

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Purick to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice:

Court Judges and Coroner's Office Staff

1. How many Supreme Court judges are there permanently appointed?
2. When was the last appointment of a permanent Supreme Court judge?
3. How many Supreme Court judges are on temporary contracts and, if any, what is the term of the contract for each temporary appointment?
4. How many Local Court judges are there on permanent contracts?
5. When was the last appointment of a permanent Local Court judge?
6. How many Local Court judges are on temporary contracts and, if any, what is the term of contract for each temporary judge?
7. If there are temporary Local Court judges, why are they not placed on a permanent employment basis?
8. What is the cost difference between a permanent Local Court judge and a temporary Local Court judge – salary package and on costs and support staff?
9. How many staff are in the Coroner's office?
10. How many cases did the Coroner finalise in 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date?
11. What is the average wait time for a case to be submitted into the Coroner's office?
12. How many days did the Coroner sit for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date?
13. In 2018, how many criminal listings were there in the Supreme Court and how many were there for the 2021 year for Darwin and Alice Springs respectively?
14. What is the average time for a criminal matter to proceed through the Supreme Court for the 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date?
15. What was the number of criminal sittings days in the Supreme Court for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date?

16. What was the number of civil sittings days in the Supreme Court for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date?
 17. What is the average time for a case to proceed in the Supreme Court from the time a person has been charged with a criminal offence?
 18. What is the shortest time for a case to proceed to the Supreme Court from the time a person has been charged with a criminal offence?
 19. What is the longest time for a case to proceed to the Supreme Court from the time a person has been charged with a criminal offence?
-

ANSWERS

1. There are six Supreme Court judges appointed under section 32(1) and one Associate Judge appointed under section 41A of the *Supreme Court Act 1979*.
2. The last appointment of a permanent Supreme Court judge was Justice Sonia Brownhill, who was appointed on 2 November 2020.
3. There are no Supreme Court Judges on temporary contracts. Judges are appointed by determination by the Administrator.
4. There are 15 Local Court Judges, which includes the president of the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal. There are no Local Court Judges on contract.
5. The last appointment of a Local Court Judge (who is not an acting Judge) was Judge Thomasin Opie on 18 October 2021.
6. There are no Local Court Judges on temporary contracts.
7. As the number of Judges appointed under section 50(1)(b) and (c) is capped by section 85(b) the *Local Court Act 2015*.
8. The cost difference between a permanent Local Court Judge and an acting Local Court Judge is approximately \$30 000 per Judge per annum.
9. Seven.

10. Cases finalised by the Coroner in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (calendar years) to date (as at 25 July 2022 date):

- 2020: 255 cases;
- 2021: 258 cases; and
- 2022: 56 finalised cases to date.

11. The average wait time for a case to be submitted into the Coroner's office:

- 2020 average: 135.9 days;
- 2021 average: 89.3 days; and
- 2022 average: 29.8 days (to date).

12. The number of days the Coroner sat for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date (as at 25 July 2022):

- 2020: 18 inquest sitting days;
- 2021: 13 inquest sitting days; and
- 2022: nine inquest sitting days.

13. Criminal listings held in the Supreme Court for Darwin and Alice Springs in the 2018 year and the 2021 year:

Year	Darwin	Alice Springs
2018	3531	1574
2021	4209	1658

14. The average time for a criminal matter to proceed through the Supreme Court for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date (as at 25 July 2022):

Year	Days
2020	222
2021	237
2022 (YTD)	254

15. The number of criminal sittings in the Supreme Court for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date (as at 25 July 2022):

Year	Days
2020	1595
2021	1656
2022 (YTD)	951

16. The number of civil listings in the Supreme Court for 2020, 2021 and 2022 to date (as at 25 July 2022):

Year	Days*
2020	697
2021	724
2022 (YTD)	343

* Note – Individual civil days are not collected. The number of civil listings is reported.

17. For the period 2020 to 25 July 2022, the average time from the date a matter is opened in the Local Court to the end of the committal process is 170 days.
18. For the period 2020 to 25 July 2022, the shortest time is two days.
19. For the period 2020 to 25 July 2022, the longest time for a case to proceed to the Supreme Court from the time a person was charged with a criminal offence is 783 days.