



Clerk to the Justice Committee
House of Commons
London
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MAIN ESTIMATE 2024-25: ESTIMATES MEMORANDUM

Introduction

The role of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (UKSC) is to act as the final court of appeal for arguable points of law of general public importance arising from civil cases throughout the United Kingdom and from criminal cases in England and Wales, Northern Ireland and, in a limited number of cases, Scotland.

The UKSC also hears cases to determine issues relating to the legal competence of the devolved Parliaments and Assembly, the devolved administrations and other jurisdictions conferred by law.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC) is a separate court from the UKSC and is the final court of appeal from the British Overseas Territories, the Crown Dependencies and from Commonwealth countries that have retained appeals to His Majesty in Council or, in the case of Commonwealth republics, to the Judicial Committee itself.

The role of the administration is to provide an environment which enables the Justices to carry out their duties in an effective, visible and accessible way.

The Court upholds the rule of law in the UK and the countries that use the JCPC by deciding legal questions of public importance brought to it from around the world. It ensures that the law enacted by Parliament is correctly interpreted and applied and that the common law is properly applied and developed.

The independence of the Court and the quality of its work maintains public trust in, and contributes to, the UK as a democratic country founded on the rule of law.

The UKSC intends to do this by:

- delivering the highest quality judgments;
- delivering an excellent and efficient services to our Justices and court users through our highly skilled staff who live our values and are equipped with high-quality tools and training;
- serving the public by ensuring that our work is visible and accessible and that our role in applying the law is understood as an essential part of a healthy democracy;
- ensuring our culture and building are fully inclusive, respectful and valuing the diversity of our Justices, staff, court users and visitors;
- building strong relationships with Parliament, the Government, the devolved administrations and the courts in all jurisdictions in the UK;
- enhancing the international reputation of the UK as a global legal centre.

The Main Estimate for 2024-25 seeks the necessary resources and cash to support the functions and activities of the Court. These are continuing from previous years and no new functions have been added within this Estimate. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Select Committee with an explanation of how the resources and cash sought in the Main Estimate will be applied and includes information on comparisons with the resources provided against last year's Main Estimate.

Summary of the main spending control figures in the Main Estimate 2024-25

Control Totals	2024-25 Voted (£m)	2024-25 Non-Voted (£m)	2024-25 Total (£m)
Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL)	4.769	3.000	7.769
- of which Administration	1.117	-	1.117
- of which Depreciation	1.450	-	1.450
Capital DEL	2.143	-	2.143
Resource Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)	1.000	-	1.000
Net Cash Requirement	5.462	-	5.462

Explanation of significant changes in provision compared with the Main Estimate 2023-24

Control Totals	2024-25 Main Estimate (£m)	2023-24 Main Estimate (£m)	Increase / (Decrease) in Provision Sought
Capital DEL	2.143	4.605	(1.922)
Net Cash Requirement	5.462	7.388	(1.926)

The decrease in Capital DEL and net cash requirement is due to changes in the funding profile for the Court's Change Programme, which will introduce a new case management system and update websites to enable a modern and efficient customer journey, delivering online services that our users rightly expect and need.

The funding profile agreed with HM Treasury resulted in the majority of Capital DEL funding for the Change Programme being reallocated to, and used in, 2023-24 as the majority of development was expected to take place in that year. The provision sought for 2024-25 includes all remaining funding for the Change Programme and will be used to support the final development and launch of the new case management system and websites.

There are no significant changes to the Resource DEL and Resource AME control totals.

Approval of memorandum

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



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