au Reka programme (Family Court) has gone live (see Note 5)	New measure	New measure	By 30 June 2027
Phase 2 of the Te Au Reka programme (criminal and civil proceedings in the District Court and High Court) scope and define has been completed (see Note 5)	New measure	New measure	By 30 June 2027
The Te Au Reka programme is operating within the approved funding allocation (see Note 5)	New measure	New measure	Achieved
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions			
This category is intended to achieve a stable, prosperous and resilient Pacific through support for the development of accessible, fair, responsive and efficient justice systems.			
Milestones delivered as agreed in the Pacific Justice Sector Programme memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	90%	90%	90%

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Senior Courts Services			
This category is intended to achieve efficient, accessible and responsive Senior Courts services that are trusted by the public.			
Number of Supreme Court civil and criminal applications for leave to appeal and appeals disposed of	100-200	220	100-200
Number of Court of Appeal civil and criminal appeals disposed of	570-730	948	570-730
Number of High Court civil and criminal appeals disposed of	1,500-1,750	2,420	1,500-1,750
Number of High Court civil and criminal cases disposed of	2,100-2,700	2,440	2,100-2,700
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services			
This category is intended to achieve efficient, accessible and responsive specialist courts, tribunals and other authorities' services that are trusted by the public.			
Accident Compensation Appeals District Court Registry			
Percentage of Accident Compensation Appeals District Court Registry cases disposed of	85%	103%	85%
Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority			
Percentage of Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority appeals and enforcements disposed of within six months	75%	56%	75%
Coronial Services Unit			
Number of coronial cases closed	>3,100	5,108	>3,100
Percentage of coronial cases on hand aged under 12 months	60%	45%	60%
Disputes Tribunal			
Number of Disputes Tribunal claims disposed of	>12,000	17,240	>12,000
Percentage of Disputes Tribunal claims disposed of within three months	70%	70%	70%
Disputes Tribunal applications processed within six days	85%	90%	85%
Employment Court			
Number of Employment Court cases disposed of	>150	220	>150
Percentage of Employment Court cases on hand aged under 12 months	75%	70%	75%
Environment Court			
Number of Environment Court cases disposed of	>350	608	>350
Percentage of Environment Court cases on hand aged under 18 months	75%	61%	75%
Human Rights Review Tribunal			
Percentage of Human Rights Review Tribunal cases disposed of	80%	119%	80%
Immigration and Protection Tribunal			
Percentage of Immigration and Protection Tribunal cases disposed of	90%	64%	90%

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Māori Land Court			
Number of Māori Land Court and Māori Appellate Court applications disposed of	>5,000	6,376	>5,000
Percentage of Māori Land Court and Māori Appellate Court applications disposed of within 12 months	80%	27%	80%
Tenancy Tribunal			
Number of Tenancy Tribunal applications disposed of	>18,300	16,260	>18,300
Waitangi Tribunal			
Percentage of Waitangi Tribunal claims processed within 30 days	90%	100%	90%

Note 1 - The Court User Survey and the Juror Satisfaction Survey have been consolidated into a single survey, which will be administered annually from 2026 rather than biennially. As a result, the court satisfaction and juror satisfaction performance indicators will now be reported on an annual basis.

Note 2 - Category 1 = 6 months; Category 2 = 9 months; Category 3 judge alone trials = 9 months; and Category 3 jury trials = 15 months.

Note 3 - A substantive application is an application that initiates the proceedings and identifies the issue that the court is asked to determine.

Note 4 - These performance indicators were replaced in 2026/27 to show the progress made against milestones.

Note 5 - These new performance indicators were added in 2026/27 to provide the next milestones the Te Au Reka programme is working to achieve in the 2026/27 financial year.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by the Ministry of Justice in its Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services						
Court Timeliness - Delivering Timely Access to Justice Services	2025/26	919	636	636	636	636
Remuneration for Frontline Staff	2024/25	1,672	2,210	2,478	2,690	2,690
Court Fines and Legal Aid Debt Collection Changes	2024/25	1,438	978	972	972	972
Optimising the Ministry's Back-Office Functions	2024/25	(1,133)	(1,133)	(1,133)	(1,133)	(1,133)
District Court Services						
Court Timeliness - Delivering Timely Access to Justice Services	2025/26	3,291	4,134	4,134	4,134	4,134

