



Parish Courts of Jamaica The Chief Justice's Third Quarter Statistics Report, 2018 (Criminal Matters)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	3
Methodology	10
Chapter 1.0: Criminal Case Activity Statistics	12
Chapter 2.0: Criminal Case Demographics	32
Chapter 3.0: Conclusion and Recommendations	68
Glossary of Terms	73

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


This statistical report on criminal matters in the Parish Courts of Jamaica is for the third quarter ended September 30, 2018. It represents a continuation of the enhanced efforts to measure court productivity; to provide a concrete basis for placing the analyses of the judicial system into perspective and for informing the policymaking and operational planning apparatus of the leadership of the courts. This report interrogates a number of vital measures, which provide insights into the operations of the parish courts on both an individual and an aggregated basis. It forms an important basis for understanding criminal case activity and delay factors in the parish courts as well as important characteristics of criminal cases. The quarterly and annual statistics reports also provide the foundation for monitoring critical performance metrics which have been set out by the Honourable Chief Justice, among which is the attainment of a court-wide average of a 95% trial date certainty rate over the next six years and a minimum court-wide clearance rate of 130%. The simultaneous attainment of these rates are necessary to eliminate the criminal case backlog.

The aggregate new case count in the parish courts for the quarter was 6,646 cases, down by 9.63%% when compared to the 7,354 new cases recorded in the second quarter of 2018. The Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Court with 1,164 or 17.51% of the total, followed by the St. Catherine and St. James Parish Courts with 939 or 14.13% and 619 or 9.31% respectively, account for the three largest proportions of the new cases filed in the third quarter. These three courts also ranked first to third in terms of share of aggregate new cases filed in the previous quarter of 2018. The parish courts of Hanover, Trelawny and Portland accounted for the lowest shares of the aggregate new cases filed, each with under 4.5% of the total caseload in the quarter.




The overall average disposal rate for cases originating in the quarter was 39.53%, which is decline of 6.88 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter. Throughout 2017, the parish courts of Westmoreland, St. James, St. Catherine and the Corporate Area consistently had the highest case disposal rates across all four quarters. This trend has been sustained for the first three quarters of 2018. The St. Catherine Parish Court disposed of cases the fastest in the third quarter, with a disposal rate of 55.17%, followed by the parish courts of St. James and Westmoreland with 51.05% and 50.49% respectively. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division had a disposal rate of 47.42% in the quarter. Since the disposal rate measures the proportion of new cases disposed in the quarter, the three top performing courts on this measure demonstrate commendable output. The parish courts of Clarendon, St. Ann and Portland demonstrate the lowest disposal rates for the third quarter. The Portland parish court had a disposal rate of 30.77%, ranking for the first time in the lowest quintile since this type of reporting began in 2016. The parish courts of Clarendon and St. Ann had disposal rates of 25.75% and 28.83% respectively. Though the general direction of the courts on this measurement is positive (year to date in 2018), there is still much to be desired in reaching the International standards. The probability of attaining such standards can be greatly strengthened by continuous improvements in case management across the courts through the optimization of resource alignments and by employing a more scientific approach to both the management of the case backlog and of the scheduling of cases for open court.

A measure, which is closely related to the case disposal rate, is the case clearance rate, which provides a measure of the number of cases disposed (regardless of date/year of initiation) for every new case filed in a particular period. This is simply a productivity index as the disposed cases, which are included in its computation, could have originated before the period of focus.




The Parish Courts of St. Catherine and Manchester had the highest criminal case clearance rates in the third quarter with 118.53% and 113.44%, some of the highest recorded outputs on this measure since 2016. The rise of the Manchester Parish Court into the upper quintile on this measure for the past two quarters is particularly notable since in the previous two years, this court ranged from mid-tier to lower quintile rankings. In fact, in the corresponding period in 2017, the Manchester Parish Court had a clearance rate of 52.12%. The Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and St. Mary also had clearance rates of over 100% for the third quarter. It was the first time since these reports began in 2016 that the St. Mary and St. Elizabeth parish courts exceeded the 100% mark, a culmination of steady strides since the beginning of 2018. The parish courts of St. Catherine and Westmoreland have distinguished themselves as the only two courts exceeding the 100% clearance rate mark in all of the first three quarters of 2018. As with the disposal rates, the parish courts of Clarendon and St. Ann had the lowest clearance rates in the quarter with rates of 67.61% and 75.68% respectively. These two courts are however showing good promise with overall improvements in performance when compared to the year to date figure in 2017. The overall case clearance rate for the quarter was 96.40%, a decline of 1.87 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter, but still 7.74 percentage points higher than the first quarter output. This output suggests that for every 100 new cases that were filed in the parish courts, roughly 96 were disposed (including cases originating prior to the quarter). There is a direct association between the case disposal and case clearance rates as poor case disposal rate will result from the persistence of poor case clearance rates. It is important to point out that a persistent case clearance rate of fewer than 100% will accelerate the case backlog and therefore the standard, which should be attained



on an annual basis, is between 90% and 110%, based on International best practices in developed jurisdictions.

One highly important measure, which is of keen interest to the leadership of the courts and the policy makers, is the case congestion rate. This is a measure of how well a court is doing in managing its pending caseload, relative to its rates of disposition and clearance and implied state of resources. The higher the case congestion rate of a court, the more burdensome the caseload, again within the context of the existing rates of disposition and the implied state of resources. Not surprisingly based on the results outlined above on case clearance and case disposition rates, the parish courts of Clarendon and St. Ann reveal the highest case congestion rates, both acutely higher than other courts. The parish courts of Westmoreland, St. Catherine, which consistently rank in the upper quintile of the clearance and disposal rates, had the lowest case congestion in the third quarter, with Westmoreland being the only court below the 150% mark. A high case congestion will generally result in lower disposal and clearance rates, which are potential symptoms of inefficiency. The rarely attained prescribed benchmark of 100% would mean that a court is operating optimally and that it is realizing its maximum clearance rate potential.


Another essential measure, which is an important cornerstone in the drive to bring Jamaica among the best performing court systems in the world in six years, is the trial date certainty rate. This provides a measurement of the likelihood that dates set for trial will proceed as scheduled (without being adjourned for future dates). The perfect rate of 100% would suggest that all dates set for trial proceed as scheduled in the relevant period. The overall trial date certainty in the third quarter was 81%, up from 77% in the second quarter and 3 percentage



points higher than the first quarter. The parish courts of St. Catherine and Westmoreland are again the standouts on this measure, reaching the 100% mark in all of the first three quarters of 2018. The Portland, St. James and Trelawny Parish Courts also had trial date certainty rates of 100% in the third quarter. The Manchester and St. Ann Parish Courts exceeded the 90% mark for the quarter while the parish courts of St. Mary, Hanover and the Corporate Area with rates ranging between 60% and 64% had the lowest trial certainty rates for the quarter.

On the matter of caseload distribution in the individual parishes, the data shows that in many cases the outstation courts in the respective parishes are carrying a notable share of the caseload. The overall average number of new cases heard in outstations in the third quarter of 2018 is 33%, while 67% were heard at the main parish court locations, roughly similar to the previous two quarters of 2018. The variance is however quite wide among the parish courts as while it is seen that in parishes like Hanover, St. Catherine, Mandeville, St. Elizabeth and St. Ann the use of outstation courts is 25% or over, in parishes like St. James and the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division, under 10% of new cases were heard in such courts. The evidence suggest that there is the potential in many parishes for outstations to be utilized to a greater degree to ease the caseload carriage in the main courts, thus potentially enhancing case clearance and disposal rates by easing the case congestion.

The largest proportion of cases disposed in the third quarter was by way of guilty pleas, accounting for 54.85% of the cases disposed. This was followed by cases dismissed, which was responsible for 19.57% of the cases disposed. It is of note that guilty verdicts accounted for 5.69% of the matters disposed while mediated settlements accounted for 6.42%. Taken together, the data therefore reveals a conviction rate of 60.54% for the first quarter of 2018,




a decline of 4.77 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter. Further analysis of the data suggests that for the cases originating over the past 18-21 months which were disposed in the third quarter of 2018, roughly 70% were disposed within 90 days, which is quite an encouraging result that is consistent with the generally improved clearance rates seen across the parish courts during the year so far.

In terms of the distribution of case types, the report highlights that the largest proportion of the criminal cases filed in the courts were Indictments with approximately 40.20% of all matters. This is followed by Summary Matters with a roughly 29.02% and Petty Sessions with approximately 18.40% of the total. It is of note that Committal Proceedings accounted for 9.53% of all criminal matters filed in the parish courts during the quarter.

An important delay factor, which affects the efficiency with which cases move towards disposition, is the incidence of adjournments in the parish courts. The report suggests that the dominant reasons for adjournments for the quarter were due to the issuance of warrants for defendants not appearing (DNA- warrant issued) with an estimated 15.80% of all adjournments, and incomplete files with roughly 11.53% of the total. Ranking next are subpoena issued with approximately 9.85% and reissued applications (R.I.A.) with an estimated 7.90% of the incidence of adjournments. Also featuring prominently on the lists of reasons for adjournment across the courts are medical reports outstanding and mediation referrals.

The three most frequent criminal charges filed in the parish courts in the quarter were assault occasioning bodily harm with 12.75%, unlawful wounding with 9.37% and threats with 6.57%



of the total number of charges. The vast majority of offences were committed by males, accounting for roughly 80.61% of all charges filed during the quarter. The dominant age group of offenders was the 20 - 26 and 27 – 36 age groups accounting for roughly 25.71% and 29.84% respectively of all offences filed in the parish courts in the third quarter.

The most up to date estimated backlog of criminal cases in the parish courts is 28,911 cases, which is close to the combined annual criminal caseload. This represents incremental and sustained reductions over the past eighteen months. A criminal case is considered to be in backlog if it has been in the court system for more than two years without disposal.

METHODOLOGY

Guaranteeing the reliability and validity of the data used to produce the periodic statistical reports for the Jamaican Courts is of utmost importance as we seek to produce a data driven enterprise for policy making and operational decisions. As a result, a robust and verifiable system of data production has been created in both the parish courts and the Supreme Court. At the parish courts, a data capture system for criminal matters, called the CISS (Case Information Statistical System) has been operational in all courts for the past two years. This system captures a wide range of data on the progression of criminal cases from initiation to disposition and is manned by at least one dedicated Data Entry Officer in each court. The Data Entry Officers update the system on a daily basis so that the data produced is as close as possible to real time. The electronic data sheets for each parish court are then validated and backed-up to the network at the end of each month and the data submitted to a centralized, secure medium for processing by the Statistical Unit of the Supreme Court. A robust data validation mechanism is in place to periodically sample criminal case files in all parish courts on a quarterly basis. A representative sample of case files are taken in each case and cross-checked against the electronic data to detect and eliminate errors of omission and commission.

A monthly statistical report is produced using the data submissions, culminating in Quarterly Reports and eventually the Annual Report of this nature. All Quarterly and Annual Parish Court reports are published on the website of the Supreme Court; however, interim data required by stakeholders may be requested through the Office of the Chief Justice.



Structure of report

The report is divided into two main sections. Chapter 1.0 explores case activity statistics by examining the caseload carried by each parish court in aggregate and by quarter as well the associated disposal rates, clearance rates and case congestion rates as appropriate. This section also examines the distribution of the different types of cases filed in the respective courts as well as the most commonly occurring charges and the trial certainty ratios. The common reasons for adjournment and the distribution of the methods of case disposition are also examined in this section along with the overall conviction rate.

Chapter 2.0 examines case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective outstations in each parish.

Chapter

1.0:


Criminal Case Activity Statistics in the Parish Courts from July- September 2018

This chapter provides an assessment of criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2018. This includes analysis of the criminal caseload, rates of case disposal, clearance and congestion as well as the statuses of cases in the various courts over the period as well as assessments of trial credibility ratios, common methods of disposition and reasons for adjournment.

Table 1.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed	Number of inactive cases	Number of disposed cases	Active Pending case load	Case disposal Rate (%)
St. Catherine	939	80	438	421	55.17
St. James	619	57	259	303	51.05
Westmoreland	511	34	224	251	50.49
Corporate Area	1164	138	414	612	47.42
Hanover	269	0	113	156	42.01
St. Mary	288	32	78	178	38.19
Trelawny	248	0	92	156	37.10
St. Thomas	212	10	68	134	36.79
Manchester	588	40	171	377	35.88
St. Elizabeth	313	25	83	205	34.50
Portland	338	23	81	234	30.77
St. Ann	555	75	85	395	28.83
Clarendon	602	35	120	260	25.75
Total	6646	549	2226	3682	
Average	511.23	42.23	171.23	283.23	39.53
Standard deviation	284.81	38.07	127.67	136.8	9.13
Skewness	1.18	1.38	1.39	1.20	0.32

The table above shows the aggregate case statistics for each parish court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018. A total of 6,646 new criminal cases were filed across the parish courts, while 2,775 cases were either disposed or became inactive, resulting in a gross disposal rate of 41.75%.



In the previous quarter 7,354 cases were filed, while 3,666 cases were either disposed or inactive which resulted in a disposal rate of 49.85%. This comparison reveals that over the corresponding quarter, there was a decrease of 708 or 9.62% in the number of cases filed and similarly a decrease of 8.10 percentage points in the disposal rate. This was due to a 23.27% decrease in the number of cases disposed, moving from 2901 cases in quarter two to 2226 in the third quarter.

The best performing courts in relation to case disposal rates for the second quarter of 2018 were the St. Catherine (55.17%), St. James (51.05%) and Westmoreland (50.49%) Parish Courts. The bottom three courts on this measure were the Parish Courts of Portland (30.77%), St. Ann (28.83%) and Clarendon (25.75%). The three courts with the highest disposal rates in the third quarter were among the leaders on this measure in the second and first quarters and were consistently among the best performers in 2017.


The skewness of the number of new cases filed, the number of cases disposed and the active pending case load are all moderately positive, which is an indication that the majority of the courts fall below the average count in each case. The skewness of the case disposal rate is however close to a symmetrical distribution, which indicates that the average differences between the individual disposal rates of the courts and the overall average rate are not significant. This is affirmed by the relatively low standard deviation for the distribution of the disposal rates.

Table 2.0: Aggregate case statistics for each parish court as at September 2018

Parish Court	Number of new cases filed in the JUL.-SEPT. quarter	Disposed cases in JUL.-SEPT. quarter	Inactive cases in the JUL.-SEPT. quarter	Grand total number of inactive cases	Grand total number of disposed cases	Grand total active pending case load as at June 2018	Case clearance Rate (%)	Case congestion rate (%)
St. Mary	288	232	58	297	1676	440	100.69	251.03
St. Thomas	212	158	29	228	1903	379	88.21	316.04
Westmoreland	511	486	59	552	2979	213	106.65	132.84
Trelawny	248	205	16	130	1564	520	89.11	347.51
Portland	338	230	100	506	1718	485	97.63	249.39
Hanover	269	232	0	8	1573	252	86.25	224.57
St. Elizabeth	313	292	33	352	1613	352	103.83	204.62
St. James	619	488	94	1285	5877	854	94.02	253.09
Manchester	588	466	201	1114	2327	1142	113.44	259.37
St. Ann	555	365	55	1281	2256	1200	75.68	417.86
St. Catherine	939	911	202	1282	6482	964	118.53	170.98
Clarendon	602	353	54	289	1999	2537	67.61	771.25
Corporate Area	1164	1015	284	2533	6877	1212	111.60	182.91
Total	6646	5433	1185	9857	38,844	10,550		
Average	511.23	417.92	91.15	758.23	2988.00	811.54	96.40	290.88
Standard deviation	284.81	266.41	85.47	709.71	2001.29	633.90	14.94	163.12
Skewness	1.18	1.48	1.27	1.37	1.35	1.79	-0.411	2.38


*Note: *The figures are computed for the period since the use of the CISS system commenced in August 2016. Not all courts commenced at the same time so the exact times vary but are long enough to make statistically significant inferences.*

The table above is an extension of table 1.0. Among the data reported in this table is the criminal case congestion rate across the parish courts. This provides a measure of manageability of a court's existing caseload. In particular, it provides an indication of the caseload burden relative to existing resources and the pace of case disposal. The Clarendon Parish Court has by far the largest case congestion rate over the period measured, largely because of its modest case disposal and case clearance rates. However, as a whole the Clarendon Parish Court continues to show positive signs in reducing its overall case congestion. The parish courts of St. Ann and St. Thomas are the next two courts with the highest case congestion rates; both also demonstrate



comparatively modest disposal and clearance rates. High case congestion rates can be a product of resource deficiencies and slow case clearance and case disposal rates along with a rapidly rising number of new cases. Quite unsurprisingly, the parish courts of Westmoreland, the Corporate Area, St. Catherine and St. James perform best on this measure as they have consistently demonstrated the highest case disposal and clearance rates since this type of statistical reporting began in late 2016. As with previous reports, caseload and resources do not appear to be a major factor explaining the differences in court performance, as some of the courts ranking on either ends of the scale are among the larger ones in the island and resource endowment does not vary in a statistically significant way among them.

