

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

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Non-Departmental Other Expenses			
Assistance to Victims of Crime (M19) (A23) Funding for the Criminal Justice Assistance Reimbursement Scheme.	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.	5,396	(634)	4,762
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
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.	178,465	(8,500)	169,965
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.	10	30	40
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.	8,496	880	9,376
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.	108,210	3,102	111,312
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
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
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.	3,735	277	4,012
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

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
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
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.	450	150	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.	8,536	605	9,141
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.	49,453	2,899	52,352
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.	7,611	437	8,048
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.	5,541	1,600	7,141
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.	181	67	248
Total Non-Departmental Other Expenses	407,662	913	408,575

	2025/26		
	Estimates Budget \$000	Supplementary Estimates Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000
Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type			
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)	775,527	(7,546)	767,981
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.			
Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services</i>	65,818	-	65,818
This category is limited to the purchase of collection and enforcement of fines and civil debts services.			
<i>District Court Services</i>	463,610	(22,818)	440,792
This category is limited to providing services that support the work of the District Court, including the Youth Court and Family Court.			
<i>New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions</i>	2,741	1,820	4,561
This category is limited to the provision of services that support the courts, tribunals and other authorities of International jurisdictions.			
<i>Senior Courts Services</i>	108,065	10,500	118,565
This category is limited to providing services that support the work of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and High Court.			
<i>Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services</i>	135,293	2,952	138,245
This category is limited to providing services that support the work of specialist courts, tribunals and other authorities.			
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	775,527	(7,546)	767,981
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	1,183,189	(6,633)	1,176,556

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2025/26				
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates			Total \$000
		Departmental Transactions \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions \$000	Total Transactions \$000	
Appropriations					
Output Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	N/A	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	407,662	-	913	913	408,575
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	N/A	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)					
<i>Output Expenses</i>	775,527	(7,546)	-	(7,546)	767,981
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	N/A	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	1,183,189	(7,546)	913	(6,633)	1,176,556
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts					
Tax Revenue	-	N/A	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	144,711	N/A	-	-	144,711
Capital Receipts	-	N/A	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	144,711	N/A	-	-	144,711

Part 3 - Details of Non-Departmental Appropriations

3.4 - Non-Departmental Other Expenses

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$634,000 to \$4.762 million for 2025/26 due to vacancies in the Chief Community Magistrate position and Community Magistrates.

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.

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Family Court Professional Services	57,279	(6,500)	50,779
Coroner-Directed Post-Mortems	27,633	-	27,633
Family Violence Professional Services	24,578	-	24,578
Oranga Tamariki Act Professional Services	13,170	-	13,170
Youth Court Professional Fees	12,371	-	12,371
Medical and Other Professional Services	12,239	-	12,239
Interpreter costs	8,888	-	8,888
Personal Property Protection Rights Costs	8,746	(2,000)	6,746
Juror Fees and Expenses	8,202	-	8,202
Witness Fees and Expenses	1,982	-	1,982
Māori Land Court Special Aid Fund	1,847	-	1,847
Judicial Review Costs	957	-	957
Visiting Justices to Prisons	416	-	416
Costs in Criminal Cases	157	-	157
Total	178,465	(8,500)	169,965

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$8.500 million to \$169.965 million due to the reprioritisation of funding to support demand driven Legal Aid services.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$30,000 to \$40,000 for 2025/26 due to an increase in activities and number of sitting days for Court Martial Appeal Court Judges.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$880,000 to \$9.376 million for 2025/26 due to increased salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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.

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		Total \$000
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	
District Court Judges	103,233	2,424	105,657
Environment Court Judges	4,977	678	5,655
Total	108,210	3,102	111,312

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$3.102 million to \$111.312 million for 2025/26 due to increased salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$277,000 to \$4.012 million for 2025/26 due to increased salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$150,000 to \$600,000 for 2025/26 due to an additional funding requirement to meet increasing costs for Royal Federation of Justices meetings and to offset decreasing revenue as a result of declining number of fee-paying Justices of the Peace.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$605,000 to \$9.141 million for 2025/26 due to increased salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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.

