



Mark Ormerod CB
Chief Executive

Clerk to the Justice Committee
Committee Office
House of Commons
7 Millbank
LONDON SW1P 3JA

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MAIN ESTIMATE 2020-21: ESTIMATES MEMORANDUM

Introduction

The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (UKSC) was established by the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (CRA) and came into being on 1 October 2009.

The role of the Court and the Justices is to act as the final court of appeal for arguable points of law of general public importance arising from civil cases throughout the United Kingdom; and from criminal cases in England & Wales, Northern Ireland and, in a limited number of cases from Scotland. The Court also hears cases to determine issues relating to the legal competence of the devolved administrations, Parliament and Assemblies. This jurisdiction transferred to the UKSC on 1 October 2009 from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC.)

The JCPC is a separate court from the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom but its permanent Judges are the Justices of the Supreme Court. The JCPC is the court of final appeal for the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, Commonwealth Countries that have retained the appeal to Her Majesty in Council or, in the case of Republics, to the Judicial Committee.

The aim of the administration is to provide an environment which enables the Justices to carry out their duties in an effective, visible and accessible way, and which best develops the rule of law and the administration of justice, both in the UK and in the countries, which use the JCPC.

The UKSC intends to do this by:

- Continuing to secure the Justices' constitutional and financial independence.
- Promoting the importance of the Rule of Law and its role in securing democratic freedom.
- Providing an efficient and effective administration.

- Maintaining effective relationships with all jurisdictions in the UK.
- Maintaining effective international relationships.
- Ensuring the effective delivery of all UKSC corporate responsibilities.
- Promoting the visibility and helping to maintain the reputation of the Supreme Court and the JCPC.

The Main Estimate for 2020-21 seeks the necessary resources and cash to support the functions and activities of the Court. These are continuing from previous years and no new functions have been added within this Estimate.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Select Committee with an explanation of how the resources and cash sought in the Main Estimate will be applied and includes information on comparisons with the resources provided against last year's main estimate.

Summary of the main Spending Control figures contained in the Estimate

Control Totals	2020/21 Voted (£m)	2020/21 Non-Voted (£m)	2020/21 Total (£m)
Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)	3.835	2.400	6.235
- of which Administration	0.920	0	0.920
- of which Depreciation	0.695	0	0.695
Capital DEL	0.500	0	0.500
Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	1.000	0	1.000
Net Cash Requirement (NCR)	3,600	0	2.557

Explanation of significant changes in provision compared with the previous year main estimate:

<u>Resource DEL (RDEL):</u>	2020-21	£6.235m
	2019-20	£5.892m

The increase in Resource DEL compared with the previous year reflects external pressures applied on the court over which it had no control which was agreed with HM Treasury through the Spending Round 2019 (SR19). This has not given the court increased discretionary spending – it has simply allowed it to meet the demands placed on it. They have included increase in the employer's pension contribution for members of the Judicial Pension Scheme and uplifts in the actuarial assumption of staff pensions.

<u>Capital DEL (CDEL):</u>	2020-21	£0.500m
	2019-20	£0.555m

The Capital DEL has decreased by £55k in 2020-21 when compared to 2019-20. Several projects have now been completed.

<u>Net Cash Requirement:</u>	2020-21	£3,600m
	2019-20	£2,557m

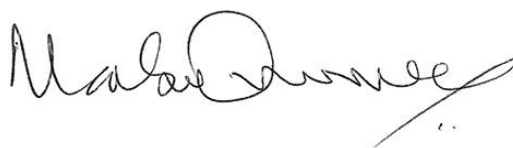
Increase in the net cash requirement when compared to the prior year reflects the changes made in the depreciation budget.

<u>Depreciation Budget:</u>	2020-21	£0.695m
	2019-20	£1.450m

Decrease in the depreciation budget due to the delay of the IFRS16 accounting standard.

Approval of Memorandum

This memorandum has been prepared with reference to guidance in the Estimates Manual provided by HM Treasury.



MARK ORMEROD

The UK Supreme Court Parliament Square London SW1P 3BD T: 020 7960 1906
Mark.Ormerod@supremecourt.uk www.supremecourt.uk