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Auckland District Court Building Infrastructure Replacement	2025/26	933	1,706	2,505	3,853	9,450
Justice Sector Victims Work Programme Funding Transfer - Increasing Engagement in Family Group Conference	2025/26	800	800	800	800	800
Court Timeliness - Investing in Judicial Capacity	2025/26	665	234	234	234	234
Justice Sector Victims Work Programme Funding Transfer - Replacing VictimsInfo website	2025/26	400	900	850	350	350
Increasing Revenue from Courts and Tribunal Fees	2025/26	311	311	311	311	311
Te Au Reka - Digital Case Management Solution for Courts and Tribunals	2024/25	56,058	34,112	19,698	16,968	14,386
Remuneration for Frontline Staff	2024/25	6,400	8,885	10,124	11,107	11,107
Responding to Gang Harm	2024/25	2,083	2,083	2,083	2,083	2,083
New Tauranga Criminal Courthouse	2024/25	1,831	3,149	8,643	10,387	10,397
Addressing Serious Youth Offending	2024/25	1,710	1,538	1,380	1,380	1,380
Tougher Approach to Sentencing	2024/25	653	653	653	653	653
Courts and Tribunals Fees - Increased Revenue	2024/25	9	9	9	9	9
Returning Funding for Te Ao Mārama	2024/25	(7,065)	(6,705)	(6,782)	(6,782)	(6,782)
Optimising the Ministry's Back-Office Functions	2024/25	(4,297)	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)	(4,313)
Returning Funding for Lifting Cultural Capability	2024/25	(1,250)	(1,250)	(1,250)	(1,250)	(1,250)
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions						
Optimising the Ministry's Back-Office Functions	2024/25	(16)	-	-	-	-
Senior Courts Services						
Court Timeliness - Delivering Timely Access to Justice Services	2025/26	2,188	2,539	2,539	2,539	2,539
Court Timeliness - Investing in Judicial Capacity	2025/26	1,509	1,431	1,444	1,461	1,461
Increasing Revenue from Courts and Tribunal Fees	2025/26	161	161	161	161	161
Remuneration for Frontline Staff	2024/25	1,535	2,190	2,517	2,776	2,776
New Tauranga Criminal Courthouse	2024/25	203	350	960	1,154	1,155
Courts and Tribunal Fees - Increased Revenue	2024/25	14	14	14	14	14
Optimising the Ministry's Back-Office Functions	2024/25	(961)	(961)	(961)	(961)	(961)
Back-Office Transformation	2024/25	(179)	(179)	(179)	(179)	(179)
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services						
Resource Management Reform - Planning Tribunal Court Related Costs	2026/27	-	2,882	7,669	6,456	6,456
Court Timeliness - Delivering Timely Access to Justice Services	2025/26	2,261	2,706	2,706	2,706	2,706
Increasing Revenue from Courts and Tribunal Fees	2025/26	40	40	40	40	40
Remuneration for Frontline Staff	2024/25	2,913	4,111	4,708	5,181	5,181
Courts and Tribunal Fees - Increased Revenue	2024/25	24	24	24	24	24
Optimising the Ministry's Back-Office Functions	2024/25	(1,855)	(1,855)	(1,855)	(1,855)	(1,855)

