

2021

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

THE HIGH COURT
OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COSTS ADJUDICATORS



**Supporting Access to Independent, Impartial
and Objective Resolution of Legal Costs Disputes**

in a modern digital Ireland

Annual Report 2021

**Annual Report Published by the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator
with the support of the Courts Service**

Editors:

Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator

Paul M. Behan

Assistant Principal Officer to the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator

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FOREWORD



Foreword by the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator

In accordance with my obligations pursuant to s.146 of the Legal Services Regulation Act 2015, I am pleased to present my Annual Report of activities covering the year ending 31st December 2021. The Office was established by commencement of Part 10 of the 2015 Act on 7th October 2019. This Annual Report represents the second full calendar year, in which the Office was in being.

The Covid-19 Global pandemic presented a challenging environment in 2020, little was it known or expected that similar challenges would present in 2021. The business of the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators is exclusively outward facing towards the general public and legal practitioners, this meant that our reaction to ongoing Covid 19 issues was a high priority. However, despite the challenges presenting throughout 2021, we continued to operate the business of the Office, by using online technologies, where practicable. Oral hearings were held where permissible and in accordance with prevailing public health guidelines. This involved arranging staggered hearing times, and specially fixed Adjudication sittings. This required more engagement with the parties, conducting remote case management hearings, which resulted in the business of the office being dealt without any significant difficulties.

The waiting time for a first return date for an Adjudication on Costs, stood at 11 weeks at the end of 2020. This was reduced to 7 weeks by 31st December 2021. Although the number of Adjudications increased to 874 new applications (830 applications in 2020). The monetary value of new applications represented a small decrease at €110,339,050 (€113,211,33 in 2020), the value of cases on hand for Adjudication at the end of 2021 was €173,236,066 (€146,801,262 in 2020)

That part of the office's Mission Statement which details our values, is to perform our functions with independence, fairness, integrity, professionalism, innovation and accountability. The Mission Statement, contains a commitment to improving services, adapting innovative processes, adherence to best practices and developing strategies for improvement. We tried to achieve this in spite of

pandemic conditions. However, these values were tested; as public hearings were suspended with the coming into effect of various levels of public health restrictions throughout 2021. This presented challenges, not only in the early stages but as things altered, throughout the year. Although public sittings were suspended in 2021 from time to time, the functions of the Office continued, by holding remote hearings and continuing to hear and determine Adjudications on legal costs disputes in public in accordance with s.156(4) of the 2015 Act.

Significant development work had been undertaken with the Courts ICT personnel to develop an e-filing platform for the initiation of Applications for Adjudication of Legal Costs. This is in keeping with the overall strategy of the Civil Service Renewal program, to move to a more digitised platform. Phase one of the Courts Service ICT High Court e-filing of Applications for Legal Costs Adjudication project was delivered through the Court Services Online (CSOL) platform. The development of this facility allows legal practitioners and legal costs accountants to lodge Applications for Legal Costs Adjudication in the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators electronically in cases where parties have a functioning CSOL account.

A searchable online register of determinations has been developed to allow for the office to meet its statutory requirements. These online facilities will yield benefits for legal costs accountants and practitioners and members of the Public. Over time, this will aid in providing transparency around legal costs, their value and the assessment process and rationale underlying the determinations. A number of improvements in the search function were identified and following liaison with interested parties and subsequently ICT services changes were effected. It is hoped that these changes and other necessary changes will continue to be implemented into the future.

As the figures appearing hereafter will show, the year 2021 was a year in which despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, it was a busy one, with significant increases in the workload of the office, not only in terms of legal costs adjudications, but assisting in terms of the new provisions regarding lodgment in legal costs adjudications. This is a novel and a new provision within the context of adjudications of legal costs. Extensive work was undertaken with the Accountants office with regard to the lodgment process.

I would like to record my appreciation for the commitment, adaptability and willingness of the staff within the office to react to each new circumstance and unfailingly deliver at each and every hands turn. Genuinely, the business of the office could not have functioned and adapted as it did, without

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the exceptional effort displayed by each of them. I am truly indebted to each of them.

On behalf of the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators, I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2021.



Paul M. Behan
Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator

April 2022

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THE HIGH COURT

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COSTS ADJUDICATORS



Our Mission

The Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators Mission is to enable access to independent, impartial and objective resolution of legal costs disputes, through the provision of a courteous and professional service in the performance of its statutory function. To maintain and provide transparency throughout the process from inception to completion, with reasoned outcomes being published, in so far as is permitted by the law, and accessible via the register of determinations, so as to inform both legal practitioners and the public. It is our mission to provide this service in a timely manner, providing and supporting access to justice.

In support of this mission, the Office pursues two high level strategic goals:

- *Supporting the Legal Costs Adjudicators*

Supporting the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator and the Legal Costs Adjudicators is a statutory obligation of the Courts Service and by extension the Office and is central to our mission. As well as being a key strategic priority in its own right, it is also key to the achievement of all our strategic priorities.

- *Providing High Quality Service to Court Users*

A core part of our mission is the provision of a consistent, impartial, timely and excellent service to court users, consistent with the limitation of the Office's statutory remit.

Our Vision

Over time, as the number of adjudications are completed and the register of determinations is updated, a body of information will be publicly available to inform the public and practitioners of the range of legal costs, the manner in which they are determined and the reasons underlying the determination.

Our Values

We are committed, in performing our functions and fulfilling our responsibilities, to independence, fairness, integrity, professionalism, innovation and accountability. Our strengths derive from the

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expertise of the staff within the office. With a commitment to improving services, adapting innovative processes and adherence to best practices and developing strategies for improvement.

CHAPTER 1 - About the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators

Part 10 of The Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015 was commenced on 7th October 2019 (Commencement of Certain Provisions) (No.2) Order 2019. S.I No. 502 of 2019. This resulted in the establishment of a new regime for the adjudication of legal costs, with the abolition of the Office of the Taxing Master and the work of that Office being transferred to the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators.

The statutory powers, functions and duties of the Office, derive from Part 10 and Schedule 1 of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015. These statutory powers are underpinned by the Rules of the Superior Courts (Costs) 2019.

By its statutory powers, the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators, in addition to having the previous powers of the Taxing Masters, deals with disputes on legal costs, usually but not always, as between parties involved in litigation in the Superior Courts. There are other matters such as disputes between a legal practitioner and his or her client which also fall within the remit of the office.

Party and Party costs usually derive from an Order of the Court. This is where a Court or an authorised body, directs one party to a cause to pay the costs of another. Party and Party Costs usually arise from proceedings in the Superior Courts, see Part 11 of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015.

Circuit Court costs arising in proceedings are determined by County Registrars, as is provided in s.141 of The Legal Services Regulatory Act, 2015 and the Circuit Court Rules. The Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator does not generally have any jurisdiction or power to deal with Circuit Court Party and Party costs, but does have jurisdiction to deal with Circuit Court Costs, only where they arise as part of a wider dispute as between a legal practitioner and client.

Disputes relating to legal costs and expenses as between legal practitioners and their clients fall within the remit of the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators. Legal Practitioners have prescribed duties, relating to legal costs contained within the Act. The Legal Costs Adjudicators have a duty to hear and determine disputes relating to the amount and whether such costs represented work actually undertaken and whether such charges have been reasonably incurred and are reasonable in amount.

Importantly the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators does not have any power to deal with complaints about or touching upon matters of poor or inadequate services, or complaints relating to misconduct, such matters are currently dealt with by the Legal Services Regulatory Authority.

CHAPTER 2 – The Year in Review

1) Covid-19 and the Continued Response of the Office

The Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators safety policy, in line with that of the Courts Service, is proactive in maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for all employees, the Adjudicators, legal costs accountants, legal practitioners, members of the public, visitors, and contractors who may be affected by our undertakings, across our location.

The Office, in line with the Courts Service, has done its utmost to continue to ensure the safety, health and welfare of all persons at our location during 2021 by maintaining the Courts Service Covid-19 Safety Management Programme.

Throughout 2021 the office continued to operate hygiene controls, social distancing controls, people traffic flow management controls, case listing management, public office management - management of appointments and walk-ins and staff rostering controls, to ensure the continuity of business in line with changing public health guidelines.

The overarching principle of implementing these measures is to protect the health and safety of staff and users of the Office.

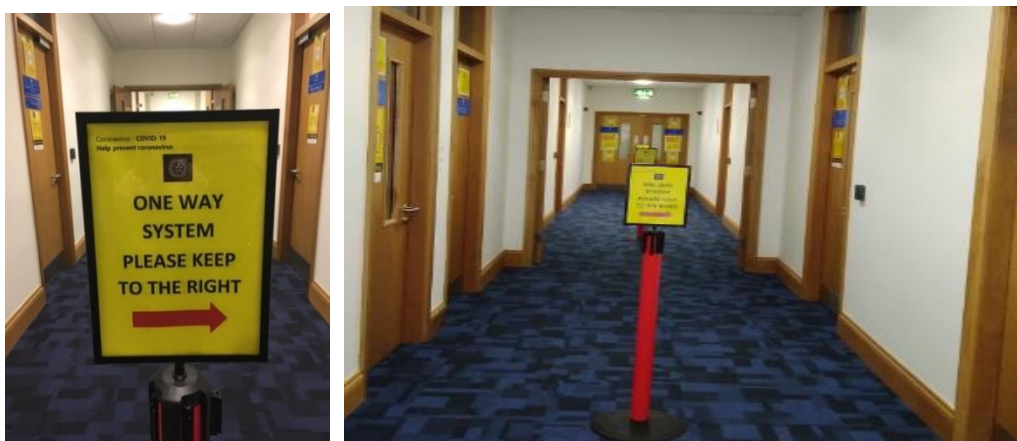


Figure 1:- Corridor adjoining Adjudication Rooms 1 & 2 traffic flow management system.

A Return to Physical Hearings:-

A practice direction issued from the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator on the 27th September 2021 indicating that with effect from the 4th October 2021 that the default position would be that all proceedings were to be dealt with by a physical in person hearing. This is in line with updated - public guidelines, and consistent with the President of the High Court's directions and Courts Service policy.

Practice Direction No. 4/2021 - Michaelmas Term 2021 - Return to Physical Sittings issued 27/09/21

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This return to physical hearings being facilitated by the previous installation and continued maintenance of a number of Covid-19 safety measures: -

- Weekly management of hearing list in advance via remote call over the previous week and assigning time specific schedules, to manage physical distancing requirements;
- Strict capacity management of adjudication rooms with designated seating in place;
- Strict capacity management of corridors adjoining Adjudication rooms and social distancing traffic flow management in place;
- Use of natural ventilation by numerous windows with air-conditioning unit if required;
- Plexiglass screens in place at witness box and Adjudicators bench;
- Advisory Covid-19 signage in place on entry, and in Adjudication Room;
- Face coverings, where mandated, are being used by all attendees in Adjudication Rooms when face-to face;

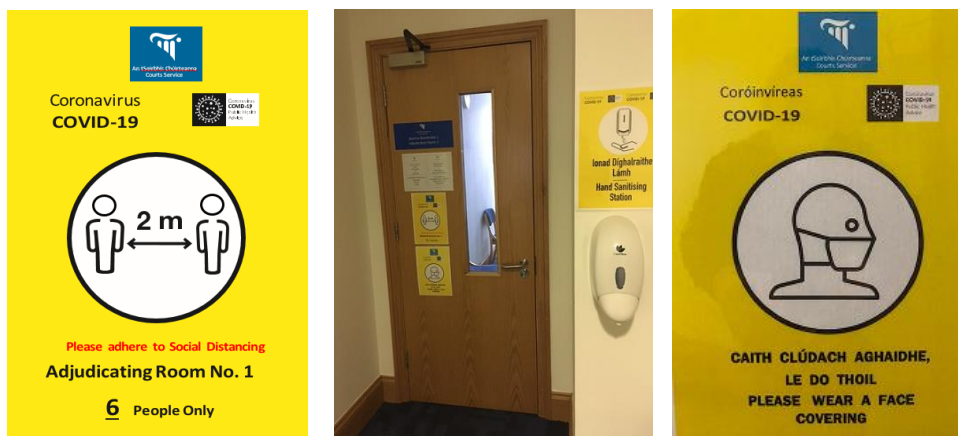


Figure 2 - Adjudication Room 1- Capacity and Face Mask signage, along with Hand sanitising station

- A Cleaning Programme in place to ensure all Adjudication Rooms are cleaned before start of day, with high-frequency touch points cleaning occurring at lunchtime;
- Hand sanitiser stations in place in all public areas, on entrance to each Adjudication Room and on entry and exit from the office.
- Maintenance of track and trace logs.

2) Progress Against Our Strategic Priorities

Strategic Priority 1: Supporting the Legal Costs Adjudicators

A core role of the Office is the provision of support for adjudication sittings, and the necessary resources and assistance which allows the Legal Costs Adjudicators to administer independent, impartial and objective resolution of legal costs disputes. During 2021 the office provided such support for the Legal Costs Adjudicators and all adjudication sittings.

Office Business

Through the Court Services Online (CSOL) platform some 842 Legal Costs Adjudication applications were accepted and processed by the office, with an additional 32 Legal Practitioner and Client Cases being filed manually throughout the year. With dates for hearing being allocated to each Legal Costs Adjudicator on a rotational basis.

At the start of 2021 the waiting time from filing of a Legal Costs Adjudication application to the first hearing date stood at 11 weeks. Through a combination of case management via remote call overs, remote hearings and where restriction levels permitted staggered physical hearings, waiting times were systematically reduced and stood at 7 weeks by year end.

In totality, 288 adjudication sitting days were conducted in 2021. This includes 80 remote call over days and 208 physical hearing / remote hearing days.

In addition to the hearing of cases adjudication sittings are held to facilitate day to day applications for adjournments to *inter alia*, facilitate settlement discussions, afford additional times to parties, deal with applications for extensions of time and the myriad of issues that can arise from day to day. The year 2021 was a challenging environment for all parties to Adjudications and staff within the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators.

In meeting its statutory requirements, the office continues to populate the on-line register of determinations, on an ongoing basis, with the publishable reasons for determination. Over time, this will aid in providing transparency around legal costs, their value and the assessment process and rationale underlying the determinations.

Business Continuity

Following the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the importance of having robust business continuity plans in place, which incorporated lessons learned during the current crisis, came into sharp focus for the Courts service and by extension the Office of the Legal Cost Adjudicators.

In order to ensure the continuity of business activities in the event of a major incident or disaster the office conducted a business impact assessment and an in-depth risk assessment of its operations. Utilising these assessments and lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic a robust office business continuity plan was completed in late 2021. It is expected that this updated business continuity plan will be agreed and implemented in 2022.


	
Business Continuity Plan	
29/11/21	
Planning Area	Please input the Planning Area that this BCP relates to: Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators
Country	Please indicate the country/countries that this BCP covers: Ireland
Location	Please input the Location address(es) of the site(s) that this BCP relates to: 1st Floor, Merchants House, 27-30 Merchants Quay, Dublin 8 D08 K3KD
Sign-off Date	Please input the date this BCP was last signed-off by respective head:
PAC	Please input the persons responsible for this Plan: Owner: Natasha Whyte Deputy:

Figure 3:- Completed Business Continuity Plan Cover Page

Strategic Priority 2: Providing High Quality Service to Court Users

As part of its core mission the office is involved, either directly or indirectly, in providing services to a wide range of court users, including legal costs accountants, legal practitioners, other public bodies, non-governmental agencies as well as directly to members of the public. Although the Office is independent and cannot offer advice, it does assist parties by explaining the practices and procedures surrounding Legal Costs Adjudication, so as to ensure that a party is seeking the correct service.

In 2021 significant office resources were devoted to the development of improved access to existing information, provision of additional information, as well as policy improvement, all in support of this strategic priority.

In particular, the areas of focus in 2021 related to the improvement of access of information held on the Register of Determinations, the provision of Guidelines on performance of functions of Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator and the creation of a procedure in relation to Lodgment or tender in respect of costs which was a new initiative and required a new procedure for legal costs adjudications.

(i) Improved Register of Determinations Search Functionality

In meeting its statutory requirements, the office continues to populate the on-line register of determinations, on an ongoing basis, with the publishable reasons for determination. It is envisaged over time, this will aid in providing transparency around legal costs, their value and the assessment process and rationale underlying the determinations.