The results on the case clearance rates are also quite interesting. The Clarendon Parish Court had a higher case congestion rate of 771.25% compared to the 638.12% recorded in the second quarter, a notable reversal of the trend seen earlier in the year. Not surprisingly, both their case disposal and case clearance rates increased in the third quarter, which intuitively contributes to an increase in case congestion. The Parish Courts of Westmoreland and St. Catherine have distinguished themselves as the only two courts with clearance rates of over 100% in all of the first three quarters of 2018 while the parish courts of Manchester, St. Thomas and the Corporate Area have exceeded 100% in two of the three quarters. In the third quarter, six of the parish courts, led by St. Catherine with 118.53% had clearance rates of over 100%. The parish courts of St. Elizabeth and St. Mary were among this number, both exceeding the 100% for first time since this type of statistical reporting began in late 2016. The Manchester Parish Court and the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division rounded off the courts with the top three clearance rates with 113.44% and 111.60%. The consistency of the Manchester Parish Court



among the top performers throughout 2018 represents a profound turnaround as they were consistently in the bottom quintile on most of the key performance measures in 2017. The courts falling in the bottom tier on clearance rates for the third quarter are the parish courts of Clarendon with 67.61%, St. Ann with 75.68% and Hanover with 86.25%. Overall, the parish courts continue to show much improved returns on this vital measure as shown by the fact that Hanover, which falls just below the International standard of 90%, is in the lower quintile. The court with the highest percentage points increase in clearance rates was the St. Catherine Parish Court with an improvement of 18.16 percentage points and the court with the largest decline was the Clarendon Parish Court, which lost 24.14 percentage points. The overall criminal case clearance rates across the parish courts was 96.40%, a modest decline of 1.87 percentage points when compared to the previous quarter but still 7.74 percentage points higher than the first quarter. This is the second consecutive quarter in which the average clearance rate across the parish courts exceed the International benchmark of 90%, the minimum rate that is considered necessary to sustain a manageable caseload and militate against case backlog. Given the current backlog of criminal cases in the Jamaican court system, it is however estimated that the average case clearance rate, which is necessary to eliminate case backlog over the next six years, is just under 130%, hence the target of between 130% and 140% for the next six years which has been set by the Honourably Chief Justice.

The distribution of the case clearance for the third quarter of 2018 exhibit a modest negative skewness which is an indication that a larger proportion of the individual case clearance rates for the courts were above the overall average score. The skewness of the case congestion rate is however, positive, an indication that the larger proportion of the case congestion rates for the individual courts fell above the overall average score.

Table 2.1: Aggregate summary case statistics for each parish court for the period Jan.-Sept. 2018

Parish Court	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q3	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q2	Case Disposal Rate (%) Q1	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q3	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q2	Case Clearance Rate (%) Q1	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q3	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q2	Case Congestion Rate (%) Q1
Corporate Area Criminal	47.42	63.54	59.55	111.60	116.20	96.06	182.91	185.10	171.37
Westmoreland	50.49	62.28	60.27	106.65	105.96	108.26	132.84	133.77	137.11
St. James	51.05	60.96	57.88	94.03	102.40	96.61	253.09	195.44	185.06
St. Catherine	55.17	52.19	55.99	118.53	100.37	105.59	170.98	172.14	160.93
Trelawny	37.10	45.94	42.68	89.11	88.69	92.99	347.51	175.30	252.13
Clarendon	25.75	44.60	35.41	67.61	91.75	37.36	771.25	638.12	1371.43
Hanover	42.01	44.50	40.15	86.25	108.26	81.47	224.57	136.02	222.27
Portland	30.77	42.53	40.91	97.63	90.98	126.92	249.39	215.30	188.71
St. Thomas	36.79	39.77	46.83	88.21	108.88	101.97	316.04	206.03	200.32
St. Elizabeth	34.50	39.50	39.35	103.83	93.65	69.67	204.62	149.56	253.60
Manchester	35.88	39.08	34.62	113.44	104.80	69.40	259.37	247.46	324.28
St. Mary	38.19	38.06	42.36	100.69	97.10	93.40	251.03	159.80	230.86
St. Ann	28.83	30.32	38.37	75.68	68.48	72.92	417.86	288.81	334.52
Average	39.53	46.41	45.72	96.40	98.27	88.66	290.88	223.30	310.20
Standard Deviation	9.13	10.36	9.38	14.94	12.09	22.61	163.12	132.15	324.24
Skewness	0.32	0.58	0.61	-0.41	-1.08	-0.69	2.38	2.96	3.40

*Q3- Refers to quarter three (July-September 2018)

*Q2- Refers to quarter two (April-June 2018)

*Q1- Refers to quarter one (January to March 2018)

Table 3.0: Trial Credibility Ratio for the Parish Courts for quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Trial dates set	Trial dates adjourned	Trial credibility %
Westmoreland	38	0	100%
Portland	38	0	100%
St. James	34	0	100%
Trelawny	8	0	100%
St. Ann	33	3	92%
Manchester	100	9	91%
St. Catherine	202	23	89%
Clarendon	26	7	73%
St. Elizabeth	34	11	68%
Corporate Area Criminal	244	98	64%
St. Mary	33	13	61%
Hanover	30	12	60%
St. Thomas	12	5	58%
Total/Average	832	181	81%

The trial date certainty provides a measure of the extent to which trial dates, which are set, are adhered. A result of 1 or 100% indicates that all trial dates which are set are completely adhered to and thus the closer the result is to 1, the better it is. There were 832 trial dates set for the July to September quarter, a decrease of approximately 8% over the last quarter, 81% of which proceeded without adjournment. The parish courts with the best trial certainty rates were Westmoreland (100%), Portland (100%), St. James (100%) and Trelawny (100%). Conversely, the parish courts with the lowest trial certainty rates in the period were St. Thomas (58%), Hanover (60%) and St. Mary (61%). Though quite insightful, this type of data will be more meaningful when the data for the annual report is presented, assessing a longer time series.

Table 3.0A: Comparison of the trial certainty rates for the Jan-Mar., Apr.-Jun. and July – Sept. 2018 quarters.

Parish Court	Trial certainty ratio (%) Quarter 3	Trial certainty ratio (%) Quarter 2	Trial certainty ratio (5)Quarter 1
Westmoreland	100%	100%	100%
Clarendon	73%	100%	100%
St. Ann	92%	100%	98%
Portland	100%	100%	100%
St. James	100%	94%	98%
Manchester	91%	84%	72%
St. Elizabeth	68%	84%	50%
St. Catherine	89%	81%	74%
Trelawny	100%	80%	100%
St. Mary	61%	75%	63%
St. Thomas	58%	63%	75%
Corporate Area Criminal	64%	53%	80%
Hanover	60%	32%	18%
Total/Average	81%	77%	79%

**Q3 represents current quarter i.e. July-September 2018*

**Q2 represents previous quarter i.e. April-June 2018*

**Q1 represents previous quarter i.e. January- March 2018*

The above table shows that the Parish Courts of Westmoreland and Portland with a 100% trial certainty ratio in all three quarters are the best performing courts on this measure so far in 2018. There most pronounced increases in the trial certainty ratio occurred in the parish courts of Hanover and Trelawny with increases of 28 and 20 percentage points respectively. On the other hand, the most significant declines in the trial certainty rates took place for the Parish Courts of Clarendon and St. Elizabeth with falloffs of 27 and 16 percentage points respectively. There was a 4 percentage points overall improvement in the trial certainty ratio, which moved from 0.77 or 77% in quarter two to 0.81 or 81% in quarter three. It has been estimated that the clearance rate which is required to anchor the required case clearance and case disposal rates over the coming six years is roughly 95%, 16 percentage points above the average attained so far in 2018.

Table 4.0: Types of charges for each Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Indictment	Summary Matters	Petty Sessions	Committal Proceedings	Tax	Miscellaneous	LRF	Traffic	NS	Total
Corporate Area Criminal	877	677	334	183	-	-	-	11	1	2083
St. Catherine	461	607	246	127	22	-	-	-	-	1464
Manchester	388	131	295	77	42	-	59	-	-	992
St. James	292	393	161	72	-	33	-	-	-	951
St. Ann	354	207	202	58	21	-	-	1	-	843
Westmoreland	269	214	118	114	42	-	-	-	-	757
Clarendon	286	156	113	63	-	-	-	-	1	609
Portland	266	126	75	27	-	-	-	-	-	494
St. Elizabeth	218	97	79	63	22	-	1	-	-	480
St. Mary	199	68	70	59	23	-	-	-	-	419
Trelawny	192	87	54	37	-	-	8	-	-	378
Hanover	156	114	60	45	-	-	-	-	-	375
St. Thomas	110	60	55	39	11	-	-	-	-	275
Total	4068	2937	1862	964	183	33	68	12	2	10120
Percentage	40.20	29.02	18.40	9.53	1.81	0.33	0.67	0.12	0.02	100.00

*Total number of charges in the sample = 10,120. **LRF means Law Reform Fraudulent Transaction, ***NS means not stated

The above table provides a breakdown of the different types of new charges filed in each parish court for the July-September quarter of 2018. For the quarter, 10,120 charges were filed across the parish courts, a decline of approximately 14% when compared to previous quarter. The majority of these charges were filed in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (2,083), the St. Catherine Parish Court (1,464), the Manchester Parish Court with (992) and the St. St. James Parish Court with 951 charges. The majority of the charges were Indictments (40.68%); followed by Summary Matters (29.02%), Petty Sessions (18.40%) and Committal Proceedings with 9.53% of the total. The Corporate Area Court-Criminal Division accounted for the largest proportion of both Summary Matters and Indictments. This was followed by the parish courts of St. Catherine, St. Ann and St. James. The largest proportion of Petty Sessions was filed at the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division followed by the parish courts of Manchester and St. Catherine. The Corporate Area Parish Court- Criminal Division followed by the St. Catherine Parish Court and

the Westmoreland Parish Court, accounted for the largest individual shares of Committal Proceedings. As for criminal matters, which are traffic related, the only incidences of these in the quarter were in the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and the St. Ann Parish Court.

Offence Types

Table 5.0: Most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Assault occasioning bodily harm	Unlawful wounding	Threat	Malicious destruction of property	Possession of offensive weapon	Exposing goods for sale
Manchester	107	77	41	40	27	107
Clarendon	105	71	54	30	21	9
St. Catherine	137	117	82	58	66	68
St. Thomas	44	27	30	15	24	1
Portland	83	68	54	46	22	3
St. Mary	73	47	45	30	5	
St. James	95	78	55	28	69	53
Corporate Area Criminal	261	164	25	83	151	81
Westmoreland	85	65	52	48	33	42
Hanover	51	36	33	37	22	
St. Elizabeth	87	62	48	38	14	
St. Ann	98	96	122	40	18	16
Trelawny	64	40	24	26	18	
Total	1290	948	665	519	490	380
Percentage of total	12.75	9.37	6.57	5.13	4.84	3.75

***Total number of charges = 10,120

The above table shows the distribution of the six most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the July-September quarter of the 2018. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1290 or 12.75% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 948 or 9.37% and threat with 665 or 6.57% followed this. The top six is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 519 or 5.13%, possession of offensive weapon with 490 or 4.84% and exposing goods for sale with 380 or 3.75% of the total count of charges filed in the parish courts during the quarter. These six most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 42% of the total incidence of

charges in quarter. In the previous quarter, these same charges accounted for approximately 36% of the total number of incidence of charges in the quarter. Compared to the second quarter there was a decrease of approximately 14% in the total incidence of charges in this third quarter.

Table 6.0: Average age of active charges for each parish court for charges filed in the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Average Age of Active charges (days)
Clarendon	29
Trelawny	30
Portland	33
St. Mary	34
Hanover	35
Westmoreland	37
St. Catherine	37
St. Elizabeth	38
St. Ann	38
St. James	39
St. Thomas	39
Corporate Area Criminal	41
Manchester	47
Overall Average	37
Standard Deviation	5
Skewness	0.352

The above table shows the average age of active charges originating in the July-September quarter of 2018, for charges originating in said quarter. The average age of active matters originating in the quarter was approximately 37 days (1.2 months) which is identical to that of the previous quarter. The parish courts of Clarendon, Trelawny, Portland and St. Mary have the lowest averages on the list. On the contrary, the highest averages were observed for in the parish courts of St. James, St. Thomas, Corporate Area Criminal and Manchester. There is an intuitive correlation between clearance rates and the average age of cases in the long run but it does not necessarily manifest empirically in the short-run. This means that in the end, courts with higher clearance rates will in general have a lower backlog and a lower average age of active cases. Courts, which manage to maintain a clearance rate of between 90% and 110% long enough will

eventually eliminate case backlog, a feat that is quite conceivable with improved case progression management in the respective courts. In such cases, the average time taken to dispose of cases will experience a natural decline, tapering off at a modest, tolerable rate and improving the efficiency of the courts and the enhancing the timely delivery of justice. The standard deviation of the scores was low (5 days), an indication that the individual values for the parish courts were on average close to the overall mean. The low positive skewness shown further indicates that a slightly larger proportion of the scores fell below the overall average score.

Table 7.0: Average age of charges disposed for matters originating in the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Average Age of Disposed charges (days)
St. Catherine	4
St. Thomas	4
St. Ann	8
Corporate Area Criminal	9
Manchester	10
Portland	10
St. James	11
Hanover	11
Westmoreland	12
St. Elizabeth	19
St. Mary	21
Clarendon	36
Trelawny	38
Overall Average	15
Standard Deviation	11
Skewness	1.40

The above table shows that the average time taken to dispose of criminal cases in the July-September quarter, which were filed in the Parish Courts, is 15 days or just over 2 weeks. In the previous quarter the average time taken was approximately 9 days or just over 1 week, there is a 67% increase in the time taken to dispose of charges from the second quarter to the third. The

standard deviation of roughly 11 days is an indication that there were great variations in the distribution of the scores, which ranged from a low of roughly 4 days at the St. Catherine Parish Court to a high of 38 days for the Trelawny Parish Court. It is of note that for cases originating in the quarter, along with the St. Catherine parish court, the average age of cases disposed was also under 10 days for the parish courts of St. Thomas, St. Ann and Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. The moderate positive skewness of 1.40 is an indication that slightly more of the scores were lower than the average time to disposition.