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Previous Government						
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services						
Continuing to Pay Employees to Maintain Core Justice Services for New Zealanders	2022/23	7,517	7,853	7,955	6,212	6,212
Investment in Infrastructure - Maintaining Critical Technology for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161	1,161
Investment in Infrastructure - Ensuring a Secure Technology Environment for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	272	272	272	272	272
District Court Services						
Wellington District Courthouse Remediation Project	2024/25	2,978	3,276	3,276	3,276	3,276
Justice Property Health and Safety Remediation - Seismic Strengthening of Ministry of Justice Courthouses	2023/24	12,201	14,029	13,341	14,286	14,286
Cultural Capability - Ministry of Justice	2023/24	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Maintaining Momentum Across Te Aorerekura - Improved Access to Family Violence Programmes in Court and the Community	2023/24	130	130	130	130	130
Continuing to Pay Employees to Maintain Core Justice Services for New Zealanders	2022/23	23,271	24,801	25,263	17,332	17,332
Te Ao Mārama - Partnering with Iwi to Design New Solutions for People Going Through the District Court	2022/23	17,477	16,084	16,084	16,084	16,084
Court Security - Strengthening Health, Safety, and Security at the Courts of New Zealand	2022/23	5,899	5,899	5,899	5,899	5,899
Investment in Infrastructure - Maintaining Critical Technology for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	5,105	5,105	5,105	5,105	5,105
Continuing the Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Courts: Waikato, Auckland and Waitakere	2022/23	1,657	1,657	1,657	1,657	1,657
Preventing Family Violence and Sexual Violence: Foundational FVSV Training for Ministry of Justice Workforce	2022/23	1,211	1,211	1,211	1,211	1,211
Investment in Infrastructure - Ensuring a Secure Technology Environment for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	1,195	1,195	1,195	1,195	1,195
Criminal Process Improvement Programme - Make Every Event in the Criminal District Court System Meaningful	2022/23	1,111	1,111	1,111	1,111	1,111
Justice Sector Resourcing - Addressing the Impacts of the Delta COVID-19 Restrictions	2022/23	200	200	200	200	200
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions						
Continuing to Pay Employees to Maintain Core Justice Services for New Zealanders	2022/23	229	239	242	188	188

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Senior Courts Services						
Justice Property Health and Safety Remediation - Seismic Strengthening of Ministry of Justice Courthouses	2023/24	2,953	3,396	3,230	3,458	3,458
Continuing to Pay Employees to Maintain Core Justice Services for New Zealanders	2022/23	5,167	5,538	5,650	3,726	3,726
Investment in Infrastructure - Maintaining Critical Technology for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,353	1,353
Support for Judicial Branch of Government - Sustainably Expanding Te Kura Kaiwhakawā (Institute of Judicial Studies)	2022/23	1,073	1,073	1,073	1,073	1,073
Investment in Infrastructure - Ensuring a Secure Technology Environment for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	317	317	317	317	317
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services						
Charities Act 2005 - Implementation of Changes	2023/24	125	125	125	125	125
Continuing to Pay Employees to Maintain Core Justice Services for New Zealanders	2022/23	10,033	10,659	10,845	7,606	7,606
Coronial Services - Improving the Coronial System for Bereaved Families and Whanau	2022/23	3,963	3,963	3,963	3,963	3,963
Investment in Infrastructure - Maintaining Critical Technology for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	2,158	2,158	2,158	2,158	2,158
Investment in Infrastructure - Ensuring a Secure Technology Environment for Courts and Justice Services	2022/23	504	504	504	504	504
Motor Vehicle Disputes Tribunal Levy Amendments	2022/23	319	319	319	319	319

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is mainly due to:

- an increase of \$9.189 million for project operating costs relating to courthouse maintenance and repair work to be completed on priority courthouses
- an increase of \$7.749 million for remuneration costs for staff delivering frontline services, including court and security staff
- an increase of \$1.600 million due to increased costs resulting from Cabinet Fees Framework changes
- an increase of \$1.500 million in 2025/26 due to reprioritisation to support the rising demand and greater case complexity in administering Legal Aid Services
- a net increase of \$1.356 million to support the delivery of core functions to enable a continued focus on improving timeliness in the Courts and across the justice system
- a net increase of \$870,000 due to reprioritisation to reflect the realignment of Ministry overheads in 2025/26
- a net increase of \$844,000 to reflect funding for a digital case management system to reduce delays and improve access to information, and
- a net increase of \$600,000 to support the coronial inquiry into the Christchurch masjidain attack and associated judicial review.

This is partially offset by:

- a decrease of \$1.900 million for time-limited funding provided in 2025/26 for the Youth Justice Reform implementation programme
- a net decrease of \$1.637 million for delivery of the Pacific Regional Justice Sector programme, and
- a net decrease of \$1.033 million for Te Ao Mārama programme, the new model for the District Court to deliver services, scaling the implementation of eight sites.

Memorandum Account

	2025/26		2026/27
	Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Second Hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers			
Opening Balance at 1 July	360	360	316
Revenue	203	203	203
Expenses	(247)	(247)	(247)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance at 30 June	316	316	272
Legal Complaints Review Officers			
Opening Balance at 1 July	1,849	1,849	1,737
Revenue	1,739	1,739	1,769
Expenses	(1,851)	(1,851)	(1,940)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance at 30 June	1,737	1,737	1,566