In 2020 the following feedback was received from both internal and external customer in relation to the Register of Determinations, these touched upon the following general areas:-

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- No overview of information held on register available on entry.
- Difficult to quickly identify cases where a reason for determination report has been published.
- Uploaded reports and forms not available in a searchable format.
- PDF report and form icon's small and difficult to see.

Figure 4:- Screenshot of Original Public Legal Costs Adjudicators Register of Determination on CSOL.

A project proposal was created to update the Register of Determinations search functionality, with the aim of addressing user feedback. In early 2021, following the obtainment of project approval, the necessary ICT development work commenced.

The office staff undertook a body of work to re-upload searchable versions of existing reports and forms held on the register and undertook testing in an ICT test environment, to verify delivery of the required changes to the Register. The updated version of the Register of Determinations was released and made available to practitioners and the public in May 2021.

Receipt Date of Application	Adjudication Parties	Status of Prerequisite Documents	Record No. of Related Proceedings	Title of Related Proceedings	Date Assigned	Assigned LCA	Determination Date	Published	Determination Notice Date	Reasons for Determination
19/10/2020	Ronan Morrissey Conna Sheedy	Received	2016/2247P	Ronan Morrissey -v- Conna Sheedy	13/01/2021	Legal Costs Adjudicator Barry Magee	26/02/2021	No	02/06/2021	
23/10/2020	MARTHA CROSBY CHRISTIAN AND ENTERPRISE RENT A CAR MARGARET RITA MULLEN	Received	2017 No. 6371 P	MARGARET RITA MULLEN v MARTHA CROSBY CHRISTIAN AND ENTERPRISE RENT A CAR	13/01/2021	Legal Costs Adjudicator Barry Magee	12/02/2021	No	27/05/2021	
14/12/2020	Spray Foam Ireland Limited Trading As A Premier Solutions John Blennerhasset Angela Blennerhasset	Received	2013 5392P	John Blennerhasset and Angela Blennerhasset v Spray Foam Ireland Limited Trading As A Premier Insulations	14/12/2020	Legal Costs Adjudicator Barry Magee	15/03/2021	No	19/05/2021	
11/06/2020	EBB DAC Gerald Kean	Received	2017-341	EBB DAC AND GERALD KEAN	09/07/2020	Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator Paul M. Behan	19/05/2021	Yes	19/05/2021	

Figure 5:- Screenshot of Update Public Legal Costs Adjudicators Register of Determination on CSOL.

The inclusion of additional filters allows the external user to quickly filter for and identify cases where a reason for determination report has been published or where a reason for determination report has not been published, having regard to the statutorily permissible cases, which are either published or not published. Where a reasons for determination report is not publishable the section of the act under which this is the case are available to view in the attached form.

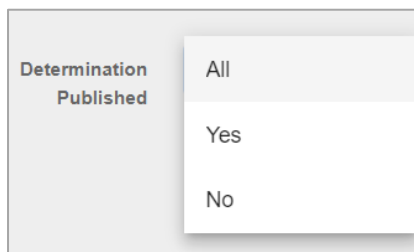


Figure 6:- Screenshot of Additional Filter Button added to the Public Register of Determinations

(ii) Guidelines on performance of functions of Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator

It is a requirement of s. 142 of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015 that functional guidelines are to be prepared and issued after a consultation period. The Act provides

Guidelines on performance of functions of Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator under this Part

142. (1) After consulting with the Minister, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government and any person or body that the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator considers to be an appropriate person or body to be consulted for the purposes of this section, the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator may from time to time prepare, for the guidance of Legal Costs Adjudicators, legal practitioners and the public, guidelines not inconsistent with this Act (including any regulations made under this Act) or Rules of Court indicating the manner in which the functions of the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator and the Legal Costs Adjudicators are to be performed.

(2) The Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall ensure that guidelines prepared by him or her under this section are published as soon as practicable after the guidelines have been prepared.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), guidelines under this section may—

(a) describe the procedures for the adjudication of legal costs under this Part,

(b) set out the documents and other information that are required by or under this Part to accompany an application for the adjudication of legal costs,

(c) describe the notices and other information that will be provided by the Legal Costs Adjudicator in relation to any such applications,

(d) identify the provisions of this Part and the Rules of Court relevant to an application, including those relating to the time limits within which the documentation and information referred to in paragraph (b) are to be provided,

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(e) describe the procedures that are to be followed in the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators in relation to the adjudication of legal costs,

(f) provide guidance as to the circumstances in which a Legal Costs Adjudicator may exercise his or her powers under subsection (4) or (5) of section 156 ,

(g) set out the fees that are to be charged in the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators in respect of the services provided by it, and the manner in which those fees may be paid,

(h) provide such other information as appears to the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator to be appropriate, having regard to the purposes of the guidelines referred to in subsection (1).

The draft guidelines were prepared and issued for consultation in 2020 in accordance with the applicable provisions. The Guidelines were finalised and published in 2021, taking on board submissions and comments provided to the Office following the consultation period.

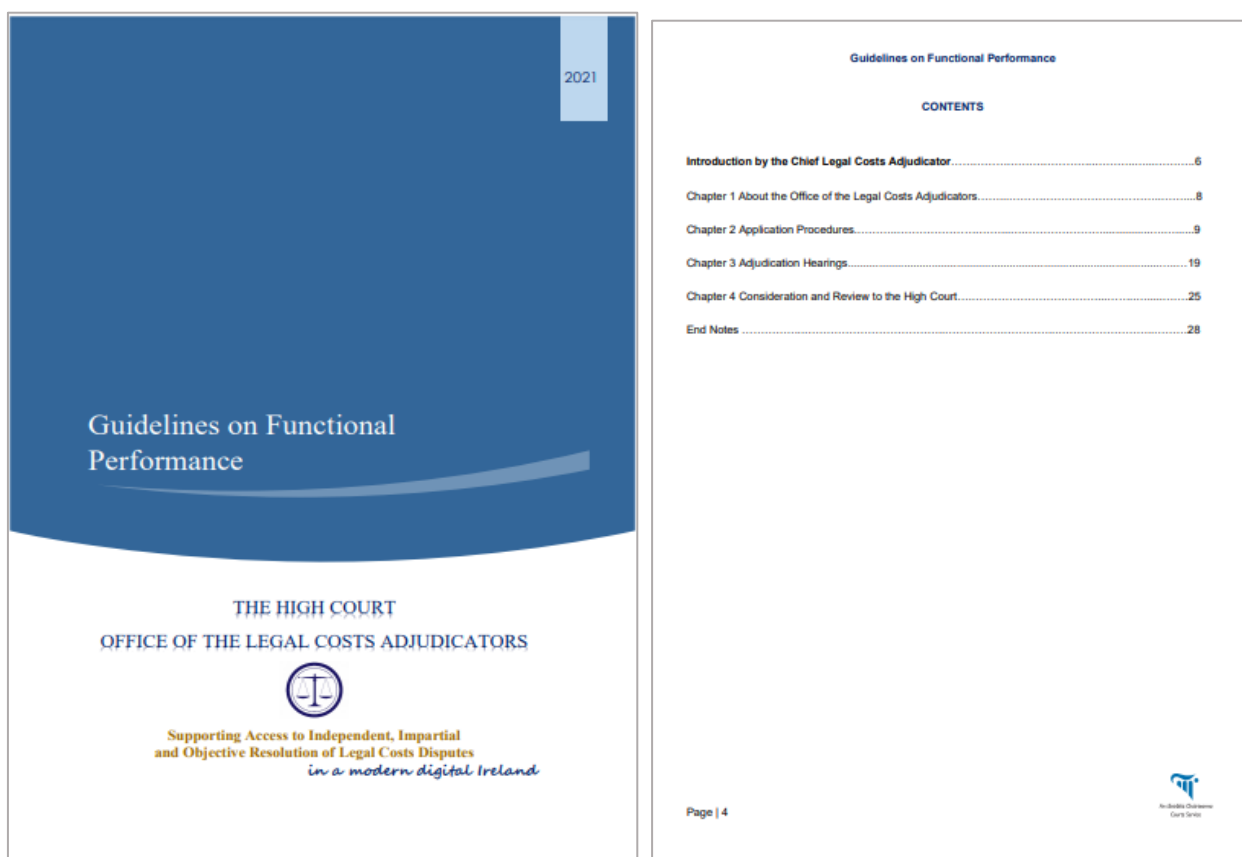


Figure 7:- Photos of the Guidelines on Functional Performance Contents Page

These Guidelines can be viewed in totality on the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators website home page on www.courts.ie



Figure 8:- Photos of the General Information on Legal Costs Section of the OLCA homepage

(iii) Lodgment in respect of costs

The Rules of the Superior Courts (Costs) Rules 2019, made provision in Part XII of Order 99 for the making of a lodgment or a tender in satisfaction of costs.

57.(1) In any application for adjudication of costs initiated under this Order by a person in whose favour the order to pay costs has been made or by a legal practitioner, the person who is the subject of the order to pay costs or, as the case may be, the client, may within 21 days of the service upon him of the application, or at any later time by leave of a Legal Costs Adjudicator, upon notice to the party obliged to pay costs or, as the case may be, the legal practitioner concerned, pay into Court a sum of money in satisfaction of the claim for costs (in this Part, a “lodgment in satisfaction of costs”).

While the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators, does not have any function, or jurisdiction, with regard to the process of making a lodgment it provided assistance to the Accountants Office of the Courts of Justice in the drafting of a *Lodgment Procedure in Adjudication of Legal Costs*.

This is available to view and or download directly from the homepage of the Accountants Office or through a link provided on the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators home page General Information Section on www.courts.ie.



Figure 9:- Screenshot of the General Information on Legal Costs Section of the OLCA homepage

In addition to the above, an associated procedural Flow Chart has been created, with the assistance of the Courts Service Change Programme Office, on how to take up lodgements in satisfaction of costs under the different sections, s.58 to s.60, of Part XII of Order 99.

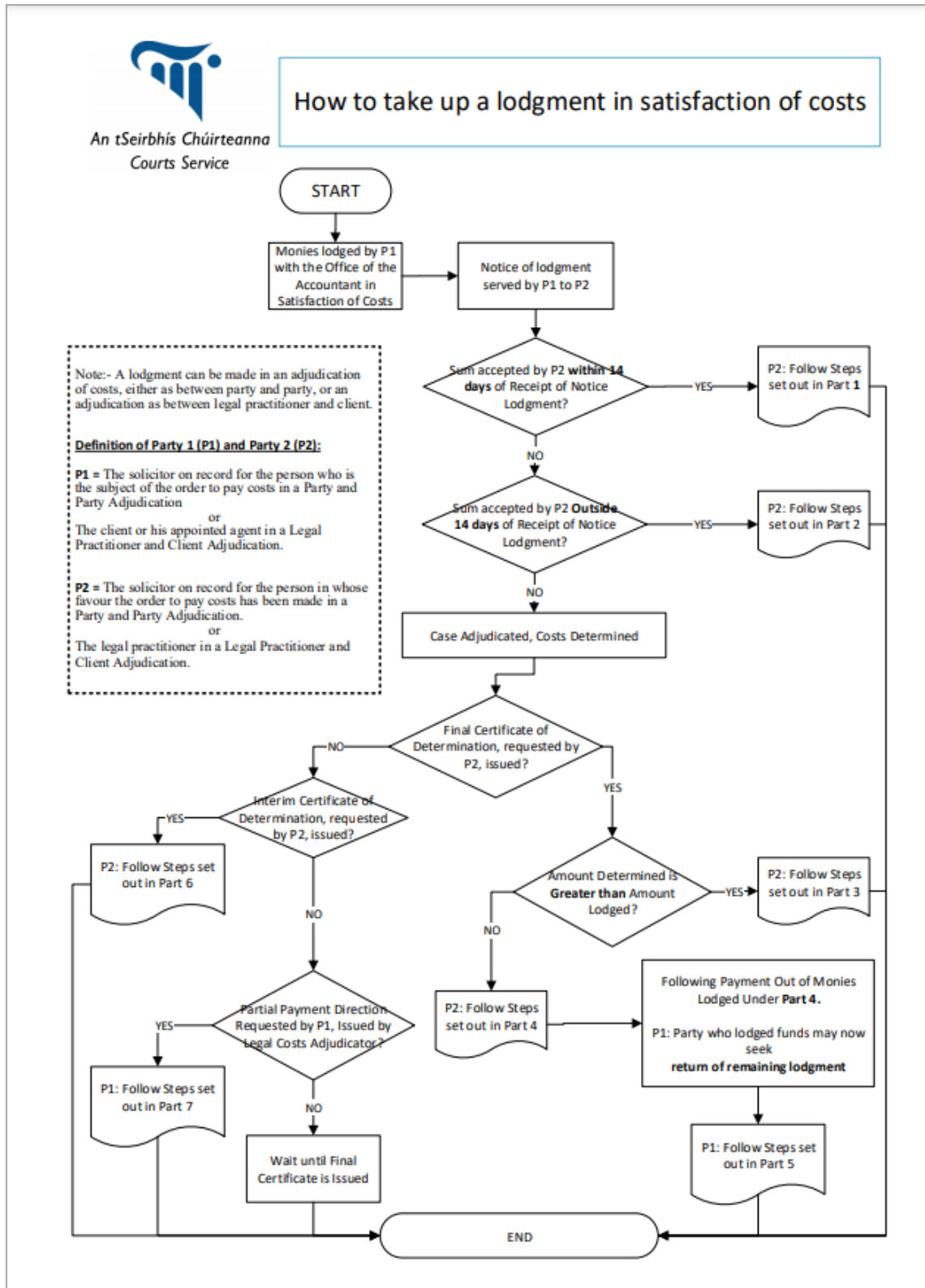



Figure 10:- Flow Chart of the Contents Page and Introduction of the Guidelines on Functional Performance

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The intention being that this flow chart would be used in tandem with the written procedure as an aid to clarity of process to be followed, for the benefit of members of the public and practitioners and their clients alike.

Additionally, a suite of supporting forms has been developed for use with this procedure, as specified by the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator pursuant to S.163 of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015. These are available to view and or download on the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators website home page Legal Costs Adjudication Forms Section on www.courts.ie, *Forms Number 19 to 28*.



Form No. 19	Request for Lodgment in Court, O. 99 R. 57
Form No. 20	Request for payment of money lodged in satisfaction of costs, O. 99 R. 58
Form No. 21	Request for payment of money lodged in partial satisfaction of costs duly certified O. 99 R. 59
Form No. 22	Request for partial payment of money lodged in satisfaction of costs duly certified O.99 R. 60
Form No. 23	Request for payment of balance of money lodged by party who lodged funds after payment in satisfaction of costs duly certified, O. 99 R. 60(5)
Form No. 24	Request for payment of money lodged by party who lodged funds pursuant to the direction of the chief legal costs adjudicator O. 99 R. 60(6)
Form No. 25	Request for payment of money lodged in partial satisfaction of costs on foot of an interim certificate O. 99 R. 59
Form No. 26	Notice of Application to Extend Time to Make a Lodgment/Tender in Satisfaction of Costs - O.99, r.57(1)
Form No. 27	Extension of Time to Make a Lodgment/Tender in Satisfaction of Costs - O.99, r.57(1)
Form No. 28	Direction for the Partial Payment of Moneys Lodged in Satisfaction of Costs - O. 99, r. 60(6)

Figure 11:- Screenshot of the Legal Costs Adjudication Forms Section of the OLCA homepage

Strategic Priority 3: *Develop and Support Our People*

The office relies on having staff that are well trained, dedicated and innovative to support the operational and strategic objectives of managing adjudication sittings, supporting the Legal Costs Adjudicators and meeting the evolving needs of court users.

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In an operating environment of unprecedented levels of staff movement, due to promotion, mobility, resignations or retirements, being experienced throughout the Public Service, the Courts Service and by extension the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators, the office has both developed and initiated an office based induction programme and succession planning in mitigation of same.

The office-based induction programme encompasses the assignment of an office mentor to new staff members and use of both an *office induction pack*, incorporating a summary of information about the office and its business, links to the underpinning relevant legislation, a clearly defined process map, relevant role profile, current business plan, risk register, health and safety ancillary statement and general office procedures pack, and a *CSOL system induction pack*, incorporating all current quick guides.