Table 8.0: Breakdown of time to disposition as at September 30, 2018

Parishes	Time intervals in days					
	0-89 days	90-179 days	180-269 days	270-364 days	365 days and over	Frequency
Corporate Area Criminal	11459 (75.8%)	1976 (13.1%)	857 (5.7%)	447 (3.0%)	374 (2.5%)	15113 (100%)
St. Catherine	8762 (74.6%)	1531 (13.0%)	707 (6.0%)	379 (3.2%)	373 (3.2%)	11752 (100%)
St. James	5404 (67.8%)	821 (10.3%)	350 (4.4%)	458 (4.7%)	942 (11.8%)	7975 (100%)
Manchester	3886 (58.7%)	1263 (19.1%)	808 (12.2%)	344 (5.2%)	321 (4.8%)	6622 (100%)
Westmoreland	3863 (76.7%)	652 (12.9%)	238 (4.7%)	148 (2.9%)	138 (2.7%)	5039 (100%)
St. Ann	2354 (59.4%)	638 (16.1%)	291 (7.3%)	254 (6.4%)	429 (10.8%)	3966 (100%)
Clarendon	2674 (86.9%)	195 (6.3%)	60 (1.9%)	50 (1.6%)	99 (3.2%)	3078 (100%)
St. Thomas	1874 (61.5%)	529 (17.4%)	254 (8.3%)	243 (8.0%)	148 (4.9%)	3048 (100%)
Portland	1861 (61.2%)	547 (18.0%)	256 (8.4%)	194 (6.4%)	183 (6.0%)	3041 (100%)
St. Mary	1780 (65.5%)	456 (16.8%)	206 (7.6%)	146 (5.4%)	128 (4.7%)	2716 (100%)
St. Elizabeth	1685 (63.2%)	478 (17.9%)	237 (8.9%)	125 (4.7%)	142 (5.3%)	2667 (100%)
Trelawny	1614 (70.6%)	329 (14.4%)	169 (7.4%)	110 (4.8%)	65 (2.8%)	2287 (100%)

Hanover	1620 (74.8%)	303 (14.0%)	122 (5.6%)	70 (3.2%)	50 (2.3%)	2165 (100%)
% of total	70.30	13.99	6.56	4.27	4.88	100.00
Average	3757	748	350	228	261	5344
Standard deviation	3092	527	263	139	241	4044
Skewness	2	1	1	1	2	2

Number of charges sampled (N) = 69,469

Note: The data in this table covers at least a consecutive 21 month period over September 2016 - September 30, 2018 for each parish court

The table above shows the breakdown of the time disposition for matters filed in the respective parish courts for at least 21 consecutive months over the period September 2016 to September 2018. The results shown suggests decisively that a significant proportion of the charges disposed in the period took less than 90 days, accounting for roughly 70% of the disposals. The parish courts of Clarendon, Westmoreland, the Corporate Area Parish Court – Criminal Division and St. Catherine are among the courts accounting for the larger proportions of cases being disposed in under 90 days. This trend is similar to that observed in the first quarter (April-June, 2018) with the exception of Clarendon. For the cases disposed over this sample period, the courts as a whole are performing quite creditably with the proportion of cases disposed falling incrementally as the time intervals get larger. Cumulatively, 95.12% of the matters disposed over the period took less than a year and the remaining 4.88% took between a year and 25 months across the parish courts. In the previous quarter, cumulatively (97.12%) proportionately more matters were disposed in less than a year and fewer matters (2.88%) took between a year and 23 months. From the data set, the parish courts of St. James, St. Ann, Portland and St. Elizabeth had the largest proportion of their disposed matters taking between a year and 25 months, however, the significantly larger proportion took under a year for these courts. The skewness of the times taken by the respective parish courts to dispose of matters

in this sample did not vary dramatically either within or across the period, particularly for the higher times to disposition. This is an indication that for disposed cases, the times taken are not markedly different across the courts. The difference however is the proportion of cases disposed, relative to the caseload, which as shown earlier, indicates that some courts are performing much better.

Table 9.0: Descriptive statistics on the time to disposition for cases disposed as at September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Time to disposition (in days)							
	Average	Mode	Median	Standard deviation	Skewness	Minimum	Maximum	Number of Disposed charges (sample size)
Clarendon	37.88	0	0	97.33	3.44	0	693	3078
Corporate Area Criminal	60.25	0	3	99.3	2.26	0	606	15113
Westmoreland	62.72	0	17	100.93	2.46	0	671	5039
St. Catherine	63.60	0	0	110.03	2.34	0	700	11752
Hanover	64.73	0	26	100.5	2.46	0	686	2165
Trelawny	74.12	0	28	109.98	1.99	0	672	2287
St. Mary	90.05	0	42	122.36	1.81	0	686	2716
St. Elizabeth	93.75	0	49	122.33	1.72	0	653	2667
St. Thomas	96.78	0	42	127.87	1.5	0	714	3048
Portland	100.37	0	49	134.2	1.66	0	756	3041
St. James	100.96	0	16	167.47	1.59		712	7975
Manchester	101.71	0	51	126.66	1.71	0	721	6622
St. Ann	117.04	0	51	155.35	1.5	0	714	3966
Total/Average	81.84	0.00	28.77	121.10	2.03	0.00	691.08	69469
Std.	22.78	0.00	19.97	21.78	0.55	0.00	36.73	4044.31
Skewness	-0.36		-0.31	0.94	1.44		-0.70	1.61

Number of charges sampled (N) = 69,469

Note: The data in this table covers at least a consecutive 21 month period over September 2016 - September 30, 2018 for each Parish Court

The table above shows the descriptive statistics on a sample of matters disposed for each parish court as at September 30, 2018. For each parish court, the estimates cover at least 21 consecutive months spanning September 2016 to September 2018 and it should be noted that these descriptive statistics are for matters disposed of over that sample period. The output reveals that overall average estimated time taken to dispose of matters in the parish courts (Criminal Division) over the period is 81.84 days; this represents an increase of approximately 11 days over the mean for the last quarter. The skewness of these times to disposition is -0.36, suggesting that there were slightly more times to disposition among the parish courts, which were above the overall mean. For matters disposed of in the period, the parish courts of Clarendon (38 days), the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division (60 days) and the parish courts of Westmoreland (62 days) and St. Catherine (63 days) take the lowest times on average to dispose of cases over the period. The parish courts of St. Ann (117 days), Manchester (102 days) and St. James (101 days) demonstrate the highest times to disposition for matters disposed during the quarter. The variation among the times to disposition across the parish courts are however wide as shown by the relatively high standard deviation (22.78), suggesting inconsistencies in performances on this measure. An important finding from these results is that in all parish courts the most frequently occurring time to disposition for matters disposed in the quarter is 0 days (modal value), which is an indication that across the parish courts over the period sampled, a number of the cases disposed, were done on the first day of court appearance. This result is both a reflection of the relative complexity of cases entering open court over the period as well as the high conviction rate resulting from the incidence of guilty pleas. This further suggests that mechanisms to

encourage guilty pleas as seen with the ‘Sentence Reduction Days’ policy employed in the Supreme Court can potentially have a positive effect on improved use of judicial time and more productive courtroom utilization rates. The maximum times to disposition in the sample ranged from a low of 606 days (20.2 months) in the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division Court to a high of 756 days (25.2 months) in the Portland Parish Court. The skewness of the maximum time to disposition is moderately negative (-0.70), which is an indication that slightly more of these times were higher than the overall mean. The sample size used to compute these descriptive data was 69,469 charges (an increase of approximately 12,303 charges or 21.52% from the last quarter), which is statistically significant and representative.

Table 9. The Absolute Change in the Number of Charges Disposed between the Quarters

Parish Court	Q3	Absolute change	Q2	Absolute change	Q1	Grand Absolute change
Corporate Area Criminal	15113	1891	13222	2648	10574	4539
St. Catherine	11752	1642	10110	1595	8515	3237
Manchester	6622	2314	4308	841	3467	3155
St. James	7975	1426	6549	1161	5388	2587
Westmoreland	5039	681	4358	954	3404	1635
Clarendon	3078	516	2562	653	1909	1169
St. Elizabeth	2667	478	2189	578	1611	1056
St. Ann	3966	1659	2307	-755	3062	904
Portland	3041	413	2628	477	2151	890
St. Mary	2716	398	2318	420	1898	818
Trelawny	2287	286	2001	416	1585	702
St. Thomas	3048	298	2750	372	2378	670
Hanover	2165	301	1864	308	1556	609
Total/Average	69469	12303	57166	9668	47,498	21971

The above table provides a summary of the absolute changes in the number of charges disposed in the parish courts in the first three quarters of 2018. The number of charges disposed increased progressively over the period, moving from 47,498 in the first quarter to 57,166 in the second quarter and 69,469 in the third, a cumulative increase of 21,971 cases or 31.63%. The Corporate Area Parish Court and the parish courts of St. Catherine and St. James account for the largest

share of charges disposed over all three quarters while the Trelawny, Hanover and St. Thomas Parish Courts account for the lowest proportions. Unsurprisingly, these courts also accounted for the largest and smallest absolute increases in the number of charges disposed over the period.

Methods of Disposal and Criminal Conviction Rate

Table 10.0: Sampling distribution of the methods of disposal for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Parish Court	Guilty Plea	Dismissed	Not guilty verdict	Transferred	Mediated settlement	Guilty verdict	Committed to circuit court	Total
St Catherine	334	174	-	79	87		5	679
Corporate Area Criminal	444	107	7	7	-	81	-	646
Westmoreland	198	123	57	3	-	8	6	394
St. James	226		33	3	16	3	1	282
Manchester	149	68	-	-	20		2	239
Clarendon	37	18	43	-	-	49	15	162
St. Elizabeth	71	2	27	-	39	1	8	148
Trelawny	45	11	44	-	3	23	-	126
Hanover	58	5	41	1	10	11	-	126
Portland	50	20	40	-	5		-	115
St. Mary	43	44	-	-	23		-	110
St. Thomas	52	26	-	1	-	4	-	83
St. Ann	28	21	1	3	-		-	53
Total	1735	619	293	97	203	180	37	3163
Percentage of total	54.85	19.57	9.26	3.07	6.42	5.69	1.17	100.00

Total sample size = 3163

The above table shows a sampling distribution of the methods of disposition across all parish courts for the July-September quarter 2018. From the sample, it is observed that the majority of matters disposed of during the quarter were by way of guilty plea with 54.85% of the disposals, followed by matters dismissed with 19.57% and not guilty with 9.26%. Mediated settlements with 6.42%, guilty verdicts with 5.69%, matters transferred with 3.07%, and matters committed

to Circuit Court with 1.17% account for the remaining methods of disposal in the quarter. The combined 60.54% of the cases disposed by way of guilty outcomes represents the criminal conviction rate in the parish courts for the quarter. This represents a decline of 2.76 percentage points when compared to the second quarter of 2018.

Common Reasons for Adjournment

Table 10.1: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for adjournment for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Defendant Not Appearing (DNA) warrant issued	518	15.80
Subpoena issued	378	11.53
File to be completed	323	9.85
Re-issue application	259	7.90
Referred to other Mediation	218	6.65
Medical report unavailable	175	5.34
Disclosure	174	5.31
Fingerprint outstanding	110	3.35
Warrant to issue	81	2.47
Bail application	79	2.41
Complainant absent	57	1.74
Legal representative to be settled	57	1.74
Counselling report outstanding	52	1.59
Referred to Probation	52	1.59
Social enquiry report requested	47	1.43
Referred to Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF) Mediation	39	1.19
Investigating officer unavailable	33	1.01

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 3,279)

Note: DNA means that the accused did not appear

The above table shows that from a sample of 3279 reasons for adjournments/continuance in the April-June quarter across all parish courts, the largest proportion (15.80%) were because of adjournments due to defendants not appearing. Subpoena issued and files to be completed with 378 or 11.53% and 323 or 9.85% respectively followed this. The top five reasons for adjournment across the parish courts was rounded off by reissued applications with 259 incidences or 7.90% of the sample and referral to mediation with 218 incidences or 6.65%. These reasons for adjournment did not feature prominently in the previous quarter.

Table 11.0: Distribution of the most frequently occurring reasons for continuance for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

Reasons for Adjournment/Continuance	Count	Percentage
Sentencing	328	10.00%
Part-heard	10	0.30%

(Sample size of reasons for adjournments/continuance = 3,279)

The analysis of adjournments makes a distinction between those incidences, which may be considered avoidable due to either internal or external factors, and those, which are intrinsic to the progression of a case. The above table highlights the primary reasons for adjournment gleaned from the sample, which may be considered as simply intrinsic to the progression of some cases. These reasons are classified as reasons for ‘continuance.’ As seen in the above table, adjournments for sentencing and those part-heard featured prominently among such reasons.

Chapter 2.0: Case Demographics

This chapter examines case demographics including age and gender distribution of offenders as well as a sample estimate of the geographical distribution of charges based on the police station where matters are reported. This section also examines the distribution of new cases heard in the quarter by the respective outstations in each parish.

Table 12.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

	Male		Female		Total	
Charge	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1092	77.83	311	22.17	1403	100%
Unlawful wounding	776	76.30	241	23.70	1017	100%
Threat	672	78.78	181	21.22	853	100%
Malicious destruction of property	441	81.07	103	18.93	544	100%
Armed with an offensive weapon	479	94.29	29	5.71	508	100%
Exposing goods for sale	265	67.95	125	32.05	390	100%
Disorderly conduct	218	71.95	85	28.05	303	100%
Possession of ganja	218	82.58	46	17.42	264	100%
Simple larceny	158	73.83	56	26.17	214	100%
Dealing in ganja	167	80.68	40	19.32	207	100%
Resisting arrest	165	80.88	39	19.12	204	100%
Wounding with intent	121	83.45	24	16.55	145	100%
Sexual intercourse with a person under 16	129	98.47	2	1.53	131	100%
Smoking in a Public Place	114	95.00	6	5.00	120	100%
Rape	111	100.00	0	0.00	111	100%
Robbery with aggravation	93	91.18	9	8.82	102	100%
TOTAL	8458	79.85	2134	20.15	10592	100%

***The gender of offenders was not available for every matter that was filed in the parish courts N = 10,592

The above table provides a sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges by gender in the quarter ended September 30, 2018. Based on the data shown in chart 2.0, it is not surprising that males account for the dominant proportion of all these charges. Among the offences listed with the greatest imbalance in the gender distribution are rape, sexual intercourse with a person under 16, smoking in a public place, robbery with aggravation, wounding with intent, possession of ganja and malicious destruction of property for which over 81% of the offenders were male. Exposing goods for sale, disorderly conduct and unlawful wounding saw the highest incidence of female involvement among the offences, which appeared most frequently.

Table 13.0: Sampling distribution of the most frequently occurring charges across the parish courts for the quarter ended September 30, 2018


Charge	Count	%
Assault occasioning bodily harm	1290	12.75
Unlawful wounding	948	9.37
Threat	665	6.57
Malicious destruction of property	519	5.13
Armed with an offensive weapon	490	4.84
Exposing goods for sale	382	3.77
Disorderly conduct	308	3.04
Possession of ganja	250	2.47
Resisting arrest	198	1.96
Dealing in ganja	195	1.93
Simple larceny	188	1.86

The above table shows the distribution of the eleven most commonly occurring types of charges across all parish courts for the third quarter of 2018. It is shown that assault occasioning bodily harm with 1290 or 12.75% of the total number of charges is the most frequently occurring. Unlawful wounding with 948 or 9.37% and threats with 665 or 6.57% followed this. The top five is rounded off by malicious destruction of property with 519 or 5.13% and armed with an offensive weapon with 490 or 4.84% of the total count of charges filed in the parish courts during the quarter. These eleven most frequently occurring types of charges account for approximately 54% of the total incidence of charges in the quarter.

