



Overview of current position in the Administrative Court

The figures below set out some of the top level statistics relating to the blitz which is currently being undertaken in the Administrative Court.

Current number of nominated High Court judges – 47

Number of Section 9 Deputy High Court judges who are nominated to sit in the Administrative Court – 67

The total number of cases lodged in the Administrative Court per annum has increased from **6257** in 2002 to **11715** in 2007. Indications on the basis of receipts for the year to date are that the workload will increase by a further 13% in 2008.

We anticipate part of this increase will follow the implementation of the UK Borders Act automatic deportation provision on the 1st August, as well as there being an increased number of extradition appeals as a result of the extra resources currently being assigned to assist in speeding up the extradition process.

The cases outstanding peaked at **6818** at the end of October 2007 and since then it has started to reduce. At the end of June the overall backlog had been reduced to **5460** – a reduction of **1358** cases, notwithstanding the increase in workload.

This number breaks down to:

2347 cases awaiting permission

1434 cases awaiting substantive hearing/closure

1679 cases currently stood out. (This number has increased due to a large number of Zimbabwe cases which are awaiting the decision in HS).

Waiting times

Waiting times for paper, renewal and oral hearing are starting to come down, reversing the increasing trend we have seen previously.

Waiting times for substantive hearings have continued to increase. This is due to the average waiting time being calculated on the age of cases disposed of in the last 12 months, the majority of which were expedited cases. Under the current system waiting times are calculated from arrival to disposal and so cases that are still waiting for their listing date are not included. As more of the older non urgent cases are listed and disposed of, the waiting times will go up because it is only at this point that they generate a waiting time.

The additional judicial resources have resulted in us now being in a better position to list the old non urgent cases but this is having a negative impact on the average waiting time. The average waiting time will decrease once the number of old cases is reduced.

We are currently revising the way in which statistical data on old cases is compiled. It is intended that waiting times in future should be calculated on the basis of all cases that have not yet been heard, which will give a more realistic and consistent indication of how long customers are having to wait for their cases to be listed.

Ages of outstanding cases (not including those which are stood out)

Time	Number of cases	Percentage
Under 6 months	2569	62%
6-12 months	761	18%
12-18 months	381	9%
18-24 months	226	6%
Over 24 months	201	5%

Age of cases from the date they entered the warned list

Time	Number of cases
Under 6 months	364
6-9 months	50
9-12 months	16
12-18 months	24
18-24 months	1
Over 24 months	3

There are 44 cases currently showing in the warned list as being warned for over 9 months. Of these, only 7 are awaiting hearing dates, the remainder are either listed for disposal/directions; awaiting closure; awaiting re-listing following recent hearings; or in 9 cases there are good reasons as to why they cannot be listed at the moment.

There has been a significant increase in the number of judges sitting in the Administrative court in the year to date.

For the period January to June the judges sat for **1239 days**. This compares to **1015.5 days** for the same period in 2007 and **793 days** for that period in 2006.

It is clear that the increase in the number of judges has enabled us to make progress in reducing the backlog. However, judges are a very limited resource and so the additional numbers that have been given to the Administrative Court during this blitz will not be able to remain indefinitely.