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
High Court	35,908	2,605	38,513
Court of Appeal	8,099	176	8,275
Supreme Court	5,446	118	5,564
Total	49,453	2,899	52,352

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$2.899 million to \$52.352 million for 2025/26 due to:

- an increase of \$1.787 million to meet costs associated with an increase to the Senior Courts judges statutory cap, supporting coverage for unexpected long-term absences and enabling effective transition planning between incoming and retiring High Court judges, and
- an increase of \$1.112 million in accordance with salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$437,000 to \$8.048 million for 2025/26 due to increased salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$1.600 million to \$7.141 million for 2025/26 due 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.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation increased by \$67,000 to \$248,000 for 2025/26 due to increased salary and allowance determinations issued by the Remuneration Authority.

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		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Total Appropriation	775,527	(7,546)	767,981
Departmental Output Expenses			
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services	65,818	-	65,818
District Court Services	463,610	(22,818)	440,792
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions	2,741	1,820	4,561
Senior Courts Services	108,065	10,500	118,565
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services	135,293	2,952	138,245

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	705,998	(9,228)	696,770
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services	53,804	-	53,804
District Court Services	440,357	(22,828)	417,529
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions	213	-	213
Senior Courts Services	95,130	10,500	105,630
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services	116,494	3,100	119,594
Revenue from Others	69,225	1,830	71,055
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services	12,014	-	12,014
District Court Services	23,253	10	23,263
New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions	2,528	1,820	4,348
Senior Courts Services	12,935	-	12,935
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services	18,495	-	18,495

Components of the Appropriation

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Departmental			
<i>Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services</i>			
Collection and Enforcement of Fines	54,960	-	54,960
Collection and Enforcement of Civil Debt	10,858	-	10,858
Total	65,818	-	65,818
<i>District Court Services</i>			
Criminal Court	277,318	(7,546)	269,772
Family Court	154,363	(14,240)	140,123
Civil Court	31,929	(1,032)	30,898
Total	463,610	(22,818)	440,792
<i>New Zealand Support of International Jurisdictions</i>			
Pacific Regional Justice Sector Programme	2,741	1,820	4,561

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Senior Court Services			
High Court - Criminal	45,509	3,369	48,878
High Court - Civil	33,641	2,490	36,131
Supreme Court - Criminal	10,506	778	11,284
Supreme Court - Civil	9,996	740	10,736
Court of Appeal - Criminal	4,427	2,828	7,255
Court of Appeal - Civil	3,986	295	4,281
Total	108,065	10,500	118,565
Specialist Courts, Tribunals and Other Authorities Services			
Māori Land Court and Māori Land Information	42,554	1,258	43,812
Other Tribunals and Authorities	28,095	683	28,778
Coroner Services	16,121	(423)	15,698
Disputes Tribunal	13,843	409	14,252
Waitangi Tribunal Services	13,109	388	13,497
Environment Court	9,455	279	9,734
Tenancy Tribunal	9,170	271	9,441
Employment Court	2,946	87	3,033
Total	135,293	2,952	138,245

How Performance will be Assessed for this Appropriation

	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Average time to answer calls to the Registry Contact Centre (mm:ss) (see Note 1)	2:00	Measure removed	Measure removed

Note 1 - This performance indicator was removed in 2025/26 and reassigned to the District Court category due to its limited applicability across the wider appropriation.