Where staff members are new to the Courts Service it is the intention that this programme will be run in tandem with the Courts Service induction programme.

In tandem with the above, utilising pre-existing templates developed by the Courts Service Change Programme Office, a *modified skills matrix* was developed in collaboration with staff. The aim of which was to facilitate a structured identification and evaluation of office team member's skills, knowledge and interest in listed task or areas of work. This allowed for clear identification and prioritisation of training needs across / within the office team. Allowing for the creation of a flexible pool of staff capable of managing adjudication listings, sittings, supporting the Legal Costs Adjudicators and court users alike.

UNITS AND WORK DESCRIPTIONS					
Priority skills gap (for training)					
OLCA UNIT					
Length of time in the unit - In years	2Y	3Y+	3Y+	3Y+	0Y
LCA Applications					
Checking Prerequisite Documentation	2	2	3	3	1
Checking & Approval / Rejection of efiled Applications	2	2	3	3	1
Uploading of Prerequisite documentation to CSOL	2	2	3	3	1
Inputting LP & Client Applications on CSOL	2	1	3	3	1
Issuing of Notice of Application for Adjudication - Assignment of hearing date & Adjudicator	2	2	3	3	1
Court Lists					
Preparation of Court and Legal Diary Posting to Court Web-Site	2	2	3	3	1
E-mailing of Court list & remote log in details to OLCA Court List Recipients	2	2	3	3	1
Preparing Callover List	2	2	3	3	1
E-mailing of Callover list & remote log in details to OLCA Court List Recipients	2	2	3	3	1
Resulting Courts on CSOL	3	2	3	3	1

Training need identified –
Training plan to be put in place

Figure 12:- Screenshot from Office Skills Matrix and Training Plan – PowerPoint Presentation

It is expected that this completed skills matrix will be utilised in conjunction with existing performance management system in 2022, to develop individual training plans for each staff member and track progress against training goals on a bi-annual basis, with the skills matrix being updated in accordance with received training, during performance reviews.

The overall aim being the creation of a clear framework for knowledge transfer and moving all staff skill levels to that of level 3 (i.e. where the staff member is fully competent, able to perform task to desired standard), thus delivering on the implementation of succession planning for the office. Additionally this will aid in the delivery of an environment of innovation and continuous learning and development, ensuring staff have the management, technical and legal skills and knowledge to discharge their roles in an effective and professional manner.

Strategic Priority 4: Improve Processes and Case Management

Working with the Adjudicators and other stakeholders, we continue to support improved access to justice through case management, collaboration and reform.

The weekly remote call over which was initiated in 2020, received positive feedback, and has acted as a valuable case management tool for both the Legal Costs Adjudicators, and legal practitioners. This practice has been maintained throughout 2021. This delivers efficient management of cases, and a more productive use of Adjudicators and Court Users time. It has assisted, as one of several procedures to reduce case waiting times, avoiding congregation of people and reducing travelling time. The ongoing operation of this case management process continues to require a significant allocation of office resources to effect same, but it is considered that the benefits make it worthwhile.

There is a link between the number of cases dealt with by the Superior Courts and the volume of cases filed with the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators. The employment of strategic foresight by the office in relation to any increased case load is required in order to ensure the continued delivery of services to all users, working with the Department of Justice and Equality in contributing to Civil law reform – The Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator delivered Submissions to the Judicial Planning Working Group in 2021.

Strategic Priority 5: Optimise Use of Technology

The increased use of technology and its optimisation is key to meeting the challenges of maintaining services to the Legal Costs Adjudicators, staff, legal costs accountants, legal professions and the public, and to meet legislative requirements and the demand for additional eGovernance and online services. This takes place against a backdrop of an anticipated increase in case volumes.

This anticipated increase stems from the return to full business of the Superior Courts in a post pandemic environment. There is a link between the number of cases dealt with by the Superior Courts and the volume of cases filed with the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators.

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e-Filing platform – Continued Embedding of the platform with a view to optimisation of same in 2022

Throughout 2021 the office continued its work on embedding the new E-filing system, available via the Court Services Online (CSOL) platform, in terms of both external and internal users.

- Additional ICT quick guides were developed for internal users with the associated training delivered;
- Staff, continued to act as a helpdesk in relation to users e-filing application queries and promoted the use of the manual throughout the year;
- The Office continued its work to resolve any obstacles raised by the users.

All of the above has resulted in the successful uptake and embedding of e-filing – of the 874 cases filed in 2021, 842 cases were filed via the e-platform, with the office providing assistance in the uploading of an additional 32 cases, where parties were not in a position to avail of the CSOL e-filing platform. It is a fact that not all users of the services of the Office have access to CSOL. In order to ensure that parties have access to the office, the staff of the office are available and ready to assist in matters of procedure and assist those who need it.

Development of Statistical Reporting Functionality

In order to generate and utilise targeted data from the Courts Service On-Line (CSOL) platform to optimise the legal costs adjudication process, increase the overall efficiency of the system and provide accurate data for inclusion in the office's annual report, further development and refinement of statistical report functionality was required and implemented in 2021.

- ICT development work was conducted, with a number of additional information columns being added to Legal Costs Adjudication primary reports on the central APEX reports platform;
- Office conducted a battery of tests, in a test environment, to verify delivery of the required changes to the primary report;
- Following release of these new columns into the live report environment additional and refined statistical reports were created under the following three streams
 - Financial Reports
 - Workflow Reports
 - Annual Reports

All of which have allowing for increased accuracy and further optimisation of the Legal Costs Adjudication process.

Annual Report 2021

1. Primary Report
Default
1. Primary Report
Public
1. APEX Financial - Cert. Fee Paid - Monthly Rpt.
2. APEX Financial - Cert. Fee Paid - Quarterly Rpt.
3. APEX Financial - Court Duty Paid - Monthly Rpt.
4. APEX Financial - Court Duty Paid - Quarterly Rpt.
5. APEX Financial - Outstanding Court Duty - Monthly Rpt.
6. APEX Financial - Outstanding Court Duty - Quarterly Rpt.
7. APEX Financial - Outstanding Court Duty - Yearly Rpt.
8. APEX Workflow - No. of Cert. of Costs Pending - Rpt.
9. APEX Workflow - No. of Certs. Uploaded - Monthly Rpt.
10. APEX Workflow - No. of Certs. Uploaded - Quarterly Rpt.
11. APEX Workflow - No. of Consideration Requested Rpt.
12. APEX Workflow - Outstanding SOC Calculations - Monthly Rpt.
13. APEX Workflow - Outstanding SOC Calculations - Quarterly Rpt.
14. APEX Workflow - Reg. of Determinations - Quarterly Rpt.
15. APEX Workflow - Reg. of Determinations - Monthly Rpt.
16. APEX Workflow - Submitted Case Status - Rpt.
17. APEX Yearly - Activity Rpt.

Figure 13:- Screenshot from Legal Costs Adjudication Reports Platform
– Showing the Primary Report & a list of developed Financial, Workflow and Yearly Reports

The use of such financial reports, as shown below, providing improved financial controls within the office:-

An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

CSOL Reports LIVE

Last Updated: 16-MAR-2022 01:55

Log Out

CSOL Reports

Home

LCA

Q

Go

6. APEX Financial - Outstanding Court Duty - Quarterly Rpt.

Actions

Saved Report = "APEX Financial - Outstanding Court Duty - Quarterly Rpt."

Court duty date paid is null

Date Determined between 01 Apr 2022 and 30 Jun 2022

Date Determined between 01 Oct 2022 and 31 Dec 2022

Court Duty Amount Paid € = 0

Date Determined between 01 Jan 2022 and 31 Mar 2022

Date Determined between 01 Jul 2022 and 30 Sep 2022

Duty Exemption / Waiver = 'N'

1 - 50 of 56

Case Number	Status	Date Determined	Consideration Requested	Duty Exemption / Waiver	Court Duty Amount €	Court Duty Date Paid	Court Duty Amount Paid €	Court Duty Amount Outstanding €
H:ICA:OLCA			N	N	2,525.00	-	0.00	2,525.00
H:ICA:OLCA			N	N	861.00	-	0.00	861.00
H:ICA:OLCA			N	N	781.00	-	0.00	781.00
H:ICA:OLCA			N	N	989.00	-	0.00	989.00

Figure 14:- Screenshot of Outstanding Court Duty Quarterly Report

Annual Report 2021

The use of such workflow reports, as shown below, providing improved processes and case management within the office:-

CSOL Reports LIVE
Last Updated: 16-MAR-2022 01:55

CSOL Reports Home LCA

8. APEX Workflow - No. of Cert. of Costs Pending - Rpt.

Filters:

- Saved Report = "APEX Workflow - No. of Cert. of Costs Pending - Rpt."
- Status = 'Cert. of Costs Pending'
- Date Determined is not null

1 - 23 of 23

Case Number	Date Determined	Duty Exemption / Waiver	Status	Court Duty Date Paid
H:ICA:OLCA:		N	Cert. of Costs Pending	01-MAR-2022
H:ICA:OLCA:		N	Cert. of Costs Pending	08-FEB-2022
H:ICA:OLCA:		N	Cert. of Costs Pending	08-FEB-2022
H:ICA:OLCA:		N	Cert. of Costs Pending	09-FEB-2022
H:ICA:OLCA:		Y	Cert. of Costs Pending	-
H:ICA:OLCA:		N	Cert. of Costs Pending	10-FEB-2022
H:ICA:OLCA:		N	Cert. of Costs Pending	16-FEB-2022

Figure 15:- Screenshot of Number of Certificates of Costs Pending Report

CSOL Reports LIVE
Last Updated: 16-MAR-2022 01:55

CSOL Reports Home LCA

14. APEX Workflow - Reg. of Determinations - Quarterly Rpt.

Filters:

- Saved Report = "APEX Workflow - Reg. of Determinations - Quarterly Rpt."
- Date Determined between 01 Jan 2021 and 31 Mar 2021
- Date Determined between 01 Apr 2022 and 30 Jun 2022
- Date Determined between 01 Jul 2022 and 30 Sep 2022
- Date Determined between 01 Oct 2022 and 31 Dec 2022
- Determination Publish Status is not null
- Determination Publish Status is null

1 - 70 of 70

Case Number	Date Determined	Legal Costs Adjudicator	Determination Publish Status	Determination Non-Publication Reason	Consideration Requested	Consideration Publish Status	Consideration Non-Publication Reason	Status
H:ICA:OLCA:		Legal Costs Adjudicator Barry Magee	Do Not Publish	Withheld having regard to the provisions of s.140(4) of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015	N	-	-	Determined
H:ICA:OLCA:		Legal Costs Adjudicator Barry Magee	Do Not Publish	Withheld having regard to Sect 140(3)(c) of The Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015	N	-	-	Completed

Figure 16:- Screenshot of Register of Determinations - Quarterly Report

Strategic Priority 6: Ensure Effective Governance and Accountability

Effective governance and accountability are priorities for the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators.

Demonstrate transparency and accountability

In 2021, further development and refinement of both financial and workflow reports has ensured submission of timely and accurate quarterly oversight of both financial information and the work of the office to the Courts Service Senior Management Team and to the CEO of the Courts Service Ms. Angela Denning.

Under section 146. (1) of the Legal Services Regulations Act, 2015 the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall, not later than 30 April in each year, prepare a report (in this section referred to as the “annual report”) of the activities of the Office in the immediately preceding financial year and submit it to the Chief Executive Officer of the Courts Service.

Additionally, under section 146 (5) The annual report shall be laid before each House of the Oireachtas together with the annual report of the Courts Service.

The submission of the office’s annual report, in fulfilment of its statutory duties, continues to ensure a transparent overview of the Year’s work conducted by the office.

Ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection, Act 2018.

Given the continued wide variety of cases dealt with by the office and the potential risk for breaches of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Data Protection, Act 2018 to occur, a GDPR culture has been embedded in the office. This continues to be achieved through staff meetings, briefings and training designed to build commitment to the culture and values of the Office and through the continued requirement to file a Certificate of *In Camera* Status (Form No.18), with every Bill of Costs lodged with the office.

CHAPTER 3 - Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators Governance and Management Structure

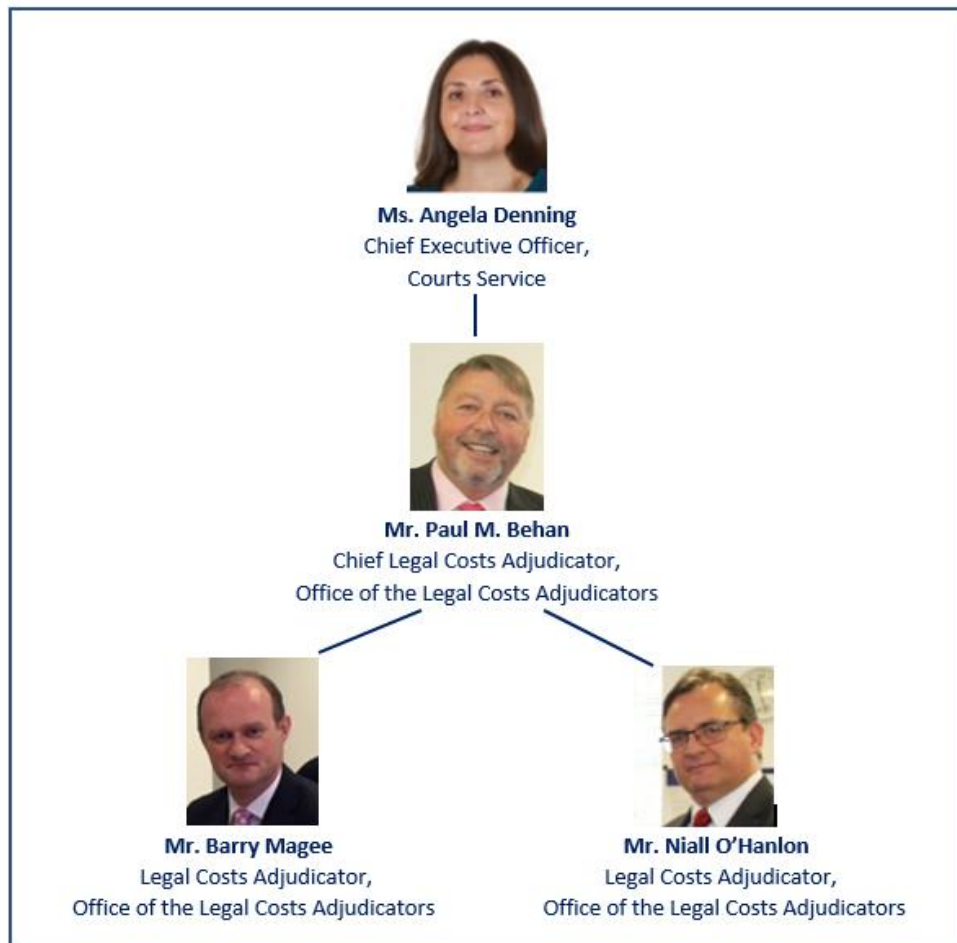


Figure 17:- Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator Governance Structure



Figure 18:- Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicator Management Structure

CHAPTER 4 - Activity

1. Total Number of Applications filed in 2021

A total number of 874 applications were filed in 2021.

Comparison – 2021, 2020 and 2019.

The tables and the graphics below indicate that at the end of 2019, some 602 cases were on hand. This includes the cases which were transferred to the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators, following the abolition of the Taxing Masters Office.

The year 2020, represented the first full year of operation of the Office, with a total of 830 cases having been filed. 2021, represents the second full year of operation of the Office, with a total of 874 cases having been filed for adjudication. In numerical terms this represents an increase of 44 cases or a round figure percentage of 5%.

The figures show, the value or quantum of the new adjudication cases in hand decreased slightly from €113,211,333 to €110,339,050, a decrease in the sum of €2,872,283. In percentage terms a decrease of about 2%.

A breakdown of the type and status of the cases filed in 2021, 2020 and those on hand on establishment day in 2019 can be seen from the table and graphics below.