Table 14.1: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Catherine for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	435	223	32	46.33	58.62
Linstead Outstation courtroom #1	234	145	21	24.92	70.94
Old Harbour Outstation	60	24	3	6.39	45
Petty Session (main Court)	65	3	14	6.92	26.15
Courtroom#2 (main court)	31	13	3	3.30	51.61
Portmore Outstation	32	1	2	3.41	9.38
Courtroom#4 (main court)	19	9	1	2.02	52.63
Portmore Outstation (Night Court)	15	8	5	1.60	86.67
Linstead Outstation (Petty session)	10	4	1	1.06	50
Courtroom#3 (main court)	13	4	2	1.38	46.15
Old Harbour Outstation (Petty Session)	11	2	4	1.17	54.55
Courtroom#5 (main court)	12	2	-	1.28	16.67
Linstead outstation #2 Courtroom #2	2	1	1	0.21	100
Total/Average	939	438	89	100	56.12

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018 at the St. Catherine Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Petty Session and Night



Court matters for the relevant locations for ease of comparisons. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Spanish Town and the Linstead outstation (courtroom #1) accounts for the largest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 46.33% and 24.92% respectively. Petty Sessions at the main court with 6.92% of the new cases heard rank next. In terms of cases disposed. Courtroom#1 (main court) accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 223 matters and had the third highest disposal rate of 58.62%, similarly in the previous quarter Courtroom #1 (main court) had the highest number of matters disposed with 229 cases, 6 matters or 2.62% above that recorded in the current quarter. The Night Court at the Portmore Outstation has the highest disposal rate with 86.67%, an increase of 9.40 percentage points from the 77.27% recorded in the quarter two. The Linstead Outstation (courtroom 2) and Old Harbour Outstation followed with disposal rates of 70.94% and 54.55% respectively. Evidently, the outstations in St. Catherine not only carry a significant new caseload but also appear to be relatively productive with the disposition of cases. The main courthouse in Spanish Town accounted for 61.24% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter and the outstations combined accounted for the remaining 38.76%.

Table 14.2: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. James for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#2 (main court)	198	6	192	79.20	100
Courtroom#4(main court)	3	3	-	1.20	100
Courtroom #3 (main court)	10	2	8	4	100
Cambridge Outstation	35	5	16	14	60
Courtroom#1(main court)	3	-	3	1.20	100
Petty Session (main court)	1	-	1	0.40	100
*Total/Average	250	16	200	100	86.40

***N=250. This represents 40% of the total number of hearings in the second quarter of 2018.**


The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018 at the St. James Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the disposal rates of the various courtrooms and outstations. Courtroom 2 had the largest amount of new cases filed with 198 cases a decrease of 14 matters or 6.60% from the 212 cases filed in the second quarter. The sample also shows that, courtroom number 2 at the main court in Montego Bay accounts for the highest share of new cases heard with 79.20%, followed by Cambridge outstation with 14% and Courtrooms number 1 and number 3 with 4% each of the total number. Cambridge outstation has a lower disposal rate in this quarter of 60% compared to the 63.15% recorded in the previous quarter, a 3.15 percentage point decrease. The main courthouse in Montego Bay accounts for 86% of the new cases heard in the

quarter, 9.5 percentage point lower than the 95.50% recorded in the second quarter and 10.69 percentage point lower than that heard in the first quarter ending Jan-Mar.2018.

Table 14.3: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Westmoreland for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/ Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those Originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	252	91	13	49.51	41.26
Night Court (main court)	115	86	14	22.59	86.69
Whithorn Outstation	62	27	1	12.18	45.16
Petty Session (main court)	58	8	8	11.39	27.59
Whithorn Outstation (Petty Session)	4	-	-	0.79	-
Courtroom#2 (main court)	16	12	-	3.14	75
Courtroom#3 (main court)	2	2	-	0.39	100
Total/Average	509	227	37	99.99	51.87

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018 at the Westmoreland Parish Court. In particular, it compares the relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. The table separates Petty Session and Night Court matters heard in each of the relevant locations, for ease of comparison. The data shows




decisively that matters entered in courtroom number 1 and the Night Court in Savanna La Mar accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 252 (49.51%) and 115 (22.59%) matters respectively. This showed an increase of 45 cases or 17.86% above the 252 cases heard in courtroom 1. However, Night Court matters declined by 92 cases or 44.44% below the 207 cases heard in night court in Savanna La Mar in the previous quarter ended June 30, 2018. The Whithorn Outstation with 62 or 12.18% of the new matters heard in the parish rank next, an increase of 5 cases or 8.93% when compared to the previous quarter. In terms of cases disposed, the Night Court sittings in Savanna La Mar with 86 cases accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed relative to the number of new cases filed and had the highest disposal rate for the current quarter and the previous quarter with a rate of 86.96% and 92.27% respectively. This is a 5.31 percentage point decline when compared to the previous quarter. Courtroom 3 with a disposal rate of 100% and Courtroom 2 with a rate of 75% rounds off the highest disposal rates. The single outstation in Westmoreland accounted for 12.97% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, with the main courthouse accounting for the remaining 87.03%.

Table 14.4: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Corporate Area for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #2 (main court)	786	312	116	67.53	54.45
Petty Session Court (main court)	95	37	23	8.16	63.16
Night Court (main court)	70	18	6	6.01	34.29
Courtroom #1 (main court)	50	11	1	4.30	24
Courtroom #4 (main court)	11	4	-	0.95	36.36
Courtroom #6 (main court)	21	2	-	1.80	9.52
Courtroom #3 (main court)	25	-	-	2.15	-
Gordon Town outstation	19	6	1	1.63	36.84
Courtroom #5 (main court)	30	6	-	2.58	20
Courtroom #7 (main court)	16	1	-	1.37	6.25
Drug Court (main court)	1	-	-	0.09	-
Plea and Case Management Court (main court)	11	-		0.95	-
Courtroom # 8 (main court)	15	12	1	1.29	86.67
Fast Track Court	14	4	-	1.20	28.57
Total/Average	1164	413	148	100	48.20

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018 at the Corporate Area Court – Criminal Division. In particular, it compares the



relative proportions of new cases filed, which are accounted for by the different courtrooms and outstations in the parish, and outlines the applicable disposal rates. It is seen that courtroom number two accounts for the highest proportion of new cases filed in the quarter with 67.53% of the total. Petty Sessions Court with roughly 8.16% follows this and the Night Court with 6.01%, rounding off the top three accommodations for new cases filed in the quarter. Similarly, in the second quarter courtroom 1 had the highest proportion of new cases with 73.19% of the total and Petty Session Court and Night Court rounded off the top three with approximately 7% and 4.39% respectively. In terms of disposal rates, the data also shows that Petty Session Court with a disposal rate of 63.16% and Courtroom number 2 with 54.45% account for the highest disposal rates. However, in the previous quarter Courtroom number 2 and Petty Sessions accounted for the highest disposal rates of 73.19% and 67.52% respectively. Courtroom number experienced an 18.74 percentage points decrease in disposal rate. The Gordon Town outstation with 36.84% rounds off the top three rates of disposal over the period. Courtroom number 2 accounts for the largest absolute share of cases disposed in the quarter with 312 matters; however, there was a decrease of 222 matters or 41.57% compared to the 534 matters disposed of in the second quarter. The main courthouse in Half Way Tree accounted for 97.16% of the total number of new matters heard in the third quarter compared to the 97.80% recorded in the second quarter. In the first quarter, the main courthouse accounted for 98.30% of the total number of new cases filed in that quarter.

Table 14.5: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Hanover for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of cases inactive (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom #1 (main court)	122	50	-	45.02	40.98
Sandy Bay Outstation #1	37	19	-	13.65	51.35
Green Island (Night Court)	45	21	-	16.61	46.67
Petty Session (main court)	18	4	-	6.64	22.22
Ramble Outstation (Courtroom #1)	18	9	-	6.64	50
Sandy Bay (Petty Session)	14	5	-	5.17	35.71
Courtroom #2 (main court)	7	4	-	2.58	57.14
Courtroom # 3	1	-	-	0.37	-
Green Island Outstation (Petty Session)	5	1	-	1.85	20
Ramble Outstation (Petty Session)	3	-	-	1.11	-
Sandy Bay Outstation #2	1	-	-	0.37	-
Total/Average	271	113	-	-	41.70

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Hanover in the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Lucea accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 45.02% of the total. Night Court in Green Island and the Sandy Bay Outstation with 16.61% and 13.65% respectively rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Lucea accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed

with 50 matters but had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 40.98%, a decrease of 6.75 percentage points below the 47.73% recorded in quarter 2 and 4.07 percentage points below the 45.05% recorded in the first quarter. Courtroom number 2 recorded the leading disposal rate of 57.14%. The Sandy Bay outstation and the Ramble outstation recorded disposal rates of 51.35% and 50% respectively and were among the top five disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for roughly 23.61% of the new cases heard during the quarter while the main courthouse accounts for the remaining 76.38%.

Table 14.6: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Mary for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	122	37	6	42.36	35.25
Courtroom#2 (main court)	28	1	2	9.72	10.71
Annotto Bay Outstation	38	14	1	13.19	39.47
Petty Session (main court)	34	1	18	11.81	55.88
Night Court (main court)	15	7	-	5.21	46.67
Richmond Outstation	17	5	2	5.90	41.18
Children's Court	13	3	-	4.51	23.08
Gayle Outstation	12	8	1	4.17	75

Richmond Outstation (Petty Session)	3	-	1	1.04	33.33
Annotto Bay Outstation (Petty Session)	2	-	1	0.69	50
Gayle Outstation (Petty Session)	4	1	1	1.39	50
Total/Average	288	77	33		38.19

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Mary in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018. The data shows decisively that courtrooms number 1 and Annotto Bay Outstation account for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 42.36% and 13.19% respectively of the total. Courtroom 2 in Port Maria with 9.72% of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Maria accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 37, an increase of 5 matters or 15.63% up from the 32 matters recorded in the previous quarter and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 32.25%. Petty Session Court and Night Court in Port Maria with disposal rates of 55.88% and 46.67% respectively also rank among the top three disposal rates. The outstations in the parish account for a combined 26.39% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, marking a decrease of 7.48 percentage points below the 33.87% recorded in the previous quarter. On the other hand, the main courthouse accounts for roughly 73.61% an increase of 7.80 percentage points compared to the 65.81% recorded in the second quarter.

Table 14.7: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Trelawny for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Falmouth Court	41	21	-	16.53	51.22
Ulster Spring outstation	50	14	-	20.16	28
Clarks Town (Children's Court)	13	6	-	5.24	46.15
Falmouth (Petty Session)	2	-	2	0.81	100
Courtroom#1 (main court)	72	28	-	29.03	38.89
Ulster Spring (Petty Session)	8	-	3	3.23	37.50
Clarks Town (Petty Session)	13	-	3	5.24	23.08
Clarks Town Outstation (Courtroom #1)	49	19	-	19.76	38.78
Total/Average	248	88	8	100	38.71

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the second quarter ended September 30, 2018 at the Trelawny Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 1 at the main courthouse and the Ulster Spring Outstation accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter, with 29.03% and 20.16% respectively. There was a significant decline of 89 matters or 68.46% in the Falmouth court moving from 130 new cases being filed in the second quarter to 41 cases in quarter three. Courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 72 matters and one of the highest disposal rates of 38.89%. Although the absolute numbers are proportionately low, the petty session sittings in Ulster Spring and Children's court in Clarks town rank among the highest disposal rates for the parish in the

quarter with 37.50% and 46.15% respectively. The outstations accounts for 39.92% of the new cases heard in the quarter.

14.8: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Thomas for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	119	52	5	56.13	47.90
Yallahs Outstation	31	8	-	14.62	25.81
Children's Court	15	3	-	7.08	20
Courtroom#2 (main court)	35	1	5	16.51	17.14
Night Court (main court)	9	1	-	4.25	11.11
Yallahs outstation (Petty Session)	3	-	1	1.42	33.33
Total/Average	212	65	11	100	35.85

The above table summarizes the distribution of the movement of cases filed in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018 at the St. Thomas Parish Court. The data shows decisively that matters entered in Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Morant Bay and Courtroom number 2 accounts for the highest share of new cases heard in the quarter with 56.13% and 16.51% respectively. Courtroom number 1 accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 52 matters and the highest disposal rate of 47.90%. The Petty Sessions Court and other court sittings at the Yallahs outstation with disposal rates of 33.33% and 25.81% respectively accounts for the second and third highest disposal rates respectively. The main courthouse in Morant Bay accounted for 83.96% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter.

Table 14.9: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Manchester for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases(of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	95	16	10	16.18	27.37
Courtroom#2 (main court)	106	27	9	18.06	33.96
Petty Session (main court)	125	61	14	21.29	60
Christiana Outstation	51	13	-	8.69	25.49
Spalding Outstation	26	9	1	4.43	38.46
Christiana (Petty Session)	40	13	1	6.81	2.5
Tax Court (main court)	18	1	1	3.07	16.67
Porus (main court)	25	9	-	4.26	36
Cross Keys (main court)	15	4	1	2.56	33.33
Drug treatment court	2	-	-	0.34	-
Spalding(Petty Session)	18	8	2	3.07	55.56
Porus (Children's Court)	13	-	-	2.21	-
Cottage Outstation	9	1	-	1.53	11.11
Porus (Petty Session)	4	1	1	0.68	75
Courtroom #3 (main court)	27	6	1	4.60	25.93
Cross Keys Outstation (Petty Session)	4	-	1	0.68	25
Children's Court (main court)	2	-	-	0.34	-
Night Court (main court)	6	1	-	1.02	-
Cottage (Petty Session)	1	-	-	0.17	-
Total/Average	587	170	40	99.99	35.78

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Manchester in the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. The data shows that Petty session main court accounted for highest share of

new matters heard in the quarter, with 21.29% of the total. Courtroom number 2 and Courtroom number 1 accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 18.06% and 16.18% respectively of the total. There was an increase of 0.97 and 3.57 percentage points for Courtroom 2 and Courtroom 1 respectively. In terms of cases disposed, Petty Session sittings at the main court in Mandeville accounts for the highest absolute share of cases disposed with 61 matters, 19.74% below the 76 matters recorded in the previous quarter and had the highest case disposal rate of roughly 60%, 4.34% lower than the 64.34% recorded in quarter two. Petty Session sittings in May Pen with a disposal rate of 60% and Petty Session sittings in Porus with a disposal rate of 75% have the highest disposal rates in the parish. The main courthouse in Mandeville accounts for 71.38% of the total number of new cases heard in the quarter, an amount similar to what was recorded in quarter two. The remaining 28.62% were accounted for by the various outstations.

Table 14.10: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of St. Elizabeth for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom number #1)	92	33	4	29.49	40.22
Courtroom#2 (main court)	11	3	1	3.53	36.36
Santa Cruz Outstation (Courtroom #2)	37	11	-	11.86	29.73
Balaclava (Courtroom #1)	14	5	-	4.49	35.71
Santa Cruz (Petty Session)	20	1	8	6.41	45

Courtroom #1 (main court)	92	29	6	29.49	29.07
Santa Cruz (Children's Court)	15	1	1	4.81	13.33
Santa Cruz Night Court	2	-	-	0.64	-
Balaclava (Courtroom #2)	1	-	-	0.32	-
Petty Session (main court)	20	-	3	6.41	15
Balaclava Outstation (Children's Court)	2	1	-	0.64	50
Balaclava (Petty Session)	6	1	1	1.92	33.33
Total/Average	312	85	24	100.01	34.94

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Elizabeth in the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the Santa Cruz outstation and Courtroom number 1 at the main court in Black River accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 29.49% of the total. Courtroom number 2 at the Santa Cruz outstation and Petty Session sittings in Santa Cruz accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 11.86% and 6.41% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, Balaclava Children's court accounts for the highest case disposal rate of 50%, while Petty session in Balaclava recorded the highest disposal rate of 66.67% in the previous quarter. The Balaclava Outstation (Children's Court) and Courtroom 1 at the main court in Black River and have the next highest disposal rates with 50% and 40.22% respectively. The Santa Cruz outstation and accounts for the highest proportion of new cases heard in the quarter with 41.99% while the main courthouse in Black River accounts for roughly 39.42%. The remaining 18.59% is accounted for the other outstation courts.