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

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		
	Estimates Standard	Supplementary Estimates Standard	Total Standard
Departmental Output Expenses			
Collection and Enforcement of Fines and Civil Debts Services			
Percentage of Offender Levy collected or placed under arrangement within four months (see Note 2)	75%	5	80%
Percentage of debt that is under arrangement (see Note 3)	45%	Measure replaced	Measure replaced
Percentage of fines collected or placed under arrangement within 4 months (see Note 4)	New measure	80%	80%
Percent of reparation collected or placed under arrangement within 4 months (see Note 4)	New measure	80%	80%
District Court Services			
Average time to answer calls to the Registry Contact Centre (mm:ss) (see Note 1)	2:00	0	2:00
Phase 1 of the Te Au Reka programme (Family Court) build is aligned to agreed programme milestones (see Note 5)	New measure	Achieved	Achieved
The Te Au Reka programme is operating within the approved funding allocation (see Note 5)	New measure	Achieved	Achieved

Note 1 - This performance indicator was removed in 2025/26 and reassigned to the District Court category due to its limited applicability across the wider appropriation.

Note 2 - The standard for this performance indicator was increased by 5 percentage points in 2025/26 to align with the new collections performance indicator standards.

Note 3 - This performance indicator was replaced in 2025/26 as this performance indicator reported only total debt collected and did not separate reparations from fines.

Note 4 - These new performance indicators for 2025/26 were added to better capture effective and timely debt collection.

Note 5 - These new performance indicators for 2025/26 were introduced to provide visibility into progress on the Te Au Reka programme and to better reflect the scope and intention of the category.

Reasons for Change in Appropriation

This appropriation decreased by \$7.546 million to \$767.981 million for 2025/26 due to:

- a net decrease of \$10.400 million for implementing a digital case management system aimed at reducing delays and improving access to information, reflecting an expense transfer of \$12.400 million from 2025/26 to 2026/27, and rephased funding of \$2 million from 2024/25 to 2025/26
- a decrease of \$3.147 million to reflect the allocation of Ministry overhead in 2025/26
- a decrease of \$1.600 million to reflect increased fee ranges under the Cabinet Fees Framework

- a decrease of \$1.500 million due to the reprioritisation of funding to support demand driven Legal Aid services
- a decrease of \$500,000 due to the reprioritisation of funding to support demand driven Community Harm Reduction services
- an expense transfer of \$400,000 from 2025/26 to 2028/29 for projected operating costs associated with the seismic remediation of the Hamilton District Court reflecting updated timing of costs
- a decrease of \$150,000 due to an additional funding requirement to meet increasing costs for Royal Federation of Justices meetings and to offset decreasing revenue as a result of declining number of fee-paying due to fewer Justices of the Peace
- a decrease of \$148,000 in forecast expenditure for services provided by the Legal Complaints Review officers, and
- a decrease of \$55,000 to Vote Police for the continuation of INTERPOL Border Alerts for Child Protection.

This is partially offset by:

- increased funding of \$3.824 million for a capital charge as a result of the revaluation of land and buildings as at 30 June 2025
- an expense transfer of \$1.900 million from 2024/25 to 2025/26 for implementation costs relating to the Oranga Tamariki (Responding to Serious Youth Offending) Amendment Bill
- an increase of \$1.820 million to reflect agency and the third-party contributions toward delivery of the Pacific Regional Justice Sector Programme
- a net increase of \$1.600 million from 2024/25 to 2025/26 reflecting expense transfers to support the coronial inquiry into the Masjidain attack and associated judicial review
- an expense transfer of \$800,000 from 2025/26 to 2026/27 for the Restoring Justice initiative within the Justice Sector Victims Work Programme
- an expense transfer of \$400,000 from 2025/26 to 2026/27 for replacing VictimsInfo website within the Justice Sector Victims Work Programme, and
- an increase of \$10,000 due to the reprioritisation of funding for transcription services provided to the New Zealand Parole Board.

Memorandum Account

	2025/26		
	Estimates \$000	Supplementary Estimates \$000	Total \$000
Second Hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers			
Opening Balance at 1 July	341	19	360
Revenue	203	-	203
Expenses	(247)	-	(247)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance at 30 June	297	19	316
Legal Complaints Review Officers			
Opening Balance at 1 July	1,671	178	1,849
Revenue	1,739	-	1,739
Expenses	(1,999)	148	(1,851)
Transfers and Adjustments	-	-	-
Closing Balance at 30 June	1,411	326	1,737