Filed Cases by Originating Case Type – In List Form

Originating Case Type	2021		2020		2019	
	No. of Cases	Amount (€) Claimed	No. of Cases	Amount (€) Claimed	No. of Cases	Amount (€) Claimed
Road Traffic Accidents	174	17,518,910	171	12,970,373	152	11,890,465
Employer & Occupiers Liability	116	9,552,195	130	10,770,634	86	9,312,701
Judicial Review	113	8,676,507	114	13,603,980	60	6,372,656
Medical Negligence	95	27,726,276	53	20,878,825	67	22,926,116
Other	91	10,226,857	81	7,298,594	14	3,310,125
Contract	57	4,711,890	24	4,947,157	32	6,443,082
Motions Interlocutory	45	4,346,949	39	2,225,020	60	3,276,650
Appeal - Court of Appeal	38	2,817,567	21	2,045,724	23	5,998,218
Public Liability	26	1,442,918	33	2,250,298	31	3,209,097
Wards of Court	14	705,214	1	29,453	7	473,623
Commercial Court	12	6,939,087	9	3,836,282	4	5,404,301
Professional Negligence	9	1,281,804	3	218,069	-	-
Probate Matters	8	345,775	15	458,052	3	214,438
Appeal - Supreme Court	8	1,642,784	13	2,531,850	11	1,680,089
Assault & Battery	8	836,217	6	1,078,775	7	760,953
Employment Law	7	1,269,571	8	863,655	1	41,879
Security for Costs	6	829,285	6	299,483	-	-
Injunctions	6	777,900	3	381,873	-	-
Bankruptcy	5	797,217	1	192,136	3	178,912
Sale of Land	5	344,569	1	233,829	1	182,459
Companies Act	4	50,711	7	333,724	3	41,887
Practitioner and Client	4	499,868	6	580,529	-	-
Planning Matters	4	849,873	4	639,825	1	179,391
Defamation. Libel & Slander	3	749,648	9	2,251,529	11	2,763,622
Solicitors Acts	3	152,543	8	163,694	8	332,088
Garda Compensation Acts	3	78,710	1	29,800	2	57,665
Constitutional Law	2	1,123,541	13	387,731	1	1,802,773
Tribunal of Inquiry	2	2,917,325	10	16,114,513	5	1,872,746
Arbitration	2	166,294	7	1,382,321	3	259,544
Immigration Law	1	30,078	18	2,306,602	1	102,189
Family Law	1	46,750	10	1,764,998	1	7,479
Article 40/Habeas Corpus	1	152,006	3	101,310	1	300,992
Nuisance	1	732,208	-	-	-	-
Judgement Mortgage	-	-	1	12,576	-	-
Residential Institutions Redress Board	-	-	1	28,117	-	-
Case Stated	-	-	-	-	2	236,927
Pension Matters	-	-	-	-	1	77,452
Total	874	€110,339,050	830	€113,211,333	601	€89,633,067

Figure 19:- Table showing the breakdown of Legal Costs Adjudication applications by originating case type in 2021, 2020 & 2019



Originating Case Type – By Area

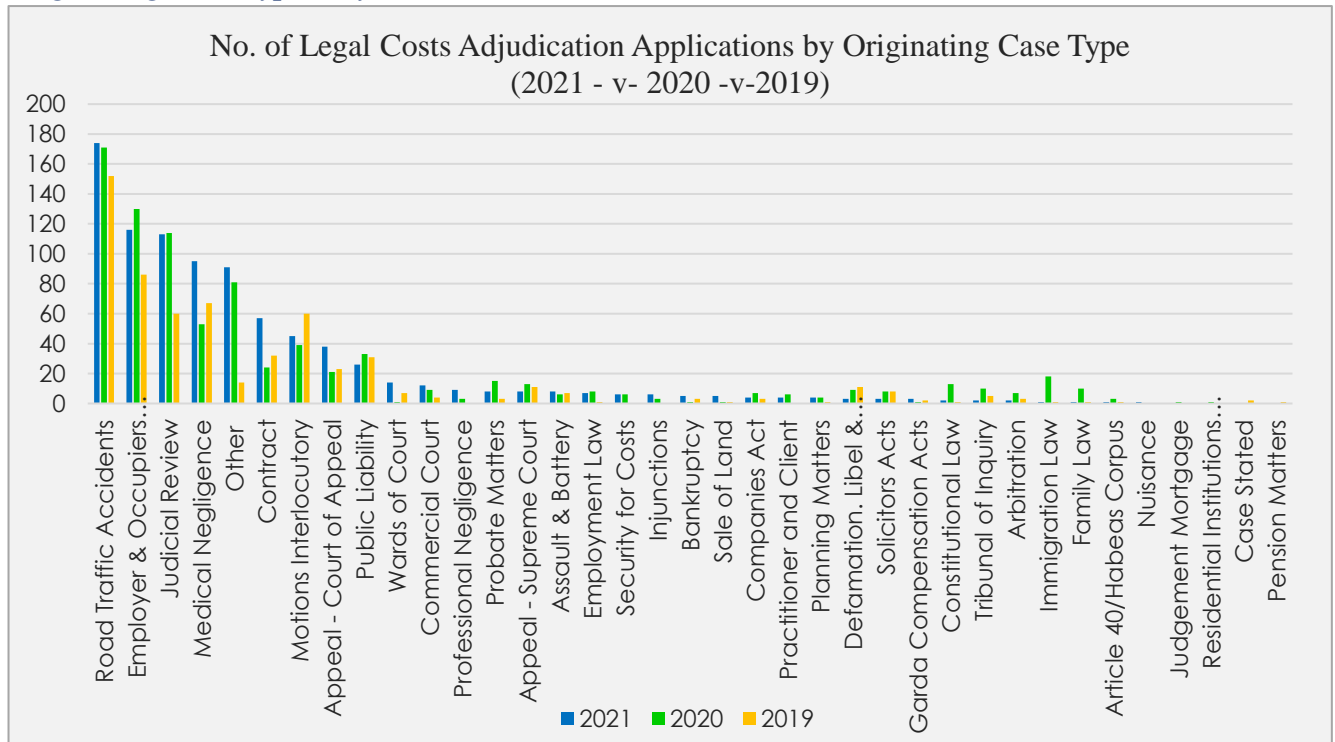


Figure 20:- Graph of Number of Legal Costs Adjudication Applications Filed per Case Type in 2021, 2020 and 2019

Originating Case Type – Monetary Value

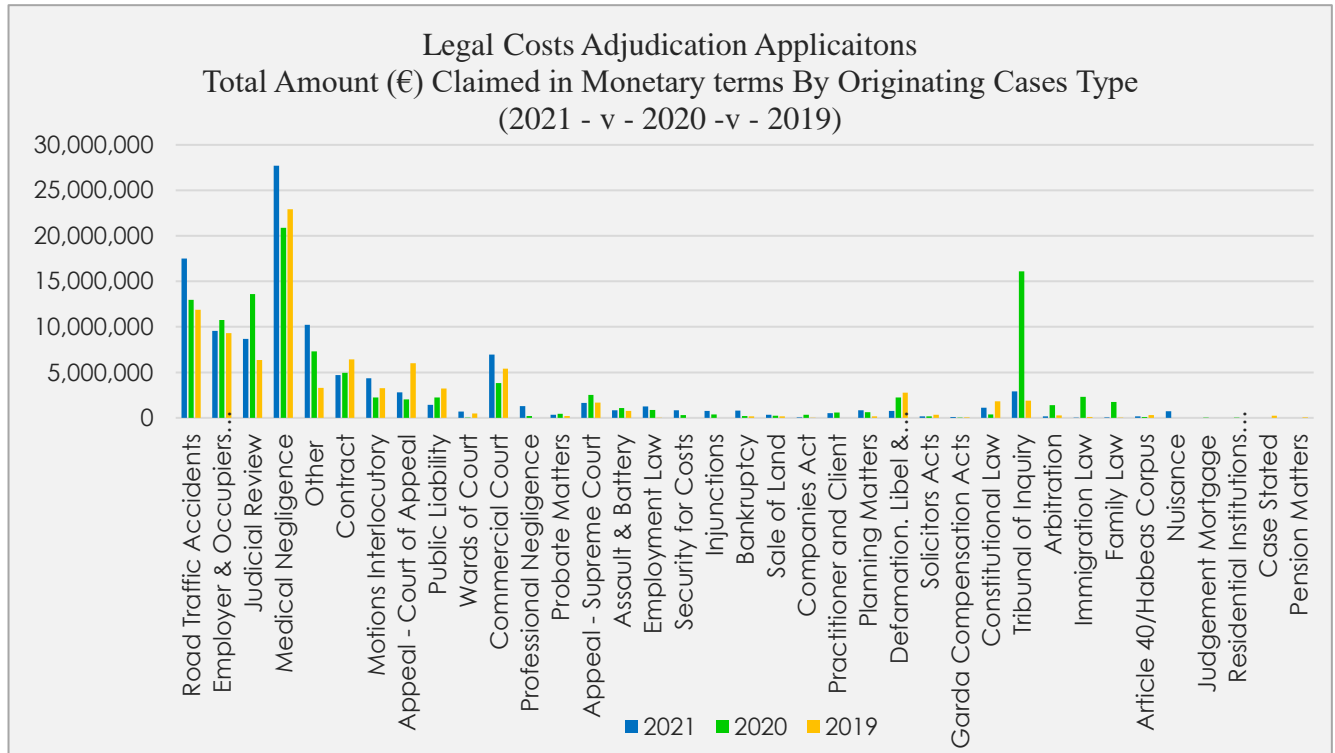


Figure 21:- Graph of Total Amount Claimed in Legal Costs Adjudication Applications per Case Type in 2021, 2020 and 2019

2. Year End Case Status

It is part of the landscape of the business of the Office, that cases that may have been adjourned, part settled or part heard, will be dealt with across the calendar year. Thus it emerges that a total number of 1,260 cases were dealt with in 2021. This is comprised of the 874 applications filed in 2021 and 386 cases from 2020, having been adjourned into 2021 or re-listed on request of the parties. The result is that the Office had on hand claims for €173,236,066.

This can be illustrated in the table below.

Originating Case Type	No. of Cases	Amount (€) Claimed
Road Traffic Accidents	244	23,336,482
Employer and Occupiers Liability	158	12,738,666
Judicial Review	152	14,865,175
Other	131	15,619,757
Medical Negligence	117	43,564,188
Contract	72	8,112,123
Motions Interlocutory	68	5,311,768
Appeal - Court of Appeal	50	4,023,679
Public Liability	38	3,060,747
Probate Matters	21	843,628
Appeal - Supreme Court	19	4,138,826
Commercial Court	18	9,024,910
Wards of Court	16	810,579
Solicitors Acts	14	469,734
Defamation, Libel and Slander	13	4,266,768
Assault & Battery	12	1,578,494
Professional Negligence	12	1,499,873
Employment Law	11	1,783,916
Security for Costs	11	1,072,174
Bankruptcy	9	1,168,265
Injunctions	9	1,159,773
Immigration Law	8	1,049,852
Planning Matters	8	1,593,998
Arbitration	7	1,654,265
Sale of Land	6	578,398
Family Law	5	408,436
Companies Act	5	68,501
Practitioner and Client	5	505,403
Article 40/Habeas Corpus	5	554,308
Constitutional Law	4	3,278,978
Tribunal of Inquiry	4	4,038,895
Garda Compensation Acts	4	108,511
Case Stated	1	174,095
Judgement Mortgage	1	12,576
Residential Institutions Redress Board	1	28,117
Nuisance	1	732,208
Total	1,260	€173,236,066

Figure 22:- Table showing the breakdown of LCA Cases, dealt with during 2021, by originating case type



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A breakdown of the cases dealt with in the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021, demonstrates that 53% of the cases were settled between the parties, 18% were determined and concluded, 28% are as of the end of December 2021, adjourned pending hearings, or the matters are subject to further hearing, mediation or negotiation. There is a total of 19 ongoing requests for consideration at year end or less than 1% of total cases determined are subject to a request for consideration in accordance with s.160 of the 2015 Act. This is comprised of the 5 requests for considerations filed in 2021, 11 filed in 2020 and 3 filed in 2019.

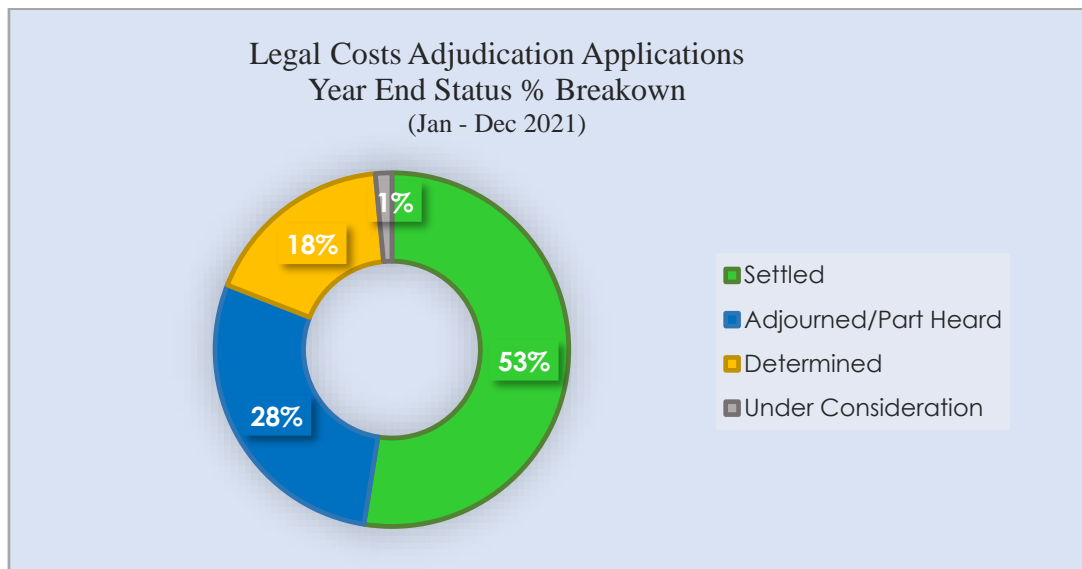


Figure 23:- Graph of Year End - Legal Costs Adjudication Applications Case Status

Case Status	No. of Cases	%
Settled	662	53
Adjourned/Part Heard	358	28
Determined	221	18
Under Consideration	19	2
Total	1,260	100

Figure 24:- Table of 2021 Year End - Legal Costs Adjudication Applications Case Status

3. Settled Cases

In many instances, the parties to an Adjudication, will take the opportunity to resolve disputes regarding legal costs. The Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators actively facilitates all parties to an adjudication in the resolution of disputes. In keeping with many adjudicative processes, parties often resolve their disputes close to, during, or after a hearing. The 2015 Act, provides in s. 153 (2) that in the event of a dispute between a legal practitioner and client, that the parties shall take all appropriate steps to attempt to resolve the dispute. The relevant provisions are as follows



Legal practitioner to attempt to resolve dispute

153. (1) Where a client disputes any aspect of a bill of costs, he or she shall, within 21 days of the bill of costs being provided to him or her under section 152 , send the legal practitioner concerned a statement in writing setting out the nature of the dispute.

(2) Where a legal practitioner receives a statement in accordance with subsection (1), he or she shall, before making an application under section 154 (5), take all appropriate and reasonable steps to attempt to resolve the dispute by informal means, which may include, where appropriate and with the consent of the client, mediation.

(3) Where the legal practitioner or the client, as the case may be, having made reasonable attempts to resolve the dispute in accordance with subsection (2), is of the opinion that the attempt has failed, he or she shall inform the other party in writing of that opinion.

(4) In reckoning the period of time for the purposes of subsection (5) or (7) of section 154 , the period beginning on the date on which the client sends the legal practitioner a statement under subsection (1) and ending on the date on which the legal practitioner or the client, as the case may be, informs the other party of his or her opinion referred to in subsection (3), shall be disregarded.

(5) Failure by a client to pay a bill of costs to a legal practitioner within the time period referred to in section 154 (5) shall not be construed as a formal communication of the existence of a dispute by the client to the legal practitioner.