Table 14.11: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom and outstation in the Parish of Portland for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018


Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	200	38	14	59.17	26
Buff Bay Outstation	70	23	7	20.71	42.86
Manchioneal Outstation	33	13	2	9.76	45.45
Children's Court	15	2	1	4.44	20
Courtroom#2 (main court)	5	1	1	1.48	40
Courtroom#3 (main court)	15	4	-	4.44	27
Total/Average	338	81	25	100	31.36

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Portland in the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. The data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 at the main court in Port Antonio accounts for the highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 59.17% of the total, a 6.81 percentage point decrease below the 60.49% recorded in the previous quarter. Buff Bay and Manchioneal Outstations with 20.71% and 9.76% respectively of the total number of the new cases heard in the quarter rank next. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in Port Antonio accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 38 matters, a decrease of 31 matters or 44.93% compared to the 69 matters recorded in the previous quarter and had the fifth highest case disposal rate of 26%. Manchioneal Outstation with a disposal rate of 45.45% and

Buff Bay Outstation with a rate of 42.86% are the top two on this measure. The outstations in Portland account for a combined 30.47% of the new cases heard, a marginal decrease of 1.60 percentage points below the 28.87% recorded in quarter two. The main courthouse in Port Antonio accounts for the remaining 69.53% a decrease of 1.60 percentage points below the 71.13% recorded in the previous quarter.

Table 14.12: Aggregate case statistics for each outstation in the Parish of St. Ann for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of cases disposed (of those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
ST.ANN'S BAY					
Courtroom #1 (main court)	266	54	19	47.93	27.44
Petty Session (main court)	68	5	20	12.25	36.76
Claremont Outstation (Petty Session)	5	-	2	0.90	40
Children's Court - Claremont	8	-	1	1.44	12.50
Claremont outstation	26	4	1	4.68	19.23
BROWNS TOWN					
Courtroom #1	118	21	11	21.26	27.12
Petty Session	58	5	23	10.45	48.28
Children's Court	3	-	1	0.54	33.33
Total/Average	555	89	78	99.45	30.09



The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of St. Ann in the second quarter ended September 30, 2018. The data shows that courtroom 1 in both St. Ann's Bay (the main court) and Browns Town account for the largest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 47.93% and 21.26% respectively of the total. In the previous quarter Courtroom 1 in St. Ann's Bay and courtroom 1 in Browns Town accounted for 43.61% and 25.89%, representing an increase of 4.32-percentage point in the St. Ann's Bay (Courtroom 1) and an increase of 4.63-percentage point in Browns Town (Courtroom 1). The Petty Session Court in St. Ann's Bay accounts for the third largest share of new cases heard as was similar in the second quarter, with 12.25%. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 at the St. Ann's Bay Parish Court accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 54 matters and had the fourth highest case disposal rate of 27.44%. Matters heard in Petty session in Brown's Town with a 48.28% disposal rate and Courtroom number 1 with a rate of 27.12% accounts for the highest disposal rates in the quarter. As a whole, the Brown's Town court accounted for approximately 32.25% of the new cases filed in the parish of St. Ann during the quarter, a decrease of 2.33 percentage points below the 34.58% recorded in the second quarter. The St. Ann's Bay courthouse accounts for 67.21% of the new cases heard in the quarter an increase of 1.79 percentage points, up from the 65.42% recorded in quarter two and 4.21 percentage point up from the 63% in quarter one. The outstations apart from Brown's Town account for approximately 7% of the total.

Table 14.13: Aggregate case statistics for each courtroom/outstation in the Parish of

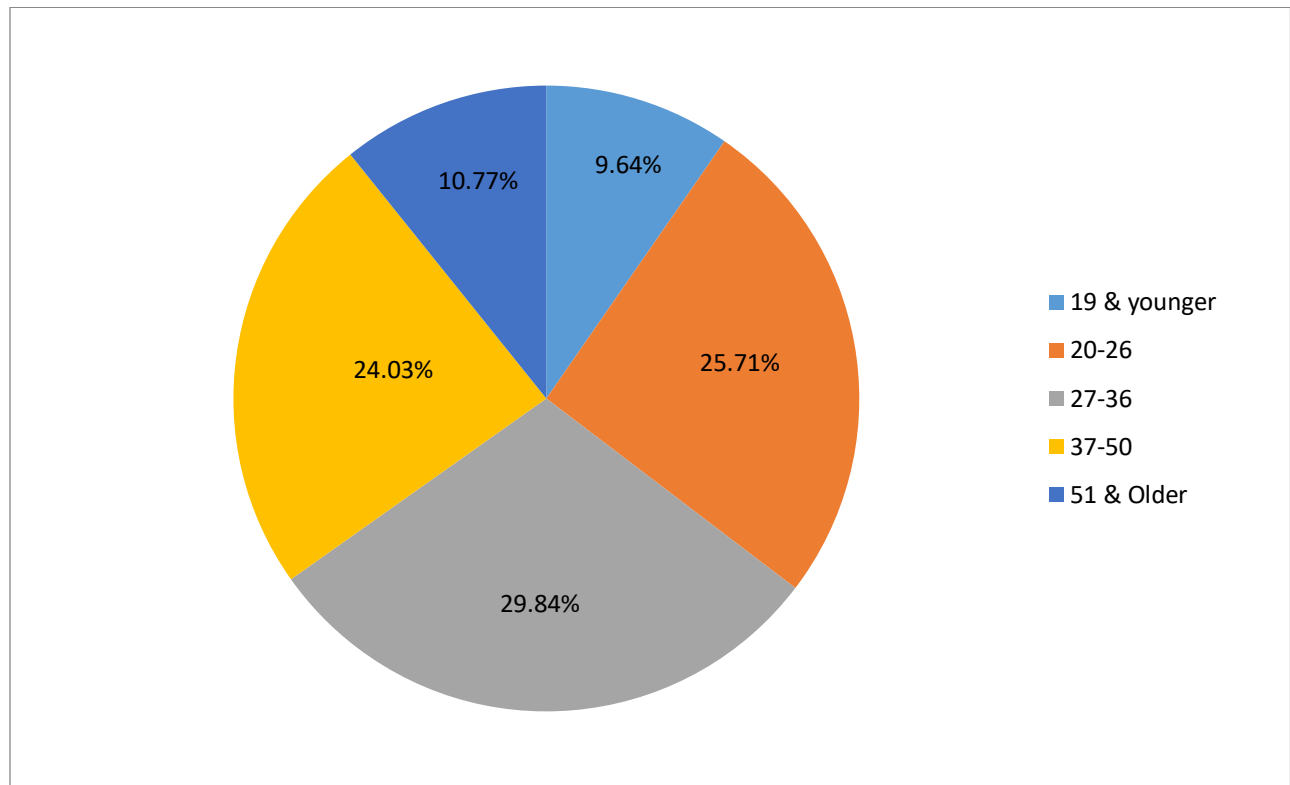
Courtroom/Outstation	Number of new cases filed in the quarter	Number of Cases disposed (of Those originating in the quarter)	Number of inactive cases (of those originating in the month)	Proportion of total new cases (%)	Case Disposal Rate (%)
Courtroom#1 (main court)	99	63	12	23.97	75.76
Lionel Town outstation	58	31	7	14.04	65.52
Courtroom#2 (main court)	85	37	15	20.58	61.18
Chapleton outstation	56	22	3	13.56	44.64
Courtroom#3 (main Court)	22	10	-	5.33	45.45
Petty Session (main court)	50	21	11	12.11	64
Children's Court (main court)	19	6	2	4.60	42.11
Frankfield Outstation	13	3	2	3.15	38.46
Night Court (main court)	11	7	-	2.67	63.64
Total/Average	413	200	52	100.01	61.02

Clarendon for the quarter of ended September 30, 2018

The above table summarizes the distribution of new cases filed, disposed and inactive across the various courtrooms and outstations in the parish of Clarendon in the third quarter ended September 30, 2018. The available data shows decisively that courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounted for highest share of new matters heard in the quarter, with 23.97% of the total. Courtroom number 2 in May Pen and Lionel Town Outstation accounts for the next highest shares of new cases heard in the quarter with 20.58% and

14.04% respectively of the total. In terms of cases disposed, courtroom number 1 in May Pen accounts for the highest absolute share of matters disposed with 63 matters and had the highest case disposal rate of 75.76%. The Lionel Town outstation with a disposal rate of 65.52% and Night Court sittings with a disposal rate of 63.64% were among the highest disposal rates in the parish. An estimated 30.75% of new cases heard in Clarendon during the first quarter occurred in the outstation locations with the remaining 69.25% taking place in the main court in May Pen.

Chart 1.0: Aggregate age distribution of offenders for all parish courts for the quarter ended September 30, 2018

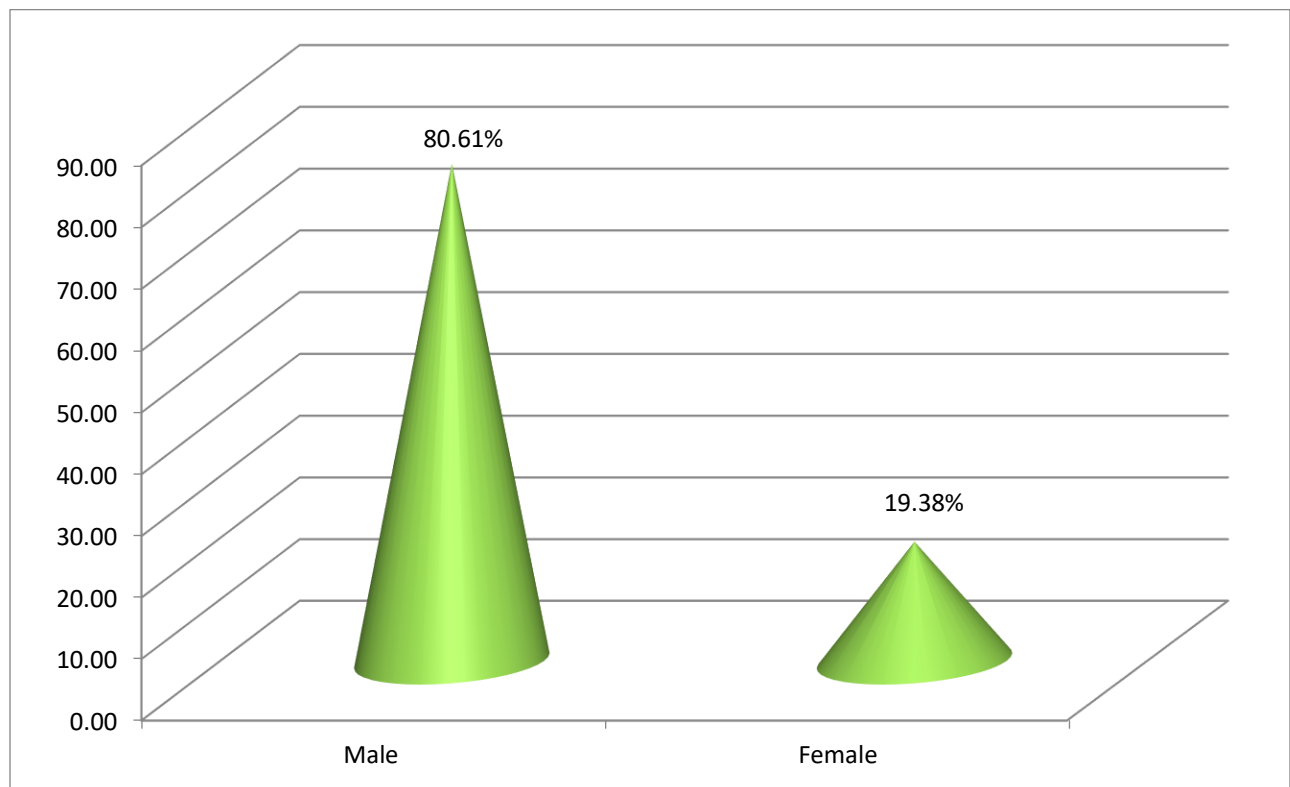


The above chart shows that of the total number of offenders, for which age data was readily available for the July to September quarter, 2018; the largest proportion, 29.84% were from the

27-36 age cohorts. This category is followed by the 20-26 age group with 25.71%, the 37-50 age group with 24.03% and the oldest age cohorts 51 and over category accounting for 10.77%.

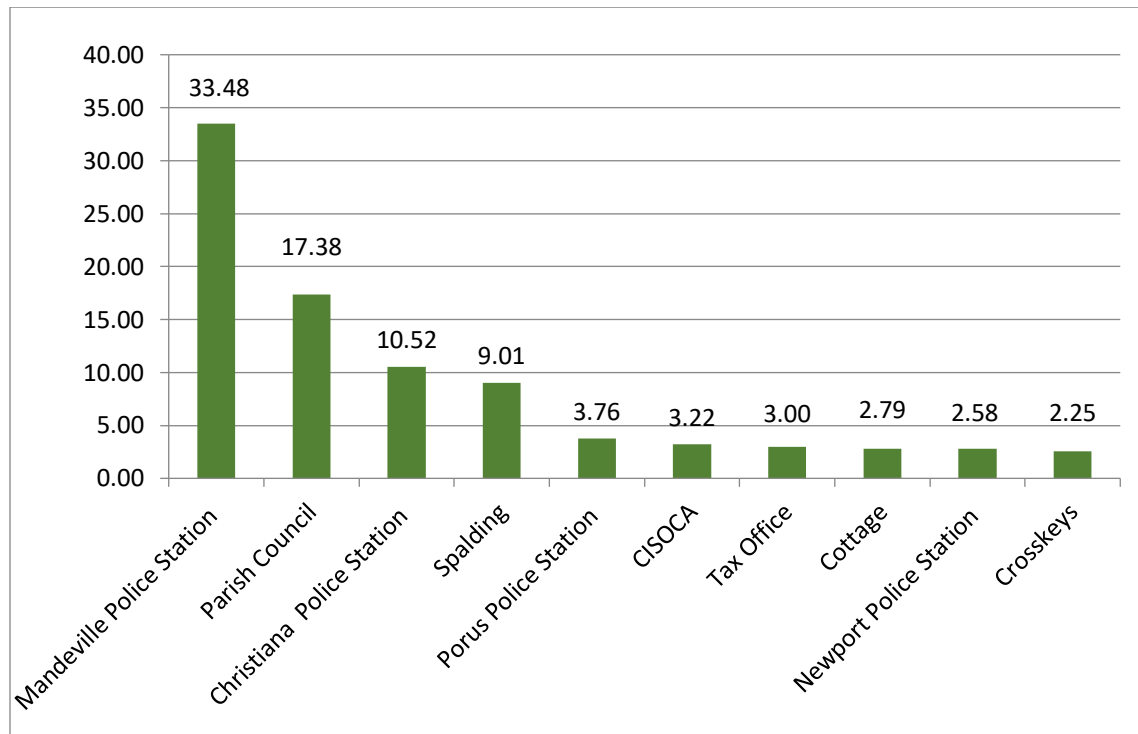
The youngest age cohort in the distribution accounted for the lowest proportions with the 19 years and younger accounting for 9.64% and of total offenders.

Chart 2.0: Aggregate gender distribution of offenders for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



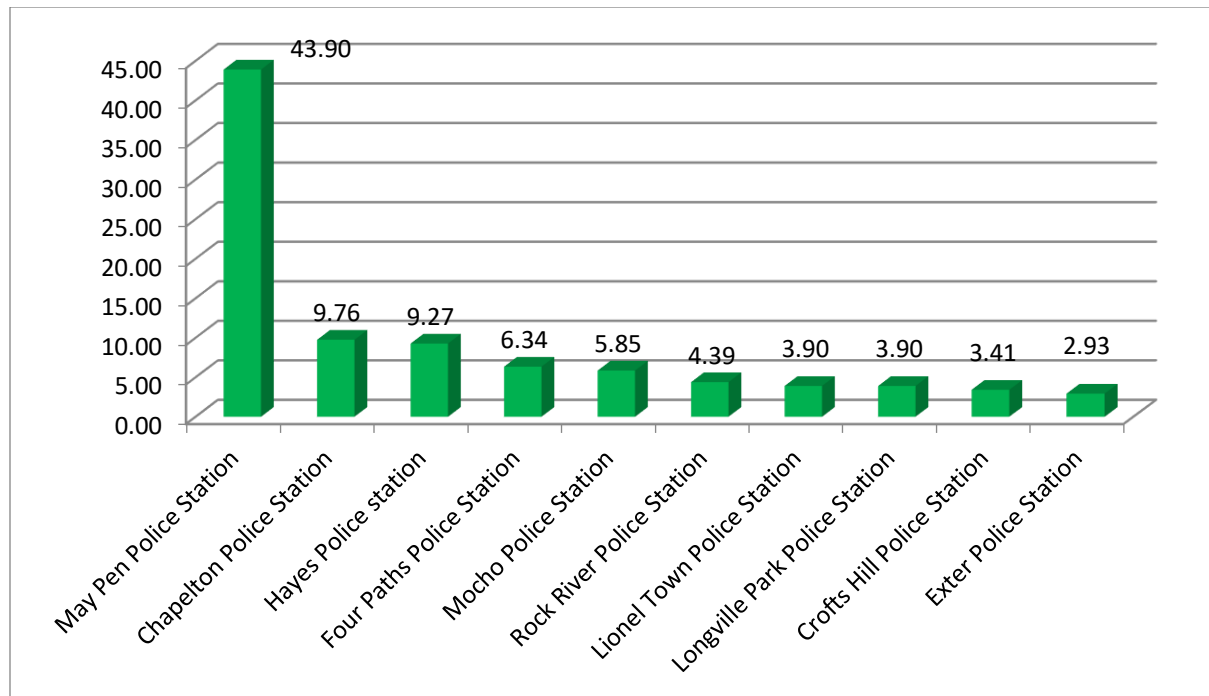
The above chart shows that the overwhelming majority of offenders for the July to September quarter, 2018 were male, accounting for roughly 80.61% of the total while females accounted for approximately 19.38%. The gender distribution of offenders for the second quarter was quite similar to this breakdown for third quarter with approximately 76.52% to 23.48% male to female ratio.

Chart 3.0: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station/entity of origin at the Manchester Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



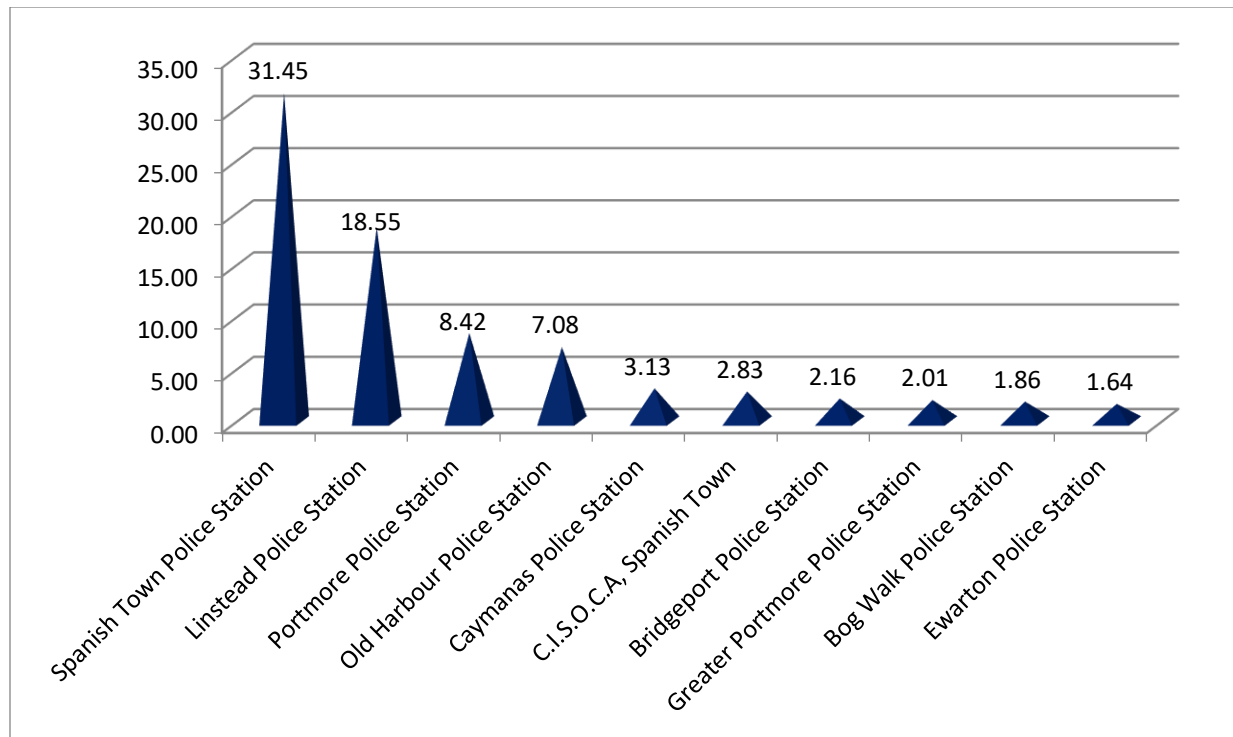
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Manchester Parish Court using the police stations/entity at which the matters were reported. The data available from 932 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 33.48%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Mandeville Police Station. This was followed by the Parish Council which accounts for 17.38% of total matters reported. The Christiana Police rounded off the top three with 10.52%. In the previous quarter, the top three Police Stations/entities were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.1: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Clarendon Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



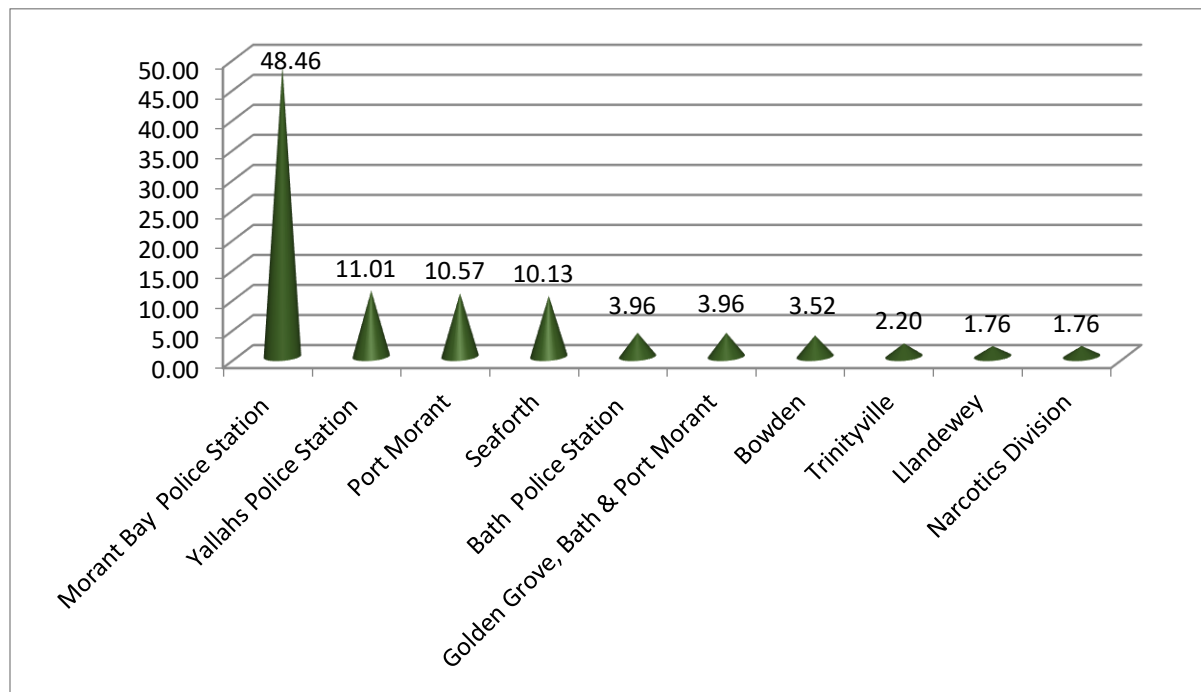
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Clarendon Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 205 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 43.90%, which were brought before the Court were reported in May Pen Police Station. This was followed by the Chapelton Police Station which accounts for 9.76% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hayes Town Police with 9.27%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of May Pen, Four Paths and Lionel Town Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.2: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Catherine Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



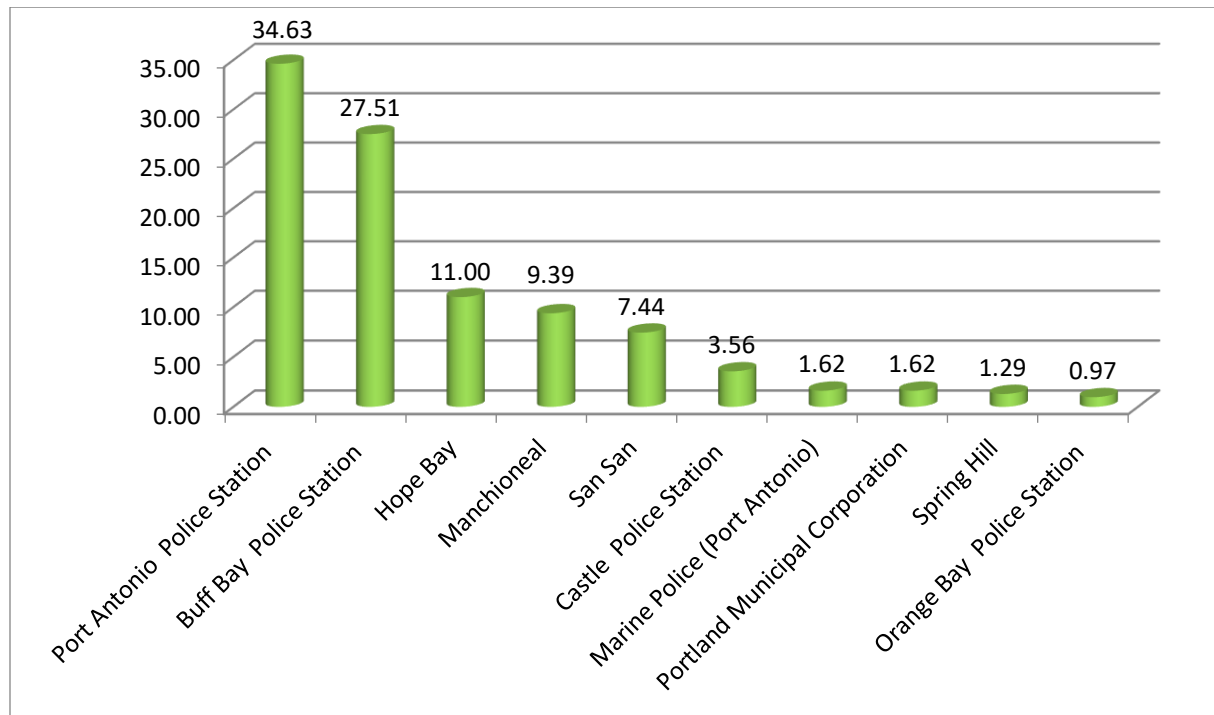
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Catherine Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from a total of 1342 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 31.45%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Spanish Town Police Station. This was followed by the Linstead Town Police Station which accounts for 18.55% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Portmore Police Station with 8.42%. In the previous quarter the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.3: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Thomas Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Thomas Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 227 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 48.46%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Morant Bay Police Station. This was followed by the Yallahs Police Station which accounts for 11.01% of total matters reported. The Port Morant Police rounded off the top three with 10.57%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Morant Bay, Yallahs and Golden Grove Police Stations. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

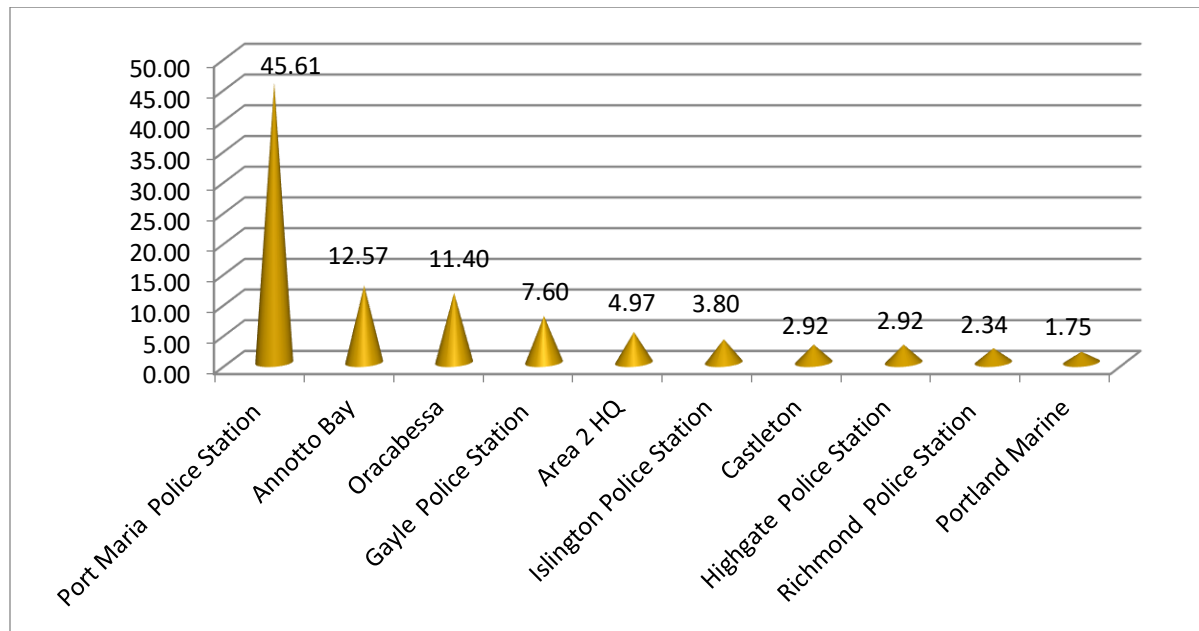
Chart 3.4: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Portland Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Portland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 309 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 34.63%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Antonio Police Station. This was followed by the Buff Bay Police Station which accounts for 27.51% of total matters reported. The top three was rounded off by the Hope Bay Police with 11%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Port Antonio, Buff Bay and Marine Police Stations.