There is also power within s.156(2) that a Legal Costs Adjudicator can invite the parties to an Adjudication to refer their disputes to mediation. The relevant provisions are as follows

(2) A Legal Costs Adjudicator may invite the parties to an adjudication to refer their dispute to mediation or another informal resolution process if he or she considers that to do so would be appropriate in all the circumstances, whether or not any of the parties have requested that the Legal Costs Adjudicator do so.

(3) If the parties agree to refer their dispute to mediation or other process referred to in subsection (2), the Legal Costs Adjudicator shall adjourn the determination of the application and may give any other direction that he or she considers will facilitate the resolution of the dispute.

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As indicated previously 53% of the total cases dealt with in the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021, were settled between the parties. The breakdown of settled cases is shown below: -

Settled cases – By List Type

Settled Cases -	No. of	Total Amount (€) Claimed
Road Traffic Accidents	152	16,134,128
Judicial Review	116	10,307,963
Employer and Occupiers Liability	100	7,708,340
Medical Negligence	67	20,050,385
Other	64	9,247,886
Public Liability	24	1,362,844
Motions Interlocutory	24	1,078,600
Appeal - Court of Appeal	16	1,567,817
Contract	14	2,258,833
Employment Law	9	1,555,899
Assault & Battery	9	1,169,779
Wards of Court	8	457,730
Immigration Law	7	1,019,774
Bankruptcy	6	915,242
Probate Matters	6	272,683
Commercial Court	5	3,333,086
Solicitors Acts	5	72,148
Planning Matters	4	947,560
Appeal - Supreme Court	4	599,393
Defamation, Libel and Slander	4	526,536
Professional Negligence	3	677,843
Arbitration	3	380,474
Injunctions	2	616,885
Article 40/Habeas Corpus	2	330,150
Tribunal of Inquiry	1	776,737
Nuisance	1	732,208
Constitutional Law	1	352,665
Security for Costs	1	34,223
Family Law	1	218,886
Sale of Land	1	98,315
Garda Compensation Acts	1	29,800
Practitioner and Client	1	12,290
Total	662	€84,847,101

Figure 25:- Table showing the breakdown of settled cases by originating case type in 2021

Settled Cases - By Case Type

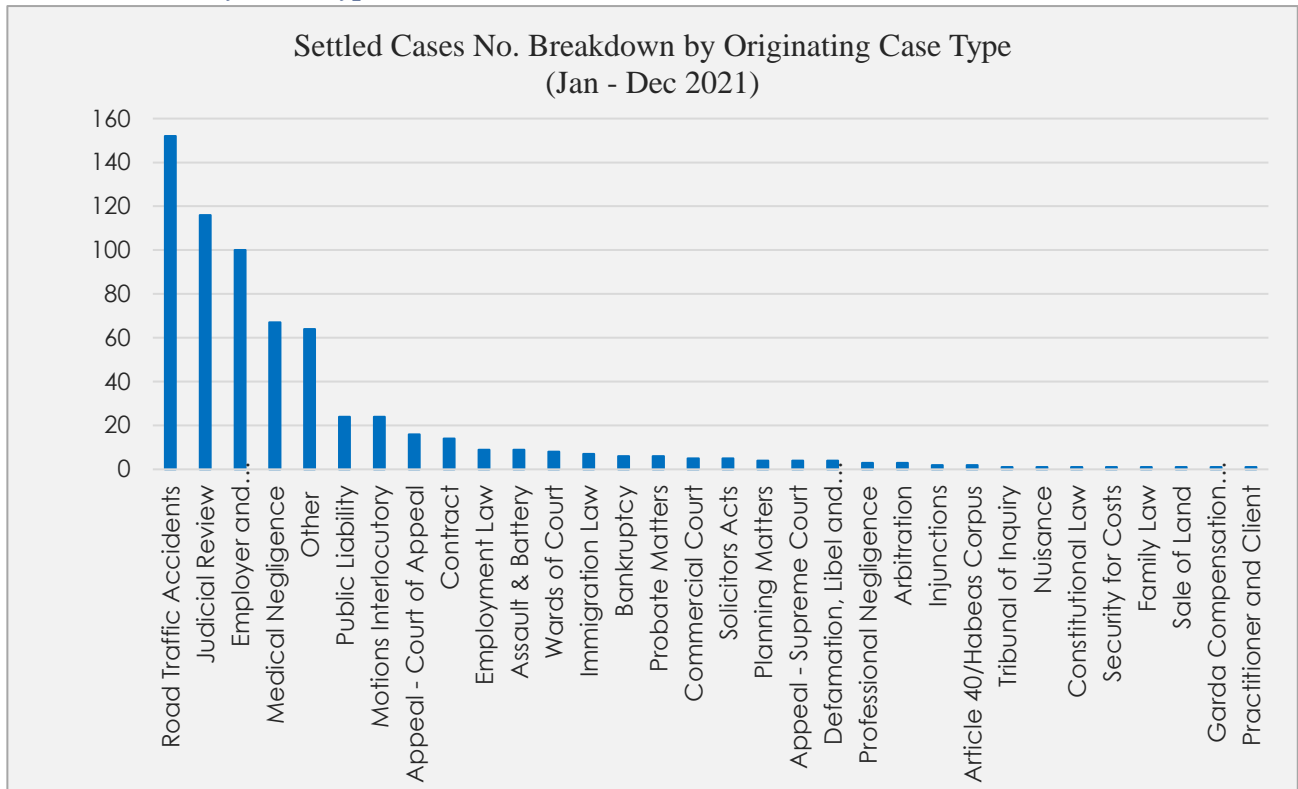


Figure 26:- Graph of Settled Cases - No. breakdown by Originating Case Type

Settled Cases - By Monetary Value

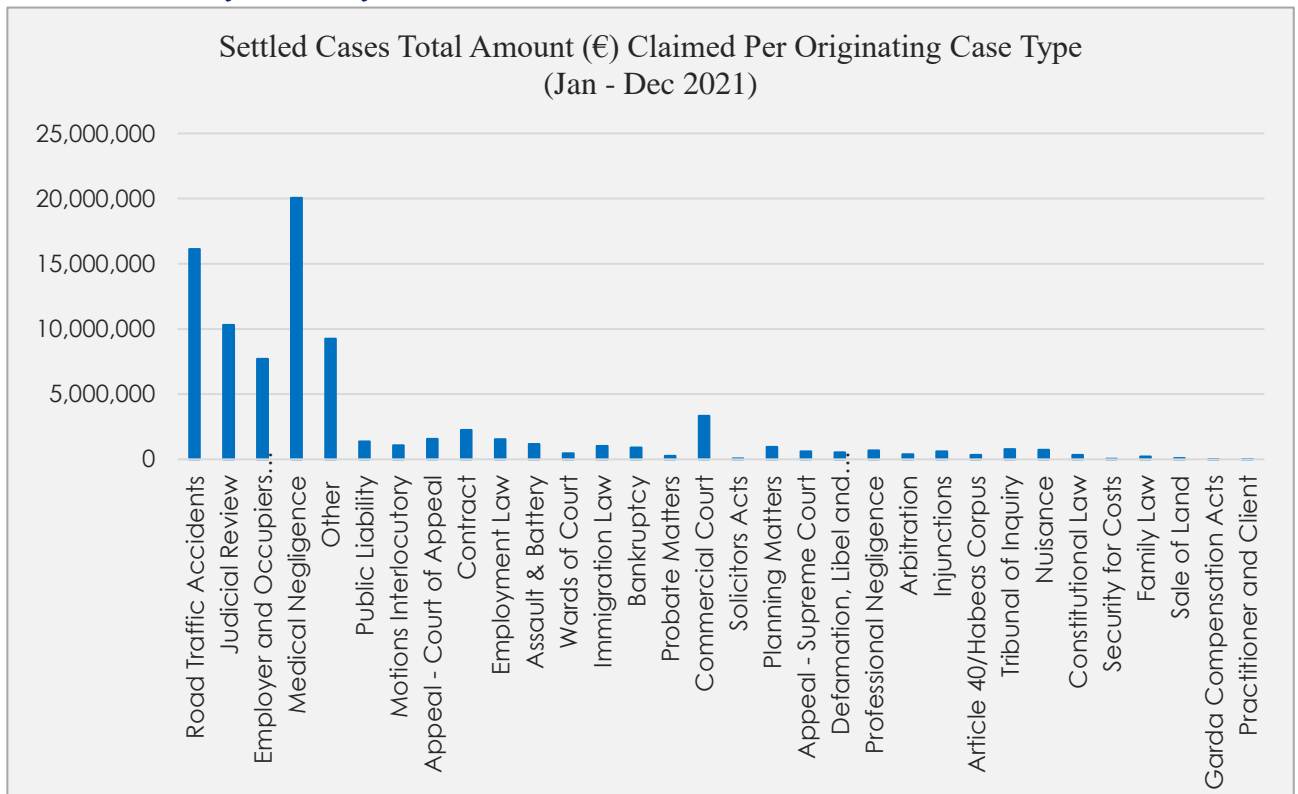


Figure 27:- Graph of Settled Cases - Total Amount Claimed € per Originating Case Type

4. Adjourned Cases

There are many reasons why matters may be adjourned. This is relevant where matters are under active discussion or a party was not in a position to proceed for one reason or another or cases may be adjourned for written determinations. In general terms, the Office tries to have a presumption against adjournment applications, without good reasons.

During 2021, as was the case in 2020, the prevailing conditions caused by the pandemic affected the ordinary conduct of business. In general, matters took longer, including remote hearings, the absence of parties' legal representatives from offices and business premises, inevitably fed into the elongation of the process.

In so far as the Office of the Legal Costs Adjudicators was concerned, the application of fair procedures and due process had to be balanced with any perception of the prevailing pandemic being used as an artifice to avoid dealing with matters of legal costs or creating an unfair process to another party. This required care and consideration in handling adjudication of costs. It is also a fact, that not all parties are equipped with the facility to deal with matters online. This process continued to be managed carefully by the Legal Costs Adjudicators so as to maintain a balance between all parties to the process so as to ensure procedural fairness. It does require active case management on the part of the Adjudicators.

5. The Value of Legal Costs in issue

The office had, in the period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021, claims for legal costs and expenses for adjudication in the sum of €173,236,066, illustrated as follows: -

Case Status	Total Amount (€) Claimed
Under Consideration	3,527,530
Determined	19,685,387
Adjourned/Part Heard	65,176,048
Settled	84,847,101
Total	€173,236,066

Figure 28:- Table of Total Amount Claimed € in Legal Costs Adjudication Applications in 2021 per Case Status

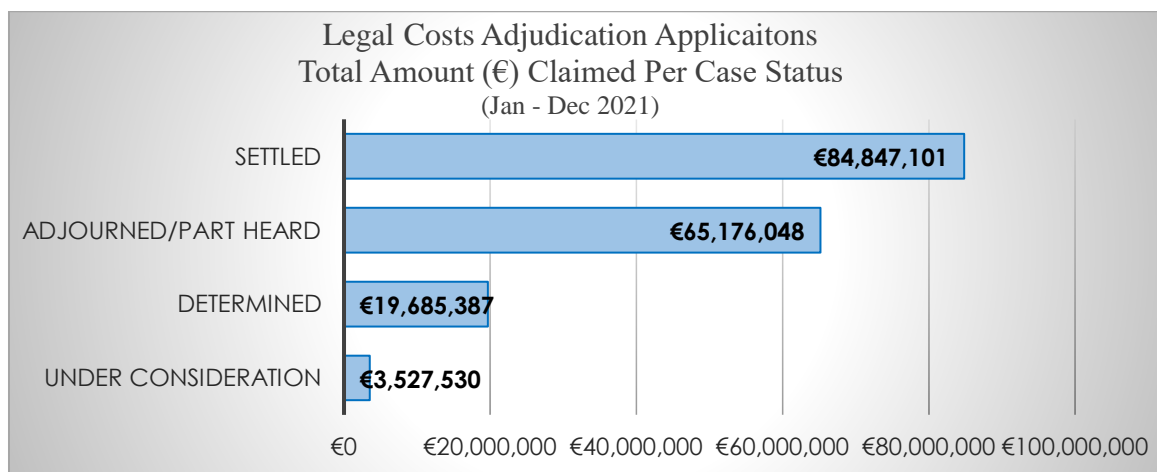


Figure 29:- Graph of Total Amount Claimed in Legal Costs Adjudication Applications per Case Status

6. Determined Cases

The cases completed and determined, which are not under negotiation or subject to a consideration are as below:-

Determinations Originating Case Types	No. of Cases.	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Allowed	% Disallowed
Road Traffic Accidents	42	3,063,605	952,376	2,111,229	31
Other	27	1,913,755	616,437	1,297,317	32
Employer and Occupiers Liability	26	1,598,235	587,555	1,010,680	37
Medical Negligence	13	2,694,447	1,202,627	1,491,820	45
Contract	11	1,501,615	446,924	1,054,691	30
Appeal - Court of Appeal	11	686,297	191,136	495,161	28
Judicial Review	10	1,190,529	376,246	814,282	32
Probate Matters	10	351,456	54,496	261,961	16
Security for Costs	9	563,022	163,434	399,588	29
Commercial Court	8	1,817,790	572,044	1,245,747	31
Motions Interlocutory	8	130,489	32,422	98,067	25
Public Liability	6	789,813	192,867	596,947	24
Appeal - Supreme Court	4	461,400	156,507	304,894	34
Companies Act	4	56,836	15,166	41,670	27
Planning Matters	3	391,477	157,213	234,265	40
Injunctions	3	347,639	100,883	246,756	29
Defamation, Libel and Slander	3	168,171	33,489	134,682	20
Professional Negligence	3	154,180	81,363	72,817	53
Family Law	3	89,726	7,598	82,128	8
Garda Compensation Acts	3	78,710	24,690	54,021	31
Arbitration	2	347,224	140,186	207,038	40
Assault & Battery	2	332,335	83,146	249,189	25
Employment Law	2	228,017	78,510	149,507	34
Solicitors Acts	2	43,789	16,801	26,988	38
Wards of Court	2	47,644	6,867	40,777	14
Tribunal of Inquiry	1	344,833	196,472	148,361	57
Sale of Land	1	233,829	76,805	157,025	33
Article 40/Habeas Corpus	1	36,597	23,799	12,799	65
Bankruptcy	1	21,926	9,389	12,537	43
Total	221	€19,685,387	€6,597,445	€13,052,942	34

Figure 30:- Table Breakdown of Determined Cases per Originating Case Type

Of the amount claimed, approximately 66% of the amounts claimed were allowed. This is not suggestive that 34% of all the costs claimed were unreasonable, there are many reasons why costs incurred may not be recovered, such as a limitation on the amount recoverable, having regard to the terms of settlement or a Court Order or a difference in the interpretation of a liability for costs, or in some cases, the type of costs sought may not simply be recoverable on the applicable law or facts of the case. The provisions contained within Part 10 of the Legal Services Regulation Act, 2015, detail the particulars of the enquires required to be made by the Legal Costs Adjudicator so as to ensure that the claims presented and adjudicated are reasonable in amount and that the work undertaken has been verified.