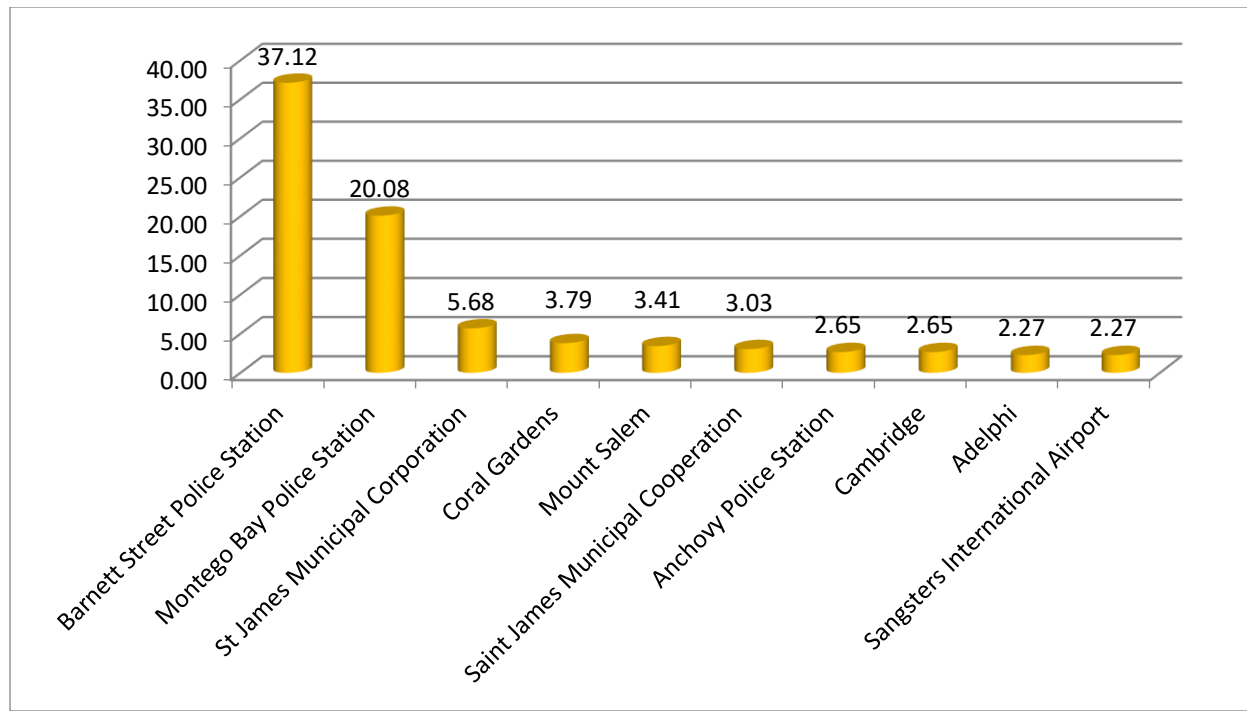
This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.5: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Mary Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



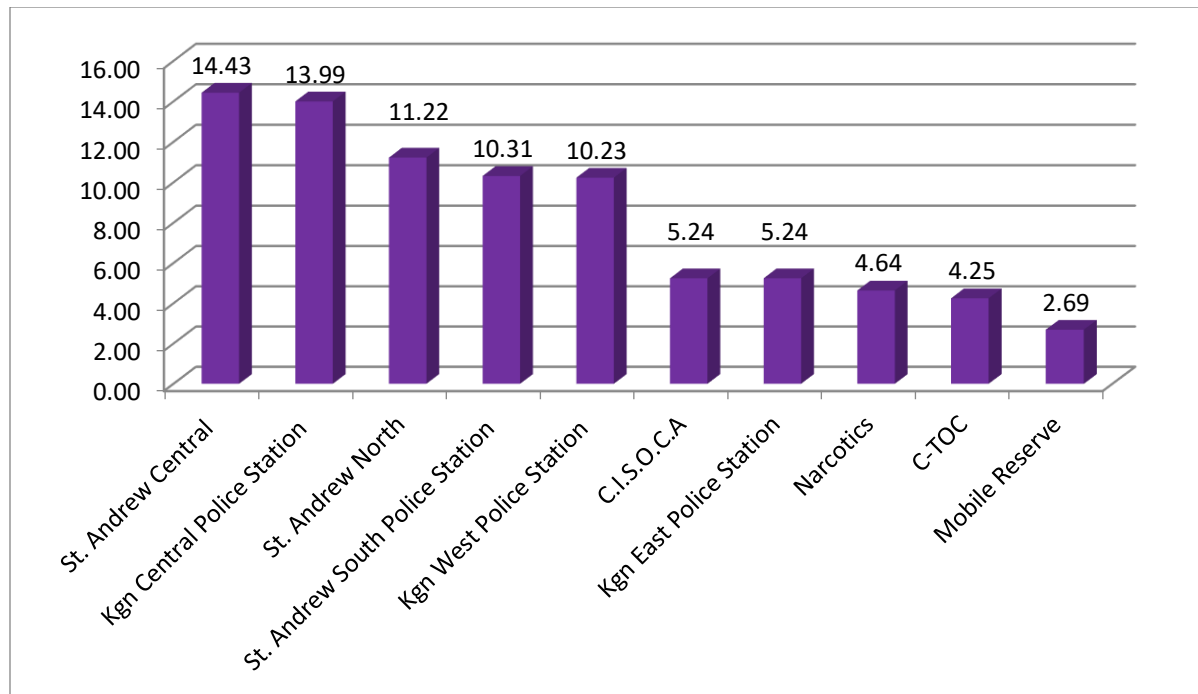
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Mary Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 342 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 45.61%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Port Maria Police Station. This was followed by the Annotto Bay Police Station, which accounts for 12.57% of total matters reported. The Oracabessa Police rounded off the top three with 11.40%. In the previous quarter, the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.6: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. James Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



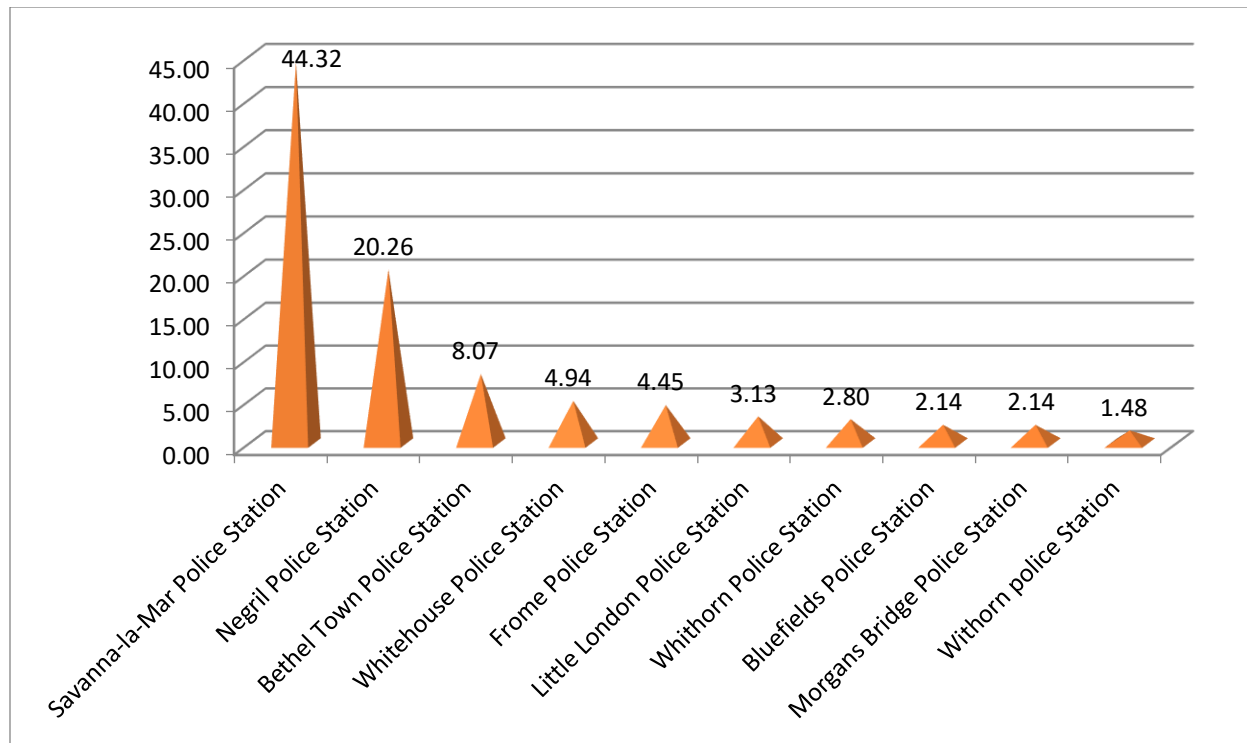
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. James Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 264 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 37.12%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Barnett Street Police Station. This was followed by the Montego Bay Police Station which accounts for 20.08% of total matters reported. The St. James Municipal Corporation rounded off the top three with 5.68%. In the previous quarter, the top three was comprised of Barnett Street, Montego Bay Police and Sangster's International Airport. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.7: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Corporate Area Criminal Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



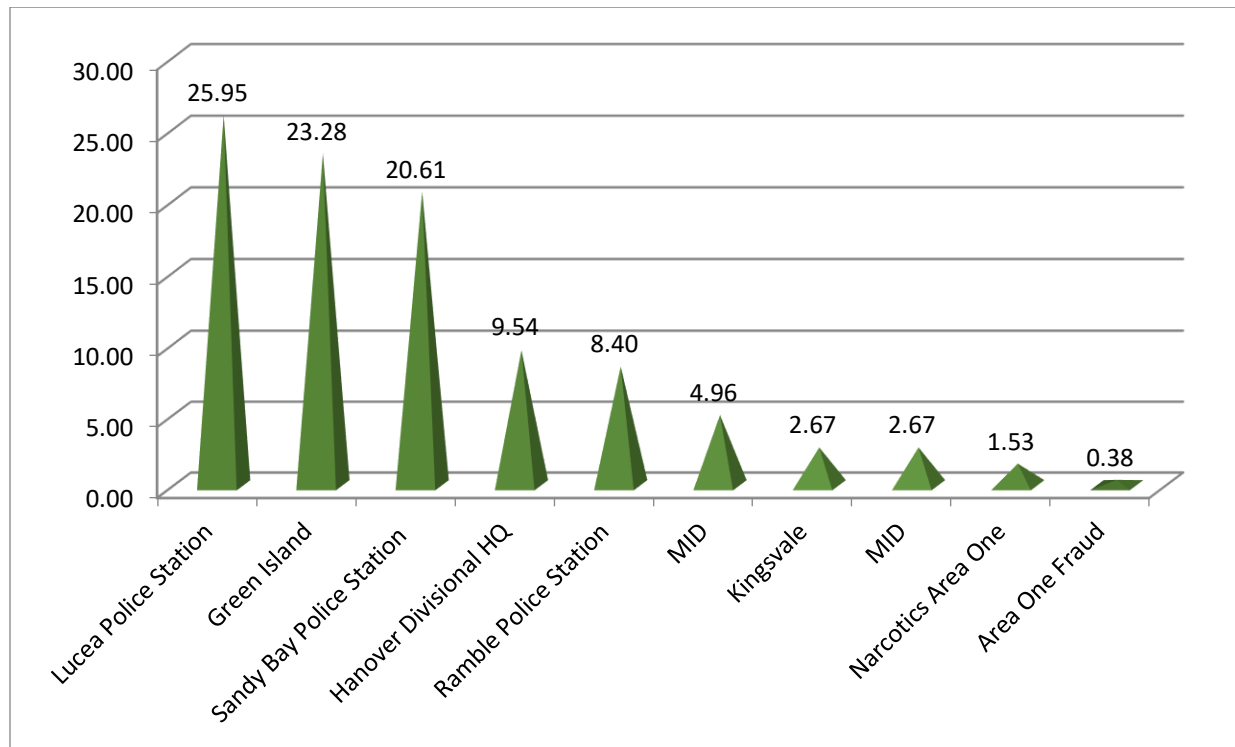
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Corporate Area Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 2308 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 14.43%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in St. Andrew Central Police Station. This was followed by the Kingston Central Police Station which accounts for 13.99% of total matters reported. The St. Andrew North Police rounded off the top three with 11.22%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Kingston Central, St. Andrew Central and St. Andrew South Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.8: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Westmoreland Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



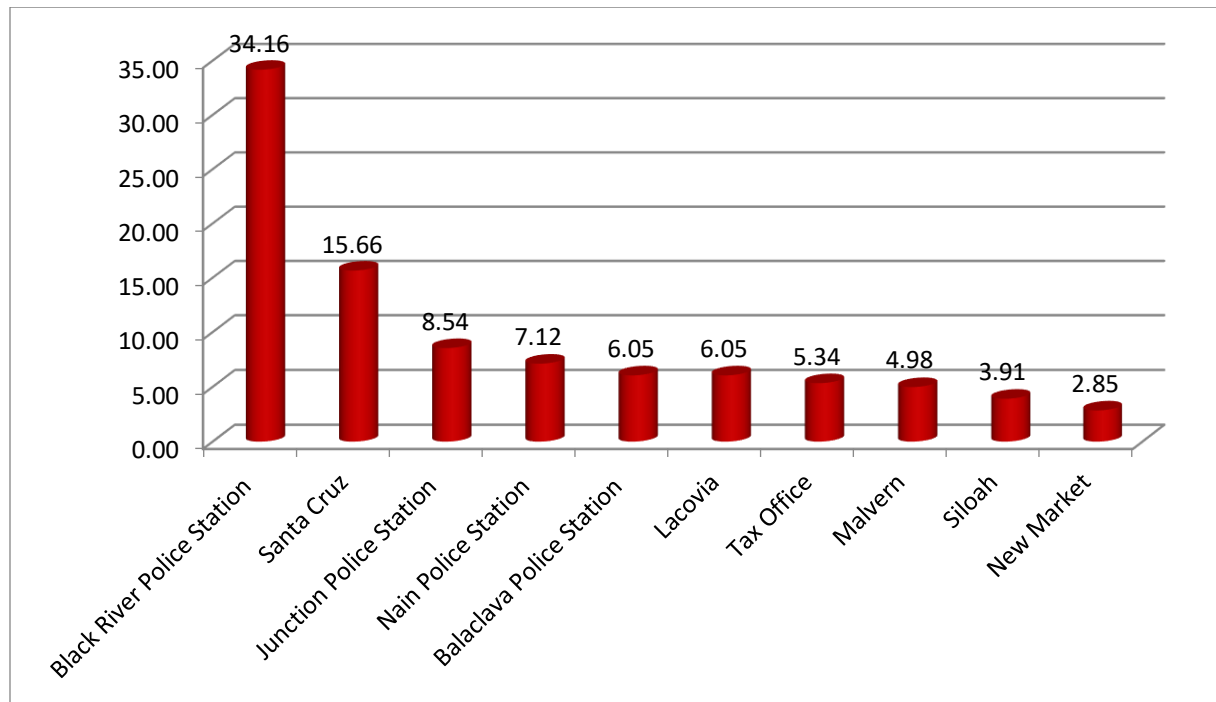
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Westmoreland Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 607 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 44.32%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Savanna-la-mar Police. This was followed by the Negril Police Station which accounts for 20.26% of total matters reported. The Bethel Town rounded off the top three with 8.07%. In the previous quarter the top three was comprised of Savanna-la-mar, Negril Police Stations and Narcotics Division Area 1. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.9: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the Hanover Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



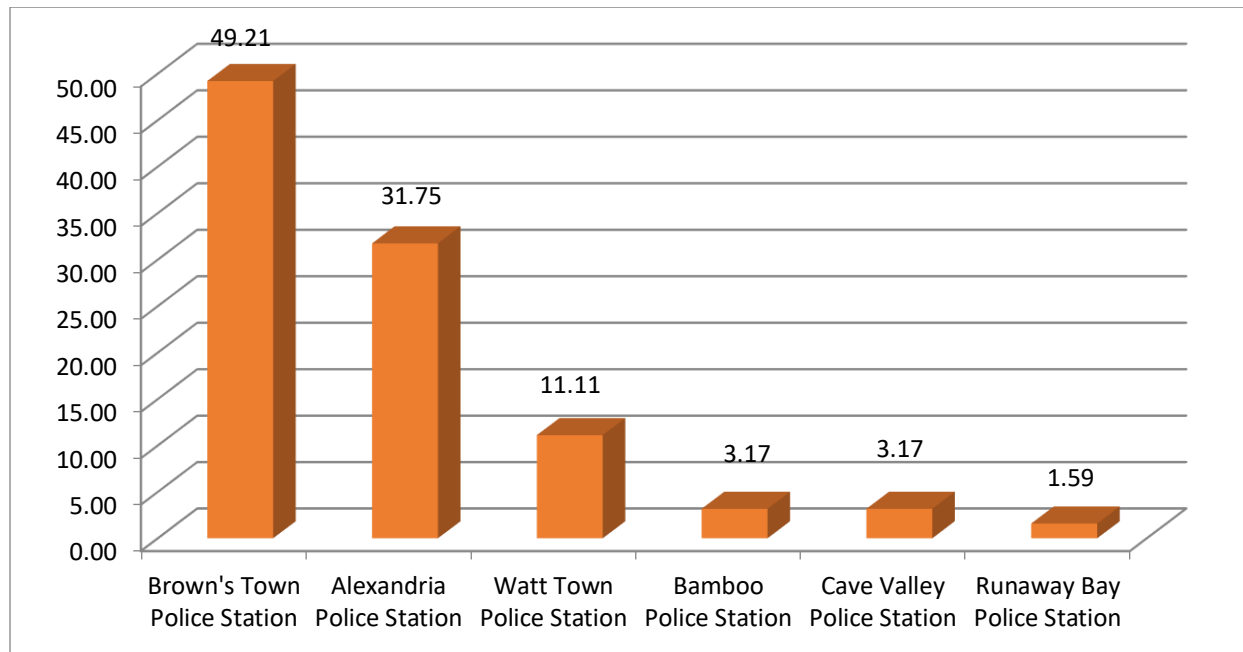
The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Hanover Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 262 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 25.95%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Lucea Police Station. This was followed by the Green Island Police Station which accounts for 23.28% of total matters reported. The Sandy Bay Police rounded off the top three with 20.61%. In the previous quarter, the top three Police Stations were similar to this quarter. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.10: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Elizabeth Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 281 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 34.16%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Black River Police Station. This was followed by the Santa Cruz Police Station which accounts for 15.66% of total matters reported. The Junction Police Station rounded off the top three with 8.54%. In the previous quarter, the top three was comprised of Black River, Santa Cruz and Nain Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

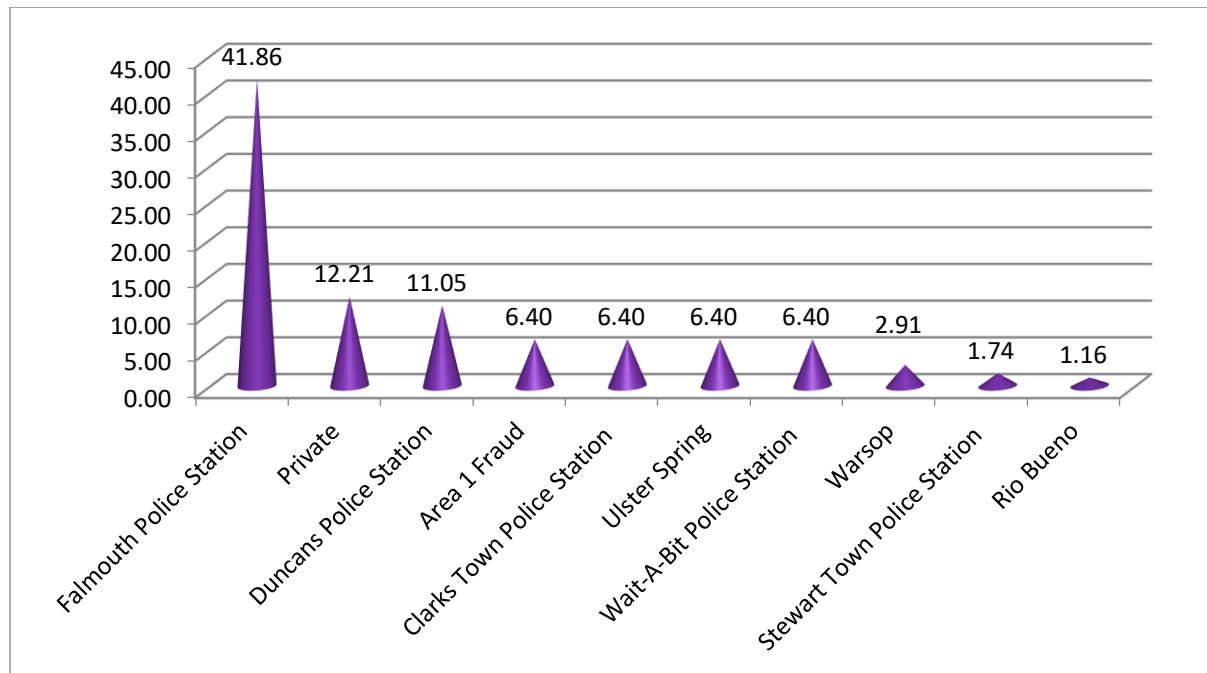
Chart 3.11: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station of origin at the St. Ann Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018



The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the St. Ann Parish Court using the police stations at which the matters were reported. The data available from 63 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 49.21%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Brown's Town Police Station. This was followed by the Alexandria Police Station which accounts for 31.75% of total matters reported. The Watt Town Police rounded off the top three with 11.11%. In the previous quarter, the top three was comprised of Brown's Town, Ocho Rios and St. Ann's Bay Police Station.

This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Chart 3.12: Distribution of criminal offences by the police station/entity of origin at the Trelawny Parish Court for the quarter ended September 30, 2018




The above chart shows the distribution of crimes at the Trelawny Parish Court using the police stations/entities at which the matters were reported. The data available from 172 records indicate that for the July to September quarter, 2018 the majority of criminal matters, 41.86%, which were brought before the Court, were reported in Falmouth Police Station. This was followed by a Private entity, which accounts for 12.21% of total matters reported. The Duncans Police Station rounded off the top three with 11.05%. In the previous quarter, the top three was comprised of Falmouth, Clarks Town and Duncans Police Station. This data provides important insights into the geographical distribution of criminal offences committed in the Parish.

Overall, this quarter shows a decrease in the total number of matters/cases distributed across the many Police Stations/Agencies for each parish within the island.


Chapter 2.0: Conclusion and Recommendations

This report provides a range of essential insights into criminal case activity in the parish courts for the third quarter ended September 30, 2018, representing a continuation of the trend in comprehensive and consistent reporting on criminal case activity in the parish courts. A number of noteworthy findings have emerged from this report, some affirming the critical trends observed in 2017 and the first two quarters of 2018 and others indicative of new patterns. They provide the basis for important policy and operational decisions. Among these key findings is that the overall criminal case clearance rate across the parish courts meets the minimum prescribed international standard of 90%-110%, a feat attained for the second consecutive quarter. The overall average clearance rate for 2018 as at the end of the third quarter stood at 94.44% suggesting that for every 100 new cases filed, roughly 94 were disposed (not necessarily out of the new ones filed). This notable improvement has undoubtedly had a positive impact on reducing the criminal case carriage in the parish courts by a slow but nonetheless incremental rate. The overall trends in case disposal rate as at the end of the third quarter are also quite promising. It was also observed that the steady improvements in case disposition and case clearance rates across the parish courts have had a positive impact on reducing the pre-existing criminal case backlog, although much of these gains have been reversed by newer cases falling into backlog. It is further impressive to note that since the second quarter of 2018, eight of the parish courts met the minimum international benchmark for the case clearance rates, the attainment of which is viewed as the critical foundation for both reducing and preventing case backlog. These results provide a good anchorage for the major effort underway to eliminate the criminal case backlog in the



courts within six years. The generally improved productivity of the courts can be attributed to the number of factors, including the strengthening of the case management process through the employment of case progression officers across the courts and the adoption of a data driven approach. In all parish courts, data on the status of the criminal cases as well as key delay factors and complexity indicators are electronically available to multiple internal stakeholders by way of the Case Information Statistical System (CISS). In reinforcement of the improved results on the case clearance and disposal rates was the finding that sample data on cases disposed over the past 18-21 months across the parish courts indicate that roughly 70% were disposed of in three months or less. This statistically significant result is indicative of a generally sustained, though modest improvements in the overall efficiency in the criminal case progression and productivity in the parish courts.


The data affirms that despite the improvements noted, mathematically all parish courts, based on current rates of disposal and the implied resource endowments are carrying higher caseloads than their existing capacities seem to suggest. This was derived from the analysis of the case congestion rates, which shows that most courts are carrying caseloads, which are over twice their current capacity. The resource constraints faced by the courts are evident from these results; however, there are a number of critical delay factors, which must be addressed in order to improve efficiency. Among these factors are the high incidence of adjournments, which increase the average time taken to dispose of cases and thus foster a sub-optimal use of judicial time. Among the leading delay factors in this regard are incomplete files, outstanding medical reports and the non-appearance of parties for court. Such factors invariably have a direct association with the incidence of mention and trial and thus trial and



hearing date certainty, which tends to vary by parish court but overall falls short of the international standards. It is critical that robust interventions be urgently pursued to engage the necessary stakeholders to redress those delay factors that are outside the court's direct control, for example, outstanding medical certificates for which the Hospitals would be largely culpable and more decisive police action could militate against the frequency of the non-appearance of parties for court. There are however many common reasons for adjournment over which the parish courts have some degree of direct control, such as matters adjourned due to the lack of readiness of files for court, matters left off court lists or matters wrongly listed for court. These can be mitigated by a more robust system of scheduling matters for court and generally more robust case management practices.


RECOMMENDATIONS

The nucleus of improved court performance lies in enhancing the strength of the case management process in the criminal courts. This is necessary to ensure that more sound scheduling practices are employed and that the electronic and other monitoring mechanisms are fully utilized to ensure that the probability of cases lagging in the court system and entering backlog classification are substantially lessened. As mentioned, a strong and direct engagement of external stakeholders, which are at least partly responsible for the lengthy and frequent delays in criminal matters are critical to the way forward. Slow but steady strides are being made in improving the critical performance indicators such as the case clearance rates and trial credibility ratios; however, the system is still a long way from reaching a state of self-sustaining efficiency.



Bolstering the technical and human resources at the disposition of the courts is also vital in realising the desired advances in the near future. Below are two strategies, which can be employed court wide in an effort to alter the status quo and create new paths to optimizing efficiency, subject to the existing constraints.

Firstly, I propose the employment of a Differentiated Case Management (DCM) mechanism. Differentiated case management is a technique that courts can use to create an efficient, tight-fitting assignment of cases for judges based on the specific characteristics of each case, much like putting a jigsaw puzzle together. By balancing complex cases that involve more time and resources with simpler cases that require less time and resources, a court can better utilize its judges and courtrooms. The way this can work is that when a case is filed, a determination of the expected time to complete the case should be made. Depending on the complexity of the case, it can be assigned to one of four tracks, from the least to most complex. A less complex case would be assigned to an expedited track. Cases in this track would have limited pre-trial deadlines and trials could possibly be set within 90 days of filing. By contrast, the most complex cases would be assigned to an extended track, where the trial date was set at months away. There could also two other intermediate tracks between the expedited and extended tracks, with varying trial date schedules. This kind of approach could potentially enhance hearing/trial date certainty, improve courtroom utilization rates and over time significantly expedite the disposition of cases. For this mechanism to work effectively, it is important that time standards/expected times for the disposition of cases of varying complexity be firmly established. Backlog monitoring groups within each parish court, called the Backlog Reduction, Evaluation and Assessment Committee (BREAC) – parish court version, could marshal the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) in these courts, forming the ethos of the second facet of my proposal. The purpose of these groups would be



to track the aged caseload in the different courts. For this purpose all ‘older’ cases on the trial list of the courts, however aged can be categorized by complexity, state of readiness and age in the court system. This list can be used on an ongoing basis as the basis of informing the work of the **BREAC** group. The goal is to sustain reductions in the pre-existing case backlog in the parish courts and to marshal the process of revising the scheduling practices of the respective courts, thus making backlog prevention a priority. The Case Progression Officers, under the guidance of the Judges could anchor such groups.

The differentiated case management system can be supplemented by the employment of the Weighted Caseload Model (**WCM**). By weighting different types of cases to account for variations in complexity and the need for judicial attention, workload assessment translates the number of cases that come before the court into the total judicial work required to dispose those cases. The weighted caseload method calculates judicial need based on total judicial workload. This employment of this scientific model can significantly enhance case scheduling practices throughout the courts.

As with the Supreme Court, the parish courts are indeed showing much resilience amidst the constraints experienced however, there is much to be done to accomplish the desired international benchmarks in efficiency and timely delivery of justice, universally. The current operational policy revisions pursued bears much promise in this regard. A serious examination of the causes of wide variations in the rank of the different parish courts on the various performance indicators should be pursued and the best practices adopted and standardized.

Glossary of Statistical Terms


- 1) Clearance rate:** The ratio on incoming to outgoing cases or of new cases filed to cases disposed, regardless of when the disposed cases originated. For example, in a given Term 100 new cases were filed and 110 were disposed (including cases originating before that Term) the clearance rate is $110/100$ or 110%.


Note: The clearance rate could therefore exceed 100% but the disposal rate has a maximum value of 100%.

A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system. The inferred international benchmark for case clearance rates is an average of 90%-110 annualized. This is a critical foundation to backlog prevention in the court system.ⁱ

- 2) Disposal rate:** As distinct from clearance rate, the disposal rate is the proportion of new cases filed which have been disposed in a particular period. For example if 100 new cases are filed in a particular Term and 80 of those cases were disposed in said Term, then the disposal rate is 80%.

Note: A persistent case clearance rate of less than 100% will eventually lead to a backlog of cases in the court system.ⁱⁱ

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- 3) Trial/hearing date certainty:** This is the proportion of dates set for trial or hearing which proceed without adjournment. For example, if 100 trial dates are set in a particular Term and 40 are adjourned, then the trial certainty rate would be 60%
- 4) Court room utilization rate:** The proportion of courtrooms in full use on a daily basis or the proportion of hours utilized in a courtroom on a daily basis
- 5) Case congestion rate:** The ratio of pending cases to cases disposed in a given period. It is an indication of how fatigued a court is, given the existing state of resources and degree of efficiency. A case congestion rate of 150% for example, is an indication that given the resources currently at a court's disposal and its degree of efficiency, it is carrying 1.5 times its capacity.
- 6) Standard deviation:** This is a measure of how widely spread the scores in a data set are around the average value of that data set. The higher the standard deviation, the higher the variation of the raw scores in the data set, from the average score. A low standard deviation is an indication that the scores in a data set are clustered around the average.
- 7) Outlier:** An outlier is a value that is either too small or too large, relative to the majority of scores/trend in a data set.
- 8) Skewness:** This is measure of the distribution of scores in a data set. It gives an idea of where the larger proportion of the scores in a data set can be found. Generally, if skewness is positive as revealed by a positive value for this measure, this suggests that a greater proportion of the scores in the data set are at the lower end. If the skewness is



negative as revealed by a negative value for this measure, it generally suggests that a greater proportion of the scores are at the higher end. If the skewness measure is approximately 0, then there is roughly equal distribution of scores on both the higher and lower ends of the average figure.

9) Range: This is a measure of the spread of values in a data set, calculated as the highest minus the lowest value. A larger range score may indicate a higher spread of values in a data set.

ⁱ Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Source:

<http://courts.mi.gov/Administration/SCAO/Resources/Documents/bestpractice/BestPracticeCaseAgeClearanceRates.pdf>