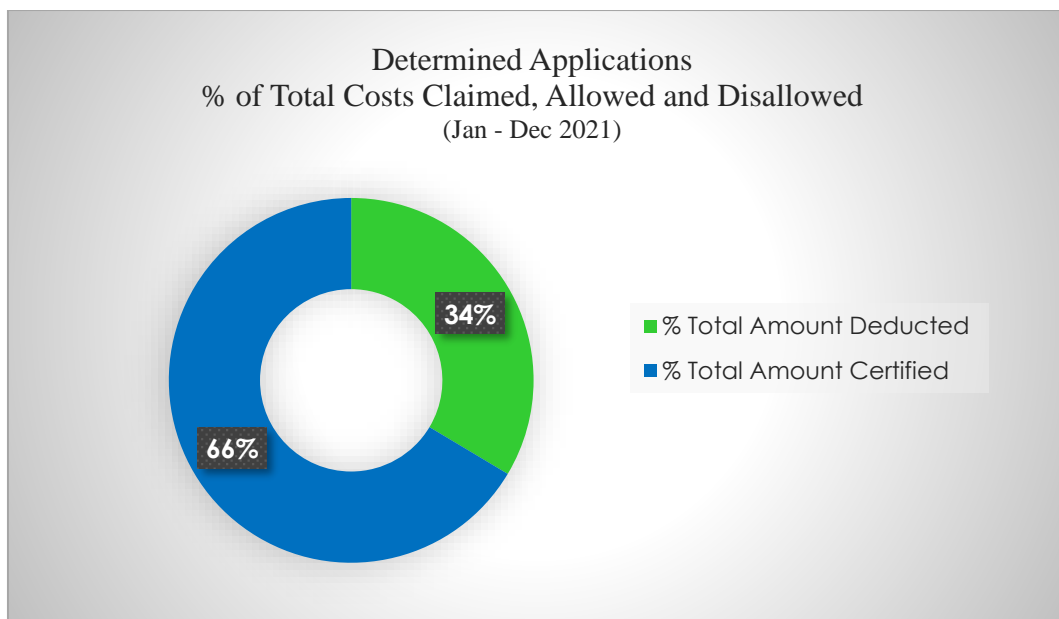


Figure 31:- Graph of % of Total Costs Claimed – Allowed and Disallowed in Determined Cases

In monetary terms, the result is as below

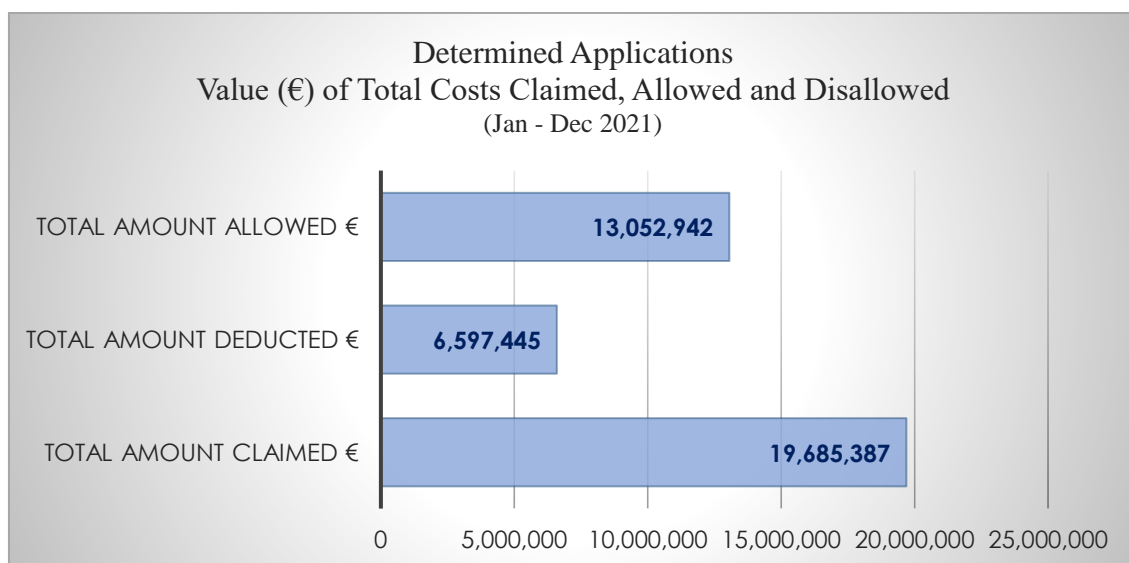


Figure 32:- Graph of Amount € of Total Costs Claimed - Allowed and Disallowed in Determined Cases

Annual Report 2021

The chart below takes each case determined by case type in monetary terms.

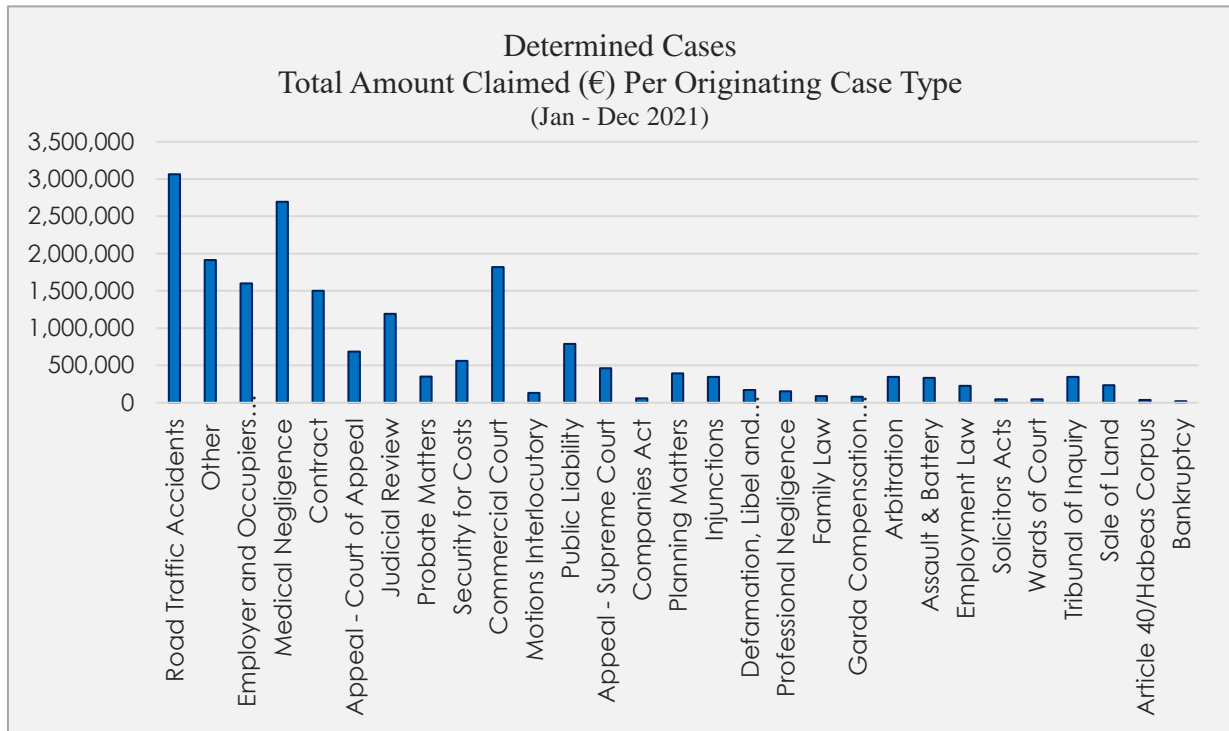


Figure 33:- Graph of Total Amount € of Costs Claimed Per Originating Case Type in Determined Cases

Looked at side by side as to claim and allowance

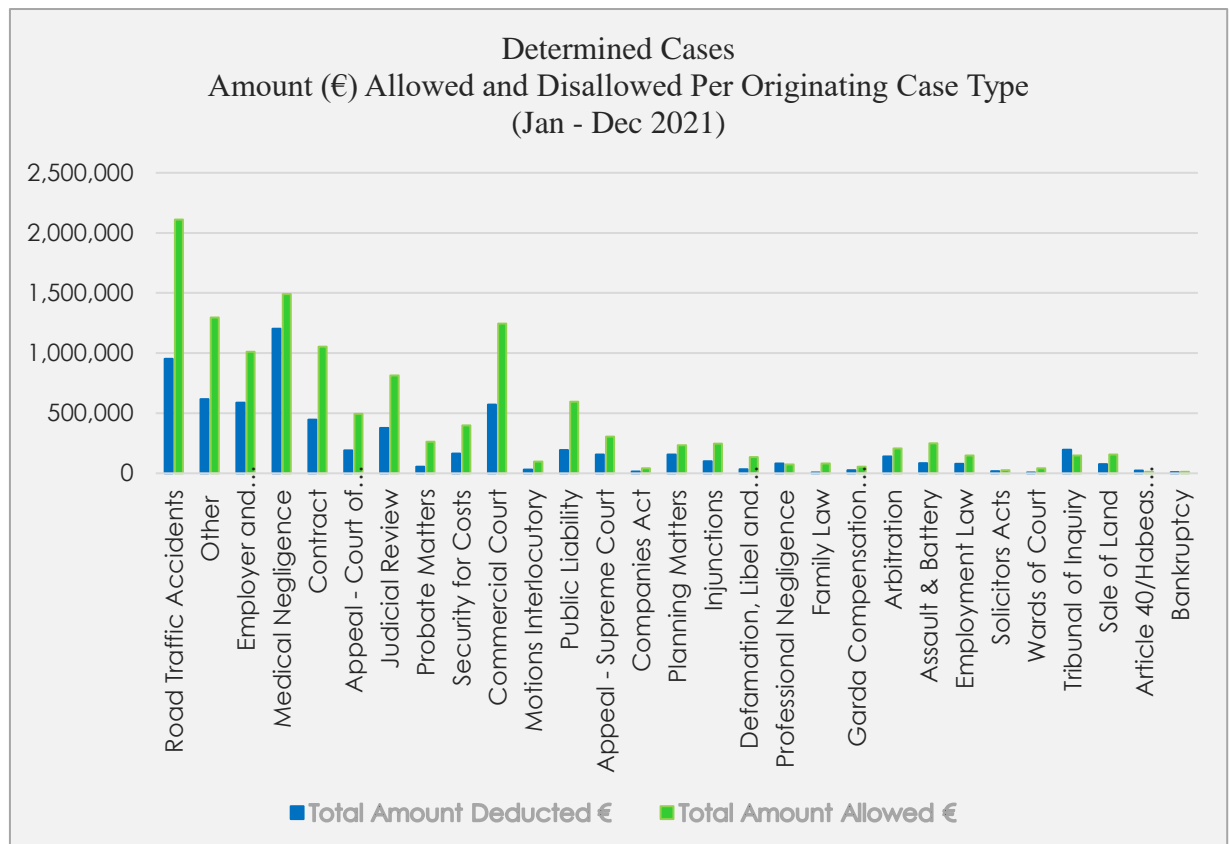


Figure 34:- Graph of Amount € - Allowed and Disallowed Per Originating Case Type in Determined Cases

The number of cases determined by case type is as follows.

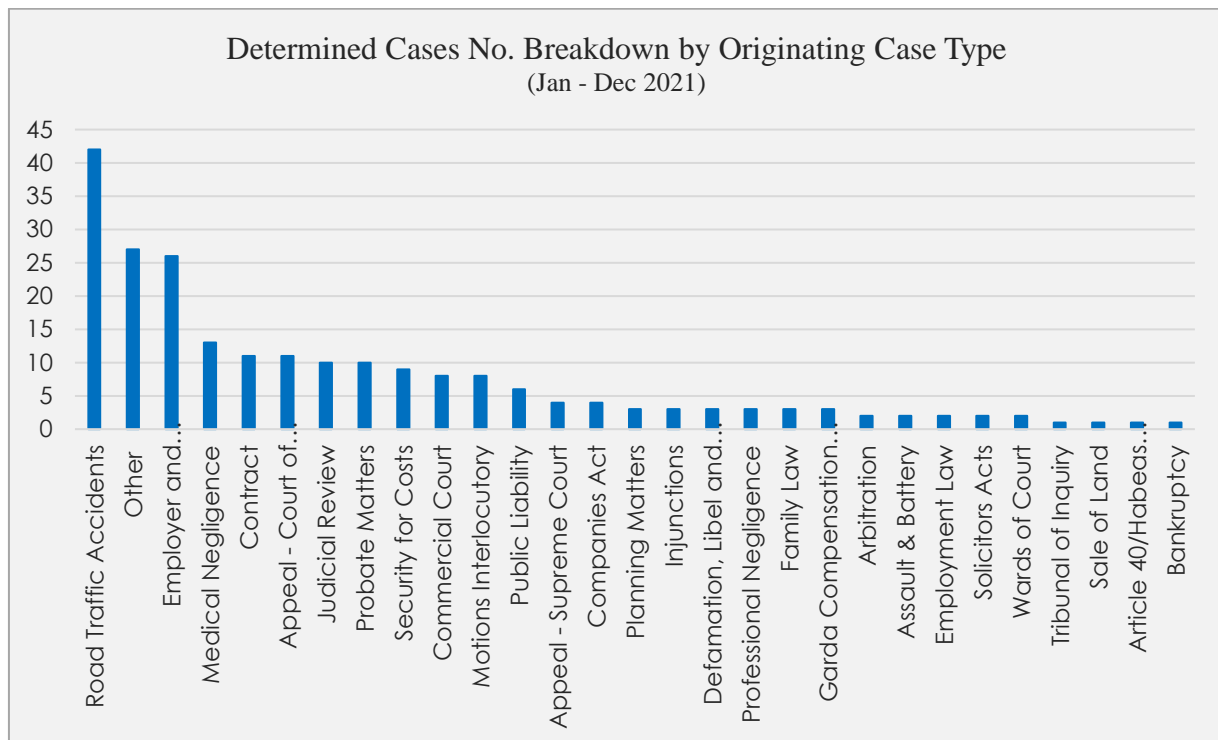


Figure 35:- Graph of Determined Cases - No. breakdown by Originating Case Type

7. Register of Determinations

The Legal Services Regulation Act, at s.140 provides that a Register of Determinations is to be maintained, with certain statutory exceptions, the outcome of Adjudications are to be in writing and published by way of Reports. It is the case that every Adjudication determined is accompanied by reasons. The Act provides as follows

Register of determinations

140. (1) The Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall ensure that a register of determinations is established and maintained in relation to applications for adjudication of legal costs under this Part.

(2) Subject to this section, the register of determinations shall contain the following particulars in relation to each application:

(a) the date of the receipt by the Office of the application;

(b) the names of the parties to the adjudication;

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(c) the date of receipt by the Office of the bill of costs and each other document in connection with the application, including, if the application arises from contentious business, the title of the proceedings and record number of the proceedings (if any);

(d) the date on which the adjudication is assigned and, where the adjudication is assigned to a Legal Costs Adjudicator, the Legal Costs Adjudicator to whom the adjudication is assigned;

(e) the outcome of determination made under section 157 (1) and the dates on which it was made and on which the notice of it was furnished to the parties;

(f) where a party applies under section 160 for a determination to be considered, the date on which the Legal Costs Adjudicator concerned makes his or her decision under section 160 (5), the date on which notice of that decision is furnished to the parties and, where a new determination is made under section 160 (5)(b), the outcome of that determination;

(g) where a party applies under section 161 for a review of a determination made under section 160 , the date on which the High Court determines that review, the outcome of the review and, where the High Court remits the matter under section 161 (4)(b)(i), the determination of the Legal Costs Adjudicator to whom the matter is remitted;

(h) the reasons for the determination, prepared by the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator in accordance with subsection (3).

(3) Subject to subsections (4) to (7), the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall prepare, and cause to be placed on the register of determinations, the reasons for a determination unless—

(a) the adjudication relates to an application for adjudication of legal costs as between the parties to proceedings which—

(i) were held otherwise than in public, or

(ii) if there had been a hearing, would have been held otherwise than in public,

(b) the adjudication relates to an application for adjudication of legal costs as between a legal practitioner and his or her client,

(c) the adjudication relates to an application for adjudication of legal costs as between the parties to proceedings where the proceedings have been settled prior to the conclusion of the hearing by a court of the proceedings, or

(d) the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator considers, having obtained the views of the parties to the adjudication, that it would be contrary to public interest for that information to be published.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator need not publish the reasons for a determination where he or she is of the opinion that the adjudication concerned does not involve a matter of legal importance.

(5) Where paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (3) applies, notwithstanding that subsection and subsection (2), the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall cause to be published the outcome of and the reasons for the determination, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), in such a manner that—

(a) where subsection (3)(a)(i) applies, information which is protected from disclosure by reason of those proceedings is not disclosed,

(b) where subsection (3)(a)(ii) applies, information is not disclosed which would have been protected from disclosure if the matter had been disposed of by proceedings which would have been held otherwise than in public, and

(c) where subsection (3)(b) applies, the client concerned may not be identified, whether by name, address, or economic activity.

(6) Where the adjudication concerned relates to legal costs as between parties to proceedings, or a legal practitioner and his or her client, the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall ensure that the information referred to in subsection (2) is published in such a manner that commercially sensitive information relating to either party, or to the client, as the case may be, is not disclosed.

(7) A reference to a determination in subsection (2)(h) shall be construed, as the case may be, as a reference to—

(a) subject to paragraphs (b) and (c), a determination made under section 158 (1),

(b) subject to paragraph (c), where a party applies under section 160 for a determination to be considered, and a new determination is made under section 160 (5)(b), that determination, or

(c) where a party applies under section 161 for a review of a determination made under section 160 , and the High Court remits the matter under section 161 (4)(b)(i), the determination under that provision of the Legal Costs Adjudicator to whom the matter is remitted.

(8) The register of determinations shall be available for inspection without payment, during office hours by any person who applies to inspect it, and on a website of the Courts Service.

A total of 221 cases were determined in the period between 1st January 2021 and 31st December 2021. Of these, 1% are published and uploaded to the Register. 90% of the cases, were subject to the restrictions contained within s.140 and 9% have yet to be uploaded.

Determined cases, which are subject to being uploaded to the Register of Determinations, have reports prepared in accordance with s. 157(8) and s.157(9) of the Act, which provides that when an Adjudicator has completed the Determination on an item or a series of items, the Act provides

Determination of applications

157. (1) A Legal Costs Adjudicator, having considered an application in accordance with section 155 , shall, in accordance with this section, make a determination in respect of that application.

(2) A determination shall, as soon as practicable after it is made, be furnished to the parties to the adjudication.

(3) Subject to the other provisions of this section, and the principles relating to legal costs specified in Schedule 1, a Legal Costs Adjudicator shall confirm the charge in respect of an item of legal costs the subject of the application if, having regard to the matters that he or she considered and ascertained under section 155 , he or she considers that—

(a) charging in respect of the item is fair and reasonable in the circumstances, and

(b) the amount charged in the bill of costs in respect of that item is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

(4) A Legal Costs Adjudicator shall, if he or she determines that it is fair and reasonable to charge an amount in respect of an item but that the amount of the charge in respect of the item is not fair and reasonable, determine a different amount to be charged in respect of that item.

(5) A Legal Costs Adjudicator shall not confirm an amount for a disbursement unless—

(a) there is a valid voucher or receipt in respect of the disbursement, or

(b) the parties have agreed, and the Legal Costs Adjudicator is satisfied, that such a voucher or receipt is not required.

(6) A Legal Costs Adjudicator shall not confirm a charge in respect of a matter or item if the matter or item is not included in a notice referred to in section 150 or, as the case may be, is not the subject of an agreement referred to in section 151, unless the Legal Costs Adjudicator is of the opinion that to disallow the matter or item would create an injustice between the parties.

(7) If a Legal Costs Adjudicator is of the opinion that a party to the application has neglected or refused to provide documents, and that the refusal or neglect would likely be prejudicial to the interests of one or more of the other parties, the Legal Costs Adjudicator shall, in order to minimise the prejudice to those interests—

(a) determine the application to the extent possible in the circumstances, and

(b) determine that only a nominal amount is to be payable to the party who has neglected or refused to provide the required documentation.

(8) The Legal Costs Adjudicator, having made a determination, shall prepare a report under subsection (9) —

(a) where he or she considers it to be in the public interest, or

(b) upon request by any party to the adjudication, made not later than 14 days after the making of the determination.

(9) A report referred to in subsection (8) shall set out the matters or items the subject of the adjudication and a brief outline of the background to the provision of the legal services concerned and the principal issues relating to the context of the provision of those services and—

(a) specify the work involved relating to the matters or items the subject of the adjudication which was considered in reaching the determination,

(b) specify the various stages of the legal services and the stage of the legal process at which such work was carried out by reference to distinct aspects of the course of the work,

(c) set out a summary of the written or oral submissions made by or on behalf of the parties to the adjudication, and

(d) give reasons for his or her determination.

(10) A copy of any report under subsection (8) shall be furnished to any requesting party to the adjudication as soon as practicable after it has been prepared.

The volume of cases available to view on the Register has increased in accordance with the number of cases determined. This has required the application of significant resources on the part of the Legal Costs Adjudicators, in addition to their role of dealing with cases and public sittings, preparation of written determinations and extraction of information for incorporation on the register is conducted on an ongoing basis.

Reasons for Determination reports which have been prepared in accordance with s. 157(8) and s.157(9) of the Act, are subject to publication restrictions in accordance with s.140(3), s.140(4), s.140(5) and s.140(6) of the Act, which provides that the reason for a determination shall not be placed on the register where these sections are deemed to apply.

Register of determinations

140. (3) Subject to subsections (4) to (7), the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall prepare, and cause to be placed on the register of determinations, the reasons for a determination unless—

(a) the adjudication relates to an application for adjudication of legal costs as between the parties to proceedings which—

(i) were held otherwise than in public, or

(ii) if there had been a hearing, would have been held otherwise than in public,

(b) the adjudication relates to an application for adjudication of legal costs as between a legal practitioner and his or her client,

(c) the adjudication relates to an application for adjudication of legal costs as between the parties to proceedings where the proceedings have been settled prior to the conclusion of the hearing by a court of the proceedings, or

(d) the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator considers, having obtained the views of the parties to the adjudication, that it would be contrary to public interest for that information to be published.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator need not publish the reasons for a determination where he or she is of the opinion that the adjudication concerned does not involve a matter of legal importance.

(5) Where paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection (3) applies, notwithstanding that subsection and subsection (2), the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall cause to be published the outcome of and the

reasons for the determination, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (2), in such a manner that—

(a) where subsection (3)(a)(i) applies, information which is protected from disclosure by reason of those proceedings is not disclosed,

(b) where subsection (3)(a)(ii) applies, information is not disclosed which would have been protected from disclosure if the matter had been disposed of by proceedings which would have been held otherwise than in public, and

(c) where subsection (3)(b) applies, the client concerned may not be identified, whether by name, address, or economic activity.

(6) Where the adjudication concerned relates to legal costs as between parties to proceedings, or a legal practitioner and his or her client, the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator shall ensure that the information referred to in subsection (2) is published in such a manner that commercially sensitive information relating to either party, or to the client, as the case may be, is not disclosed.

It is the intention of the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator to conduct an examination of the current statutory restrictions, with a view to finding alternative ways to increase the current body of information available on the register to both legal practitioners and the public, however, this is likely to give rise to a requirement for additional resources to effect same. It is believed that this will provide additional transparency around reasons for determination of legal costs for the benefit of court users and the public.

8. Request for Consideration

Any party who is dissatisfied with a Determination made by a Legal Costs Adjudicator can apply pursuant to s.160 of the Act for a Consideration. The relevant section provides

Consideration by Legal Costs Adjudicator of determination

160. (1) Where a party to an adjudication is dissatisfied with a decision of a Legal Costs Adjudicator under section 157 to confirm a charge, not to confirm a charge or to determine a different amount to be charged in respect of a matter or item the subject of the adjudication, he or she may, within 14 days of the date on which the determination is furnished to him or her under section 157 (2), apply to the Legal Costs Adjudicator for the consideration of the decision and the making of a determination under this section.

(2) An application under subsection (1) shall be—

(a) in such form as may be specified in rules of court or, where applicable, under section 166, and shall specify by a list in a short and concise form the matters or items, or parts thereof, to which the decision of the Legal Costs Adjudicator being objected to relates and the grounds and reasons for such objections, and

(b) made on notice to the other party to the adjudication.

(3) The Legal Costs Adjudicator shall, if he or she considers it appropriate to do so, and upon the application of the party entitled to the costs, issue an interim determination pending consideration of an application under subsection (1), in respect of—

(a) the remainder of the matters or items in the determination to which no objection has been made, and

(b) such of the matters or items that are subject of the application as the Legal Costs Adjudicator considers reasonable.

(4) For the purposes of an application under subsection (1), the Legal Costs Adjudicator shall reconsider and review his determination having regard to the matters or items specified under subsection (2)(a), and sections 155 to 158 shall apply in relation to such a consideration.

(5) The Legal Costs Adjudicator, having considered an application under this section may decide—

(a) not to vary his or her determination, or

(b) to make a new determination,

and the determination referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) shall, subject to section 161, take effect immediately.

(6) The functions of a Legal Costs Adjudicator in relation to an application under this section shall, insofar as practicable, be performed by the Legal Costs Adjudicator who made the determination to which the application relates.

As matters stood at 31st December 2021, 1% of all cases were subject to a Request for Consideration. It follows that as the number of cases are Adjudicated, that this number will increase. In addition, a decision by a Legal Costs Adjudicator on a Consideration, is subject to Review by the High Court in accordance with s.161 of the Act, which provides.

Review of determination of Legal Costs Adjudicator

161. (1) A party to an adjudication who has made an application under section 160 may, not later than 21 days after the date on which the Legal Costs Adjudicator has made his or her determination under section 160 (5), apply to the High Court for a review of the determination concerned.

(2) A review under this section shall be made by motion on notice to all other parties to the adjudication and the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator.

(3) The court shall hear and determine the review on the evidence that was tendered to the Legal Costs Adjudicator unless the court orders that other evidence be submitted.

(4) The court shall, having heard the review under subsection (1) —

(a) confirm the determination of the Legal Costs Adjudicator, or

(b) allow the review and—

(i) remit the matter to the Legal Costs Adjudicator to determine the adjudication in accordance with the decision of the court, or

(ii) substitute its own determination for that of the Legal Costs Adjudicator.

(5) The High Court shall allow a review under subsection (4)(b) only where it is satisfied that the Legal Costs Adjudicator has, in his or her determination, erred as to the amount of the allowance or disallowance so that the determination is unjust.

(6) In this section “court” means—

(a) if the adjudication the subject of the review is in relation to party and party costs, the court that heard the proceedings to which those costs relate, and

(b) in any other case, the High Court.

The number of cases subject to a Request for Consideration, as matters stood at 31st December 2021, is 19 in total, comprised of 5 requests for considerations filed in 2021, 11 filed in 2020 and 3 filed in 2019.

Request for Consideration– In List Form

Consideration Originating Case -	No. of Cases	Total Amount (€) Claimed
Solicitors Acts	4	193,494
Road Traffic Accidents	3	368,000
Other	3	75,123
Defamation, Libel and Slander	3	1,872,342
Appeal - Supreme Court	2	736,706
Professional Negligence	1	70,234
Appeal - Court of Appeal	1	13,319
Case Stated	1	174,095
Motions Interlocutory	1	24,217
Total	19	€3,527,530

Figure 36:- Table showing the breakdown of cases Under Consideration by originating case type

Request for Consideration– Graphic by Originating Case Type

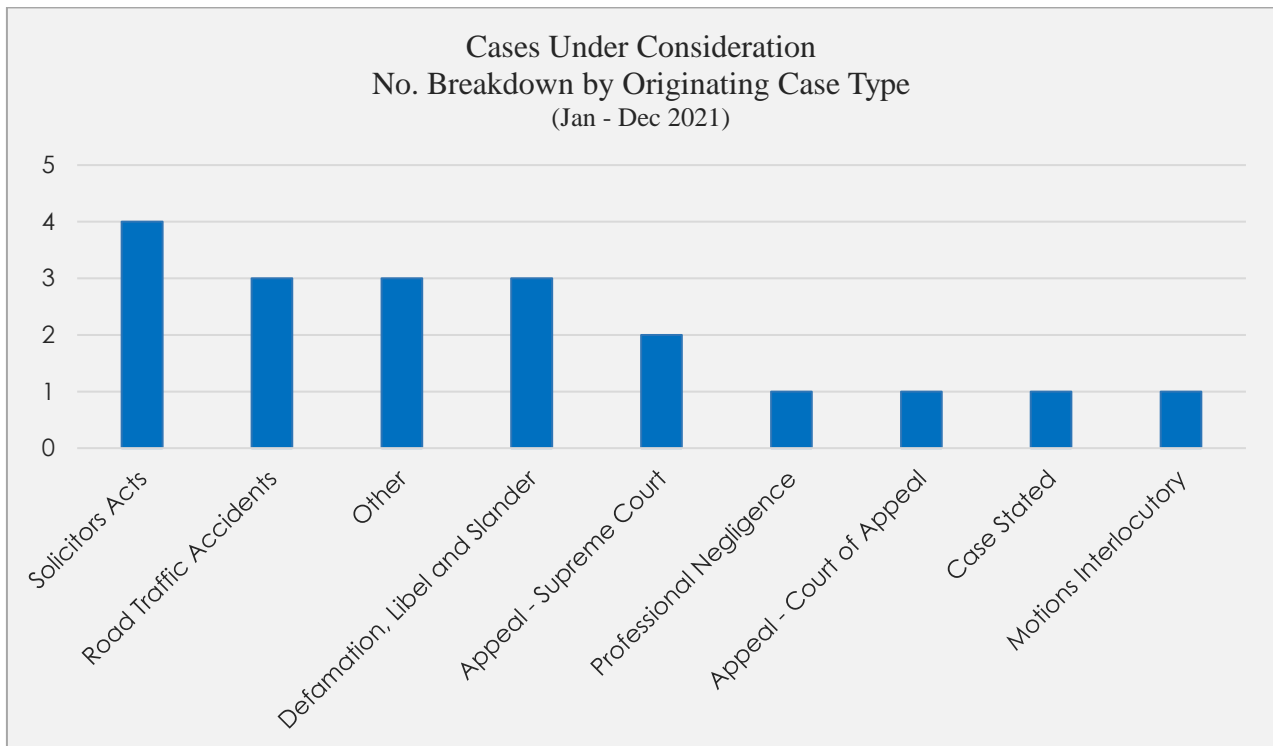


Figure 37:- Graph of breakdown of cases Under Consideration by originating case type

Request for Consideration—Graphic by Amount and by Area

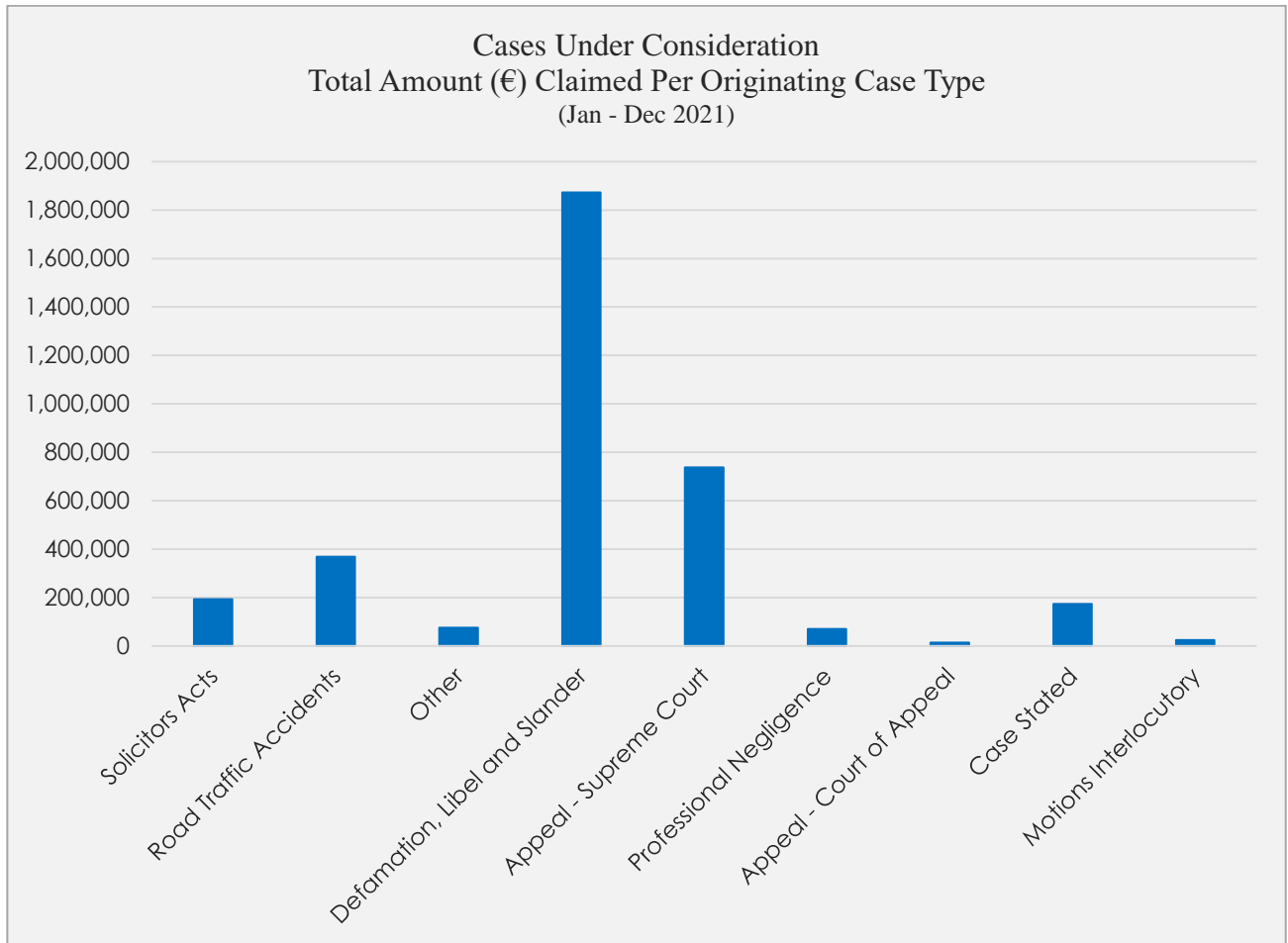


Figure 38:- Graph of Cases Under Consideration - Total Amount (€) Claimed per Originating Case Type

CHAPTER 5 - County Registrars Summary Report

It is a requirement of s. 141(5) that each County Registrar is to report to the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator, as follows

(5) Each County Registrar shall report annually to the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator providing a summary of the information contained in the register of taxation determinations maintained by him or her.

The information received by the Chief Legal Costs Adjudicator, from the County Registrars for the relevant period is shown below:-

Taxation Applications Year End Status	No. of Cases
Struck Out	23
Adjourned	22
Settled	145
Certified	152
Total	342

Figure 39:- Table of 2021 Year End – Case Status reported by County Registrars

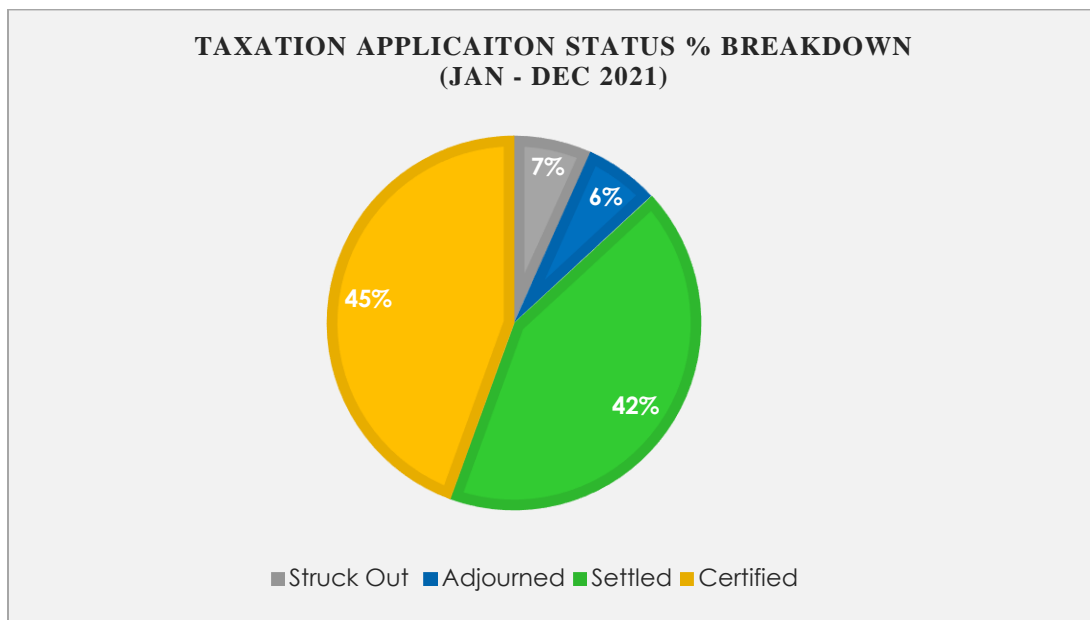


Figure 40:- Graph of 2021 Year End – Taxation Case Status reported by County Registrars

Taxation Applications Year End Status in List Form – by Circuit

Taxation Applications Year End Status by Circuit	No. Struck Out	No. Adjourned	No. Settled	No. Certified	% Certified
Dublin Circuit	13	0	77	61	40
Cork Circuit	1	7	28	28	44
South Eastern Circuit	2	5	19	21	45
Western Circuit	0	3	12	16	52
Midland Circuit	4	4	5	11	46
Northern Circuit	0	1	4	5	50
Eastern Circuit	3	2	0	3	38
South Western Circuit	0	0	0	7	100
Total	23	22	145	152	44

Figure 41:- Table showing the breakdown of taxation applications by Circuit for the period 1/01/21 to 31/12/21

Taxation Applications Year End Status Graphic – by Circuit

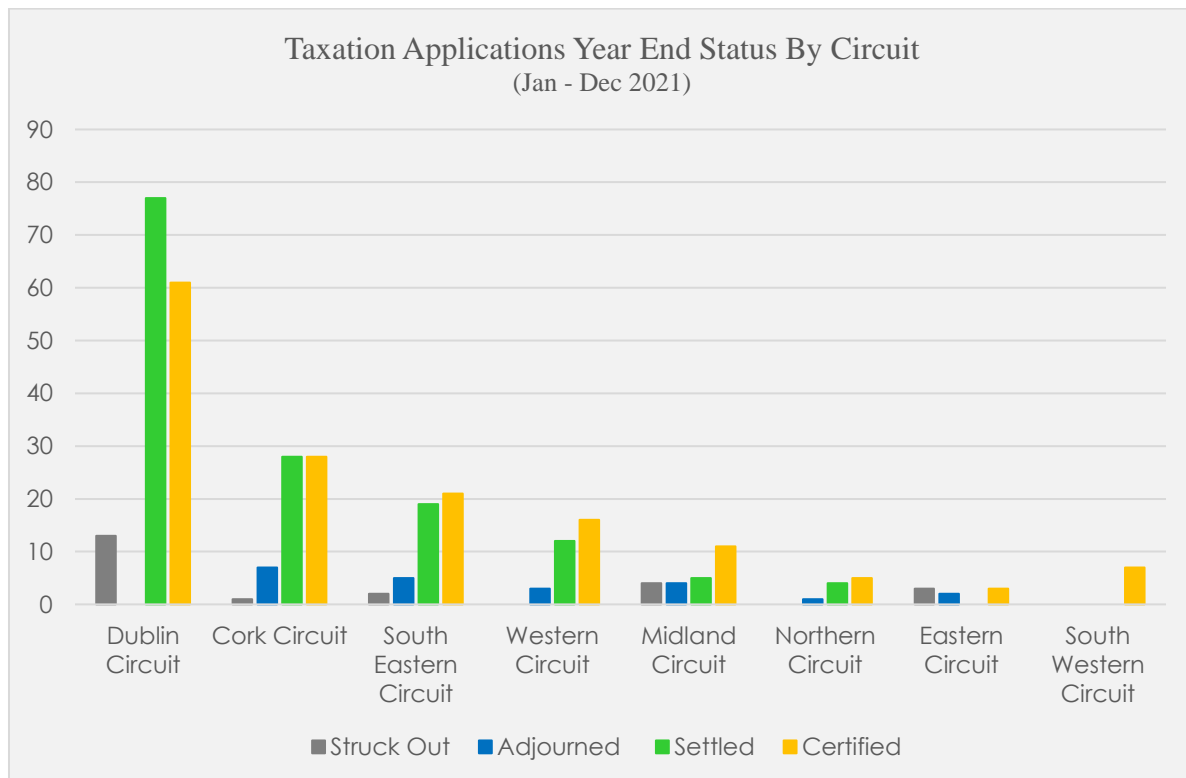


Figure 42:- Graph of Taxation Applications 2021 Year End Status by Circuit

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Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – Dublin Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
Dublin Circuit	1,312	-	17,801	11/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	17,622	-	15,594	11/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	11,677	-	10,462	11/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	28,801	-	16,852	18/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	19,096	-	15,777	18/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	16,671	-	11,023	18/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	21,349	-	20,021	18/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	27,677	-	22,827	25/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	10,588	-	10,887	25/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	20,580	-	14,338	25/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	27,729	-	22,824	25/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	12,210	-	12,033	28/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	16,219	-	14,907	28/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	1,777	-	1,843	28/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	1,777	-	1,843	28/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	20,649	-	17,049	28/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	15,061	-	6,745	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	23,184	-	15,703	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	18,101	-	18,403	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	23,805	-	21,991	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	31,034	-	16,853	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	25,345	-	15,445	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	25,333	-	15,625	27/01/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	27,060	-	26,553	08/02/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	22,370	-	21,791	08/02/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	8,160	-	8,761	22/02/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	14,000	-	11,473	22/02/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	10,584	-	10,880	22/02/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	15,461	-	12,948	21/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	21,874	-	14,303	21/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	12,036	-	9,004	21/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	17,411	-	12,048	21/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	10,147	-	5,854	21/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	19,415	-	11,191	21/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	17,830	-	9,589	22/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	7,453	-	7,417	22/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	24,804	-	22,265	22/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	3,145	-	2,980	22/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	36,873	-	32,380	22/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	28,344	-	25,154	22/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	24,156	-	14,310	04/06/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	24,156	-	14,272	04/06/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	26,876	-	14,415	04/06/2021	Certified



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Dublin Circuit	24,743	-	22,961	04/06/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	17,984	-	17,828	29/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	9,964	-	8,508	29/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	7,190	-	5,877	29/04/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	7,877	-	-	21/06/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	21,541	-	21,895	21/06/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	10,528	-	5,985	26/07/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	8,827	-	6,784	26/07/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	23,909	-	23,120	08/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	33,505	-	26,381	08/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	29,496	-	24,118	08/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	14,999	-	12,000	08/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	19,532	-	17,790	08/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	20,636	-	16,780	22/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	23,871	-	20,103	22/11/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	11,473	-	9,480	06/12/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	31,863	-	22,267	06/12/2021	Certified
Dublin Circuit	49,277	-	19,309	22/12/2021	Certified
Total	€1,156,971		€905,617		61

Figure 43:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the Dublin Circuit

Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – Cork Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
Cork Circuit	49,310	-	40,995	11/05/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	16,177	-	17,009	28/05/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	15,684	-	13,044	29/06/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	3,872	-	2,741	29/06/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	35,779	-	35,985	30/06/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	19,382	-	20,105	30/06/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	19,737	-	20,924	27/07/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	33,527	-	35,819	27/07/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	26,796	-	23,840	29/07/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	26,665	-	23,818	29/07/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	11,175	-	12,063	27/07/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	8,388	-	8,893	27/07/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	19,119	-	18,685	13/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	35,102	-	27,986	13/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	7,605	-	8,213	13/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	21,530	-	19,195	27/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	17,337	-	18,561	27/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	18,839	-	15,856	27/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	26,786	-	19,048	27/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	7,699	-	8,307	27/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	26,645	-	24,659	27/10/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	35,630	-	29,074	26/11/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	18,839	-	15,856	26/11/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	28,559	-	25,934	09/12/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	9,379	-	4,922	15/12/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	33,327	-	28,174	15/12/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	-	-	-	21/12/2021	Certified
Cork Circuit	-	-	-	21/12/2021	Certified
Total	572,885		519,707		28

Figure 44:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the Cork Circuit

Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – by South Eastern Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
South Eastern Circuit	37,362	14,169	25,037	07/07/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	44,750	600	47,818	09/06/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	15,684	3,600	13,044	29/06/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	18,196	6,054	13,180	13/10/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	20,771	3,129	19,120	13/10/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	8,258	1,997	6,758	09/02/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	9,577	1,309	8,841	02/06/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	-	-	23,787	11/10/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	-	-	24,314	11/10/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	30,553	7,510	24,883	02/12/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	17,166	2,547	15,787	16/02/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	33,494	12,132	22,402	26/04/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	-	1	8,733	29/04/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	76,540	165	82,269	14/06/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	9,652	0	10,420	10/05/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	5,397	0	5,821	06/09/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	23,436	3,692	21,249	09/09/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	7,921	0	8,553	11/10/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	42,520	16,080	28,552	18/10/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	26,422	1,107	27,339	08/11/2021	Certified
South Eastern Circuit	32,110	4,391	25,353	20/01/2021	Certified
Total	459,809		463,260		21

Figure 45:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the South Eastern Circuit

Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – by Western Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
Western Circuit	12,330	6,308	6,491	14/01/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	24,023	4,878	20,672	14/01/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	23,626	6,078	18,948	14/01/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	-	-	7,114	14/04/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	19,758	4,059	16,947	14/04/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	48,121	12,987	37,943	14/04/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	26,522	5,675	22,552	22/06/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	27,531	4,736	24,682	14/07/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	-	-	21,698	14/07/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	16,633	6,827	10,590	22/06/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	24,015	1,464	19,800	22/06/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	18,033	5,966	13,028	27/10/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	21,122	3,674	18,909	27/10/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	36,826	7,856	31,288	27/10/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	21,133	4,767	17,670	27/10/2021	Certified
Western Circuit	33,969	11,228	24,556	27/10/2021	Certified
Total	353,642		312,888		16

Figure 46:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the Western Circuit

Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – by Midland Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
Midland Circuit	14,778	3,060	12,654	02/09/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	39,563	15,092	26,423	03/09/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	32,374	9,720	24,462	16/09/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	14,049	3,812	10,237	22/12/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	11,427	4,282	7,145	22/12/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	22,408	9,128	14,335	17/02/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	27,335	9,330	19,515	30/04/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	32,953	8,367	26,584	30/11/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	10,703	3,819	7,428	01/12/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	12,358	4,598	8,376	15/10/2021	Certified
Midland Circuit	7,993	1,179	7,358	19/11/2021	Certified
Total	225,941		164,518		11

Figure 47:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the Midlands Circuit



Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – Northern Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
Northern Circuit	26,168	8,286	16,181	25/11/2020	Certified
Northern Circuit	26,007	2,507	25,380	28/10/2021	Certified
Northern Circuit	17,144	5,843	12,206	28/10/2021	Certified
Northern Circuit	22,440	7,193	16,463	28/10/2021	Certified
Northern Circuit	31,138	14,059	18,439	29/10/2021	Certified
Total	122,898		88,668		5

Figure 48:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the Northern Circuit

Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – by Eastern Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
Eastern Circuit	26,224	4,697	23,248	24/03/2021	Certified
Eastern Circuit	26,327	11,252	16,274	07/10/2021	Certified
Eastern Circuit	26,373	11,252	16,328	07/10/2021	Certified
Total	78,923		55,850		3

Figure 49:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the Eastern Circuit

Taxations Certified in Monetary List Form – by South Western Circuit

Circuit	Total Amount (€) Claimed	Total Amount (€) Deducted	Total Amount (€) Certified	Date of Determination	Outcome
South Western Circuit	-	-	37,644	04/06/2021	Certified
South Western Circuit	-	-	17,967	21/06/2021	Certified
South Western Circuit	-	-	5,629	21/06/2021	Certified
South Western Circuit	-	-	16,336	20/09/2021	Certified
South Western Circuit	-	-	7,505	22/11/2021	Certified
South Western Circuit	-	-	7,387	21/12/2021	Certified
South Western Circuit	-	-	20,935	21/12/2021	Certified
Total			113,403		7

Figure 50:- Table showing Monetary Breakdown of Certified Taxation Applications by the South Western Circuit

2021 AT A GLANCE



1,260 ADJUDICATIONS PROCESSED

- 221 DETERMINED
- 358 ADJOURNED / PART HEARD
- 19 UNDER CONSIDERATION
- 662 SETTLED

DEVELOPMENT WORK - ICT



- Improved Register of Determinations Search Functionality
- Improved Statistical Report Functionality
 - Financial
 - Workflow
 - Annual

WEB-Site



PUBLICATIONS

- GUIDELINES on Functional Performance
- LODGMENT in Satisfaction of Costs Procedure



ADJUDICATION SITTINGS

80 REMOTE CALLOVERS
208 REMOTE / PHYSICAL
HEARINGS



FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER

874

APPLICATIONS FILED

OF THESE

842 WERE ELECTRONICALLY FILED

Oifig na mBreithneoirí Costas Dlíthúil,
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